

FINITE ELEMENT MODELING OF LIGHT-WEIGHT CONCRETE SOLID SLABS REINFORCED USING G.F.R.P. REBAR

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Abstract: Recently, the use of Fiber Reinforced Polymers (FRP) as an alternate to conventional steel has proved to be an effective solution to the corrosion problem. However, FRP reinforcing bars have a relatively low axial and transverse stiffness compared to steel bars which results in a lower shear capacity of FRP reinforced concrete (RC) elements compared to the steel-RC elements. Glass Fiber Reinforcement Plastics (GFRP)- rebar are non-corrosive materials, good range of thermal performance, high tensile strength, resistance to acids, good electro-magnetic properties, vibration and impact loading, This research using ANSYS (15.0) to study the behavior of light-weight concrete slabs reinforced with GFRP-rebar according to different parameters obtained in this research. A total of sixty-six finite element slab models are investigated. twelve verification slabs to check the validity and accuracy of the finite element procedure models. The theoretical results obtained from ANSYS program are in good agreement with experimental results. The results include also the effect of each parameter on initial stiffness, energy absorption and ductility of the slabs.

Keywords: Solid plates, Flexure strength, GFRP rebar, Crack pattern.

I. INTRODUCTION

FRP reinforcement has widely been used as internal reinforcement in the new construction of civil structures or as near surface mounted NSM concrete reinforcement for increasing flexural and shear strength of deficient reinforced concrete member. This has made it necessary to create a comprehensive overview needed to justify their safe and economic use.

The application of GFRP-bars as reinforced for concrete elements are not yet well established in neither Egypt or in the Middle East. One of the main reasons is that these bars are imported from other regions such as Europe, Japan, or the United States. This leads to an extremely high cost products and dictates to produce GFRP-bars locally. This will encourage local manufactures to adopt the process of making these bars for the Egyptian market. FRP is a composite made from reinforcement imbedded in a plastic (polymer) matrix. Physical and mechanical properties of FRP depend mainly on the type of fibers and resins used to form the composite. Such differences arise from the interaction mechanism between FRP reinforcement bars and concrete element. Although there are many researchers covered different subjects of concrete beams reinforced with GFRP-bars, there are a few numbers of work concern with concrete slabs which are reinforced with GFRP-bars.

2. PROGRAM STUDY

Slabs Divided into eleven Groups had Different dimensions Group I have 2000 mm long, 2000 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group II have 1700 mm long, 1700 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group III have 2000 mm long, 1800 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group IV have 2000 mm long, 1650 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group V have 2000 mm long,

1550 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group VI have 2000 mm long, 1400 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group VII have 2000 mm long, 1300 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group VIII have 2000 mm long, 1250 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group IX have 2000 mm long, 1150 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group X have 2000 mm long, 1100 mm wide and 100 mm depth, Group XI have 2000 mm long, 1050 mm wide and 100 mm depth, All groups loaded by Distributed load.

Our experimental program included Group I, II and has been added group III,IV,V,VI,VII,VIII,IX,X,XI the slabs in these groups reinforced with Steel &GFRP bars. Name of specimens wrote as: Sx-y

Where S: Slab.

X: number of group.

Y: number of specimens.

TABLE (I): Specimen Details

Group	Slab No.	No. of RFT (bars)	Diameter (mm)	Material	Surface Texture	Slab Type	Type of Load	Dimensions (mm)
I	S1-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
	S1-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
	S1-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
	S1-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
	S1-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
	S1-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	One way	Distribution	2000*1000*100
II	S2-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	1700*1700*100
	S2-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	1700*1700*100
	S2-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	1700*1700*100
	S2-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	1700*1700*100
	S2-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	1700*1700*100
	S2-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
III	S3-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
	S3-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
	S3-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
	S3-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
	S3-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
	S3-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1800*100
IV	S4-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
	S4-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
	S4-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
	S4-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
	S4-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
	S4-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1650*100
V	S5-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S5-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S5-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S5-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S5-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S5-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1550*100
	S6-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100
	S6-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100

VI	S6-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100
	S6-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100
	S6-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100
	S6-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1400*100
VII	S7-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1300*100
	S7-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1300*100
	S7-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1300*100
	S7-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1300*100
	S7-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1300*100
	S7-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
VIII	S8-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
	S8-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
	S8-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
	S8-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
	S8-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
	S8-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1250*100
IX	S9-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
	S9-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
	S9-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
	S9-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
	S9-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
	S9-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1150*100
X	S10-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
	S10-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
	S10-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
	S10-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
	S10-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
	S10-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1100*100
XI	S11-1	8	8	steel	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100
	S11-2	5	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100
	S11-3	10	10	steel	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100
	S11-4	8	8	GFRP	Smooth	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100
	S11-5	5	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100
	S11-6	10	10	GFRP	Ribbed	Two way	Distribution	2000*1050*100

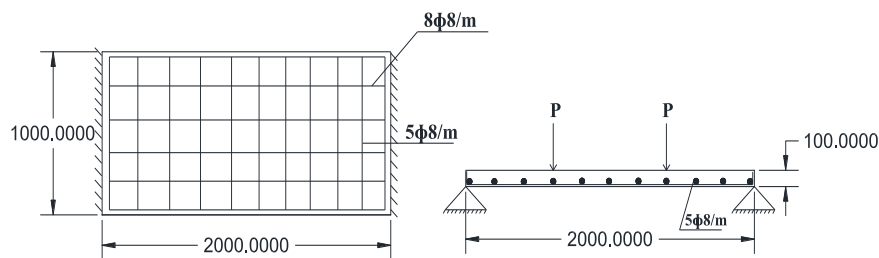


Fig 1: Reinforcement and Concrete Dimensions of Slab S1-1

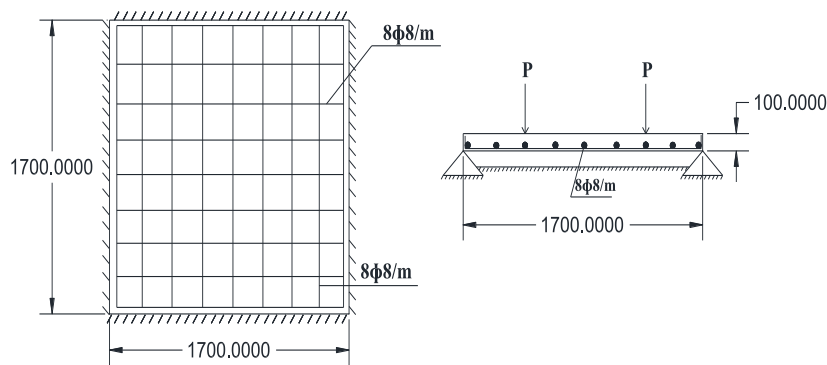


Fig 2: Reinforcement and Concrete Dimensions of Slab S2-1

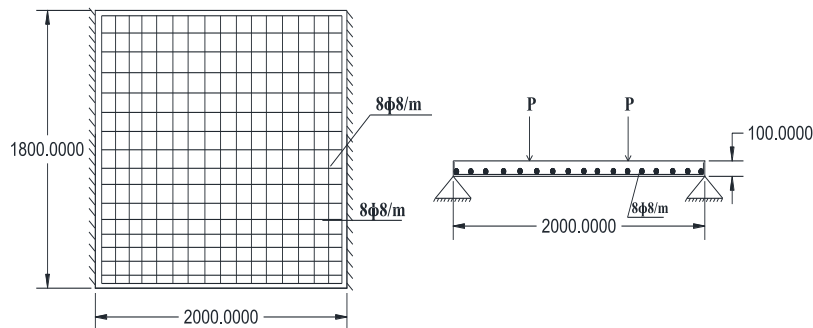


Fig 3: Reinforcement and Concrete Dimensions of Slab S3-1

2.1 Verification of Finite Element Results:

Verification is carried out in order to check the validity and accuracy of the finite element procedure. The accuracy of the finite element models is determined by ensuring that failure modes are correct and the ultimate load is reasonably predicted in comparison with the experimental results, in our experimental work. Six specimens of one-way slab and six specimens of two-way slab are modeled. The finite element results will be in comparison with experimental results in the next section. In the following sections, the ANSYS results and behavior of the slab is discussed and compared with experimental results for specimens (S1-1, S1-2, S1-3, S1-4, S1-5 and S1-6). Table (2) shows the results of loads and deformations at cracking stage and failure stage and failure mode for Group I and II and shown in Figure (4) .

TABLE (2): FEM Results versus Experimental Results for Verification Specimens

Group	Specimen	Cracking Stage		Failure Stage		PFEM/ PExp (%)
		Exp.	FEM	Exp.	FEM	
		Pcr (KN)	Pf (KN)	Pcr (KN)	Pf (KN)	
I	S1-1	21.00	29.13	57.00	50.00	87.72
	S1-2	20.00	27.96	53.00	49.50	93.39
	S1-3	55.00	36.73	137.0	130.0	94.89
	S1-4	15.00	24.18	49.00	41.50	84.47
	S1-5	13.00	9.67	56.00	53.0	94.65
	S1-6	16.00	17.52	110.0	96.0	87.27
II	S2-1	77.00	60.52	170.0	161.5	95.00
	S2-2	46.00	39.60	230.0	217.0	94.35
	S2-3	108.0	77.10	372.0	325.7	87.55
	S2-4	61.00	53.50	161.0	157.9	98.07
	S2-5	32.00	47.78	124.0	119.4	96.29
	S2-6	82.00	70.63	252.0	250.0	99.20

The failure load capacity is from ANSYS and our experimental results agree very well. The failure load capacity and deflection are significantly affected by using variable reinforcement ratio as shown in Table (2) and Figure (4).

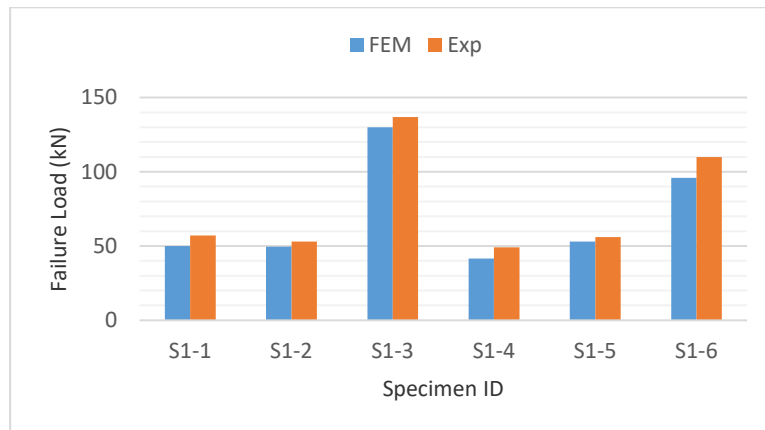


Fig 4: Failure Load for Group (I)

2.2 Numerical Analysis:

A nonlinear three dimensional brick element solid element, SOLID 65, is used to model the concrete in ANSYS program [15]. The solid element has eight nodes with three transitional degrees of freedom at each node. In addition, the element is capable of simulating plastic deformation, cracking in three orthogonal directions, and crushing. In compression and creep. Modeling of cracks through an adjustment of the material properties is done by changing the value of element stiffness matrices. If the concrete at an integration points fails in uniaxial, biaxial, or tri-axial compression, the concrete is assumed crushed at that point. Crushing is defined as the complete deterioration of the structural integrity of the concrete.

The element model of concrete is defined as eight nodes element having three degrees of freedom at each node Figure (5): translations in the nodal x, y, and z directions.

Slabs has almost the same profile of the load deflection curves for where the first part of the curves are steep, and after cracking, most of the profiles start to be more curved until the failure occurs.

The measured values of the deflection at the mid-span of the bottom surface of the investigated slab and plotted versus the applied load from loading starting to failure.

The process of crack formation can be classified into three stages. The un-cracked stage is before the limiting tensile strength is reached, the crack formation occurs in the process zone of a potential crack with lessening tensile stress on crack face due to crack bridging effect and finally, after a complete release of the stress, the crack opening continues without the stress. The concrete tension failure is characterized by a piecemeal growth of cracks, which connect together and eventually disconnect larger parts of the structure.

Cracking is represented in the ANSYS program by a circle outline in the plane of the crack, while the crushing is shown with an octahedron outline. The first crack is shown with a red circle outline at integration point, the second crack with a green outline, the third crack with a blue outline and closed cracks are shown as X inside the circle.

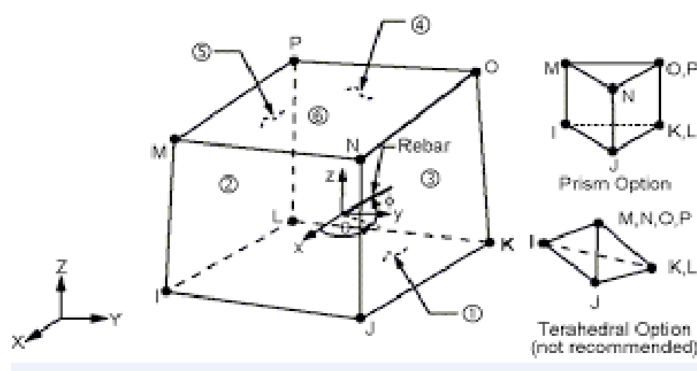


Fig 5: Solid65 element for concrete model

The longitudinal steel reinforcement is defined by a discrete axial element (LINK180) in ANSYS Program [15]. This element is a uniaxial tension-compression element with three translation degrees of freedom at each node Figure (6), modeling of steel bearing plate is Solid 45.

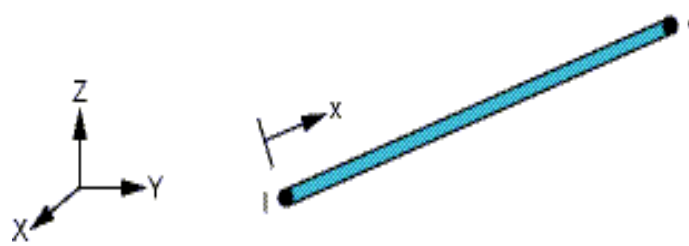


Fig 6: LINK8 Geometry

2.3 Modeling and Meshing:

Slabs specimens, plates, and supports modeled as volume, all models have a rectangular mesh of (25 mm x 25 mm). Figure (7) shows the meshing of specimens of all groups and reinforcement configuration in Figure (8).

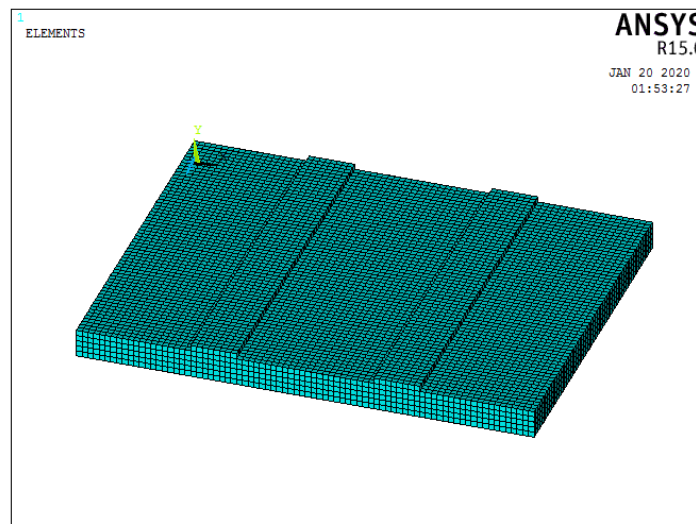


Fig 7: Modeling and meshing

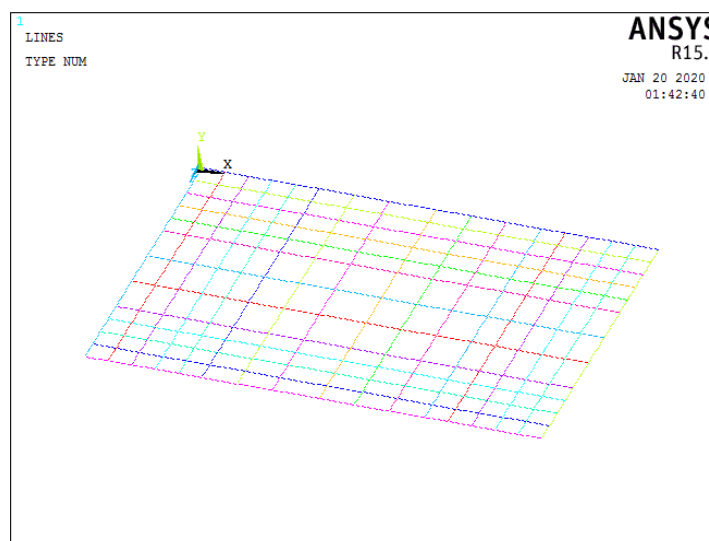


Fig 8: Reinforcement Configuration

3. THEORETICAL RESULTS

In the following, the results of the specimen behavior are discussed through Table (3). The values indicate central deflection and load values at both of cracking and failure stages for all specimens. The measurement of the ductility as ductility index represented as the ratio of deflection value at failure to that at cracking stage ($\mu_d = \Delta_f / \Delta_{cr}$), and absorbed energy calculated by area under the load-deflection curve, also cracking and failure load are listed in the same Table (3). The mode of failure for each specimen is finally determined according to the final cracked shapes before failure.

In group (1), all specimens of same dimensions 2000*1000*100 mm, case of loading but different reinforcement ratio, failed in a typical tension mode the slab (S-1-1) was reinforced with steel bars. Specimens (S-1-2, S-1-3, S-1-4, S-1-5 and S-1-6) were reinforced with GFRP bars.

In addition, the measure of ductility in most specimens was enhanced by using high reinforcement compared by control specimen, this reason is due to increasing surface area of GFRP bars ($\varnothing 10$), minimum distance between bars and increasing the bond strength, between GFRP bars and concrete. Reinforcement ratio effective and GFRP bars for all slabs (same type) have nearly the same effect.

TABLE (3): FEM Results

Group	Specimen	Cracking Stage		Failure Stage		Stiffness Ki (KN/mm)	Ductility Index (μ_d) %	Absorbed Energy (KN.mm)
		P _{cr} (KN)	Δ_{cr} (mm)	P _f (KN)	Δ_f (mm)			
III	S3-1	33.49	3.10	183.5	28.47	10.80	8.184	3056.75
	S3-2	51.80	4.20	259.0	32.40	12.33	6.714	4780.157
	S3-3	73.40	6.60	367.0	53.76	11.12	7.145	11243.14
	S3-4	45.76	4.80	162.0	28.50	9.533	4.937	2883.59
	S3-5	38.90	3.50	137.7	19.25	11.11	4.500	1669.107
	S3-6	44.35	3.83	243.0	39.10	11.57	9.209	5697.144
IV	S4-1	52.11	3.50	189.5	20.10	14.89	4.743	2142.94
	S4-2	46.73	2.90	267.0	26.22	16.11	8.041	3953.185
	S4-3	66.73	4.35	387.0	54.80	15.57	11.59	12966.01
	S4-4	49.81	3.40	173.3	17.70	14.65	4.206	1782.54
	S4-5	48.23	3.05	137.8	11.76	15.81	2.856	889.21
	S4-6	48.11	3.40	263.6	35.30	14.15	9.382	5631.953
V	S5-1	58.36	2.97	203.0	14.42	19.65	3.855	1623.629
	S5-2	54.48	3.50	259.9	33.1	15.57	8.474	4962.08
	S5-3	68.83	3.50	393.3	33.17	19.67	2.708	7369.620
	S5-4	49.65	2.80	175.0	13.50	17.73	3.821	1307.181
	S5-5	63.05	3.37	136.0	9.30	18.41	1.759	699.51
	S5-6	78.77	4.30	274.0	22.88	18.32	4.321	3611.541
VI	S6-1	60.95	2.36	212.0	11.11	25.83	3.707	1324.17
	S6-2	75.04	2.82	261.0	14.13	26.61	4.010	1922.89
	S6-3	73.33	3.50	419.0	35.4	20.95	9.114	8440.691
	S6-4	58.80	2.30	168.0	8.24	25.56	2.582	830.053
	S6-5	64.33	2.24	141.0	5.66	28.72	1.507	300.1554
	S6-6	79.64	2.852	277.0	14.12	28.24	4.007	1993.20
VII	S7-1	92.25	2.80	202.2	7.80	32.95	1.786	884.797
	S7-2	76.76	2.09	267.0	9.90	36.73	3.737	1400.040
	S7-3	74.00	1.92	423.0	16.80	38.54	7.750	3793.943
	S7-4	81.21	2.22	178.0	5.8	36.58	1.613	495.085
	S7-5	104.25	2.76	139.0	4.2	37.77	0.522	166.10
	S7-6	76.20	2.10	265.0	10.00	36.59	3.762	1196.87

VIII	S8-1	100.4	2.39	220.0	6.50	42.00	1.719	676.2717
	S8-2	124.1	2.87	272.0	8.20	43.24	1.857	969.74
	S8-3	121.1	2.71	421.0	14.10	44.68	4.203	3311.379
	S8-4	63.25	0.92	183.3	4.20	68.75	3.565	334.53
	S8-5	95.34	2.22	135.0	3.40	43.17	0.532	226.779
	S8-6	47.77	2.30	273.0	23.20	20.77	9.087	3682.620
IX	S9-1	69.86	1.96	243.0	9.47	35.64	3.832	1208.826
	S9-2	80.21	2.40	279.0	12.30	33.42	4.125	1702.194
	S9-3	119.46	2.89	415.5	15.30	41.33	4.294	3238.01
	S9-4	56.64	1.96	197.0	9.50	28.89	3.847	901.47
	S9-5	39.39	2.39	137.0	12.30	16.48	4.146	861.3653
	S9-6	81.94	2.80	285.0	15.40	29.26	4.500	2488.241
X	S10-1	109.5	2.67	240.0	7.60	41.01	1.066	950.595
	S10-2	83.10	2.00	289.0	10.10	41.55	4.000	1519.789
	S10-3	117.59	2.39	409.0	12.40	49.20	4.188	2570.1386
	S10-4	60.37	1.64	210.0	7.60	36.81	3.569	837.042
	S10-5	41.11	2.00	143.0	10.00	20.55	4.000	700.253
	S10-6	51.45	1.44	294.0	12.41	35.73	7.618	1837.77
IIIX	S11-1	71.30	1.86	248.0	6.10	52.43	3.485	583.766
	S11-2	79.40	1.66	277.0	8.10	47.83	3.879	1196.094
	S11-3	126.2	1.96	439.0	10.00	64.39	4.102	2685.001
	S11-4	64.87	1.36	225.0	6.20	47.69	3.558	849.36
	S11-5	43.40	1.66	151.0	8.10	26.14	3.879	566.76
	S11-6	105.42	2.43	301.2	9.85	43.38	3.053	1426.279

3.1 Load-Deflection Relationship:

Figure (9) to Figure (14) show The load deflection curves for slabs have almost the same profile where the first part of the curves are steep, and after cracks, most of profiles started to be more curved till the failure occurred. The measured values of the deflection at the bottom mid-span surface of the investigated slab and plotted versus the applied load from zero loading up to failure.

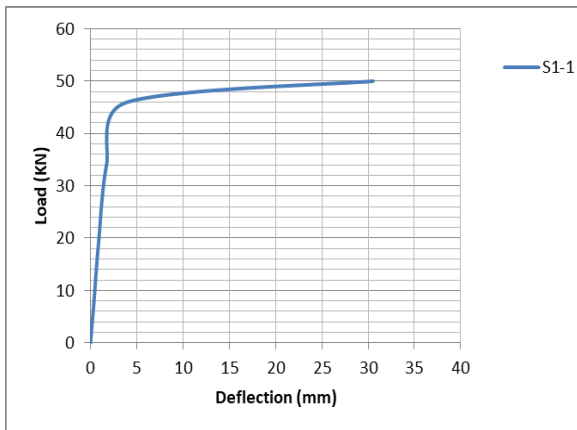


Fig 9: Load deflection curve (S-1-1)

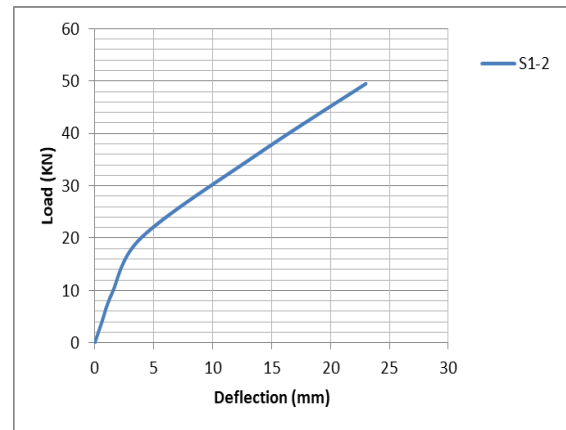


Fig 10: Load deflection curve (S-1-2)

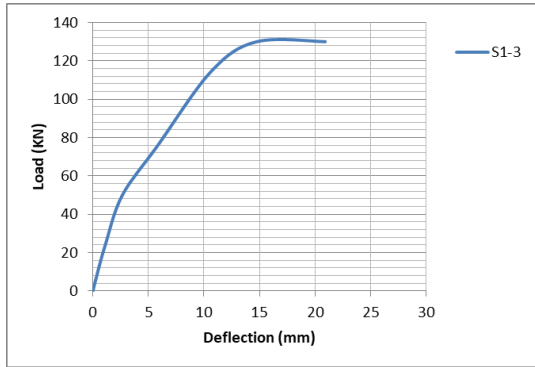


Fig 11: Load deflection curve (S-1-3)

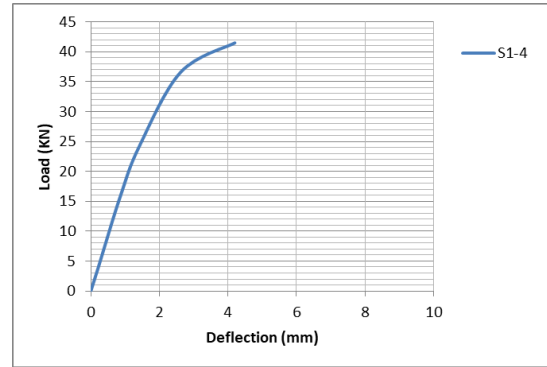


Fig 12: Load deflection curve (S-1-4)

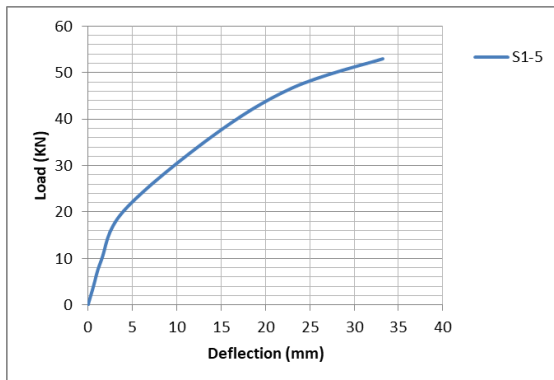


Fig 13: Load deflection curve (S-1-1)

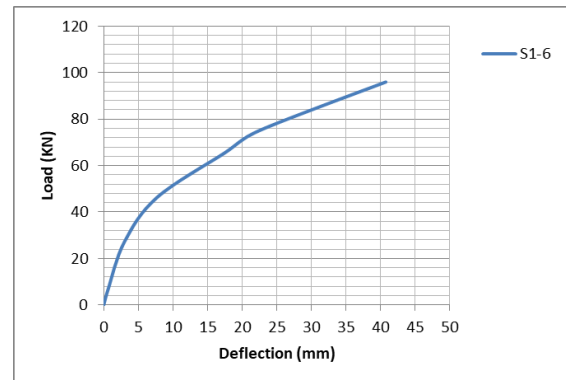


Fig 14: Load deflection curve (S-1-2)

Slabs has almost the same profile of the load deflection curves for where the first part of the curves are steep, and after cracking, most of the profiles start to be more curved until the failure occurs. The measured values of the deflection at the mid-span of the bottom surface of the investigated slab and plotted versus the applied load from loading starting to failure.

The process of crack formation can be classified into three stages. The un-cracked stage is before the limiting tensile strength is reached, the crack formation occurs in the process zone of a potential crack with lessening tensile stress on crack face due to crack bridging effect and finally, after a complete release of the stress, the crack opening continues without the stress. The concrete tension failure is characterized by a piecemeal growth of cracks, which connect together and eventually disconnect larger parts of the structure.

Cracking is represented in the ANSYS program by a circle outline in the plane of the crack, while the crushing is shown with an octahedron outline. The first crack is shown with a red circle outline at integration point, the second crack with a green outline, the third crack with a blue outline and closed cracks are shown as X inside the circle which shown in Figure (15).

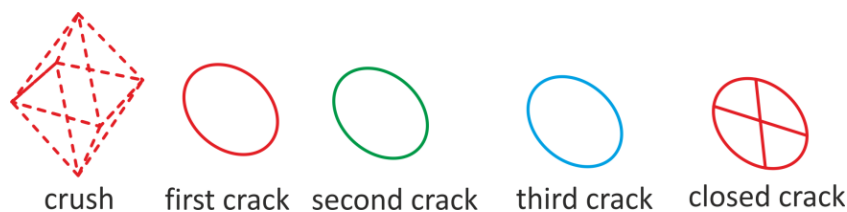
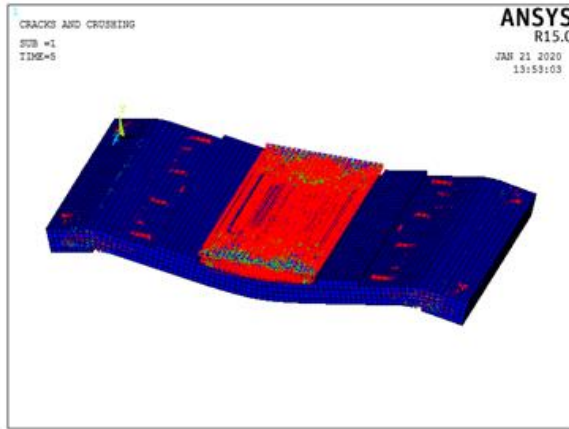


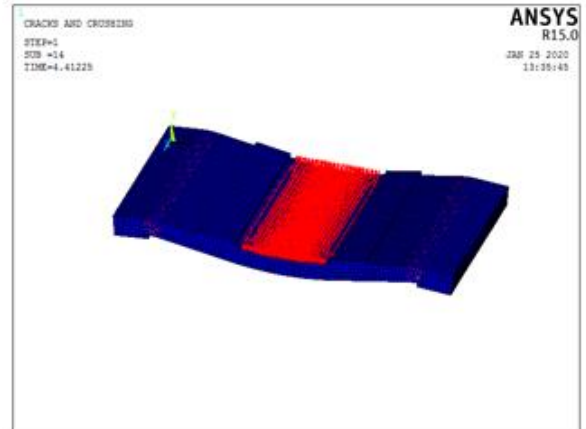
Fig 15: Symbols used by ANSYS to represent cracking and crushing

Figure (16) shows evolutions of crack patterns obtained from the finite element analyses developing for each slab of Group (I) at the last converged loading step, this group consist six slabs, The final loads for all slabs are the last converged load steps from ANSYS, after the final loads, the slab models have very large deflections resulting in un-converged solutions. This is the criterion used to define failure for the models. The appearance of the cracks reflects the failure modes for the slabs.

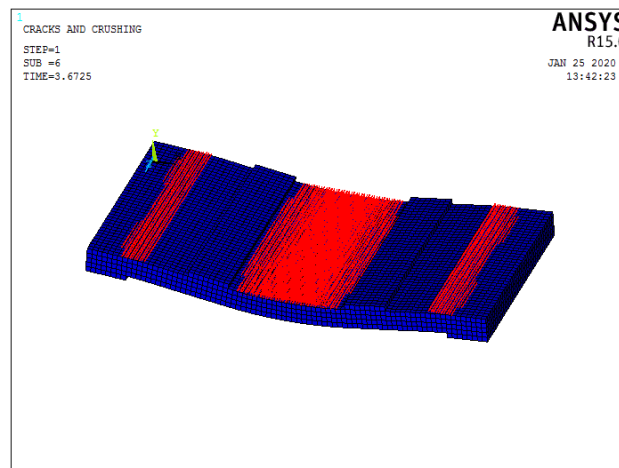
For example, the first crack for Specimen S1-1 was a small longitudinal crack observed in a short direction observed at a load of 29.13 kN in tension side at mid span of slab, and was accompanied by an increase in deflection due to stiffness reduction of the specimen. With increasing load many cracks are developed on the bottom of the slab (tension side). The model failed abruptly at load of 50.0 kN, the crack pattern is shown in Fig. (16).



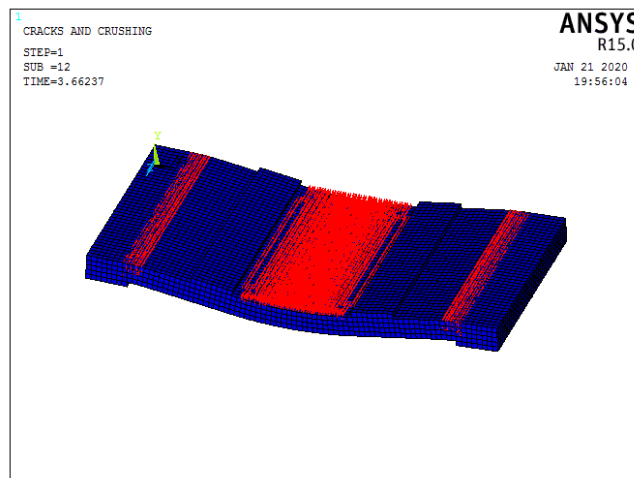
Specimen S1-1



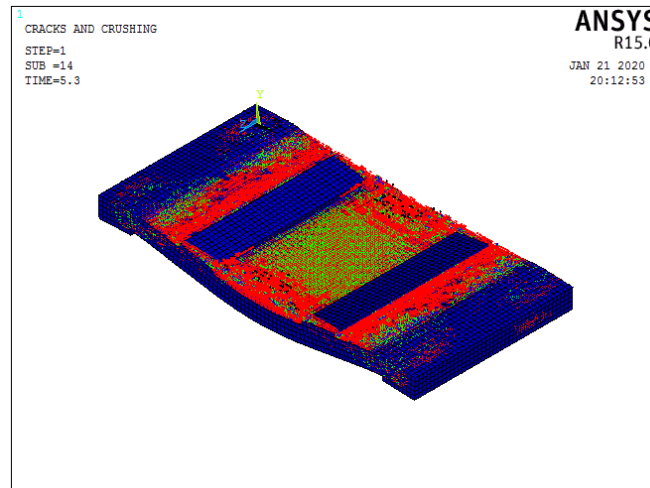
Specimen S1-2



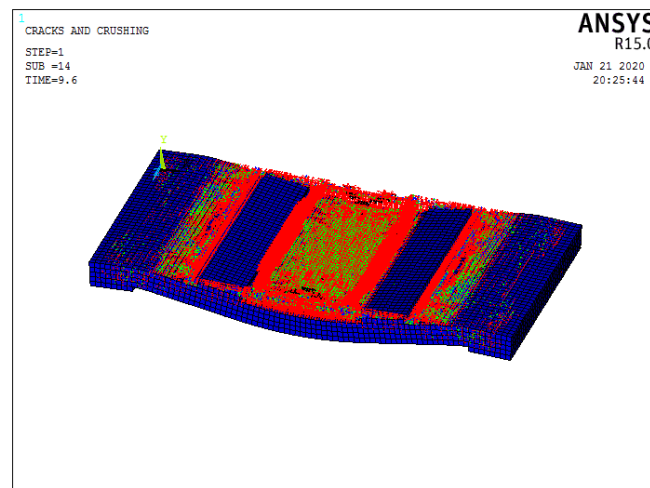
Specimen S1-3



Specimen S1-4



Specimen S1-5



Specimen S1-6

Fig 16: Crack pattern for group (I)

3.2 Discussion of Test Results:

For group (I) for example we can see that, for specimens (S1-1, S1-2 and S1-3) which reinforced with steel bars increased in their failure load capacity than the specimens (S1-4, S1-5 and S1-6) which reinforced with GFRP rebars because of the stiffness of GFRP reinforced concrete slab was significantly lower than it for the steel sample reinforced with the same area of reinforcement as shown in figure (17).

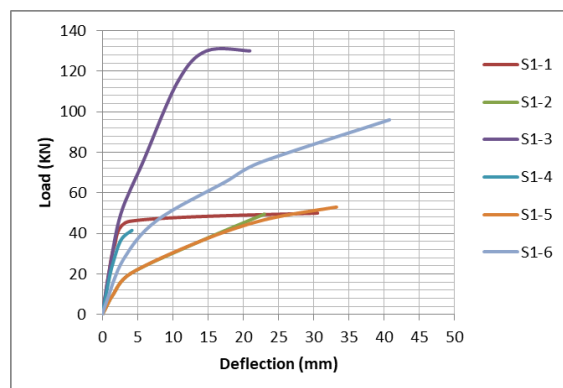


Fig 17: Load-Deflection Curves for Group (I)

III. CONCLUSION

- 1-The analytical results obtained by using ANSYS program shown a good agreement in the failure loads with the comparative experimental results but it show different results in deflections.
- 2- Comparing the failure loads of the slabs reinforced with the same cross sectional area of steel bars by GFRP rebars, there was 25% increase in the failure load of steel reinforced slabs. This increase was due to lack of dowel action of GFRP bars and low elastic modulus of GFRP bars in comparison to steel bars.
- 3- The load deflection curve behavior of concrete slabs reinforced with GFRP rebars up to cracking followed by an approximately was linear with lower stiffness before cracking and then a softer linear part from cracking to failure.
- 4- The stiffness of GFRP reinforced concrete slab was significantly lower than it for the steel sample reinforced with the same area of reinforcement after cracking, consequently, larger crack, deflection and strains. Increasing the area of the reinforcement of GFRP rebars.
- 5- Deflections of slabs reinforced with GFRP bars are significantly larger than slabs reinforced with conventional steel bars there was 30% increase in the deflection of GFRP reinforced slabs. This due to the low elastic modulus of GFRP bars in comparison to steel bars.

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