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## Evaluation of Load Response in Elastomeric Bearings Through Link Element and Finite Element Modelling

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Abstract: The Finite element modeling (FEM) and link element analysis of elastomeric bearings were conducted in this study to evaluate load behaviour and ensure compliance with design standards. A detailed FEM was developed, where material properties and boundary conditions were incorporated to simulate load transfer mechanisms, which were enhanced through link element analysis. Validation of results was performed against design codes and analysis software data, confirming the model's accuracy. A reliable method for optimizing elastomeric bearing design, improving structural safety, and meeting essential design checks was presented. Ten models in total were analyzed with variations, firstly the models were selected as per the design checks criteria. Then selected parameter's output values are compared with each passed model case and then to finalize the research conducted, the data validation table has created with providing recommendations to show the suitability, aiming to improve design practices and address challenges in modern bridge engineering.

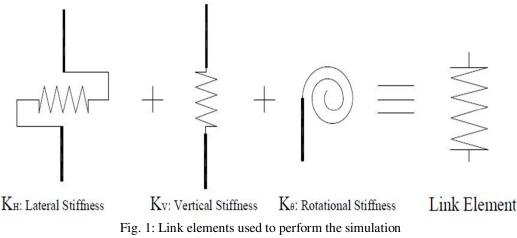
Keywords: Link element, Elastomer, Steel laminates, Bridge, 70R loading, Data validation.

#### I. INTRODUCTION - ELASTOMERIC BEARING

The field of bridge engineering is recognized as vital in infrastructure expansion, where the safe and efficient movement of people and goods across natural and man-made obstacles is ensured. Various dynamic loads, including vehicular traffic, wind forces, thermal expansion, and seismic activity, are experienced by bridges. To manage these forces and maintain structural integrity, specialized components, such as bearings, are required. Controlled movement between the bridge superstructure and substructure is allowed by bearings, and load distribution is managed to minimize stress on critical elements. Generally used elastomeric bearings are designed to handle vertical loads while permitting horizontal movement and rotation. These bearings are composed of alternating layers of rubber (elastomer) and steel shims, allowing vibrations to be absorbed, the effects of temperature changes to be mitigated, and deflections due to seismic and wind forces to be accommodated. A cost-effective and low-maintenance solution is provided by their flexible nature for various bridge types.

#### II. APPLICATION OF BEARING USING LINK ELEMENT ANALYSIS

The application of elastomeric bearings in bridge simulation is very difficult since it has not been possible for any analysis software that can analyse the layers between the Elastomeric bearing and its behaviour.





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Figure 1 shown above is the analysis method to perform the elastomeric bearing simulation known as link element analysis, consist of lateral stiffness, vertical stiffness and rotational stiffness. Link element analysis allows for a more accurate representation of the load paths in elastomeric bearings by accounting for specific points of force transfer that are crucial for realistic load distribution in the model. By integrating this analysis into FEM, it refines the load behaviour simulation, leading to more precise predictions of performance under various loading conditions.

#### III. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

On keeping in mind the above problem statement outlined for new research work for elastomeric bearing, the first and foremost thing is to check behavior in the analysis, it is recommended to take different Model cases considering the thickness of each layer of bearing as constant throughout all model cases and changing only bearing pad dimensions as variable. Then for accuracy in analysis, it has recommended to make the variants of each of the model cases. To simulate precisely, it has recommended to use the FEM analysis over each variants with loading used over the bridge should be highest as per IRC 6:2017. The current research has to pass through different design checks for the values obtained as per the output parameters decided. Then, the most stable cases list after passing the design tests can be taken into account that provides the recommendations that will make a feasible construction reference. Then the determination of output parameters for nodal behaviour like nodal displacement and DL and LL reactions, plate behaviour like maximum shear forces, bending moment and stresses in plate members and longitudinal girder behaviour like shear forces, bending moment as per simulation performed. Finally, to create the data validation table as per selected recommendation models using different output parameters.

#### IV. 3D MODELLING OF THE STRUCTURE

Comprehensive input data and its descriptions about the model given below. The input data used for creation of elastomeric bearing using link element using general data and loading data have applied to the structure such that the Vehicle width has taken as 2.79m along with dead load as self-weight and live load taken as IRC class 70R according to IRC 6:2017. The general data taken such as deck width has taken as 5m with deck span length of 12m respectively. The thickness of the deck has taken as 300mm, transverse girder properties has taken as  $500mm \times 300mm$ . The FEM analysis has taken into consideration while detailing the input parameter of the structure as quadrilateral type of meshing of  $10 \times 10$  size. Beam taken as I section of material structural steel of taper in nature. M30 grade of concrete and FE 500 steel with shear modulus taken as 0.9N/sq. mm as per IRC 83, Table 1 and Modulus of Elasticity of Elastomer (E) has taken as 617263 KG/sq. m.

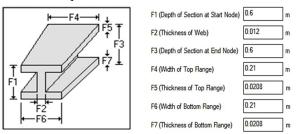


Fig. 2: Cross section of tapered I section with its physical dimention

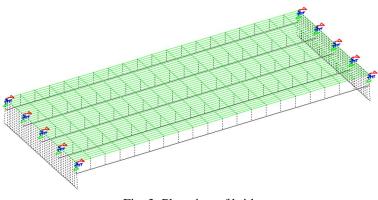


Fig. 3: Plan view of bridge



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Table 1: Various model cases used for anal	ysis with subseque		-
Models framed for analysis	Abbreviation	Subsequent	Variant
inodelo numed for unarjoio	Theore Hutton	variant	Configuration
		EB1A	1E, 2O, 2S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 1	EB1B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 160mm x 250mm	WIGGET 1	EB1C	3E, 2O, 4S
		EB1D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB2A	1E, 2O, 2S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	M. 1.1.2	EB2B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 160mm x 320mm	Model 2	EB2C	3E, 2O, 4S
		EB2D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB3A	1E, 2O, 2S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric		EB3B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 200mm x 320mm	Model 3	EB3C	3E, 2O, 4S
C C		EB3D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB4A	1E, 2O, 2S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric		EB4B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 200mm x 400mm	Model 4	EB4C	3E, 2O, 4S
6		EB4D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB5A	1E, 2O, 2S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 5	EB5B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 250mm x 400mm		EB5C	3E, 2O, 4S
		EB5D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB6A	1E, 20, 28
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 6	EB6B	2E, 2O, 3S
bearing with effective area of 250mm x 500mm		EB6C	3E, 2O, 4S
		EB6D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB7A	1E, 20, 28
		EB7B	2E, 2O, 3S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 7	EB7C	3E, 2O, 4S
bearing with effective area of 320mm x 500mm	Model /	EB7C EB7D	4E, 2O, 5S
		EB7E	5E, 2O, 6S
		EB8A	1E, 20, 05
		EB88	2E, 2O, 3S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 8	EB8D EB8C	3E, 20, 4S
bearing with effective area of 320mm x 630mm	110001 0	EB8C EB8D	4E, 2O, 4S
		EB8D	4E, 20, 33 5E, 20, 6S
		EB9A	1E, 20, 03
		EB9A EB9B	2E, 2O, 3S
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric	Model 9	EB9B EB9C	3E, 20, 33
bearing with effective area of 320mm x 630mm	WIOUCI 7	EB9C EB9D	4E, 2O, 4S
		EB9D EB9E	4E, 20, 35 5E, 20, 6S
		EB9E EB10A	1E, 20, 0S
		EB10A EB10B	2E, 2O, 2S 2E, 2O, 3S
Bridge deak supported over lemineted electomeric		EB10B EB10C	<u>3E, 20, 35</u> <u>3E, 20, 4S</u>
Bridge deck supported over laminated elastomeric bearing with effective area of 400mm x 800mm	Model 10	EB10C EB10D	4E, 2O, 4S
		EB10D EB10E	
			5E, 2O, 6S
		EB10F	6E, 2O, 7S



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Here,	
EB = Elastomeric Bearing,	
9A = Variant A for model number 9	2O = 2 Outer Elastomeric layer
1E = 1 Elastomeric sheet layer	2S = 2 Steel laminate layer

#### V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Design checks applied to bearing as per IRC 83:

This project started with the simulation for 70R loading on different elastomeric pad dimensions, comparing each model having each variants, some model variants are failed but some are passed. Details of passed variants are mentioned below:-

Model (Under 70R Loading)	Area	Area Thickness Thickness configuration		ickness configuration	Passed models
				3 elastomeric layer	
Model 7	320 x 500		С	2 outer layers	Pass
				4 steel laminates	
		·///////		4 elastomeric layer	
Model 7	320 x 500		D	2 outer layers	Pass
				5 steel laminates	
				2 elastomeric layer	
Model 8	320 x 630		В	2 outer layers	Pass
				3 steel laminates	
				3 elastomeric layer	
Model 8	320 x 630		С	2 outer layers	Pass
				4 steel laminates	
				4 elastomeric layer	
Model 8	320 x 630		D	2 outer layers	Pass
				5 steel laminates	

Table 2: Passed models recommendation

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Model 9	400 x 630		В	2 elastomeric layer 2 outer layers	Pass
				3 steel laminates	
				3 elastomeric layer	er
Model 9	400 x 630		C	2 outer layers	Pass
				4 steel laminates	
				4 elastomeric layer	
Model 9	400 x 630		D	2 outer layers	Pass
				5 steel laminates	
				1 elastomeric layer	
Model 10	400 x 800		А	2 outer layers	Pass
				2 steel laminates	
				2 elastomeric layer	Pass
Model 10	400 x 800		В	2 outer layers	
				3 steel laminates	
				3 elastomeric layer	
Model 10	Model 10 400 x 800		C	2 outer layers	Pass
			4 steel laminates		
			D	4 elastomeric layer	Pass
Model 10	400 x 800			2 outer layers	
				5 steel laminates	

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			5 elastomeric layer	
Model 10	400 x 800	Е	2 outer layers	Pass
			6 steel laminates	

#### VI. CONCLUSIONS

This project concluded that the simulation for 70R loading on different elastomeric pad dimensions, comparing each model having different variants. The passed models are taken into consideration and compared them with respect of various parameters. Details of recommended variants are mentioned from table 3 to table 8 below:-

	Maximum displacement			
Case	For X Direction	For Y Direction	For Z Direction	
	(mm)	(mm)	(mm)	
EB7C	0.124	4.174	0.075	
EB7D	0.128	4.354	0.074	
EB8B	0.118	3.903	0.074	
EB8C	0.122	4.066	0.074	
EB8D	0.126	4.223	0.074	
EB9B	0.117	3.857	0.073	
EB9C	0.121	4.006	0.073	
EB9D	0.124	4.151	0.073	
EB10A	0.112	3.655	0.072	
EB10B	0.115	3.788	0.073	
EB10C	0.119	3.918	0.073	
EB10D	0.122	4.044	0.073	
EB10E	0.125	4.167	0.073	

#### Table 3: Data validation table using displacement

#### Table 4: Data validation table using dead load support reactions

	Maximum dead load support reactions					
Case	Fx	Fy	Fz	Mx	Му	Mz
	(KN)	(KN)	(KN)	(KNm)	(KNm)	(KNm)
EB7C	0.063	67.476	0.073			105.129
EB7D	0.045	66.677	0.058			102.559
EB8B	0.12	68.616	0.12			109.071
EB8C	0.083	68.042	0.091	pe l	g	106.639
EB8D	0.061	67.398	0.073	s not to be used	used	104.334
EB9B	0.151	68.743	0.148		9 9	109.69
EB9C	0.105	68.365	0.112			107.426
EB9D	0.078	67.873	0.089			105.265
EB10A	0.310	70.251	0.276	l		112.732
EB10B	0.196	68.79	0.186	l s	∧s	110.696
EB10C	0.139	68.617	0.141			108.718
EB10D	0.104	68.297	0.113			106.81
EB10E	0.081	67.907	0.094			104.979



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Case			Maximum liv	e load support react	ions	
Case	Fx (KN)	Fy (KN)	Fz (KN)	Mx (KNm)	My (KNm)	Mz (KNm)
EB7C	0.235	201.668	0.267			386.207
EB7D	0.167	198.197	0.213			376.258
EB8B	0.455	209.742	0.447			402.098
EB8C	0.313	205.076	0.335	pa	g	392.148
EB8D	0.228	201.498	0.267	used	nsed	383.055
EB9B	0.577	212.9	0.553	be be	pe o	404.713
EB9C	0.400	208.212	0.415	Values not to be	not to not to	395.285
EB9D	0.294	204.563	0.331		s ne	
EB10A	1.193	222.518	1.037	due	Values	418.425
EB10B	0.753	216.437	0.697	V	ζέ	409.095
EB10C	0.53	211.82	0.524			400.605
EB10D	0.396	208.157	0.418			392.776
EB10E	0.306	205.156	0.347			385.486

#### Table 5: Data validation table using live load support reactions

Table 6: Data validation table using shear and bending in plates

Case	Maximum shear and bending in plates				
Case	SQx (N/sq. mm)	SQy (N/sq. mm)	Mx (KNm/m)	My (KNm/m)	
EB7C	1.051	0.207	45.273	30.066	
EB7D	1.062	0.208	44.979	30.281	
EB8B	1.029	0.203	45.654	8.808	
EB8C	1.042	0.206	45.396	29.923	
EB8D	1.054	0.207	45.167	30.125	
EB9B	1.023	0.201	45.9	29.618	
EB9C	1.037	0.204	45.429	29.836	
EB9D	1.048	0.206	45.23	30.029	
EB10A	1.002	0.194	47.129	29.288	
EB10B	1.016	0.199	46.299	29.508	
EB10C	1.029	0.202	45.539	29.706	
EB10D	1.039	0.204	45.357	29.884	
EB10E	1.048	0.205	45.179	30.045	

Table 7: Data validation table using shear and bending in plates

Case		nding in plates		
Case	SQx (N/sq. mm)	SQy (N/sq. mm)	Mx (KNm/m)	My (KNm/m)
EB7C	1.051	0.207	45.273	30.066
EB7D	1.062	0.208	44.979	30.281
EB8B	1.029	0.203	45.654	8.808
EB8C	1.042	0.206	45.396	29.923
EB8D	1.054	0.207	45.167	30.125
EB9B	1.023	0.201	45.9	29.618
EB9C	1.037	0.204	45.429	29.836
EB9D	1.048	0.206	45.23	30.029
EB10A	1.002	0.194	47.129	29.288
EB10B	1.016	0.199	46.299	29.508
EB10C	1.029	0.202	45.539	29.706
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Table 8: Data validation table using shear forces, bending moment and torsional moment in longitudinal girder

Case	Maximum Shear Forces	Maximum Bending Moment	Maximum Torsional Moment
Case	(KN)	(KNm)	(KNm)
EB7C	179.616	143.511	0.016
EB7D	179.557	142.307	0.016
EB8B	179.708	144.816	0.016
EB8C	179.649	144.04	0.016
EB8D	179.595	143.094	0.016
EB9B	179.719	144.88	0.016
EB9C	179.663	144.214	0.016
EB9D	179.612	143.389	0.016
EB10A	179.793	145.357	0.016
EB10B	179.741	145.054	0.016
EB10C	179.691	144.563	0.016
EB10D	179.645	143.935	0.016
EB10E	179.602	143.202	0.016

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