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Buckling of Quasi-Perfect Cylindrical Shell under Axial Compression: A Combined Experimental and Numerical Investigation

Bo Wang , Shiyang Zhu , Peng Hao , Xiangju Bi , Kaifan Du , Bingquan Chen , Xiangtao Ma , Yuh J. Chao

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## Highlights

- We manufactured, analyzed and tested the sub-scaled, cylindrical shell without weld lands but with small-amplitude geometric imperfection, and negligible residual stress, thickness variations and loading imperfections. This strategy of test specimen design isolates the geometric imperfection from other imperfections and therefore can be served as a benchmark for investigating the effect to KDF from pure geometric imperfections.
- In the development of FE numerical procedure: we investigated and compared the Fourier series method with the scatter points method in terms of prediction accuracy and computational efficiency.
- From the experimental and numerical results, we provide guidance in dimensional tolerance for maximizing the load-carry capacity of cylindrical structures in manufacturing.

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