



Approximation of Stresses in Multi-Span CLT Beams Based on Refined Zigzag Theory

<https://research.thinkwood.com/en/permalink/catalogue2204>

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Year of Publication: 2019

Country of Publication: Sweden

Format: Conference Paper

Material: CLT (Cross-Laminated Timber)

Application: Beams

Topic: Mechanical Properties

Keywords: Refined Zigzag Theory
Stress

Language: English

Conference: CompWood

Research Status: Complete

ISBN: 978-91-88898-64-7

Online Access: Free

Resource Link

<https://open.lnu.se/index.php/compwood/article/download/1873/1736>



Refined Zigzag Theory: An Appropriate Tool for the Analysis of CLT-Plates and Other Shear-Elastic Timber Structures

<https://research.thinkwood.com/en/permalink/catalogue2725>

Author: Wimmer, Heinz
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Publisher: Springer

Year of Publication: 2020

Format: Journal Article

Material: CLT (Cross-Laminated Timber)

Topic: Mechanical Properties

Keywords: Stress
Load
Refined Zigzag Theory
Bending
Gamma Method
Shear Analogy
First Order Shear Deformation Theory
Plates

Language: English

Research Status: Complete

Series: European Journal of Wood and Wood Products

Summary:

Cross laminated timber (CLT), as a structural plate-like timber product, has been established as a load bearing product for walls, floor and roof elements. In a bending situation due to the transverse shear flexibility of the crossing layers, the warping of the cross section follows a zigzag pattern which should be considered in the calculation model. The Refined Zigzag Theory (RZT) can fulfill this requirement in a very simple and efficient way. The RZT, founded in 2007 by A. Tessler (NASA Langley Research Center), M. Di Sciuva and M. Gherlone (Politecnico Torino) is a very robust and accurate analysis tool, which can handle the typical zigzag warping of the cross section by introducing only one additional kinematic degree of freedom in case of plane beams and two more in case of biaxial bending of plates. Thus, the RZT-kinematics is able to reflect the specific and local stress behaviour near concentrated loads in combination with a warping constraint, while most other theories do not. A comparison is made with different methods of calculation, as the modified Gamma-method, the Shear Analogy method (SA) and the First Order Shear Deformation Theory (FSDT). For a test example of a two-span continuous beam, an error estimation concerning the maximum bending stress is presented depending on the slenderness L/h and the width of contact area at the intermediate support. A stability investigation shows that FSDT provides sufficiently accurate results if the ratio of bending and shear stiffness is in a range as stated in the test example. It is shown that by a simple modification in the determination of the zigzag function, the scope can be extended to beams with arbitrary non-rectangular cross section. This generalization step considerably improves the possibilities for the application of RZT. Furthermore, beam structures with interlayer slip can easily be treated. So the RZT is very well suited to analyze all kinds, of shear-elastic structural element like CLT-plate, timber-concrete composite structure or doweled beam in an accurate and unified way.

Online Access: Free

Resource Link

<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s00107-020-01586-x>