

2 **Structural Shear behavior of Composite Box**  
3 **beams using advanced innovated materials**

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10 **ABSTRACT**  
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**This paper presents** a new conception of shear behaviour of box concrete beams reinforced by composite fabrics. For this purpose, stirrups, wire meshes as shear reinforcement were used. Seven box section concrete beams were tested using two-point loading system. Beams with tensar wire mesh exhibited increasing in ultimate failure load, shear capacity and deflection with respect to beams **used fiber-glass wire mesh instead of stirrups**. Nonlinear finite element analysis was conducted **using finite element program of ANSYS 14.5** to verify the experimental test program. **An acceptable acceptance** found between the experimental and numerical results.

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13 *Keywords: [Composite structures, box beams, shear stress, composite materials, glass fiber*  
14 *wire mesh, tensar wire mesh, nonlinear finite element analysis (NLFEA), Ansys 14.5]*

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17 **1. INTRODUCTION**  
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19 Wire meshes were used to belay the new system and to improve its performance [1,2].  
20 Ferrocement is named as wire mesh reinforcement. The flexure behavior of wire meshes  
21 had been studied and noticed to be nearly to reinforced concrete members [3,6]. **Al-**  
22 **Sulaimani** *et al* [7,8] recommended studying the behavior of composite ferrocement beams  
23 under transversal shear stress. Mansur & Ong [9] had studied the shear behaviour of  
24 rectangular ferrocement beams. Ferrocement rectangular beams were found to be critical to  
25 shear collapse at comparatively high  $V_f$  and  $f_c$ . El-Sayed & Erfan [10] improved the shear  
26 behaviour of ferrocement composite beams. Test results showed that beams with expanded  
27 wire mesh exhibited some amount of increase in shear capacity with respect to beams with  
28 reference & welded wire mesh.

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30 **2. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM**  
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32 The experimental work **was conducted** to investigate the general behaviour, cracks pattern,  
33 shear stresses and the ultimate capacity of the reinforced concrete box beam reinforced by  
34 composite fabrics. The experimental program consisted of seven composite box beams  
35 having the cross-sectional dimensions of 100 mm x200 mm and 1800 mm long were cast  
36 and tested until failure. All specimens were reinforced with the same longitudinal bars in  
37 tension and compression. The specimens were tested using two-point loading. The

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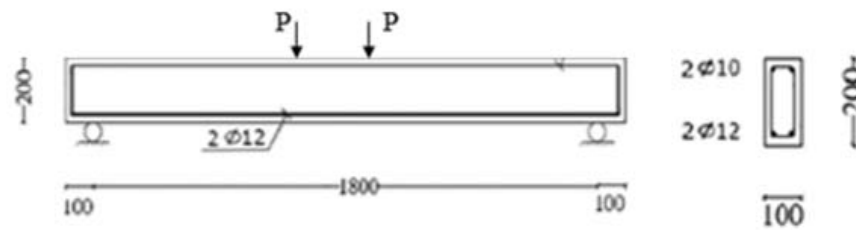
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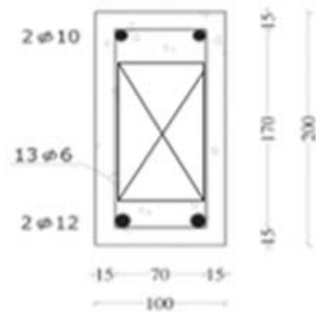
38 reinforcing bars were designed and detailed, and the bearing pad was proportioned such  
39 that the flexural, anchorage and bearing modes of failure were avoided. The concrete mix for  
40 the test specimens was designed to obtain compressive strength at 28 days of 30 MPa. The  
41 mix proportions were 2 sand: 1 cement, water cement ratio was 0.3 and 1.5% super  
42 plasticizer by weight of cement. The concrete slump was found to be 130 mm and a density  
43 of 2500 Kg/m<sup>3</sup>. All specimens were tested using compression testing machine of capacity  
44 2000 KN.  
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## 47 2.1 Preparation of Specimens and samples description

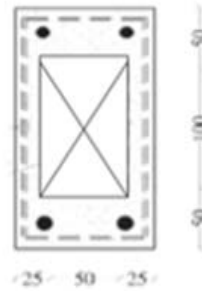
48 The experimental program consists of seven box beams with the same geometry and steel  
49 reinforcement details as shown in Fig. 1, were prepared for testing under concentric loads.  
50 The control specimen was box section beam reinforced using 2Ø12 in tensions and 2Ø10 in  
51 compression and 13Ø6 as stirrups. The other sixth box beams haven't stirrups but using  
52 glass fiber and **tensar** composite instead of stirrups. The first group consists of three beams  
53 Box1-1, Box2-1 and Box3-1 which reinforced using one, two and three layers of glass fiber  
54 wire mesh respectively. Second group for Box1-2, Box2-2 and Box3-2 which reinforced  
55 using one, two and three tensar wire mesh instead of stirrups respectively as described in  
56 Table 1.  
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60 Fig.1: beams geometric shape and reinforcement details, a) Control specimen; b) Cross-  
 61 section of beam with steel stirrups; c) Cross-section of beam glass fiber wire mesh or tensar  
 62 layer mesh; d) Beams with glass fiber wire mesh; e) Beams with tensar wire mesh

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67 Table 1: Box beams specimen's descriptions and notations

Series	Specimen No.	Specimen description	Reinf. Tension	Compression	Vr. Stirrups
Control	BOX1	Control specimen	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	13 $\Phi$ 6
Group 1 "Glass fiber wire Mesh"	BOX1-1	One-layer glass fiber	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-
	BOX2-1	Two-layer glass fiber	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-
	BOX3-1	Three-layer glass fiber	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-
Group 2 "Tensar wire mesh"	BOX1-2	One-layer tensar	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-
	BOX2-2	Two-layer tensar	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-
	BOX3-2	Three-layer tensar	2 $\phi$ 12	2 $\phi$ 10	-

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## 69 2.2 Characteristics of Materials

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71 The concrete mix contents utilized for the experimental program was summarized in Table 2  
 72 which gives concrete characteristic strength of 30 MPa. The reinforced steel obtained from  
 73 El-Dekhiela factory was  $f_y=360$  MPa (for deformed bars) and  $f_y=240$  MPa (for plain bars).  
 74 Fig.2 showed either tensar or fiber glass wire meshed used. Table 3 summarized the  
 75 properties of both wire meshes as per manufacturer. The beams were casted in a horizontal  
 76 position and the vibrated concrete placed compacted in wooden molds.

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78 Table 2: The Contents of Concrete Mixture

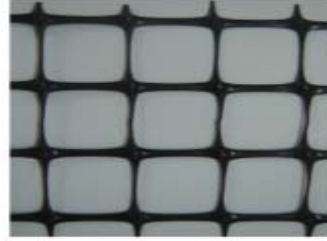
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Contents	Amount	
Cement	350 Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	80
Sand	700 Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	81
Aggregate (1)	540 Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	82
Aggregate (2)	620 Kg/m <sup>3</sup>	83
Water	162.5 L/m <sup>3</sup>	84
Admix	2 L/m <sup>3</sup>	85
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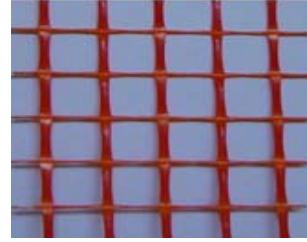
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b)

Fig.2: Configurations of composites materials; a) Polyethylene (Tensar) wire mesh, b) Fiber glass wire mesh

Table 3: Mechanical properties of tensar and fiber glass wire meshes

Polyethylene (Tensar) wire mesh		Glass fiber wire mesh	
Dimensions size	6.0 x 8.0 mm	Dimensions size	12.5 x 11.5 mm
Weight	725 gm/m <sup>2</sup>	Weight	123 gm/m <sup>2</sup>
Sheet Thickness	3.30 mm	Sheet Thickness	0.66 mm
Yield Stress	260 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	Yield Stress	230 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Young's modulus	100000	Young's modulus	80000

### 2.3 Test setup

The composite box beams were tested under two-point load testing machine of maximum capacity of 2000 KN with 1800mm effective span and 750mm shear span and 300mm load distance as shown in Fig. 3. Load was affective at 20 KN increments on the tested specimens. The LVDT and dial gages were used of high accuracy to measure the deflections and strains for steel and concrete. The load still increased till failure load and maximum displacements.

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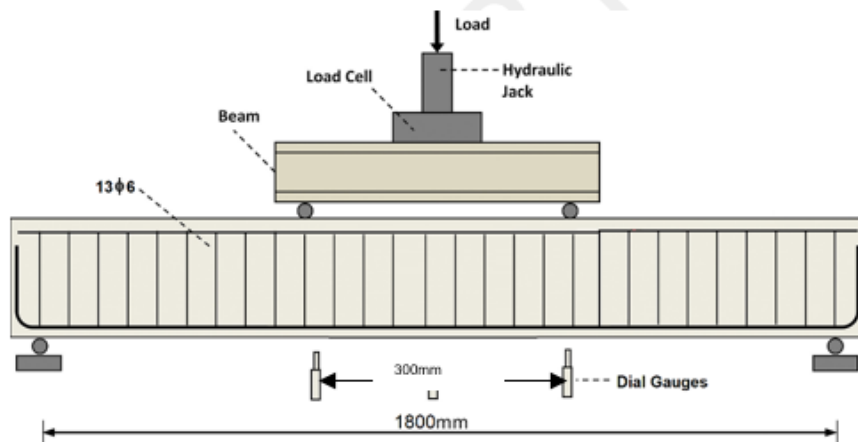


Fig. 3: Test set up schematic

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### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Test results include the load carrying capacity and displacement in concrete box beams. The cracks propagation during the tests was recorded. The crack initialization in the specimens reinforced using wire meshes was developed however, at later stages with respect to the control specimen. Also, the cracks lengths and widths decreased in the specimens reinforced with either glass fiber or tensar wire meshes as compared with the control specimen.

#### 3.1 Cracking

The first crack for all tested box beams were developed horizontally under the load pint in the mid span. Control specimen cracks observed at a load of 7.5 KN. For specimens BOX1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1, a higher ultimate load was recorded 1.04, 1.1 and 1.25 times than control one respectively. The diagonal cracking initiated in the Control Specimen; BOX1 increased in length and width until failure at load of 42.5 KN. For specimens BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2, a higher ultimate load was recorded 1.02, 1.12 and 1.18 times than control specimen respectively. Using fiber glass wire mesh and tensar wire mesh instead of stirrups was enhanced the crack pattern for box beams as shown in Fig. 4.



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142 Fig.4: Sample of crack pattern; a) control specimen; b) glass fiber wire mesh; c)  
143 Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh.  
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### 145 3.2 Ultimate load Capacity

146 The load carrying capacity is differ from one box beam to another according to its  
147 reinforcement and using tensar and glass fiber wire mesh instead of steel stirrups. For the  
148 control specimen, the ultimate failure load was 40.5 KN. The first group which reinforced  
149 using glass fiber wire mesh recorded failure loads of 45.7, 47.3 and 50.2 KN for BOX1-1,  
150 BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 respectively with enhancement ratio with respect to the control beam  
151 of 12.8, 16.8 and 23.9%. This enhancement related to layers number of glass fiber wire  
152 mesh used in reinforcement which is related to the confinement effect for glass fiber.as  
153 shown in Table 4. For the second group which reinforced using Polyethylene (tensar) wire  
154 mesh of different layers number of BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2. The experimental failure  
155 loads were 48.44, 51.6 and 55.2 KN with enhancement ratio of 19.6, 27.4 and 36.3% for  
156 BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 respectively. Observing that using three layers of either glass  
157 fiber or tensar wire mesh recorded the highest load and enhancement in carrying capacity  
158 due to the confinement ability and in increasing the compression strength of concrete which  
159 appeared in failure load capacity. It is noticed that the effect of using tensar wire mesh has  
160 the major effect in load carrying capacity as shown in Table 4 and Fig. 5.  
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163 Table 4: Experimental testing results

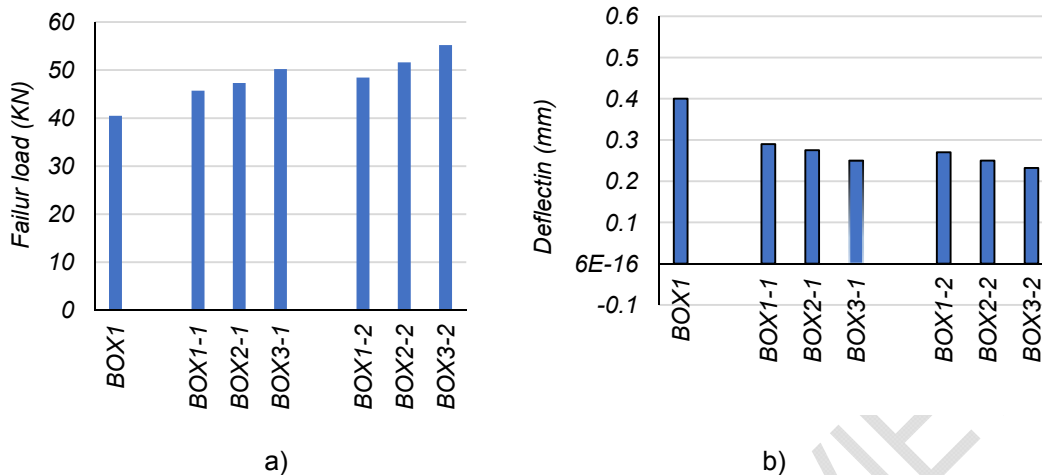
Series	Specimen No.	Failure load (KN)	Shear Stress (MPa)	% Of enhancement in load	Shear Load(N) / ultimate strength(N)	Deflection (mm) at failure load
Control	BOX1	40.5	2.25	---	0.833	0.40
Group 1 "glass fiber ire mesh"	BOX1-1	45.7	2.53	12.8	0.830	0.290
	BOX2-1	47.3	2.62	16.8	0.830	0.278
	BOX3-1	50.2	2.78	23.9	0.831	0.250
Group 2 "Polyethylene (tensar)wire mesh"	BOX1-2	48.4	2.69	19.6	0.834	0.270
	BOX2-2	51.6	2.86	27.4	0.832	0.250
	BOX3-2	55.2	3.06	36.3	0.831	0.230

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168 Fig. 5: comparison between experimental results; a) failure load (KN); b) deflection (mm) at  
169 ultimate load of control specimen

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### 3.3 Experimental ultimate deflection

172 As shown in Table 4 and Figs. 5.b and 6 the experimental deflection recorded for different  
173 specimens with different reinforcement types. The deflection recorded for the control  
174 specimen was 0.40 mm at failure load. For group one which reinforced with glass fiber wire  
175 mesh, the maximum deflection at failure load was 0.38, 0.39 and 0.45 mm but at the same  
176 failure load of the control, it was 0.29, 0.278 and 0.25 mm respectively which is lower than  
177 the control specimen. This indicates the effect of glass fiber wire mesh in decreasing the  
178 deflection with average ratio of 27.2%. For group two which reinforced with Polyethylene  
179 (tensar) wire mesh, the maximum deflection at failure load was 0.41, 0.44 and 0.45 mm  
180 which is higher than the control specimen but if the deflection recorded at specimens BOX1-  
181 2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 at failure load of control specimen which was 0.27, 0.25 and 0.23  
182 mm respectively. This indicates the effect of tensar wire mesh in decreasing the deflection  
183 with average ratio of 37.5%. This ratio indicates that the tensar wire mesh has the best effect  
184 in decrease the deflection.

185 The decrease in ultimate deflection of group one and two is mainly due to increase in  
186 number of glass fiber or tensar wire mesh layers used in reinforcement instead of steel  
187 stirrups which lead to increase in its volume fraction in specimens.

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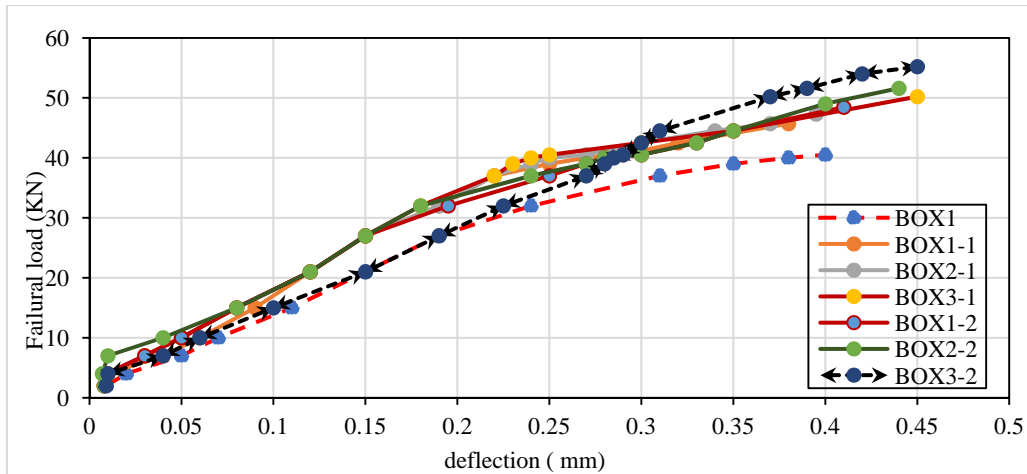


Fig. 6: Experimental load deflection curve

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### 3.4 Ductility and energy absorption

192 Ductility is defined as the ratio between the deflections at ultimate load to the deflection at  
193 the first crack load but the energy absorption is the total area under the load deflection  
194 curve. The ductility recorded an average ratio for different specimens of 5.66. A progressive  
195 increase of energy absorption which represents the specimen toughness with volume friction  
196 percentage and ductility was observed. For the control specimen BOX1 the energy  
197 absorption recorded 285.6 KN.mm, compared this value with the recorded for different series  
198 it shows good enhancement. For all series the enhancement percentage varies between  
199 99.6% and 129%. The smallest enhancement was at specimen BOX1-2 which use one glass  
200 fiber layer instead of stirrups due to the weak properties of the used type of layer but the  
201 highest enhancement was in BOX3-2 which used three tensar layers wire mesh. Finally  
202 using reinforced with various types of composite materials were developed with high ultimate  
203 loads, crack resistance, better deformation characteristics, high durability and energy  
204 absorption properties, which are very useful for dynamic effect.

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### 3.5 shear stress

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## 4. Non-linear finite element analysis study

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NLFEA study was done to verify the obtained experimental results. The groups studied were as shown in Table 1 which divided in to control specimen and other two groups. Group one which used glass fiber wire mesh instead of steel stirrups with different number of layers. The second group used Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh instead of steel stirrups. These specimens were modeled and analyzed using ANSYS 14.5 [12] program.

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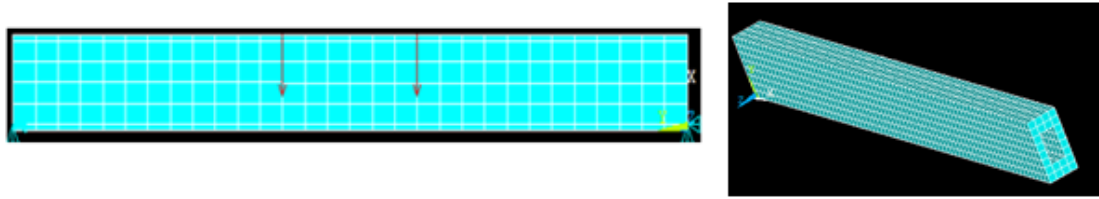
225 **4.1 specimens modeling**

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227 NLFEA was carried out to estimate the behavior of composite box beams as shown in Fig. 7.

228 The discussed behavior included the ultimate capacity, deflection, shear stresses and crack

229 pattern for each specimen.



230 a) Model of box beam under loads

231 b) model of box beam

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233 Fig. 7: NLFEA model of examined box beams

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235 **4.1.1 Model Elements Types**

236 Solid 65 represent the concrete element which represents the stress strain curve for  
237 concrete in compression and the other properties of it represent the concrete strength in  
238 tension. The other used element was LINK 8 3-D to represent the steel bars with its strength  
239 and steel stirrups. The composite materials of glass fiber or Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh  
240 was represented by calculating the ratio of steel to concrete in each element using its  
241 properties by calculating the ratio of steel to concrete in each element as shown in Fig. 8.  
242 Each material has its X, Y and Z coordinates and has its orientation angle and its  
243 reinforcement in wire mesh smeared element.

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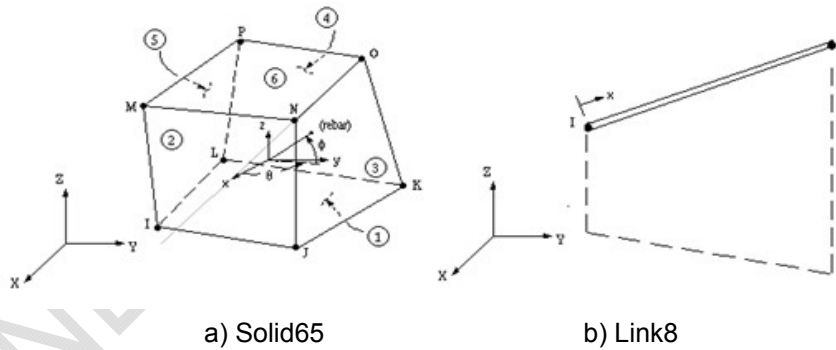
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253 a) Solid65

254 b) Link8

255 Fig. 8: Geometry of element types

256 **4.1.2 Modelling Material properties**

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258 The mechanical properties for element SOLID65 and LINK 8 which represent concrete and  
259 steel reinforcement respectively was Elastic modulus of elasticity ( $E_c = 4400 \sqrt{f_{cu}} = 24100$   
260  $N/mm^2$ ) and Poisson's ratio ( $\nu = 0.3$ ), but Yield stress ( $f_y = 360 N/mm^2$  &  $f_{yst} = 240 N/mm^2$ ) with  
261 Poisson's ratio  $\nu = 0.2$ , [11].

262 For the element which represents the composite properties for glass fiber wire mesh are as  
263 given. The glass fiber wire mesh which has diamond size is 12.5 x 11.5mm with  
thickness of 0.66 mm, the volumetric ratio of one layer of glass fiber mesh ( $V_1 = 0.00872$ ),  
two layers was ( $V_1 = 0.0174$ ) but for the three layers of glass fiber the volumetric ratio is ( $V_1 =$   
 $0.02616$ ). For the Polyethylene (tensar) layers the size of opening is 6.0 x 8.0mm with wires

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264 of diameter 3.3 mm. The volumetric ratio of one layer of tensar mesh ( $V1= 0.14800$ ), two  
265 layers was ( $V1= 0.29600$ ) but for the three layers the volumetric ratio of three layer of tensar  
266 mesh ( $V1= 0.44400$ ).

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## 268 **4.2 Analytical Results and Discussion**

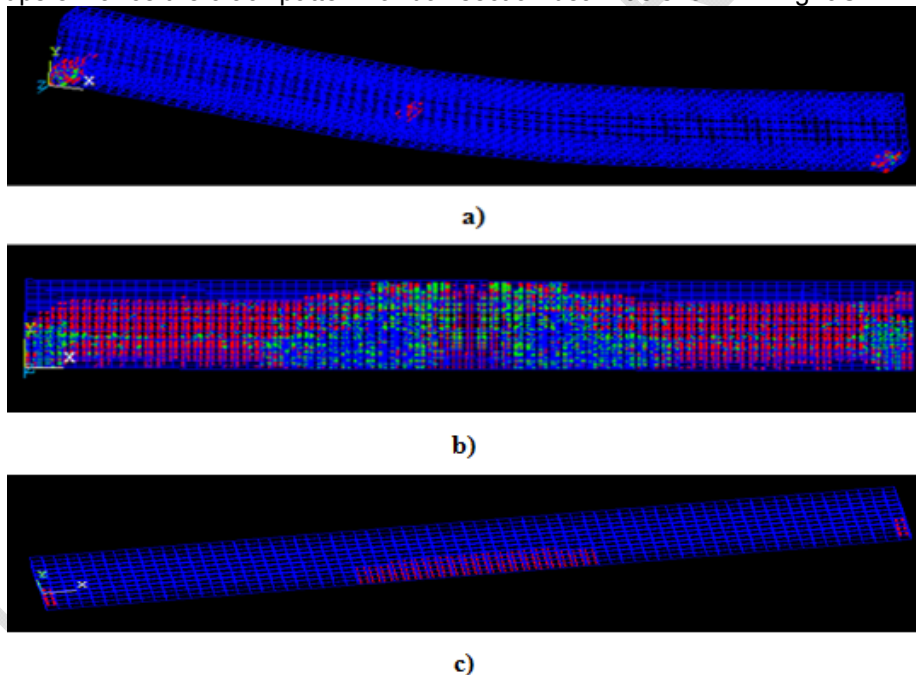
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270 The finite element program presents the nonlinear response of the box beams specimens.  
271 Loading was incrementally increased until failure and divergence occurs which lead to  
272 failure. The finite element results represent the cracks patterns, failure load, deflection, shear  
273 stresses and yielding of steel as shown in Table 5.

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### 275 **4.2.1 Cracking**

276 The first crack in the entire tested box beam was slightly inclined crack developed under the  
277 load pint in the mid span. This first crack in the control specimen observed at a load of 4.0  
278 KN. For specimens BOX1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1, it was recorded at a higher load being  
279 1.2, 1.15 and 1.05 times that of the Control Specimen; BOX1, respectively. The cracking  
280 initiated in the Control Specimen; BOX1 increased in numbers until failure at load of 36 KN.  
281 For specimens BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2, it was recorded at a higher load with respect  
282 to control specimen being 0.95, 1.05 and 1.12 times that of the control specimen; BOX1,  
283 respectively. Using the fiber glass wire mesh and Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh instead of  
284 stirrups enhance the crack pattern for box section beam as shown in Fig. 9C.



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286 Fig.9: Sample of crack pattern for control specimen; a) first cracks; b) cracks at  
287 failure; c) sample of cracks for specimens in group 1 and 2.

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### 289 **4.2.2 Ultimate Failure Load**

290 The load carrying capacity is differing from one box section to another according to its  
291 reinforcement and using glass fiber wire mesh and polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh instead  
292 of steel stirrups. For the control specimen BOX, the ultimate failure load was 36.0 KN. The  
293 first group which reinforced using glass fiber wire mesh recorded failure loads of 42.8, 44.2

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294 and 48.3 KN for BOX1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 respectively with enhancement ratio with  
 295 respect to the control beam of 18.8%, 22.8% and 34.1% respectively. This enhancement  
 296 related to number of fiber glass wire mesh used in reinforcement as shown in Table 5. For  
 297 the second group which reinforced using tensar wire mesh of different layers number of  
 298 BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2. The NLFE failure loads were 45.7, 49.2 and 53.4 KN with  
 299 enhancement ratio of 26.9%, 36.7% and 48.3% for BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2  
 300 respectively. Observing that using three layers of either glass fiber or tensar wire mesh  
 301 recorded the highest load and enhancement in carrying capacity. It is noticed that the effect  
 302 of using tensar wire mesh has the major effect in load carrying capacity as shown in Table 5  
 303 and Fig. 10.

304  
 305 **4.2.3 Analytical Ultimate deflection**

306 The analytical deflection recorded for different specimens with different reinforcement types  
 307 is recorded as in Table 5 and Fig. 10 and Fig. 11. The deflection of the control specimen was  
 308 0.37 mm at failure load. For group one which reinforced with glass fiber wire mesh, the  
 309 maximum deflection at failure load was 0.35, 0.37 and 0.42 mm but at the same load of the  
 310 control specimen it was 0.26, 0.24 and 0.25mm respectively which is lower than the control  
 311 specimen. This indicates the effect of glass fiber wire mesh in decreasing the deflection with  
 312 average ratio of 29.7%.

313 For group two which reinforced with Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh, the maximum  
 314 deflection at failure load was 0.40, 0.42 and 0.415 mm which is higher than the control  
 315 specimen but if the deflection recorded at specimens BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 at failure  
 316 load of control specimen which was 0.265, 0.25 and 0.27 mm respectively. This indicates the  
 317 effect of tensar wire mesh in decreasing the deflection with average ratio of 29.8%. This ratio  
 318 indicates that the tensar wire mesh has relatively best effect in decrease the deflection.

319 The decrease in ultimate deflection of group one and two is mainly due to increase in  
 320 number of glass fiber or tensar wire mesh layers used in reinforcement which lead to  
 321 increase in its volume fraction in specimens.  
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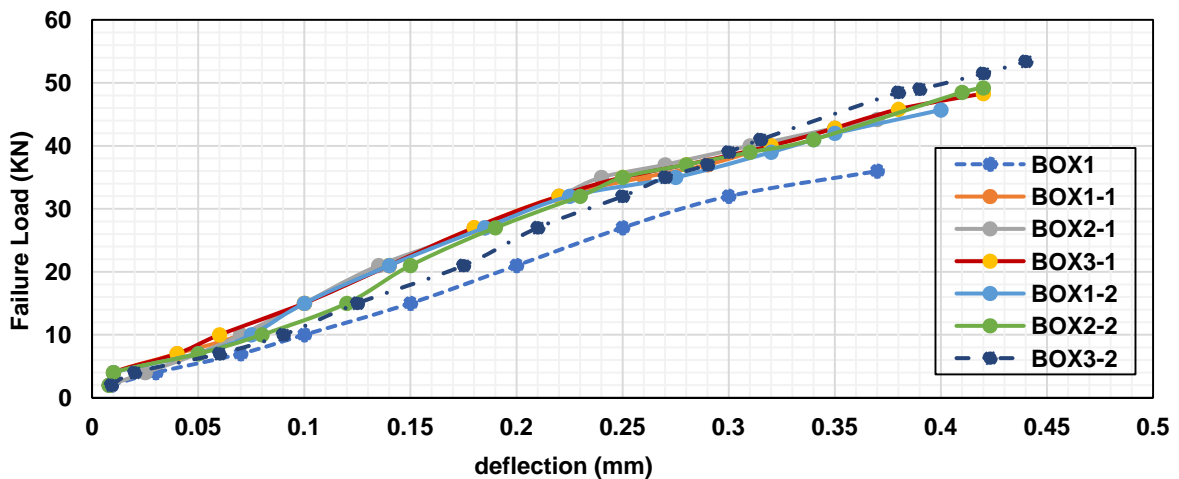


Fig. 10: NLFE load deflection curves

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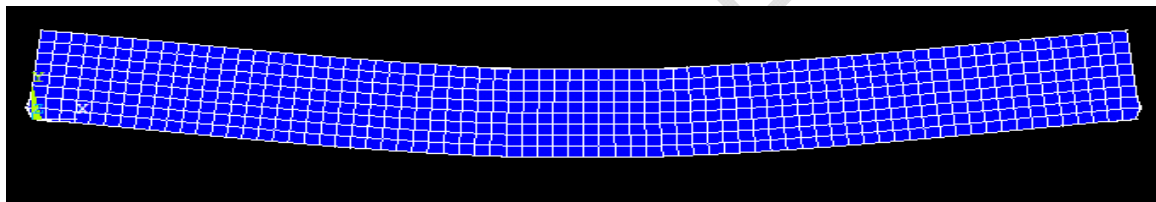
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Table 5: NLFEA Analytical Results

Series	Specimen No.	Failure load (KN)	% Of enhancement in load	Deflection (mm) at failure load
Control	BOX1	36.0	---	0.370
Group 1 "glass fiber wire mesh"	BOX1-1	42.8	18.8	0.370
	BOX2-1	44.2	22.8	0.350
	BOX3-1	48.3	34.1	0.420
Group 2 "Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh"	BOX1-2	45.7	26.9	0.400
	BOX2-2	49.2	36.7	0.410
	BOX3-2	53.4	48.3	0.415

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Fig.11 Typical deformation of NLFEA deflection for box beams

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#### **4.2.4 Ductility and energy absorption**

343 A progressive increase of energy absorption which represents the specimen toughness with  
344 volume friction percentage and ductility was observed. For the control specimen BOX1 the  
345 energy absorption recorded 249.9 KN.mm, compared this value with the recorded for  
346 different series it shows good enhancement. For all series the enhancement percentage  
347 varies between 45.1% and 159%. The smallest enhancement was at specimen BOX1-2  
348 which use one Polyethylene (tensar) layer instead of stirrups due to the properties of the  
349 used type of layer but the highest enhancement was in BOX3-1 which used three tensar  
350 layers wire mesh which agreed with the results. Finally using composite materials were  
351 developed with high ultimate loads, crack resistance, better deformation characteristics, high  
352 durability and energy absorption properties, which are very useful for dynamic effect.

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#### **4.2.5 Shear Stresses**

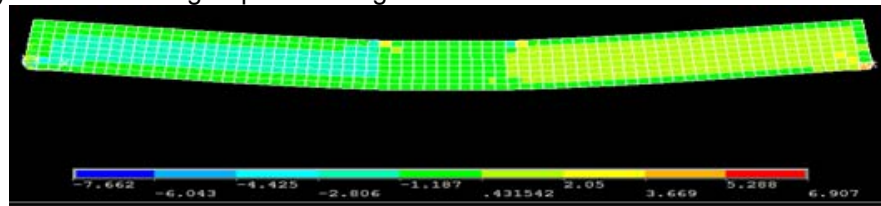
356 The obtained shear stresses are obtained according to the obtained results from the NLFEA  
357 as shown in Fig.12. For the control specimen BOX1 the shear stress was 2.0 MPa. For the  
358 first group box beams BOX1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 the shear stresses were 2.37, 2.45 and  
359 2.68 MPa respectively with an enhancement ratio of 18.5%, 22.5% and 34.0% respectively  
360 with respect to the control specimen. The second group which used the Polyethylene  
361 (tensar) wire mesh instead of stirrups, the shear stresses was 2.53 MPa, 2.73 MPa and 2.96  
362 MPa for BOX1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 respectively. The enhancement in this group with

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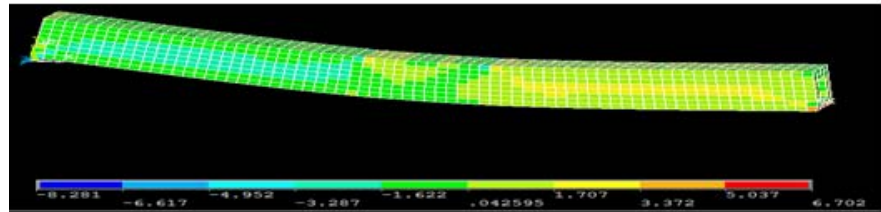
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363 respect to the control specimen was 26.5%, 36.5% and 48.0% respectively which is  
364 relatively more than the group used the glass fiber wire mesh.



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365 Fig.12 NLFEA Shear Stresses; a) Shear stresses for BOX1; b) Sample of shear stresses for  
366 different specimens  
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## 5. Comparison between experimental and NLFEA results

These comparisons aim to ensure the NLFEA models are available and suitable to exhibit the response of composite box beams. There are seven finite element models were compared with seven experimental specimens in term of ultimate load, ultimate deflection and crack patterns.

### 5.1 Ultimate failure load

There was an acceptable agreement between the experimental failure load and the analytical failure load obtained from NLFE program as shown in Table 6 and Fig.13. The ratio between the NLFE failure loads to the experimental failure load varies between 0.90 to 0.96 with an average ratio of 0.94. The ratio of  $P_{u\ NLFE} / P_{u\ Exp}$  for control specimen was 0.90 but for the specimens in group one, it was 0.93, 0.94 and 0.96 for BOX 1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 respectively.

For the second group this ratio was 0.94, 0.95 and 0.96 for BOX 1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 respectively. This shows that the NLFEA gives the aim of the studied parameters in face of load carrying capacity.

### 5.2 Ultimate Deflection

Fig. 14 showed the load deflection curves for all box beams in phase of experimental and NLFE obtained results. The recorded deflection for experimental and NLFE analysis showed an agreement with respect to the deflection recorded for the control specimen as in Figure 15 and Table 6. The recorded ratio between  $\Delta_{NLFE} / \Delta_{Exp}$  of 0.92 for the control specimen. For the first group this ratio recorded 0.92, 0.95 and 0.93 for BOX 1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 respectively but for BOX 1-2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2, these ratios were 0.97, 0.95 and 0.92

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397 respectively. These ratios showed that NLFE program provide an acceptable response in  
 398 deflection as in Fig. 15.

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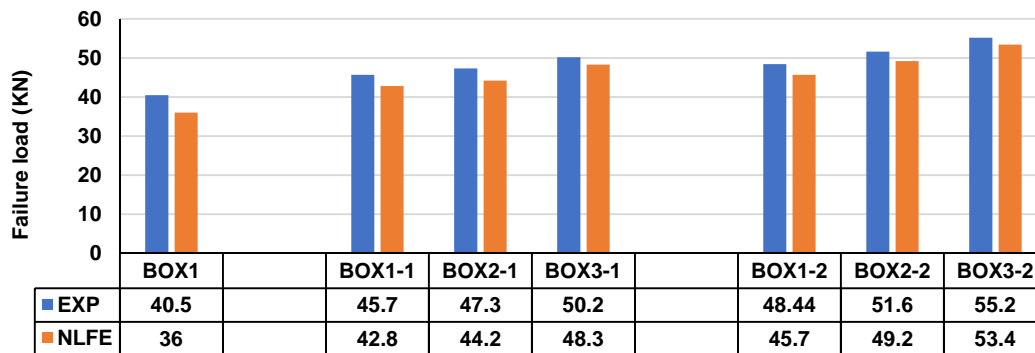
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**Table 6: Comparison between experimental and NLFE Analysis**

specimen	Failure load $P_{ult}$ (KN)		Deflection $\Delta_{ult}$ (mm)		Shear stress $V_u$ (MPa)		$\frac{P_{ult}}{P_{ult exp}}$	$\frac{\Delta_{ult}}{\Delta_{ult t exp}}$	$\frac{V_u}{V_u exp}$
	NLFEA	EXP	NLFEA	EXP	NLFEA	EXP			
BOX1	36.0	40.5	0.37	0.40	2.0	2.25	0.90	0.92	0.89
BOX1-1	42.8	45.7	0.35	0.38	2.37	2.53	0.93	0.92	0.94
BOX2-1	44.2	47.3	0.37	0.39	2.45	2.62	0.94	0.95	0.93
BOX3-1	48.3	50.2	0.42	0.45	2.68	2.78	0.96	0.93	0.96
BOX1-2	45.7	48.4	0.40	0.41	2.53	2.69	0.94	0.97	0.94
BOX2-2	49.2	51.6	0.42	0.44	2.73	2.86	0.95	0.95	0.95
BOX3-2	53.4	55.2	0.415	0.45	2.96	3.06	0.96	0.92	0.96

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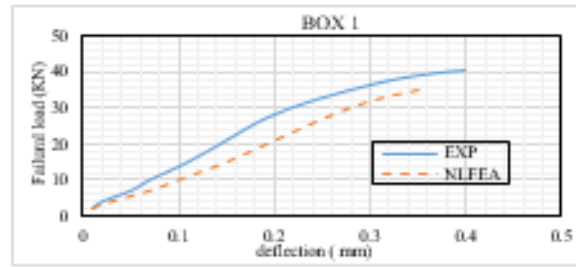
Fig. 13: Comparison between Exp. Failure load and NLFE failure load

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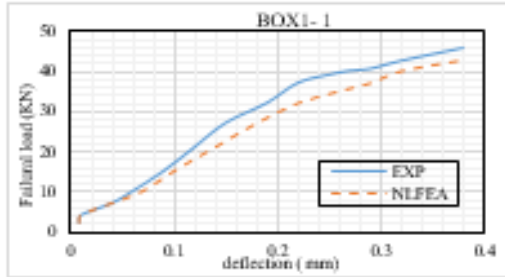
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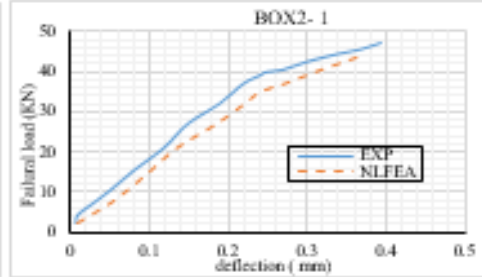




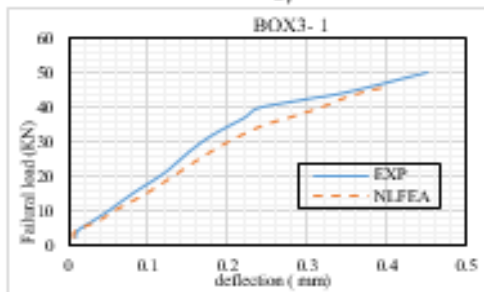
a)



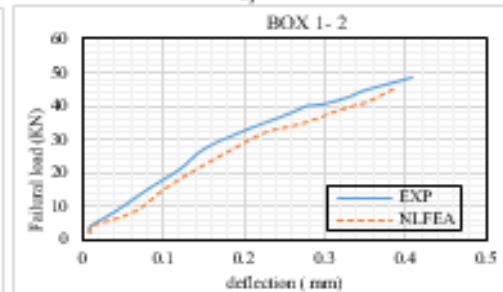
b)



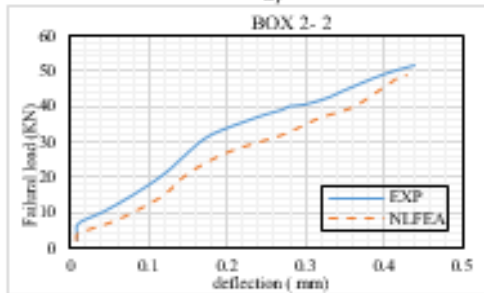
c)



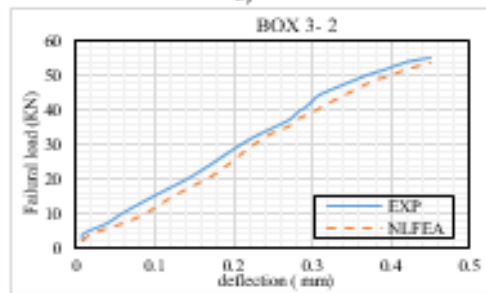
d)



e)



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g)

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Fig. 14: Comparison between experimental and NLFEA load deflection curve; a) Control BOX1; b) BOX1-1; c) BOX2-1; d) BOX3-1; e) BOX1-2; f) BOX2-2; g) BOX3-1.

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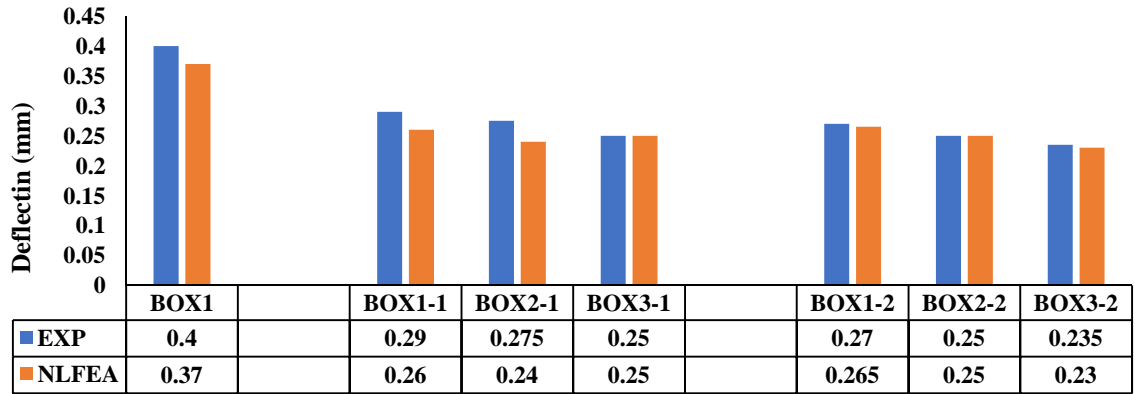


Fig.15: Comparison between Exp. deflection and NLFE deflection at the failure load of control specimen.

### 5.3 Crack Patterns

The Fig. 16 indicate a comparison between the crack patterns experimentally and in NLFE analysis these cracks begins micro cracks and increased in length and width till failure

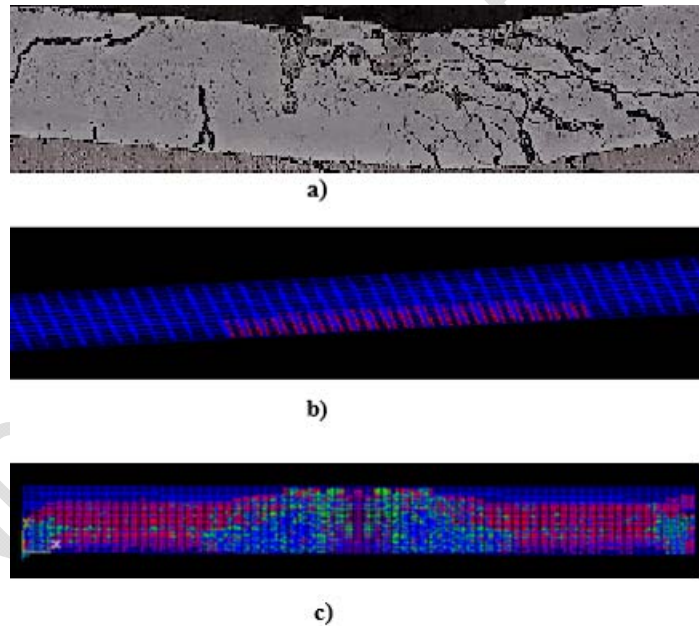


Fig.16: Crack pattern for box beams; a) Experimental crack pattern; b) NLFE crack pattern; c) NLFE cracks till failure.

### 5.4 Shear Stresses

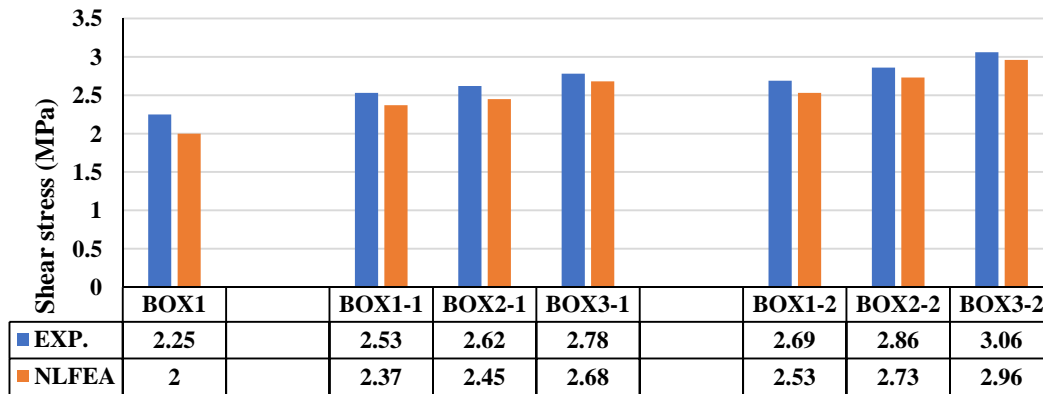
As the porpouse of this study was to discuss the shear stresses and the effect of using wire meshes in resist shear and cracks propagates. The experimental and NLFEA showed reasonable agreement in the obtained results as shown in Fig. 17 and Table 6. The ratio between the shear stresses from NLFEA and experimental test was 0.89 for control

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429 specimen, but for the group one which used glass fiber wire mesh instead of steel stirrups  
 430 this ratios was 0.94, 0.93 and 0.96 for BOX 1-1, BOX2-1 and BOX3-1 respectively. For the  
 431 second group which used tensar wire mesh, the ratios were 0.94, 0.95 and 0.96 for BOX 1-  
 432 2, BOX2-2 and BOX3-2 respectively. So, the finite element analysis represents an  
 433 acceptable presentation for shear stresses.  
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435  
 436 Fig.17: Comparison between Exp. Shear stresses and NLFE Shear stresses.  
 437

## 438 6. CONCLUSIONS

439 The following conclusions can be drawn:  
 440

- 441 1- Glass fiber wire mesh and Polyethylene (tensar) wire mesh exhibited  
 442 features over normal reinforcement with reinforcing steel, especially in  
 443 box beams such that, it has high strength, easy to be handling cutting  
 444 and shaped also has light weight with respect to steel stirrups.  
 445
- 446 2- Using glass fiber and tensar wire mesh instead of steel stirrups exhibit  
 447 high ultimate failure load with respect to control specimen.  
 448
- 449 3- Tensar (Polyethylene) wire mesh has high effect in increasing load  
 450 capacity, deflection, the shear stresses and cracks propagate.  
 451
- 452 4- The cracks propagation and its number and width decreased by using  
 453 glass fiber and tensar wire mesh especially in specimens with two and  
 454 three layers of wire mesh.  
 455
- 456 5- There a reasonable agreement between experimental and numerical  
 457 results obtained in form of ultimate failure load, deflection and shear  
 458 stresses.
- 6- This work gives an acceptable prediction for shear stresses of box  
 beams reinforced with glass fiber or tensar wire meshes where the  
 obtained average ratio ( $V_{uNLFEA}/V_{uEXP}$ ) was 0.938.

459 At the end, the composite either glass fiber or tensar wire mesh in  
 460 reinforcement of box sections instead of steel stirrups has a good effect in  
 461 failure load, deflection, cracks propagation and shear stresses.  
 462

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