

# M5' Algorithm for Shear Strength Prediction of HSC Slender Beams without Web Reinforcement

Ali Kaveh, Seyyed Mahmoud Hamze-Ziabari, and Taha Bakhshpoori

**Abstract** Accurate prediction of the shear behavior of Reinforced Concrete (RC) beams unlike to its flexural behavior which can generally be well predicted is a challenging problem due to the complexity of the shear transfer mechanism. This issue can be more critical for High-Strength Concrete (HSC) beams compared with the beams with normal strength concrete. The present study adopts an efficient rule based data mining approach: M5' algorithm to potential development of a new formulation for predicting the shear strength of HSC slender RC beams without stirrup. A comprehensive database containing several effective parameters that consider geometrical and mechanical properties of concrete, aggregate and reinforcement are involved in prediction of the shear strength. Comparison between developed model and the most common design codes demonstrates the superiority of the developed model in term of accuracy. Furthermore, the safety analysis based on Demerit Points Classification scale also confirms the reliability of the proposed formulation.

**Index Terms** High strength concrete, M5' algorithm, prediction shear strength, slender beams.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The high-strength concrete (HSC) has been emerged as an increasingly used efficient structural material in buildings and civil/structural infrastructures due to its physical and mechanical characteristics, structural efficiencies, and economic and aesthetic advantages. HSC can be defined as a concrete to have strength significantly beyond what is used in normal strength concrete (NSC). Different codes and researchers specify different limits for compressive strength of concrete for demarcation between NSC and HSC [1]. However, the definition by ACI 363R-10 [2] which considers the value of 40 MPa as the demarcation limit is followed here.

Shear carrying capacity of reinforced concrete members has been investigated experimentally and analytically by several researchers. It has been found that the shear failure mechanism in concrete members under bending which are reinforced longitudinally but have no transverse reinforcement, varies significantly and size of member and shear span to-depth ratio are two main parameters which

influence the shear failure. Beams are divided to deep beams (<2.5) and slender beams (>2.5) on the basis of the shear span-to-depth ratio. Accurate prediction of the shear behavior of reinforced concrete (RC) beams unlike to their flexural behavior which can generally be well predicted, is a challenging problem due to the complexity of the shear transfer mechanism.

Based on the available literature [4]-[8] differences are obvious between NSC and HSC beams without web reinforcing. Shear strength prediction of HSC slender beams without web reinforcement is thus still contentious. Elsanadedy et al. [1] very recently applied regression models and neural networks for predicting the shear strength of HSC slender RC beams without stirrups. The main objective of this study is the prediction of shear carrying capacity of slender high strength concrete beams without transverse reinforcement. The M5' as one of the model trees algorithms is used for developing predictive and simple formulas for estimation of the maximum pull out force. Unlike most of the SC algorithms such as ANN and ANFIS, the M5' algorithm can present transparent formulas that are physically sound and interpretable. A comprehensive existing database including 250 experimental tests [1] from multiple sources in literature is employed here. Various influential parameters that affect the shear strength such as the longitudinal steel ratio, the shear span-to-depth ratio, compressive strength of concrete, the size of the beam specimens, and the size of coarse aggregate are considered. The accuracy and safety of predictions of the derived M5' model are compared with those of the existing shear strength relationships of the most common design codes. The comparison results showed that the proposed model is more accurate and reliable than other design codes. Furthermore, the robustness of the proposed models is confirmed through sensitivity and parametric analyses.

Remaining of the paper is organized as follows: the following section presents some limitations of current design codes. The M5' algorithm is outlined at the third section. After presenting the used database the fourth section develops the predictive models by using M5' algorithms. Penult section discusses the results based on the developed model and also makes a safety analyses to evaluate the reliability and uncertainty of the model. The last section summarizes the findings of this study.

## II. LIMITATIONS AND DESIGN CODES

In the present study, the predictive capability of the most common design codes in prediction of shear strength of the HSC slender beams including ACI 318-11 [9], CSA A2043-10 [10], fib Model Code [11], Eurocode-2 [12], CEB-FIP Model

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Ali Kaveh is with the Iran University of Science and Technology as professor of Structural Engineering and also as the chair of the Centre of Excellence for Fundamental Studies in Structural Engineering, Tehran, Iran (e-mail: alikaveh@iust.ac.ir).

Seyyed Mahmood Hamze-Ziabari is with Coastal Engineering with Iran University of science and technology, Tehran, Iran (e-mail: ziabari@civileng.iust.ac.ir)

Taha Bakhshpoori is with the Department of Engineering, East of Guilan University of Guilan, Roudsar, Guilan, Iran. He is a corresponding author (e-mail: tbakhshpoori@Guilan.ac.ir).

[13], AS 3600-2009 [14], JSCE Guidelines [15], and Cladera and Mari [16] are investigated. Table I summarizes the main design parameters included in the mentioned codes and the statistical error parameters related to each code. 250 recorded cases for HSC beams existing in different sources in the literature are used to evaluate the performances of these design codes. The average ( $\mu$ ), standard deviation ( $\sigma$ ) and coefficient of variation (COV) of discrepancy ratio between predicted and measured values of the shear strength are presented in Table I. It is clear from this table that the performances of these equations for slender beams made of HSC are remarkably limited. This can be attributed to the fact that all the design equations consider a limitation value of 65 MPa for compressive strength of the concrete (except CEB-FIP model).

In addition, some influential parameters such as the nominal maximum size of the coarse aggregate is not included in most of the design codes (except A23.3-04 [10] and level 1 approximation of the fib Model [11]). The dependency of the shear strength of the HSC beams to this parameter ( $S_{DR}$ ) for M5 is investigated and confirmed by Muttoni [17]. On the other hand, the contribution of different predictive parameters such as compressive strength of concrete and longitudinal steel ratio is incorporated in a different way. For example, the contribution of  $f'_c$  in prediction of the shear strength is proportional to  $f'_c^{1/3}$  in Eurocode-2, CEB-FIP Model, AS 3600, and JSCE while the other codes (ACI 318-11, CSA A23.3-04, fib model) consider this contribution as  $f'_c^{1/2}$ . This proportion was also reported as  $f'_c^{0.2}$  by Cladera and Mari [15].

In general, it can be concluded from these observations that new predictive equations should be presented to take full advantage of the positive features of the RC beams made of the HSC. Furthermore, the predictive equation must consider all effective parameters in prediction of the shear strength.

TABLE I: DETAILS OF EXISTING DESIGN EQUATIONS AND THEIR PERFORMANCES IN PREDICTING SHEAR STRENGTH OF SLENDER HSC BEAMS

Equations or models	Design parameters							Statistical parameters on $V_{measured}/V_{predicted}$		
	b	d	A	$a_g$	$f'_c$	$\rho$ (%)		M	$\sigma$	COV
						Limitation	Limitation			
ACI 318-11	0	0	-	0	$\leq 65$ MPa	0	-	1.28	0.48	0.23
CSA A23.3-04	0	0	-	0	$\leq 64$ MPa	-	-	1.62	0.61	0.38
fib Model Code	0	0	-	0	$\leq 64$ MPa	-	-	1.59	0.60	0.36
Eurocode-2	0	0	-	0	$\leq 90$ MPa	0	$\leq 0.02$	1.09	0.35	0.12
CEB-FIP Model	0	0	0	-	0	0	-	1.24	0.29	0.08
AS 3600-2009	0	0	0	-	$\leq 64$ MPa	0	-	1.12	0.28	0.08
JSCE Guidelines	0	0	-	-	$\leq 47$ MPa	0	$\leq 0.03$	1.35	0.38	0.14
Cladera and Mari	0	0	-	-	$\leq 60$ MPa	0	$\leq g(f'_c)$	1.27	0.31	0.10
M5' (proposed)	0	0	0	0	-	0	-	1.01	0.16	0.03

### III. M5' ALGORITHM

The important advantages of model trees (MTs) to other soft computational approaches can be considered as being more accurate than regression trees, more transparent and understandable than Artificial Neural Networks (ANN), easy to train, and robust when dealing with missing data [19]. Among the soft computing algorithms, M5' Model Tree is one

of the newly developed algorithms that has not been widely applied in structural engineering. Very recently Kaveh et al. [18] utilized this algorithm for prediction of the principal foundation-motion parameters in which the efficiency of M5' is demonstrated against many other algorithms in the following. The M5' algorithm is outlined [18]. M5' model was developed by Quinlan [20] in 1992 and improved later in 1997 as a system called M5' by Wang and Witten [21]. M5' model trees are more accurate and understandable than regression trees and ANNs. It can handle a large number of attributes and high dimensions [22]. The algorithm consists of three main steps: building tree, pruning the tree and smoothing. By using the splitting criterion, the basic tree is formed. This splitting criterion is defined as the standard deviation of the class values that reach the node as a measure of the error at the node, and calculates the expected reduction in error as a result of testing each attribute at the node. Then, the attribute that maximizes the expected error reduction is selected. The standard deviation reduction ( $SDR$ ) for M5' is calculated using the following formula:

$$SDR = \frac{sd(T)}{|T|} - \sum_i \frac{|T_i|}{|T|} \cdot \frac{sd(T_i)}{|T_i|} \quad (1)$$

where  $T$  is the set of example that reach the node,  $T_i$  is the set from splitting the node according to the selected attribute and  $sd$  is the standard variation [21]. The splitting process ceases when the class values of all the instances that reach a node vary by less than 5% of the standard deviation of the original instance set, or when only a few instances remain.

An over-fitting problem can occur during the MT construction based on the training data. In order to reduce this problem, a method is termed "pruning" has been used. The pruning procedure uses an estimate of the expected error that will be experienced at each node for the test data. First, the absolute difference between the predicted value and the actual output value is averaged for each of the training examples that reach the node. Since the trees have been built expressly for this dataset, this average will underestimate the expected error for new cases. To compensate for this, the output value is multiplied by the factor  $(n+1)/(n)$ , where  $n$  is the number of training examples that reach the node and  $n+1$  is the number of attributes in the model that represents the output value at that node. Therefore, this multiplication is performed to avoid underestimating the error for new data, rather than the data against which it is trained. If the estimated error is lower at the parent, the leaf node can be dropped [19].

Smoothing process is considered to reduce and solve the problem of sharp discontinuousness at leaves of the pruned tree. The smoothing process, as described by Quinlan [20], uses the leaf model to compute the predicted value. The value is then filtered along the path back to the root, smoothing it at each node by combining it with the value predicted by the linear model for that node. This involves the calculation as follows:

$$P_C = \frac{np}{n} + \frac{kq}{k} \quad (2)$$



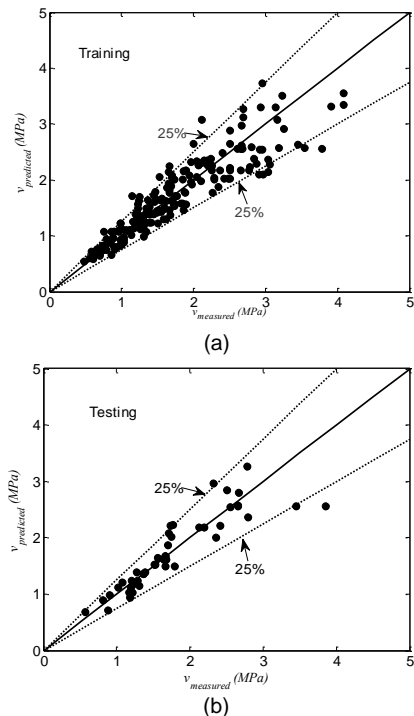


Fig. 2. Graphical performance of developed M5' algorithm for (a) training (b) testing datasets.

The statistical error parameters related to training, testing and the whole dataset are presented in Table III. The results indicate that the proposed model performs well in both training and testing datasets.

TABLE III: THE PERFORMANCE OF DEVELOPED M5' ALGORITHM

Subset	MAE	RMSE	R	R <sup>2</sup>
Training	0.22	0.31	0.91	0.83
Testing	0.25	0.40	0.83	0.67
Total	0.23	0.33	0.90	0.80

Table IV tabulates statistical error parameters of the M5' and the other shear design equations. As shown, all the error parameters of the proposed model show improvement. The performances of the Eurocode2, CEB-FIP, and AS3600 are not more reasonable than other design codes. However, the proposed model remarkably outperforms the others. In this respect, the RMSE and R<sup>2</sup> values of M5' model shows improvement respectively by 37.8% and 60% compared to the AS 3600 model as the most precise model among design equations.

TABLE IV: COMPARISON OF THE M5' MODEL AND OTHER AVAILABLE METHODS

Model	MAE	RMSE	R	R <sup>2</sup>
ACI31811	0.5891	0.7939	0.6676	-0.0787
CSAA23304	0.6976	0.9358	0.5289	-0.4988
Fib	0.6895	0.9254	0.5252	-0.4656
Eurocode2	0.4341	0.6161	0.7311	0.3503
CEB-FIP	0.4273	0.6059	0.8498	0.3718
AS36002009	0.3758	0.5402	0.8241	0.5005
JSCE	0.5430	0.7525	0.8188	0.0307
Cladera and Mari	0.4540	0.6399	0.8104	0.2992
M5' (proposed)	0.23	0.33	0.90	0.80

The histogram of log (measured/predicted) of shear capacity for M5' model and the three best design equations are shown in Fig. 3. The normal distribution is also fitted to the logarithm of discrepancy ratio between measured and

predicted shear strength.

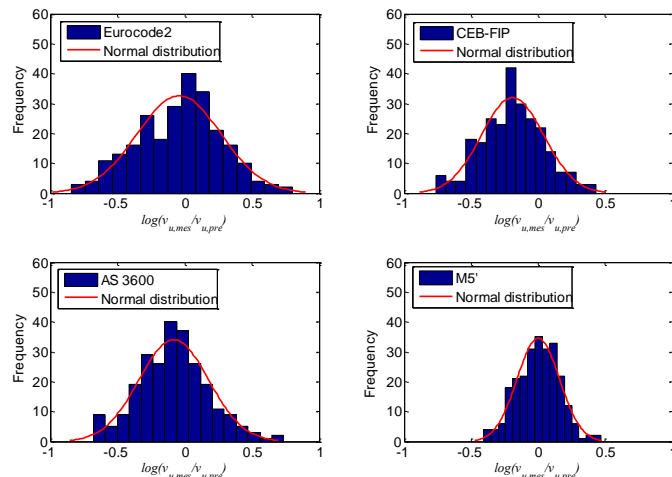


Fig. 3. Histograms of  $\log(v_{mes}/v_{u,pre})$  values for different approaches and their fitted normal distribution functions.

It can be seen that the values of log (Measured/Predicted) for the M5' model are close to zero. Furthermore, the distribution of log (measured/predicted) values is nearly symmetrical and approximately concentrates in zero value. The distribution of Eurocode 2 model prediction is wider than other models. This indicates that the uncertainty of this model is high. Furthermore, the most of CEB-FIP and AS 3600 model predictions overestimate shear capacity. The log (Measured/Predicted) values of AS 3600 model are closer to zero than other design equations. However, the M5' has remarkably better performance than other design equations in this aspect and also has narrower normal distribution (less uncertainty).

As stated in previous sections, some design codes did not consider some important parameters such as  $a/d$  in their models or consider different contributions for some parameters such as  $\alpha$  and  $\rho$ . The model errors should be independent of the input parameters or less sensitive to them, otherwise it can be interpreted those input parameters did not correctly incorporated in that model or should be added to the model if it has not been considered. The variations of discrepancy ratio between measure and predicted shear strength by Eurocode 2, CEB, AS 3600, and M5' models with  $a/d$ ,  $a_g/d$ ,  $f_c$ , and  $\rho$  are shown for testing dataset in Fig 4. The lines in this figure represent the best linear regression between the values of  $v_{measured}/v_{predicted}$  and input variables.

The errors of design codes are remarkably sensitive to variations of  $a/d$  and  $\rho$  parameters. It may be interpreted that these parameters have not been considered correctly in the mentioned models. This sensitivity is less for  $\alpha$  and  $a_g/d$ . In general, the errors of developed M5' model are completely insensitive to variation of effective parameters.

### B. Safety Analysis

Most design codes consider a marginal accuracy in trading of safety, therefore, the proposed model should also remain in a sufficient level of safety. To evaluate the safety of the proposed model and existing design codes, a new scale introduced by Collins [23] is employed. This scale is known as Demerit Points Classification (DPC), which consider the safety, accuracy and scattering of the design codes as a

function of the ratio between the ultimate resistances extremely conservative classes. It should be noted that the experimental tests and the estimated theoretically shear capacity. In the present study, this ratio has been shown to be safer than other design codes. Approximately, 65 percent of the parameter. The safety classification based on the Collins scale predictions of M5' algorithm are classified in the safe and appropriate region based on Collins scale.

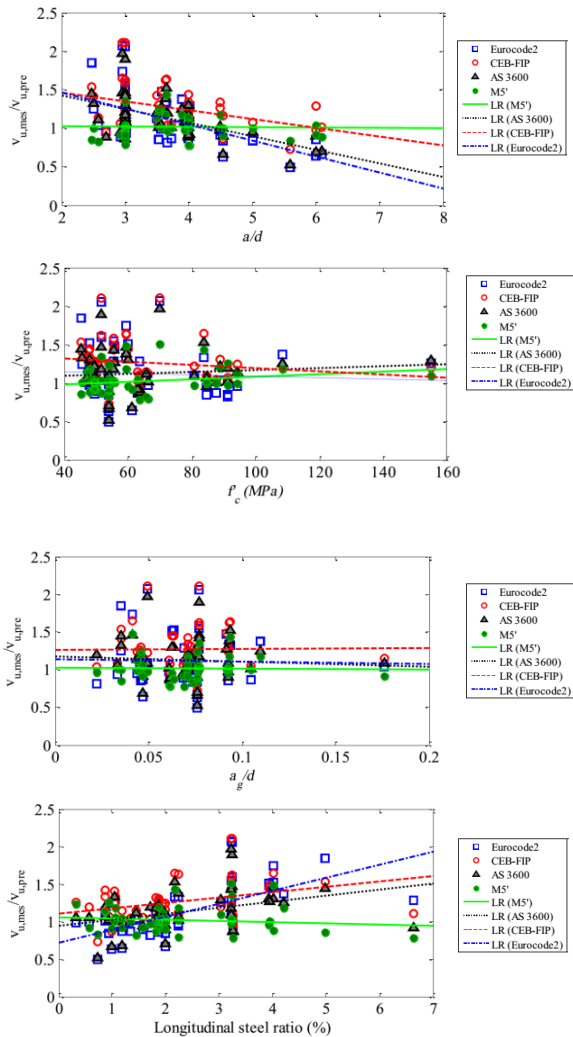


Fig. 4. Variation of discrepancy ratio (DR) between measured and predicted shear strength as a function of  $a_g/d$ ,  $f_c$ , and  $\rho$ .

TABLE V: CLASSIFICATION BY DEMERIT POINTS

$V_{u,exp}/V_{u,predicted}$	Classification	Demerit points
<0.50	Extremely dangerous	10
[0.50-0.85)	Dangerous	5
[0.85-1.15)	Appropriate and safe	0
[1.15-2.00)	Conservative	1
$\geq 2.00$	Extremely conservative	2

To quantitative evaluation of the safety of the proposed model and the existing design codes, first a demerit point is attributed to each prediction of these equations for total 250 data points based on Table VI. Then, the total values of demerit of each formula are calculated by the sum of the products of the number of specimens in each interval and their corresponding demerit penalty. The lower the value of total sum indicates that the considered formula is safer. The results of developed models and existing equations are presented in Table VI. As shown, the CEB-FIP model is the safest design codes and has the lowest demerit penalty. However, nearly 60 percent of its predictions are categorized as conservative and

TABLE VI: CLASSIFICATION OF DEVELOPED AND DESIGN EQUATIONS ACCORDING TO THE CRITERIA OF COLLINS

Model	DR<0.5	0.5≤DR<0.85	0.85≤DR<1.15	1.15≤DR<2	DR>2	Demerit points
M5'	-	34	166	50	-	220
ACI 318-11	6	38	64	121	21	413
CSA A23.3-04	-	12	40	141	57	315
fib Model Code	-	14	45	138	53	314
Eurocode-2	2	63	99	80	6	427
CEB-FIP Model	-	15	87	142	6	229
AS 3600-2009	1	40	108	101	-	311
JSCE	-	14	65	154	17	258
Cladera and Mari	-	16	76	149	9	247

## VI. CONCLUSION

In the present study, new formulation for prediction of shear strength of the HSC slender RC beams without web reinforcement using a rule based method namely M5' algorithm is proposed. A comprehensive database of 250 available experimental data samples containing several effective parameters that consider geometrical and mechanical properties of concrete, aggregate and reinforcement are employed to develop the model.

Comparison between the developed model and the most common design codes are performed to evaluate the accuracy of the proposed model. The MSE and R<sup>2</sup> values of M5' model shows improvement respectively by 37.8% and 60% compared to the AS 3600 model as the most precise model among the several design equations. Furthermore, the safety analysis based on Demerit Points Classification scale also considered to evaluate the safety of proposed formulation. Results indicate the proposed model safer than the CEB-FIP model which is determined as the safest design code among others.

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Ali Kaveh was born in 1948 in Tabriz, Iran. After graduation from the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of Tabriz in 1969, he continued his studies on structures at Imperial College of Science and Technology at London University and received MS, DIC, and a PhD degrees in 1970 and 197 respectively. He then joined the Iran University of Science and Technology in Tehran where he presently a professor of Structural Engineering.

Professor Kaveh is the author of 540 papers published in international journals and 150 papers presented at international conferences. He authored 23 books in farsi and nine books in English published by Wiley, the American Mechanical Society, Research Studies Press, and Springer.



Taha Bakhshpoori was born and grew up in Astarak. He earned his B.Sc. in civil engineering from University of Guilan (2009), M.Sc. (2011) and Ph.D (2015) both in structural engineering from Iran University of Science and Technology. He joined the University of Guilan, department of Engineering Eastern Guilan as Assistant Professor in December 2015. His research interests include the following:

Artificial Intelligence and Applications to Civil Engineering Problems, Meta-heuristic Modeling and Optimization, Multi-Objective Optimization, Structural optimization, Reliability, Robust, and Risk Based Design Optimization, and Structural Health Monitoring and Damage Detection.