

# Numerical study on the response of composite shear walls with steel sheets under cyclic loading

<sup>1</sup>M. Nadir Olabi, <sup>\*2</sup>Naci Caglar, <sup>1,3</sup>M. Hasim Kisa, and <sup>4</sup>S. Bahadir Yuksel

<sup>1</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Institute of Natural Sciences, Sakarya University, 54050 Sakarya, TURKEY

<sup>2</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Sakarya University, 54050 Sakarya, TURKEY

<sup>3</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Karabuk University, 78050 Karabuk, TURKEY

<sup>4</sup> Department of Civil Engineering, Engineering and Natural Sciences Faculty, Konya Technical University, Konya, TURKEY

## Abstract

As an alternative to conventional reinforced concrete walls, composite shear walls have been studied recently due to their great advantages in terms of structural performance under seismic loading. Researchers usually use ready-made profiles for composite shear walls, but in this study L-shaped cold-formed steel sheets were selected for numerical analysis under lateral cyclic forces. A macroscale numerical model was developed using a fiber beam-column element with a shear spring model to reproduce the actual behavior of composite shear walls. In addition, the OpenSees-based model was verified against three experimentally tested composite shear walls and showed robust simulation ability. Moreover, in order to fully explain their effect on the performance of composite shear walls, the properties of L-shaped steel sheets were studied parametrically with the help of the numerical model in terms of thickness and yield strength. It was clear that increases in the sheets' yield strength and thickness increased the lateral load-displacement capacity of the walls. It was thought that the two factors were connected in terms of their effects, and the L-shaped steel sheet arrangement in the boundary zone had essential participation in the total response of the composite shear wall under the applied loads.

**Keywords:** composite RC shear walls, L-shaped cold-formed steel sheets, fiber beam-column element, macroscopic model, OpenSees.

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\* Corresponding Author: N. Caglar, [caglar@sakarya.edu.tr](mailto:caglar@sakarya.edu.tr)

## 34 1. Introduction

35

36 Reinforced concrete (RC) shear walls are generally used in high-rise buildings subjected to  
37 earthquakes. The high-rise buildings require more lateral load capacities and stiffness than  
38 conventional shear walls can offer due to the excessive moment and axial load effects. Shear wall  
39 cross-section properties require dense reinforcement and rather thick concrete sections with the  
40 effect of internal loads, resulting in limited usable floor space. To tackle these problems, composite  
41 shear walls have been used recently for lateral load-resistant elements as the main part of the load-  
42 bearing system in high-rise buildings [1]. Researchers proposed the use of different types of  
43 composite shear wall elements which had ready-made profiles and steel sections [2-3]. Within this  
44 scope, a lot of experimental studies have been conducted to understand the response of composite  
45 shear walls subjected to lateral loads [1, 4-9]. Alternatively, Yuksel and Unal [10] proposed L-  
46 shaped cold-formed steel sheets (CFSS) instead of ready-made steel profiles to create the composite  
47 shear walls. Kisa and Kisa et al. [11-12] performed an experimental study to determine the effects  
48 of different configurations of L-shaped CFSS on the total response of the composite shear wall.

49

50 On the other hand, numerical analyses on composite shear walls have been also investigated by  
51 many researchers. In this context, Wang et al. [13] conducted a numerical analysis on steel plate  
52 reinforced concrete composite shear walls using OpenSees software. The authors of this work  
53 performed a parametric study depending on axial load ratio, steel plate ratio, concrete strength, and  
54 web steel ratio. Elmatzoglou and Avdelas [14] focused on numerical analyses of double-steel plate  
55 composite shear walls. In their study, short analyzing time and high accuracy were desired for the  
56 calculations. Nguyen and Whittaker [15] modeled steel-plate concrete composite shear walls with a  
57 microscopic approach, thus the main design parameters of the shear wall were considered in detail.  
58 Zhou et al. [16] examined the lateral load capacity of composite shear walls containing double steel  
59 plates and filled concrete with binding bars, and a method was also developed for estimating the  
60 load capacities of shear walls. Cho et al. [17] performed a nonlinear static analysis to determine the  
61 seismic capacity of steel plate concrete shear walls, and an analytical approach was developed to  
62 model the nonlinear behavior of the SC shear wall. The authors reported that more accurate  
63 analytical result requires well-defined contact elements between concrete and studs. Ali et al. [18]  
64 investigated the modeling of nonlinear behavior of an I-shaped composite steel-concrete shear wall  
65 under reversible loads. The researchers suggested the usage of steel plate elements in the section  
66 body instead of flanges as a cost-efficient solution. Moreover, the authors mentioned the absence of  
67 pinching effect in the force-displacement curve because of the difficulties to model the dense

68 geometry and bond behavior of walls. Zhou et al. [19] carried out a nonlinear numerical analysis to  
69 estimate the hysteretic response of composite shear walls. They also developed a quadric-linear  
70 skeleton curve model to predict the load-bearing capacity. However, there is a limited investigation  
71 about numerical analysis of composite shear walls with L-shaped cold-formed steel sheets.

72  
73 In this paper, a numerical parametric study was conducted using OpenSees software [20] to  
74 understand the response of composite shear walls with L-shaped cold-formed steel sheets better.  
75 Moreover, yielding strength and thickness of CFSS were selected as the main variables of the  
76 parametric study. It was very important to validate the OpenSees model with experimental results to  
77 test the accuracy of the analytical model in predicting the overall behavior of composite shear walls  
78 under cyclic lateral loads. The three composite RC walls reported by Yuksel and Unal [10] (CSW1),  
79 Kisa, and Kisa et al. [11-12] (CSW2, CSW3) were selected to confirm the numerical model.  
80 Although the predicted maximum lateral loads were in good conformity with the experimental test  
81 data, numerical models overestimated the initial lateral stiffness at small displacement levels before  
82 reaching the peak load. On the contrary, the calculated dissipated energy was in a very good  
83 harmony between the numerical and experimental curves. The paper includes determinations of the  
84 numerical analysis process, deformation and load-bearing capacity, and effect of the main steel  
85 variables on composite shear walls.

## 86 87 **2. Experimental study**

88 The experimental program was conducted in the Earthquake Laboratory at Selçuk University,  
89 Turkey, and consisted of three 1:3 scaled composite shear walls (CSW) with cold-formed steel  
90 sheets installed in walls boundary zones. The details of the cross-section of the test wall  
91 specimens are shown in Fig. 1.

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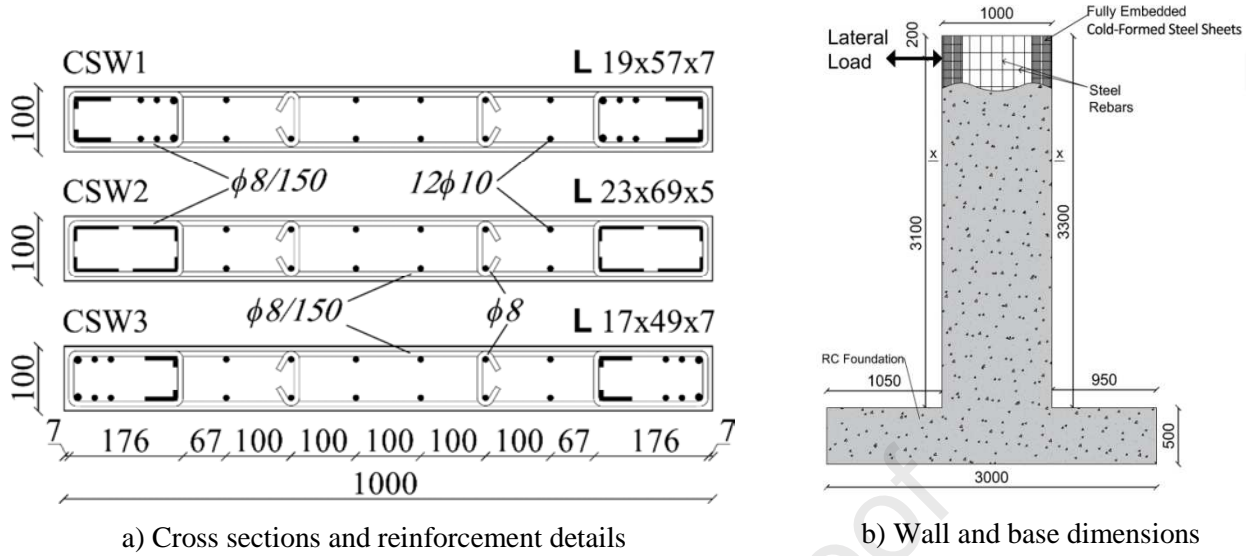


Fig. 1 Details of CSW test specimens

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94

95 The specimen's thickness and length were selected as 100 mm and 1000 mm, respectively. The  
 96 height of the walls was 3300 mm and the cyclic lateral load was applied at 3100 mm from the  
 97 surface of the RC foundation. The shear wall base was fixed to the rigid floor with eight tie rods. In  
 98 shear walls, the normalized axial load values ( $N/(A_g f_{co})$ ) are generally about 0.1 or less. The  
 99 presence or absence of axial load does not have a significant effect on the wall behavior [21-22].  
 100 Therefore, Axial load was not applied to the specimens and considered as zero in both the  
 101 experimental and numerical studies. Cold-formed L shaped steel sheets were embedded into the  
 102 boundary zones with different configurations as seen in Fig. 1. Twelve steel bars with a 10 mm  
 103 diameter were used to reinforce the body part of the composite shear walls. Stirrups with 8 mm  
 104 diameter and 150 mm spacing were applied to confine the boundary zone of the wall; while 8 mm  
 105 horizontal bars were placed into the web with 150 mm intervals. Concrete compressive strength  
 106 ( $f_{co}$ ) was tested with an average of 24.6 MPa, while the modulus of elasticity was in a range of  
 107 31.35 GPa. Moreover, S420 steel rebars and S275JR cold-formed steel sheets were used to reinforce  
 108 the composite shear walls. The average yield and ultimate strengths of steel members could be seen  
 109 in Table 1. The steel elasticity modulus was calculated around 210 GPa for all samples.

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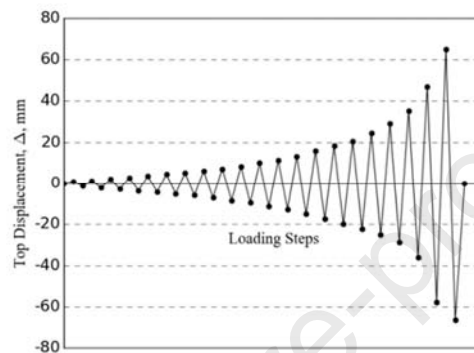
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Table 1: Steel rebars and sheets properties

Type	Rebar diameter / Steel thickness (mm)	$f_y$ (MPa)	$f_u$ (MPa)
Steel rebars	8	426.0	540.3
	10	463.0	565.3
	12	481.0	588.6
Steel sheets	2 and 3	270.7	351.2

112 The experimental program used force-controlled and displacement-controlled protocols to apply the  
 113 quasi-static cyclic lateral load on the composite shear walls. However, considering that the  
 114 numerical model requires a displacement load history to perform the analysis the loading protocol  
 115 shown in Fig.2 was extracted from the experiment and used in this study starting from 0.02% drift  
 116 ratio and increasing about 25% for each step. The details of the experiment setup could be found in  
 117 references [11-12].

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### 123 3. Modeling of nonlinear behavior of CSW

124

#### 125 3.1. Review of RC wall modeling

126 Macroscopic and Microscopic modeling techniques are two groups of modeling approaches used  
 127 for simulating the behavior of RC structural walls in general. Microscopic models depend mostly on  
 128 the Finite Element Method (FEM), considered as the most accurate modeling approach for shear  
 129 walls.

130 However, the effort required to develop the model (pre-process), the needed analyzing power  
 131 (computational time) to solve the model, and the post-processing examination of the results is  
 132 significant, especially for simulating large structures with earthquake loadings. On the other hand,  
 133 macroscopic models have the simplicity and practicality along with the reasonably required CPU  
 134 time in comparison with the micro-scale models [23-24]. However, they need special care while  
 135 selecting materials constitutive models and related parameters to reflect the actual behavior of the  
 136 materials in use for the required application.

137

138 In this study, the Fiber Beam-Column Element Model (FBCEM) was adapted to evaluate the

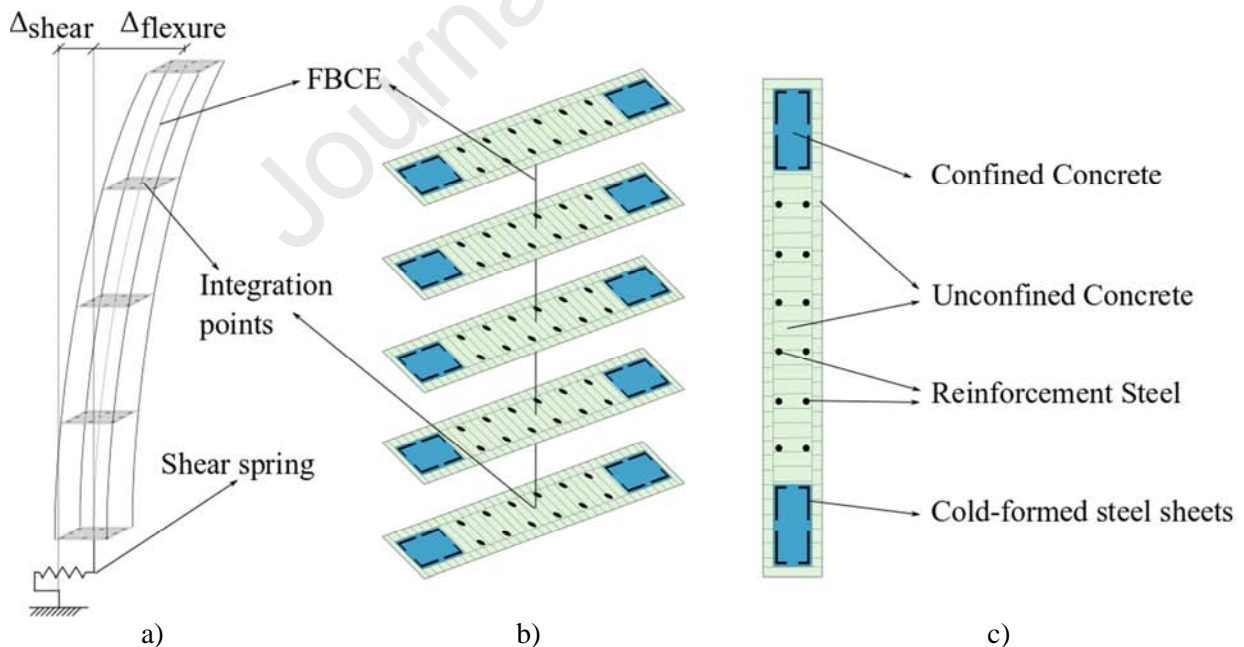
139 nonlinear behavior of composite shear walls as macroscopic modeling approach, and the  
 140 implementation of FBCEM in OpenSees [20] was used to examine CSWs under cyclic loads. In this  
 141 method, the flexural response of the composite shear walls was determined by using a section of the  
 142 wall divided into macro-fibers representing the concrete and steels in the section based on  
 143 constitutive stress-strain relationships. Furthermore, the shear response was calculated using a  
 144 backbone of lateral force-displacement relation applied to a horizontal spring.

145

### 146 3.2. Fiber Beam-Column Element Model

147 The fiber beam-column element model (FBCEM), introduced by Spacone et al. [25], is one of the  
 148 widely used and highly reliable methods to simulate concrete columns and shear wall elements  
 149 under static and dynamic loadings. The model consists of integration points along the element  
 150 where displacements and forces are calculated using integrals of the cross-sectional parts (Fig. 3.b).  
 151 Cross-sections at each integration point are divided into multiple fibers representing the stress-strain  
 152 behavior for each individual material used in the element [25]. For instance, four different materials  
 153 are utilized (confined concrete, unconfined concrete, reinforcing steel, and steel sheets) to define the  
 154 response of the fibers in the member's section as seen in Fig. 3.c.

155



156

**Fig. 3** Illustration of Fiber Beam-Column Element Model

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### 158 3.3. Element Formulations

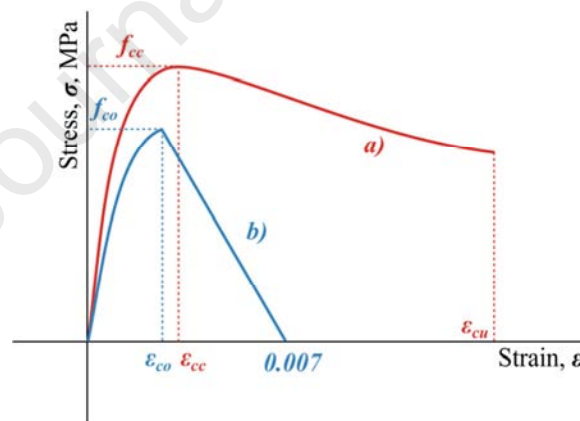
159 Force-based and displacement-based elements are both distributed-plasticity beam-column  
 160 formulations commonly used in FBCEM and available in OpenSees [20]. The displacement-based

161 formula assumes a linear distribution of curvature, which requires finer mesh to capture  
 162 deformations in highly plastic regions [26]. In contrast, the force-based element uses exact solutions  
 163 for forces, and it allows the use of one element to represent the member for this. However, more  
 164 CPU time is required with force-based elements and the solution is highly sensitive to the number  
 165 of integration points. Regularized material constitutive models are also needed to provide accurate  
 166 simulation [27]. In this study, the displacement-based beam-column element was selected to model  
 167 the composite shear wall with steel sheets. A total of six elements (“dispBeamColumn” OpenSees  
 168 element) with 3 integration points for each element were specified to represent CSWs.

169

### 170 3.4. Material Models

171 Different types of material models are available in the OpenSees library [28]. In this study,  
 172 Concrete01 and Concrete04 uniaxial materials were selected to define the unconfined and confined  
 173 concrete material models, respectively. Concrete01 uniaxial material was used to construct Kent and  
 174 Park [29] unconfined concrete model with peak stress point equals to concrete compressive  
 175 strength,  $f_{co}$ , and the corresponding strain  $\epsilon_{co} = 0.002$ . In addition, unconfined concrete ultimate  
 176 strain at the end of the descending line was set to 0.007 (Fig. 4.a) at which the analysis process was  
 177 considered to be finished.



178

179 **Fig. 4** a) Confined and b) Unconfined concrete model envelopes

180

181 The stress-strain concrete model developed by Mander et al. [30] was adapted for the confined  
 182 concrete at boundary zones of the composite shear walls. Considering that mathematical  
 183 confinement models for concrete surrounded with steel sheets or sections could not be found in the  
 184 literature, the concrete in boundary zones were accepted to be confined only with the transverse  
 185 reinforcement. Concrete04 uniaxial material was selected from the OpenSees library to construct a  
 186 confined concrete model (Fig. 4.b) where peak stress ( $f_{cc}$ ) and strain ( $\epsilon_{cc}$ ) were calculated  
 187 according to Mander et al. [30]. Tension strength was neglected for both confined and unconfined



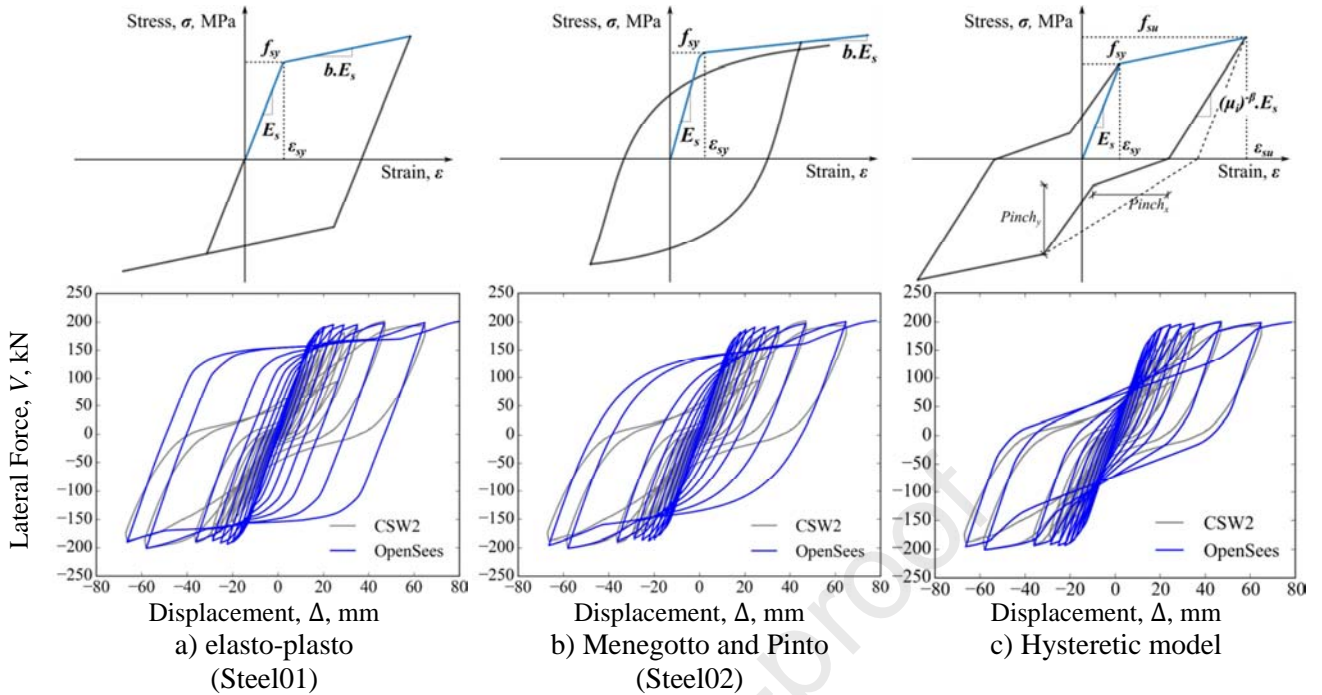
188 concrete.

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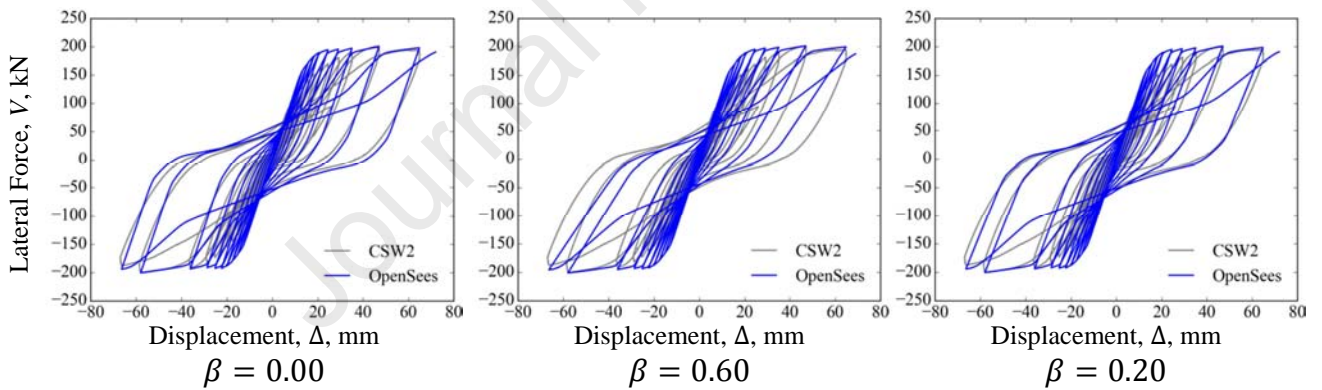
190 Whereas composite shear wall cyclic behavior was mainly dominated by steel response to lateral  
191 loads, three different uniaxial steel models were selected and tested against the experimental results  
192 of CSW2 and presented in Fig. 5. Steel01 produced a bilinear steel material with elastic branch and  
193 had initial elastic tangent equaled to the modulus of elasticity ( $E_s$ ) and plastic branch with tangent  
194 equaled to  $bE_s$ , where  $b$  was the strain hardening ratio (Fig. 5.a). Steel02 constructed Menegotto  
195 and Pinto's [31] steel material with several parameters that described and controlled elastic to  
196 plastic transition and stiffness degradation (Fig 5.b). The hysteretic material model found in  
197 OpenSees, based on Takeda et al. [32] and Filippou et al. [33], was a three-axis uniaxial material in  
198 which strain hardening, hardness degradation, pinching, and damage could be defined according to  
199 ductility levels. In this model, the unloading stiffness was determined using  $\mu_i^{-\beta} * E_s$ , where  $\mu_i$  was  
200 ductility level and  $\beta$  was the modification parameter (Fig. 5.c). Furthermore,  $Pinch_x$  and  $Pinch_y$   
201 were pinching factors for strain and stress, respectively, during reloading stages. These factors could  
202 be used to include stiffness reduction during reloading occurred because of crack opening and  
203 buckling of steel reinforcing bars and composite sheets. Also, they take into account the effect of  
204 stiffness restoration after cracks were closed and steel elements were recovered. As seen from Fig.  
205 5, the first two models (Steel01 and Steel02) overestimated the energy dissipation of the members  
206 as they could not take the effects that caused pinching into account. On the other hand, the  
207 Hysteretic model, with the default parameters settings from OpenSees (Fig. 5.c), was able to fairly  
208 capture the cyclic behavior of CSW. Moreover, as seen in Fig. 6, the simulation ability of the model  
209 was regulated by modifying  $\beta$ ,  $Pinch_x$  and  $Pinch_y$  to re-estimate the unloading stiffness and  
210 pinching based on ductility levels. For this study, the hysteretic steel model was adopted and  
211 regulated to analyze the response of composite shear walls under cycling loadings, and  $\beta$ ,  
212  $Pinch_x$  and  $Pinch_y$  were determined as 0.20, 0.25 and 0.15 respectively.

213





214 **Fig. 5** Comparison of the experimental results and OpenSees analyses with the selected three  
 215 steel models  
 216



217 **Fig. 6** Hysteretic model parameters regulation  
 218

### 219 3.5. Constitutive Shear Model

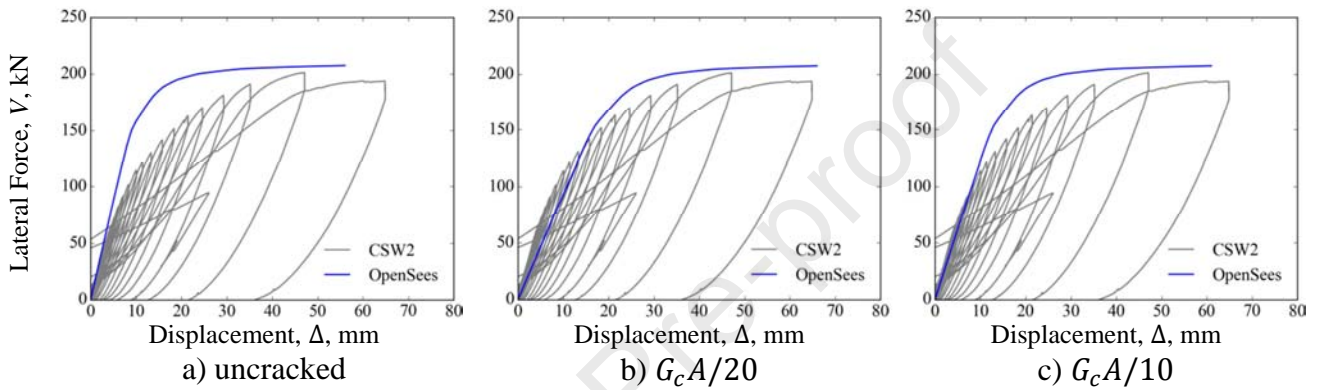
220 Although fiber beam-column elements models could simulate the axial-flexure coupled interaction  
 221 based on sectional analysis [34], the shear response cannot be calculated from FBCEM. For that  
 222 reason, shear spring is inserted within the model connecting the two nodes at the base of the  
 223 member (Fig. 3). Shear force-displacement relationship is applied to that spring to simulate shear  
 224 deformations. However, linear, bilinear, trilinear, or more sophisticated models are used in the  
 225 literature to define the constitutive shear model [35]. For simplicity purposes, the linear relation was  
 226 adopted in this work with uncracked shear stiffness calculated as per Eq. 1.

$$\text{Shear Stiffness} = G_c A = \frac{E_c}{2(1 + \nu)} A_{cv} \quad (1)$$

227

228 where;  $\nu$  is Poisson's ratio and taken as 0.2, and  $A_{cv}$  is the area of the section. While the effective  
 229 shear stiffness ( $GA_{eff}$ ) could be taken as 0.1 or 0.05 form  $G_c A$  according to PEER and ACT [36].  
 230 As seen in Fig. 7, considering  $GA_{eff} = 0.1G_c A$  is the closest approach in term of stiffness to  
 231 determine the shear response of CSW2, this value was selected for the simulation in this work.

232



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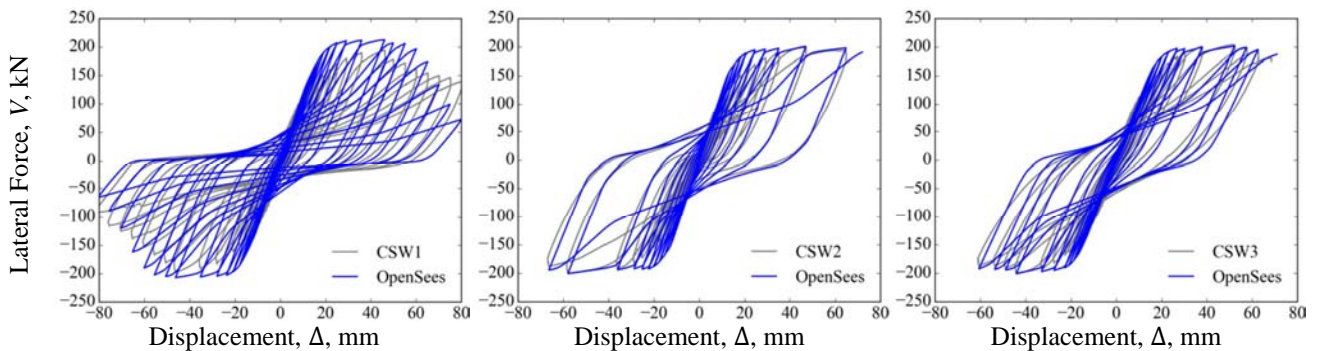
**Fig. 7** The influence of effective shear stiffness on the total response of RC shear walls

234

### 235 3.6. Model validation

236 In this work, a numerical model was formed by using displacement-based force beam-column  
 237 elements with a shear spring model to simulate the total response of composite shear walls. The  
 238 outcomes of the numerical analysis using the selected parameters were compared with experimental  
 239 results for three different composite shear walls. As can be seen from Fig. 8, the numerical model  
 240 was very successful to simulate the total response of CSW2 and CSW3 specimens, while CSW1  
 241 simulation had slight differences in terms of capacity and cyclic behavior.

242



243

**Fig. 8** Performance of the numerical model

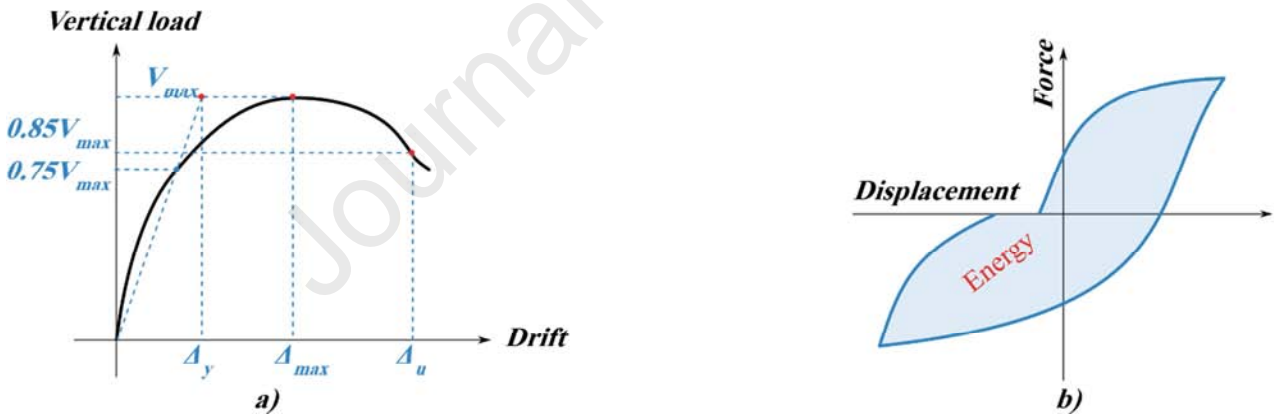
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245

246 According to the definitions from Fig. 9a, tabulated data in Table 2 summarizes the main backbone  
 247 figures from the OpenSees model compared to test results. In table 2,  $V_{max}$  is the maximum lateral  
 248 load capacity,  $\Delta_y$ ,  $\Delta_{max}$ , and  $\Delta_u$  are displacements at yield, maximum load, and ultimate load (85%  
 249 of  $V_{max}$ ), respectively. By taking the ratios of the model results to experimental results, it became  
 250 clear that the numerical model could simulate the total response of composite shear walls to a great  
 251 extent.

252  
 253 Moreover, the cumulative dissipated energy by elements was calculated by adding areas defined by  
 254 the curve of the lateral load-displacement loops as seen from Fig. 9b. The dissipated energies for the  
 255 numerical and experimental hysteric curves were plotted to compare in Fig. 10. As seen from the  
 256 figure, the numerical model captured the energy dissipation behavior extremely well with variances  
 257 in the total energy about 7.8%, 2.9%, and 6.8% for CSW1, CSW2, and CSW3, respectively.  
 258 According to the validation study, it was concluded that the constructed OpenSees based numerical  
 259 model could be used efficiently to determine the behavior of composite shear walls with cold-  
 260 formed steel sheets.

261



262

263 **Fig. 9 a)** Definition of main drifts points on the lateral load-displacement envelope, **b)** Energy  
 264 dissipation calculation for one loop

265

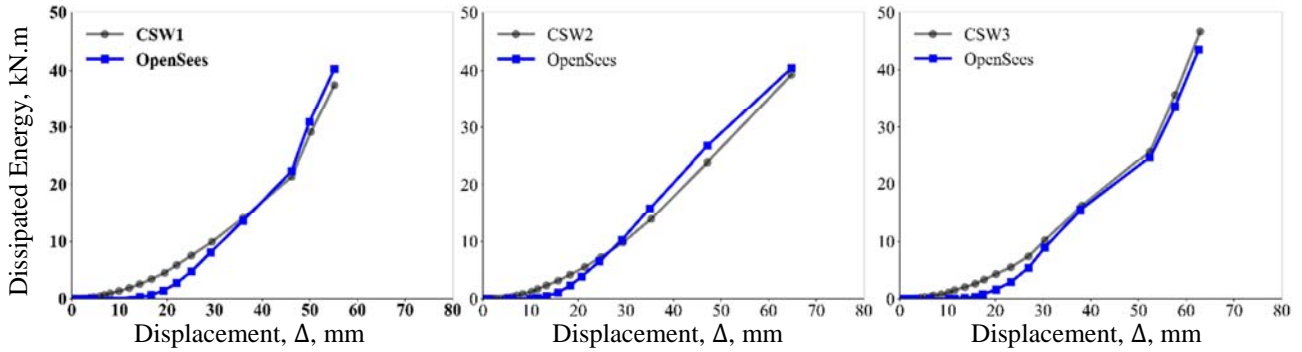
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267

**Table 2:** Comparison between the numerical model and experimental results

Wall		$\Delta_y$	$\frac{\Delta_y}{\Delta_y^{Exp.}}$	$\Delta_{max}$	$\frac{\Delta_{max}}{\Delta_{max}^{Exp.}}$	$V_{max}$	$\frac{V_{max}}{V_{max}^{Exp.}}$	$\Delta_u$	$\frac{\Delta_u}{\Delta_u^{Exp.}}$
CSW1	Num.	-17.9	0.77	-46.2	1.00	-206.1	1.04	-59.1	1.07
	Exp.	-23.2							
CSW2	Num.	-16.2	0.64	-57.9	1.00	-199.2	0.99	-66.4	0.99
	Exp.	-25.3							
CSW3	Num.	19.0	0.80	52.3	1.00	199.0	0.98	74.0	1.08
	Exp.	23.8							

268



269

**Fig. 10** Cumulative energy dissipation of experimental and the numerical model

270

#### 271 4. Parametric study


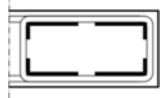

272

273 A parametric study was performed to investigate L-shaped steel sheets properties on the lateral  
 274 behavior of composite shear walls, where steel reinforcement bars were replaced with cold-formed  
 275 steel sheets (CFSS) at the boundary zone of RC shear walls. For that purpose, CFSS thickness and  
 276 yield strengths were selected as the main parameters in this study. As seen in Table 3, a total of 18  
 277 different models were created with different combinations of the selected parameters.

278

279

**Table 3:** Models properties of the parametric study

Section Type	$t_{CFSS}$ (mm)	$f_{yCFSS}$ (MPa)	
 S1	5.0	270.0	
		360.0	
	7.0	480.0	
		270.0	
	 S2	5.0	360.0
			480.0
7.0		270.0	
		360.0	
 S3		5.0	480.0
			270.0
	7.0	360.0	
		480.0	

280

281 On the other hand, mechanical properties of concrete, longitudinal, and transverse bars were kept  
 282 constant to agree with the experimental study. Although three different sections were chosen and  
 283 named as S1, S2, and S3 according to specimens CSW1, CSW2, and CSW3, respectively (Table 3),  
 284 cold-formed steel sheets dimensions were kept fixed for comparison reasons, and L19.0x57.0 was  
 285 used for all the sections. Cyclic loading was applied to determine the lateral load-displacement  
 286 relationships for the eighteen models, and the analyses were terminated upon reaching unconfined  
 287 concrete ultimate strain. Envelope curves were used for easier comparisons with different  
 288 parameters.

289

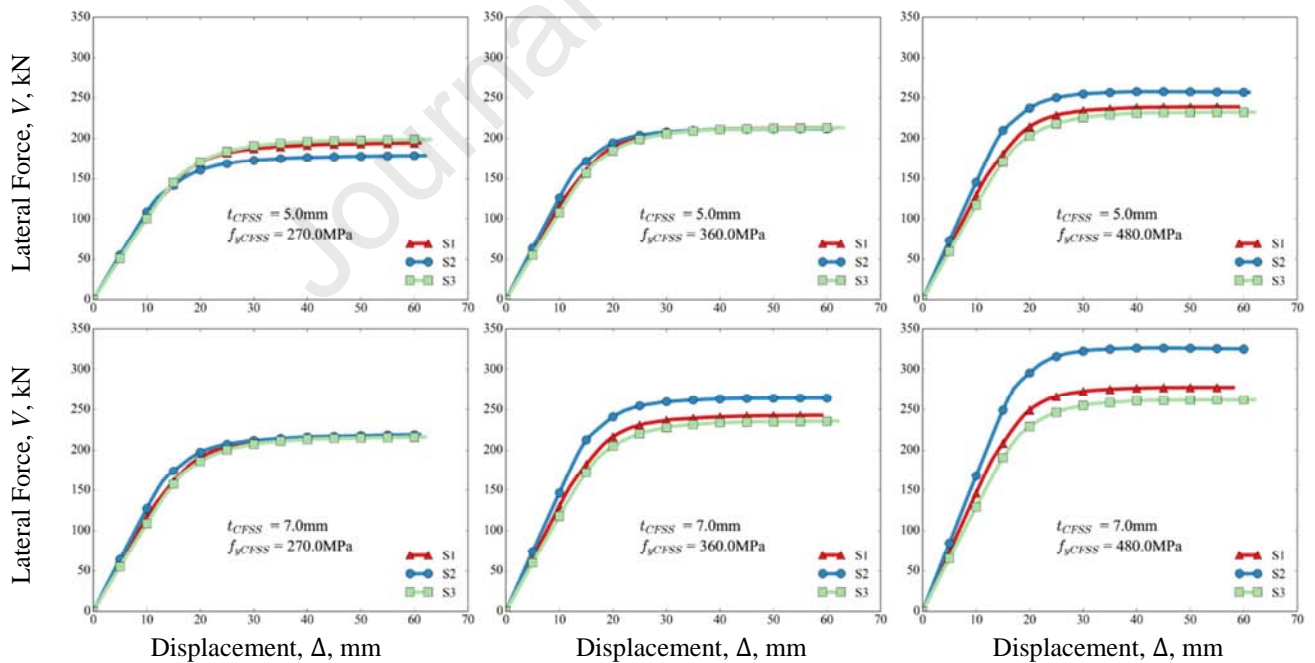
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## 291 5. Results and Discussion

292

293 The results of the eighteen composite shear wall models in terms of the lateral load-displacement  
 294 relationships are illustrated in Fig. 11. The effects of thicknesses and yield strength of cold-formed  
 295 steel sheets (CFSS) on the response of the walls under lateral loading are discussed.

296



297 **Fig. 11** The lateral force and displacement relationship of composite RC shear wall

298

298 Generally, the lateral load capacity of composite shear walls can be adjusted by increasing the cold-  
 299 form steel sheets thicknesses and yield strength at the tension boundary regions of the CSWs. For  
 300 instance, S2 with configuration based on CSW2 has a lateral load capacity of 219.0 kN for CFSS  
 301 thickness of 7 mm and  $f_y=270.0$  MPa, while the capacity increased 49% for  $f_y=480.0$  MPa and



302 reached 327 kN. Contrariwise, for the CFSS thickness of 5 mm, the lateral load capacity is 178 kN  
303 and increased 45% to reach 258.0 kN for the same increment of CFSS yield strength from 270.0 to  
304 480.0 MPa, respectively. Likewise, lateral capacity for section S3 when CFSS thickness is 7 mm  
305 and  $f_y=270.0$  MPa is 198.0 kN and increased 19% to reach 236.0 kN while  $f_y$  increased to 480.0  
306 MPa. On the other hand, the lateral load capacity for the same section configurations is 216.0 kN  
307 for CFSS thickness of 5 mm and  $f_y=270.0$  MPa, while the capacity increased 21% for  $f_y=480.0$  MPa  
308 and reached 262.0 kN. In addition, for constant CFSS yield strength of 480.0 MPa and while the  
309 CFSS thicknesses increased from 5 mm to 7 mm; lateral load capacity for section S1 is increased  
310 16% and reached 278.0 kN, S2 capacity increased 27% and reached 327.0 kN, and for S3 the  
311 increment is 11% to reach 262.0 kN.

312  
313 As seen in Fig. 11, the lateral load capacity varied considerably with the change in CFSS yield  
314 strength and thickness for the specimen with the S2 section but slightly for S1 and S3. On the other  
315 hand, the investigated parameters of the cold-formed steel sheets influenced the lateral load capacity  
316 of CSW1 based section S1 more than the lateral load capacity of section S3. Since the cold-formed  
317 steel sheets (CFSS) were located at the outermost side of the boundary regions of the composite  
318 shear wall cross-section in S1 (CSW1), CFSS elements resisted the bending moments about the  
319 strong axis by using all their section capacities. However, since the CFSS elements were not located  
320 at that outermost side of the composite shear wall's cross-section, they could not use their sections  
321 full plastic moment capacities to resist bending moments for the section S3 (CSW3).

322  
323 Additionally, the cover concrete was spalled when all the samples reached about 60 mm. Therefore,  
324 it is determined that the variation of CFSS thicknesses and yield strength at the tension boundary  
325 regions has no significant effect on the displacement capacity of composite shear walls. On the  
326 other hand, the ductility of the wall increases positively because of the positive effect of the  
327 increase in thickness and yield strength of CFSS on both horizontal load capacity and stiffness.  
328 Furthermore, when comparing the use of longitudinal reinforcement and cold-formed steel sheet  
329 (CFSS) in the outer side of the tension boundary zone, it is clearly seen from the numerical analysis  
330 results that CFSS elements have a positive effect on the composite wall behavior in terms of  
331 strength capacity, stiffness, and ductility.

## 332 333 **6. Conclusion**

334  
335 This paper focused on the behavior of composite shear walls with L-shaped cold-formed steel

336 sheets. In order to investigate the behavior of the composite shear walls, a numerical model based  
337 on the OpenSees platform was developed and validated in comparison to experimental results. L-  
338 shaped cold-formed steel sheets thickness and yield strength were parametrically studied by using  
339 the developed numerical model to better understand their effect on the total response of CSW. The  
340 following conclusions could be derived from this work as follows:

341

- 342 1. The macroscopic modeling technique showed a reliable performance in simulating the nonlinear  
343 behavior of composite shear walls. The developed OpenSees based numerical model was simple  
344 to build and very practical in conducting the parametric study with very short analysis time and  
345 minimum convergence errors. Additionally, the numerical model's ability to simulate the real  
346 response of CSW could be increased by using a more sophisticated shear model and by taking  
347 the slip of steel elements into account.
- 348 2. Furthermore, the pinching effect captured by the developed model in load-displacement  
349 hysteresis curves appears explicitly unlike previous numerical studies that used microscopic  
350 methods without considering this behavior. For that reason, the overall agreement between the  
351 experimental and numerical results is excellent in terms of dissipated energy prediction and  
352 calculations which were obtained by taking the hysteric loops shape into account and as a  
353 summation of the enclosed area for each cycle.
- 354 3. The parametric investigation showed that increasing the yield strength of CFSS without  
355 changing the thickness positively affected the lateral load capacity for all composite shear wall  
356 samples as expected. However, these changes varied with steel configurations in the border  
357 regions and were noticed in sections with higher L-shaped CFSS ratios.
- 358
- 359 4. The influence of the cold-formed steel sheets thickness was also obvious on the behavior of  
360 CSWs since the capacity of the walls becomes larger with the increasing of the CFSS  
361 thicknesses value. Nevertheless, this effect was correlated with the yield strength of the sheets  
362 since it was more apparent with higher values of  $f_{yCFSS}$ .
- 363
- 364 5. As a result, increasing the thicknesses and yield strengths of CFSS elements at the boundary  
365 regions of the composite shear walls will improve the total response of the CSWs under lateral  
366 loads, and in turn, will affect the load capacity of the entire structure. Moreover, placing cold-  
367 formed steel sheets on the outer side of boundary regions could effectively improve the flexural  
368 capacity of the composite shear wall according to the results of the experimental and parametric  
369 studies. Thus, using the S2 configuration type of CSW has more advantages than the other two



370 types in case of using higher thicknesses of CFSS to prevent buckling of the outer elements.

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**Highlights**

- Composite shear walls with L- shaped cold-formed steel sheets are numerically investigated.
- OpenSees based numerical model is developed and verified with experimental results.
- Parametric study is conducted to investigate the effect of CFSS properties on the response of CSW.

**Declaration of interests**

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

The authors declare the following financial interests/personal relationships which may be considered as potential competing interests:

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