



# Uniform Design Method for punching shear in flat slabs and column bases



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## ABSTRACT

The punching shear design of flat slabs and column bases was revised with the introduction of Eurocode 2. While in many former codes the punching shear resistance was determined regardless of the type of member, in Eurocode 2 two different design equations for flat slabs and column bases were introduced. Additionally, different control sections for flat slabs and column bases were defined. The differentiation between flat slabs and column bases and especially the iterative design procedure for the determination of the punching shear resistance of column bases require great effort in daily practice.

Based on the punching shear provisions according to Eurocode 2, a new Uniform Design Method (UDM) for flat slabs and column bases is developed. The derivation of the design method is described in detail. To verify the changes in the current design provisions, the new design method is evaluated using large databanks for flat slabs and column bases without and with shear reinforcement as well as systematic test series.

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## 1. Introduction

The punching shear behavior of reinforced concrete slabs was investigated extensively by various researchers in the past. As a result of these theoretical and experimental investigations, different approaches for the determination of the punching shear resistance of flat slabs and column bases were derived. A brief description of the various approaches can be found e.g. in [1–4].

Due to more compact dimensions and soil-structure interaction, column bases achieve significantly higher punching shear capacities than flat slabs [5–10]. Considering these differences, Eurocode 2 [11] introduced two different design equations for flat slabs and column bases. Additionally, different control sections for flat slabs and column bases were defined. While for flat slabs the control section is given in a distance  $2.0d$  from the column's perimeter, for column bases this distance has to be determined iteratively minimizing the punching shear resistance. The differentiation between flat slabs and column bases and especially the iterative design procedure for the determination of the punching shear resistance of column bases increased the effort in daily engineering practice compared to former codes.

In this paper, possible improvements for the current punching shear provisions according to Eurocode 2 are identified by means of databank evaluations as well as experiences with the code provisions. Based on the results of the evaluation of the current design provisions, a new Uniform Design Method (UDM) for punching shear in flat slabs and column bases is developed and its derivation is described in detail.

## 2. Evaluation of design provisions according to Eurocode 2

### 2.1. General

In this section, the punching shear provisions for flat slabs and column bases according to Eurocode 2 [11] are evaluated by means of comparisons with test results. Based on the results of the databank evaluations and experiences with the code provisions, possible improvements are identified and presented. A brief description of the punching shear provisions for flat slabs and column bases according to Eurocode 2 is presented in Appendix A. A more detailed description of the design provisions can be taken from [12–16].

### 2.2. Test databanks

Critically reviewed test databanks can be considered for both, the evaluation of existing code provisions and the derivation of

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## Nomenclature

### Latin lower-case letters

$a_i$	shear span
$d$	effective depth
$d_0$	transitional size
$f_c$	concrete compressive strength
$f_{ck}$	characteristic value of concrete compressive strength
$f_{ck,cyl}$	characteristic value of concrete compressive strength (cylinder: $150 \times 300$ mm)
$f_{cm,cyl}$	mean value of concrete compressive strength (cylinder: $150 \times 300$ mm)
$f_{ywd}$	design value of the yield strength of the shear reinforcement
$f_{ywm}$	mean value of the yield strength of the shear reinforcement
$k$	factor accounting for the influence of size effects
$k_d$	factor accounting for the influence of size effects
$k_i$	factor accounting for the influence of column size and shear span-depth ratio
$u_0$	perimeter of the loaded area
$u_{0.5d}$	control perimeter in a distance $0.5d$ from the face of the loaded area
$u_{control}$	control perimeter
$u_{out}$	control perimeter at which shear reinforcement is not required
$x_p$	5%-quantile
$x_{p,x}$	5%-quantile (Standard normal distribution)
$x_{p,y}$	5%-quantile (Log normal distribution)

### Latin upper-case letters

$A_{sw}$	area of shear reinforcement
$C_{Rk,c}$	constant factor (characteristic value)
$C_{Rm,c}$	constant factor (mean value)
$V_c$	contribution of concrete
$V_{Ed}$	applied shear force
$V_{Test}$	ultimate failure load in the test

$V_{Rd,c}$	design value of punching shear capacity without shear reinforcement
$V_{Rd,c+s}$	design value of punching shear capacity with shear reinforcement
$V_{Rd,s}$	design value of capacity of shear reinforcement
$V_{Rd,max}$	design value of maximum punching shear capacity
$V_{Rk,c}$	characteristic value of punching shear capacity without shear reinforcement
$V_{Rk,c+s}$	characteristic value of punching shear capacity with shear reinforcement
$V_{Rm,gov}$	governing punching shear capacity
$V_{Rm,s}$	characteristic value of capacity of shear reinforcement
$V_{Rk,max}$	characteristic value of maximum punching shear capacity
$V_{Rm,c}$	mean value of punching shear capacity without shear reinforcement
$V_{Rm,c+s}$	mean value of punching shear capacity with shear reinforcement
$V_{Rm,s}$	mean value of capacity of shear reinforcement
$V_{Rm,max}$	mean value of maximum punching shear capacity
$V_s$	contribution of shear reinforcement
$V_x$	coefficient of variation (Standard normal distribution)
$V_y$	coefficient of variation (Log normal distribution)

### Greek letters

$\alpha$	angle between the shear reinforcement and the plane of the slab
$\alpha_c$	factor accounting for contribution of concrete
$\alpha_{max}$	increase factor
$\alpha_s$	factor accounting for contribution of shear reinforcement
$\gamma_c$	partial safety factor for concrete
$\mu_x$	mean value
$\rho_l$	flexural reinforcement ratio

improved design methods. Based on systematically checked test data, the accuracy and reliability of design provisions can be evaluated. It can also be examined if the included parameters are taken into account appropriately or if further parameters have to be considered.

In [17] the collected databanks for flat slabs and column bases without and with shear reinforcement of the Institute of Structural Concrete, RWTH Aachen University [18–20] were checked and extended by recent test results. In a second step, selection criteria were formulated and the collected databanks were filtered accordingly. The selection criteria are described in [17] in detail.

The evaluation of the punching shear provisions according to Eurocode 2 in this section is performed mainly on the basis of the selected test databanks for flat slabs and column bases without and with shear reinforcement (interior columns) by [17] (Appendix B). By means of the comparison of failure load and punching shear capacity according to Eurocode 2, it is investigated if the main influences on the punching shear capacity (e.g. concrete compressive strength  $f_c$ , flexural reinforcement ratio  $\rho_l$ , effective depth  $d$ , specific column perimeter  $u_0/d$  ( $u_0$  is the perimeter of the loaded area), and shear span-depth ratio  $a_i/d$  ( $a_i$  is the distance between the face of the loaded area and the line of contraflexure)) are considered in a consistent manner. Also, the level of safety of the design provisions is determined and compared to the requirements according to Eurocode 0 [21] (5%-quantile  $x_p \geq 1.0$ ). In this context, the 5%-quantile is determined based on a “Standard normal

distribution” (indicated by index “x”) and a “Log normal distribution” (indicated by index “y”).

### 2.3. Punching shear resistance without shear reinforcement

For the evaluation of the punching shear provisions for flat slabs without shear reinforcement according to Eurocode 2 (Appendix A), a total of 328 tests can be considered according to [17]. Fig. 1 depicts the comparison of failure load and punching shear capacity of flat slabs without shear reinforcement according to Eurocode 2. While the influences of concrete compressive strength  $f_c$ , flexural reinforcement ratio  $\rho_l$ , specific column perimeter  $u_0/d$ , and shear span-depth ratio  $a_i/d$  are taken into account reasonably well by the code equations, a strong trend for the influence of the effective depth  $d$  can be observed. In this context, the ratio  $V_{Test}/V_{Rk,c,EC2}$  decreases with increasing effective depth  $d$  which indicates that the influence of size effect is underestimated in the current provisions. The evaluation of the ratio  $V_{Test}/V_{Rk,c,EC2}$  for the 328 tests yields a mean value  $\mu_x = 1.251$  with COVs (coefficients of variation) of  $V_x = 0.219$  and  $V_y = 0.211$ , respectively. The 5%-quantile is  $x_p = 0.799$  (Standard normal distribution) and  $x_{p,y} = 0.866$  (Log normal distribution). Thus, the 5%-quantile is lower than required by Eurocode 0 (5%-quantile  $x_p \geq 1.0$ ).

For the evaluation of the punching shear provisions for column bases without shear reinforcement according to Eurocode 2, a total of 44 tests can be considered according to [17]. Fig. 2 shows the comparison of failure load and punching shear capacity of column

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