

# Abstract

In Denmark and many other countries, looped wire rope connections are the preferred method for connecting prefabricated RC wall elements.

In Denmark and many other countries, the so-called looped wire rope connections are the preferred method for connecting prefabricated RC wall-elements. This construction-friendly connection saves time during installation and reduces the risk of damage under transportation. After installing the elements, the looped wire ropes are unfolded, and a lacer bar is placed through the centre of the overlapping looped wire ropes. Subsequently, the connection is grouted with mortar. The looped wire ropes are anchored in the wall-element. Here, a ferrule (metallic connector around the end of the wire rope) facilitates the anchorage. Models in the literature assume that the looped wire ropes are adequately anchored in the wall-element without further consideration. In practice, manufacturers' guidelines are commonly used to design the anchorage of looped wire ropes in wall-elements. However, there are concerns that these guidelines, based on unpublished experiments, may not account for ductility and activation of multiple looped wire ropes. Moreover, it limits the ability to optimise anchoring and reinforcement, which could reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint.

Only two models for the anchorage capacity are available in the literature. Both are proposed based on rough simplifications without any experimental evidence. One proposes to use the bond strength of a straight wire rope to determine the anchorage capacity, while the other proposes to use a model originally developed to determine the capacity of a partially loaded concrete with failure mechanisms that are not kinematically admissible for the anchorage of wire ropes. Consequently, no reliable model exists to determine the anchorage capacity of a looped wire rope with a ferrule in a wall-element.

The aim of the PhD project is to develop experimentally verified mechanical models for the anchorage capacity of looped wire ropes for wall connections.

A literature study identifies that there are no published experiments for the anchorage of looped wire ropes, but there exist models and experiments with specimens that resemble them. However, the literature study identifies a lack of experimental evidence for specific failure mechanisms for looped wire ropes placed at an end-connection. There is also a lack of experimental investigation on failure mechanisms related to bent looped wire ropes anchored in L- and T-connections.

The thesis presents two large experimental campaigns where the anchorage capacity of looped wire ropes in concrete wall-elements is tested through direct tension experiments. The experiments investigate the looped wire ropes placed at the end and the side of the wall-elements, respectively. Mechanical models for the anchor-

age capacity are developed based on observed failure mechanisms and the upper bound theorem of plasticity. These models are combined with existing models for well-studied failure mechanisms in a complete model for anchorage capacity in end-connections, T-connections, and L-connections. The models are in good agreement with experimental results, both in terms of capacity and predicted failure mechanisms.

Two additional experimental campaigns are presented to validate the developed models. The two additional campaigns investigate if failure mechanisms observed in the direct tension experiment and considered in the developed models are representative in a full connection where two wall-elements are connected and subjected to shear. The anchorage model for wall connections subjected to shear is indirectly validated by comparing it with experimentally found shear capacities of looped wire rope connections. The anchorage capacity models are included as a limitation for the shear model.

Finally, it is discussed how the anchorage response affects the shear capacity of a connection in practice. This includes the importance of having a ductile anchorage response for wire ropes. Additionally, practical considerations are provided when designing connections with multiple looped wire ropes to ensure a ductile response.

# Resumé

I Danmark og mange andre lande er såkaldte wiresløjfesamlinger i dag en foretrukken metode til at samle præfabrikerede betonelementvægge. Denne byggevenlige løsning sparer tid under installationen og reducerer risikoen for skader under transport. Efter installation af elementerne foldes wiresløjfen ud, og en armeringsstang placeres gennem midten af de overlappende wiresløjfer, hvorefter samlingen udstøbes med mørtel. Wiresløjferne er forankret i vægelementet hvor der anvendes en "ferrule" (metalkobling omkring enden af wiresløjfen) for at øge forankringskapaciteten. Beregningsmodeller i litteraturen antager, uden yderligere overvejelser, at wiresløjferne er tilstrækkeligt forankret i vægelementet. I praksis anvendes producenternes retningslinjer ofte til at designe forankringen af wiresløjfer i vægelementer. Dog er der bekymringer om, at disse retningslinjer, som er baseret på upublicerede eksperimenter, hvilket rejser bekymringer om, hvorvidt de tager højde for duktilitet og aktivering af flere wiresløjfer. Desuden begrænser det evnen til at optimere forankring og armering, hvilket kunne reducere CO<sub>2</sub>-aftrykket.

Kun to modeller for forankringskapaciteten er tilgængelige i litteraturen. Begge er foreslået på baggrund af grove forenklinger uden nogen eksperimentel evidens. Den ene foreslår at bruge vedhæftningsegenskaber af en lige wiresløjfe til at bestemme forankringskapaciteten, mens den anden foreslår at bruge en model oprindeligt udviklet til at bestemme kapaciteten af koncentreret belastning på beton med brudmekanismer, der ikke er kinematisk tilladelige for forankringen af wiresløjfer. Der eksisterer ikke en pålidelig model til at bestemme forankringskapaciteten af en wiresløjfe, med fastklemt "ferrule" på enden, i et vægelement.

Ph.d.-projektets mål er at udvikle eksperimentelt verificerede mekaniske modeller for forankringskapaciteten af wiresløjfer placeret i en vægsamling.

Litteraturstudiet identificerer, at der ikke er udgivet eksperimenter for forankringen af wiresløjfer, men der findes modeller og eksperimenter med forsøgsemner, der minder om disse. Dog identificerer litteraturstudiet en mangel på eksperimentel evidens for nogle specifikke brudmekanismer for wiresløjfer placeret i ende-samlinger. Der mangler også eksperimentel evidens af brudmekanismer relateret til bøjede wiresløjfer forankret i L- og T-samlinger.

Afhandlingen præsenterer to store eksperimentelle kampagner, hvor forankringskapaciteten af wiresløjfer i betonelementvægge undersøges gennem direkte trækforsøg. Eksperimenterne undersøger wiresløjfer placeret i henholdsvis enden og siden af vægelementerne. Mekaniske beregningsmodeller for forankringskapaciteten udvikles baseret på observerede brudmekanismer og plasticitetsteoriens ørværdidisætning. Disse modeller kombineres med eksisterende modeller for velundersøgte brudmekanis-

mer i en komplet model for forankringskapaciteten i ende-samlinger, T-samlinger og L-samlinger. Modellerne viser god overensstemmelse med eksperimentelle resultater både med hensyn til kapacitet og de forudsagte brudmekanismer.

To yderligere eksperimentelle kampagner er udført for at validere de udviklede modeller. De to yderligere kampagner undersøger, om brudmekanismerne som er observeret i det direkte trækforsøg og som er medtaget i de udviklede modeller er repræsentative i en hel samling, hvor to vægelementer er samlet og utsat for forskydning. Forankringsmodellen for vægsamlinger utsat for forskydning valideres indirekte ved at sammenligne den med eksperimentelt fundne forskydningskapaciteter af wiresløjfesamlinger. Forankringskapacitetsmodellerne inkluderes som en begrænsning for forskydningsmodellerne.

Til sidst diskuteres hvordan forankringsresponsen påvirker forskydningskapaciteten af en samling i praksis. Dette inkluderer vigtigheden af at have en duktil forankringskapacitet for wiresløjfer. Endelig gives praktiske overvejelser, med henblik på at sikre en duktil respons ved design af samlinger med flere wiresløjfer.