

1 **ANALYTICAL MODEL FOR PREDICTING PRESTRESS TRANSFER BOND-**
2 **RELATED PARAMETERS OF 18 MM PRESTRESSING STRANDS**

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15
16 **ABSTRACT**

17 The bond between prestressing strand and concrete is necessary for the composite-action of
18 the two materials. This study develops an analytical model to investigate the bond
19 performance of 18-mm prestressing strands. The model considers the concrete compressive
20 strength for both conventional and self-consolidating concrete. It is then used to determine
21 the short- (at prestress transfer) and the long-term (after all prestress losses) transfer length
22 and strand end slip. The predicted short-term transfer length and strand slip values were
23 validated with the experimental results obtained from several pretensioned concrete beams
24 and girders, which had various geometric configurations, concrete compressive strength, and
25 number of prestressing strands. The results showed that the model provided a reasonable
26 prediction of bond performance. From the analysis of the predicted long-term transfer length
27 and strand end slip values, the long-term transfer length is on average 33% longer than the
28 short-term transfer length, whereas the increase in strand end slip is on average 24% from the
29 short- to the long-term stage. Regardless of concrete compressive strength and concrete type
30 (conventional and self-consolidating concrete), both the ACI-318 and AASHTO LFRD codes
31 provided a conservative limit for the predicted long-term transfer length values.

32 **KEYWORDS**

33 pretensioned concrete; bond model; prestressing strand; 18-mm strand; transfer length; slip

34

35 **1. INTRODUCTION**

36 When compared to reinforced concrete, pretensioned concrete is one of the dominant

37 materials in long-span structures. The use of high or ultra-high strength prestressing strand is

38 the driving factor. The yield strength of those strands (Grade 1860, 2200, and 24000) is

39 assumed to be 90% of its ultimate strength (f_{pu}) [1–3], and is about 4 or 5 times greater than

40 that of Grade 420 reinforcing bar. To fully utilize the high-strength capacity, the prestressing

41 strand is pretensioned before casting concrete. Once the concrete reaches the compressive

42 strength required for prestress transfer, the prestressing strand is released. The bond at the

43 interface of the prestressing strand and concrete is crucial for transferring the prestress force

44 from the strand to the surrounding concrete material. In terms of structural design, the strand

45 bond has a direct correlation to transfer length (or transmission length); a significant design

46 parameter at the prestress transfer state and ultimate limit state [4,5]. Strand bond is

47 comprised of three factors: adhesion, friction, and mechanical interlocking. Adhesion is a

48 form of chemical bond, formed on the surface of the prestressing strand during the setting of

49 fresh concrete. Friction is a form of bearing stress, also known as the Hoyer's effect [6],

50 which is generated by the lateral expansion of the prestressing strand at prestress transfer. The

51 mechanical interlock is also a form of bearing stress, but generated by the resistance of the

52 hardened concrete to the longitudinal movement of the prestressing strand. The latter two

53 components have a major contribution to the bond strength [7–9]. These bond components

54 are affected by several factors, which typically include concrete compressive strength at

55 prestress transfer, strand surface condition, and strand diameter [10–16]. A direct

56 measurement of strand bond, for example by attaching strain gauges to the prestressing strand
57 surface, may be not feasible as the gauges can distort the bond phenomenon and also become
58 damaged during concrete casting. An indirect method is to develop a strand bond model,
59 which typically consists of a set of mathematical equations to represent the interaction
60 between the prestressing strand and concrete. The bond model can be used to implement
61 finite-element modeling [17–22]. An analytical investigation is an alternative technique
62 which provides similar outcomes [23–29]. Typical results consist of transfer length, strand
63 slip, bond stress distribution, and strand stress variation of the prestressing strand. In fact,
64 transfer length and strand slip are the parameters of interest, since they can be experimentally
65 measured by reliable techniques for validating the analytical model [7,30–32].

66 Within the transfer zone, the prestress force in the prestressing strand is assumed to be
67 linearly transferred to the surrounding concrete. When the transfer stage ends, the length of
68 the transfer zone is technically termed as the transfer length, which is depicted in Figure 1.

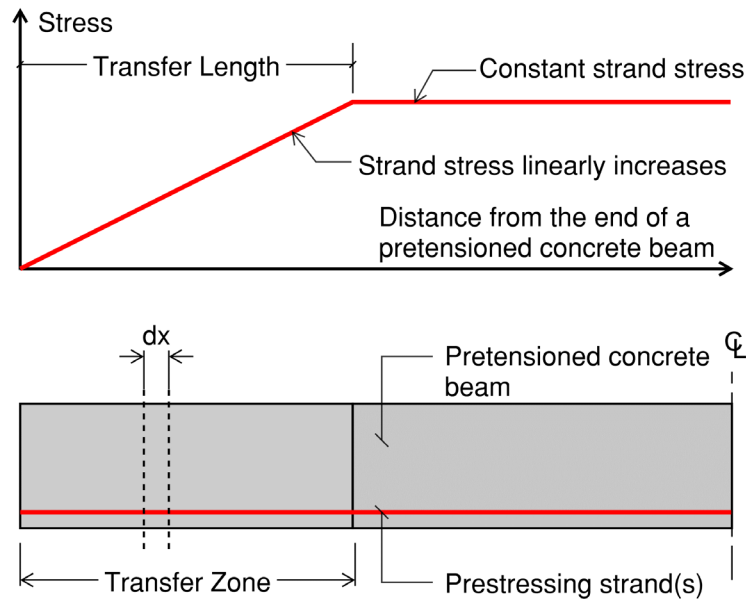
69 The significance of transfer length in the design of pretensioned concrete members is
70 demonstrated through two aspects: (a) a short transfer length implies high compressive
71 stresses and a risk of cracking at the member ends; and (b) a long transfer length negatively
72 affects the shear strength and flexural capacity of the members. The ACI 318 [33] indicates
73 that transfer length can be calculated using Eq. (1), which considers the effective stress (f_{se})
74 and strand diameter (d_b) as the two key parameters in the prediction. This equation was
75 developed based on an assumption of constant bond stress of 2.76 MPa (400 psi) [34].

76 Alternatively, transfer length can be simply estimated as $50d_b$. In a similar way, the AASHTO
77 LRFD Bridge Design Specifications [35] also proposes the transfer length as $60d_b$.

78
$$L_t = \frac{1}{20.7} f_{se} d_b \quad (f_{se} \text{ in MPa}) \quad (1)$$

79 $L_t = \frac{1}{3} f_{se} d_b$ (f_{se} in ksi)

80



81

82

Figure 1 - Transfer length and strand stress variation

83

84 Typical 7-wire prestressing steel strands, 13-mm and 15-mm nominal diameter, have been
 85 used for pretensioned concrete applications for years. The use of 18-mm prestressing strand
 86 has been only investigated recently. The prestress force provided by a 18-mm prestressing
 87 strand is 38% and 93% greater than that provided by a 15-mm and 13-mm strand,
 88 respectively. The use of the larger strands (18 mm) offers several advantages, such as
 89 reducing the number of required strands and reducing girder depth and weight. The structural
 90 efficiency of using 18-mm strands in bridge design and construction has been demonstrated
 91 in a few projects in the U.S. [36,37]. However, the lack of the strand performance data and
 92 the lack of design specifications have limited their use in the precast, prestressed concrete
 93 industry. In fact, recent studies recommend further research to increase the database of
 94 experimental results regarding the bond phenomena in self-consolidating concrete [15,16].

95 The research presented in this paper develops a strand bond model to predict transfer length
96 and end slip for beams containing 18-mm prestressing strands cast in conventional or self-
97 consolidating concrete. The experimental data from two testing methodologies have been
98 used to validate and calibrate the proposed model: pullout forces from the North American
99 Strand Producers (NASP) Bond Test —adopted by American Society for Testing Materials
100 (ASTM) as Standard Test for Strand Bond (STSB) [38]— and the transfer length and strand
101 slip measured in pretensioned concrete beams and girders.

102

103 **2. LITERATURE REVIEW**

104 Strand bond models have been developed throughout last two decades through extensive
105 research efforts. Balazs's research [39] is one of the first studies focusing on developing a
106 bond model for prestressing strand. The bond stress was considered to be a function of strand
107 slip. Through solving a set of nonlinear equations, a closed-form solution of transfer length
108 was achieved. However, two shortcomings exist: (a) the bond model was not based on any
109 previous experimental investigation; and (b) no experimental data were presented for
110 verification of the proposed transfer length equation. Den Uijl [40] refined the strand bond
111 model by using the results of pull-out and push-in tests. The bond stress is a function of
112 strand slip and variation of strand stress and strain. The model was then used to develop a
113 transfer length equation. The lack of experimental verification for the predicted transfer
114 length is a limitation of the study.

115 Park and Cho [41] developed a strand bond model and experimentally verified the model's
116 applicability. The experimental study involved casting several 3-m long pretensioned
117 concrete prisms with a cross section of either 120×120 mm or 150×150 mm. Each prism
118 contained one 13-mm or 15-mm prestressing strand. The predicted transfer length was in a

119 good agreement with the test results for the investigated prestressing strands. Martí-Vargas *et*
120 *al.* [42] further investigated the strand slip along the transmission and anchorage lengths of
121 pretensioned concrete members using an analytical model. This model was derived from
122 experimental research work, which involved measuring the strand end slip, the prestress
123 force, and transmission and the anchorage lengths. A single 13-mm prestressing strand was
124 embedded in the test specimens that had a cross-section of 100×100 mm. The model was
125 assessed using theoretical equations and experimental results from the literature. The study
126 proposed an analytical bond model to predict the slip distribution of 13-mm prestressing
127 strands within the transfer length. In fact, these two studies have a similar shortcoming, in
128 which the experimental verification was conducted on small-scale pretensioned concrete
129 members or small-size prestressing strands.

130 Dang *et al.* [43] developed a model for 15-mm prestressing strand by using the test results of
131 the Standard Test for Strand Bond (STSB) specified by ASTM A1081 [38]. The STSB is able
132 to provide a reliable indication of the bond condition of prestressing strand [9]. The effect of
133 concrete compressive strength was additionally considered in the strand bond model. These
134 are two dominant factors affecting strand bond. As a result, the model provided a reasonable
135 transfer-length prediction from an experimental database of 19 pretensioned concrete beams.
136 These data were collected from similar studies of 45 beams cast at the University of
137 Arkansas. The researchers found that the transfer length predicted by ACI 318 limit of $50d_b$ is
138 conservative if the concrete has compressive strength of 26.7 MPa (4 ksi) or greater at
139 prestress transfer. Despite these findings, one main limitation is that the conclusion is only
140 applicable for the transfer length at prestress transfer. To overcome the limitation, Kareem *et*
141 *al.* [44] further refined the proposed model by considering the effect of concrete creep and
142 shrinkage to the long-term performance of strand bond. It was analytically determined that

143 the transfer length of the prestressing strand can increase by 20% during the first 28 days of
144 age, which is consistent with experimental study conducted by Barnes *et al.* [11]. On the
145 other hand, it was observed that the transfer length can increase by 25% after one year of age
146 and then remain nearly constant. Regardless of the specific findings for 15-mm prestressing
147 strand, Kareem *et al.* [44] posts a concern about the effect of concrete creep and shrinkage to
148 the long-term strand bond performance.

149 Regarding the bond performance of 18-mm prestressing strand, an important issue is that the
150 diameter is 17% and 40% greater than 15-mm and 13-mm strands, respectively. As observed
151 in Eq. (1), the strand diameter is considered a main parameter, which determines the strand
152 perimeter in contact with the surrounding concrete. It should be noted that a greater strand
153 diameter (and perimeter) improves bond performance linearly. However, if the prestress level
154 introduced in the strands is the same, which typically corresponds to $0.75f_{pu}$ as a maximum
155 established in manuals and design codes, a greater strand diameter (and area) results in a
156 worse bond condition [34]. As the area/perimeter ratios are 2.56, 2.18, and 1.88 for 18-mm,
157 15-mm, and 13-mm prestressing strands, respectively, the worst bond condition and then the
158 greater transfer length correspond to 18-mm prestressing strands, which present the higher
159 area/perimeter ratio.

160

161 3. RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

162 A strand bond model is developed for 18-mm, Grade 1860 prestressing strand. The bond
163 stress function is derived from the STSB data. A calibration factor is adopted to account for
164 the difference in the bond mechanism between the pretensioned prestressing strand used in
165 pretensioned concrete members and the non-pretensioned prestressing strand used in the
166 STSB. The transfer length and strand slip are the parameters of interest derived from the

167 strand bond model. The database for verification included 24 pretensioned concrete beams
168 cast with high-strength conventional concrete or self-consolidating concrete, and a number of
169 medium to large-scale pretension concrete girders cast with a wide range of concrete
170 strengths. The applications and limitations of the developed model are discussed at the end of
171 the research.

172

173 **4. ANALYTICAL APPROACH**

174 Equation (2) is the general form of the strand bond equation [43]. The bond stress $u(x)$ at the
175 x location in the transfer zone is exponentially proportional to the strand slip $s(x)$ through the
176 α coefficient. The bond magnitude of the non-pretensioned prestressing strand is represented
177 by u_f . The coefficient k_b represents a calibration coefficient, which is used to calibrate the
178 difference in the bond mechanisms as discussed below.

$$179 \quad u(x) = k_b u_f \left[\frac{s(x)}{s_f} \right]^\alpha \quad (2)$$

180 For pretensioned prestressing strand in a concrete member, Hoyer's effect and mechanical
181 interlock simultaneously contribute to the bond magnitude as aforementioned. For the non-
182 pretensioned prestressing strand in the STSB, the mechanical interlock is the only component
183 contributing to the bond magnitude. Pozolo and Andrawes [45] proposed a calibration
184 coefficient k_b of 1.9 for 13-mm prestressing strand. The finite element analysis performed for
185 verification showed a strong correlation to the test results. Dang *et al.* [43] investigated the
186 applicability of the coefficient proposed by Pozolo and Andrawes in the development of a
187 bond model for 15-mm prestressing strand. The predicted transfer length was in agreement
188 with the experimental data. From these findings, it was determined that the calibration
189 coefficient can be independent from the diameter of prestressing strands. In this study, this

190 coefficient is adopted for 18-mm prestressing strand.

191 **4.1. Standard Test for Strand Bond**

192 The STSB test procedure is presented in detail in ASTM A1081 [38]. Therefore, only a brief
193 description is provided in this section. A non-pretensioned prestressing strand sample is cast
194 in the center of a steel tube. The tube is 125-mm in diameter and 450-mm in length. A
195 debonded region of 50 mm is provided near the base plate of the steel tube. Accordingly, the
196 embedment length of the strand sample is 400 mm. The steel tube is filled with mortar—a
197 mixture of sand, cement, and water, which has compressive strength in a range of 31.1 MPa
198 to 34.5 MPa at the time the strand sample is tested. **The STSB is performed 24 plus/minus 2**
199 **hours after casting** by applying a pullout force at one end and measuring strand slip at the
200 other end. The pullout force corresponding to the initial strand end-slip of 0.25 mm (s_i) is the
201 initial pullout force (P_i). The pullout force corresponding to the final strand end-slip of 2.5
202 mm (s_f) is the final pullout force (P_f). The final pullout forces of six samples are averaged and
203 reported as the STSB pullout force.

204 The exponential coefficient α in Eq. (2) is derived from two data points of STSB as shown in
205 Eq. (3): (s_i, u_i) and (s_f, u_f); where u_i and u_f are the bond stresses corresponding to the free-end
206 slips of s_i and s_f , respectively. Since the bond stress is proportional to the strand pullout force,
207 Eq. (3) can be re-written as shown in Eq. (4). Based on the investigation of a number of
208 STSB tests, Dang *et al.* [43] determined that the average ratio of P_i to P_f is 0.7. Accordingly,
209 the coefficient α is equal to 0.155. On the other hand, Eq. (2) can be simplified as shown in
210 Eq. (5), where F_b is termed as the bond magnitude given in Eq. (6).

$$211 \quad \alpha = \frac{\ln(u_i/u_f)}{\ln(s_i/s_f)} \quad (3)$$

212
$$\alpha = \frac{\ln(P_i/P_f)}{\ln(s_i/s_f)} \quad (4)$$

213
$$u(x) = F_b \times s^\alpha(x) \quad (5)$$

214
$$F_b = k_b \frac{u_f}{s_f^\alpha} \quad (6)$$

215 The final pullout force P_f , which is used to calculate the final bond stress u_f , is based on the
 216 research conducted by Morcous and Tadros [46]. A total of 58 pullout tests were performed
 217 following similar testing procedures to those of ASTM A1081 [38]. Along with the mortar
 218 mixture as specified by the standard, concrete was additionally used for the tests. For the
 219 mortar, the cube compressive strength varied from 31 MPa to 34.5 MPa at one-day of age.
 220 For the concrete, the 1-day compressive strength ranged from 27.6 MPa to 69.0 MPa. The
 221 test results indicated that the STSB pullout force is a function of concrete compressive
 222 strength; the higher the concrete strength, the greater the pullout force.

223 **4.2. Development of bond model**

224 The stress distribution along an element length dx within the transfer zone is described in
 225 Figure 2. The specified parameters are defined in the notation list. The force equilibrium
 226 equations of the bond stress (u) to the concrete stress (f_c) and to the strand stress (f_s) are
 227 presented in Eqs. (7) and (8), respectively. The determination of strand slip, a relative
 228 displacement between the strand and the concrete, is shown in Eq. (9). By differentiating Eq.
 229 (9) and substituting Eqs. (7) and (8), the relationship of slip and bond stress at position x is
 230 obtained as shown in Eq. (10). Eq. (11) is re-written from Eq. (10) by substituting Eq. (4) and
 231 (5) that results in a second-order, nonlinear ordinary differential equation. Two boundary
 232 conditions are required to solve Eq. (11) and consist of the strand slip $s(x)$ and its derivative
 233 $s'(x)$ equal to zero at the end of the transfer length. The Runge-Kutta method was
 234 implemented to solve a second-order, nonlinear ordinary differential equation with a fine

235 iterative step of 1/500 for the accuracy of the solution. The main steps of the solving
 236 procedure are briefly summarized in the flowchart shown in Figure 3.

237 $u(x)C_s dx + A_c df_c = 0$ (7)

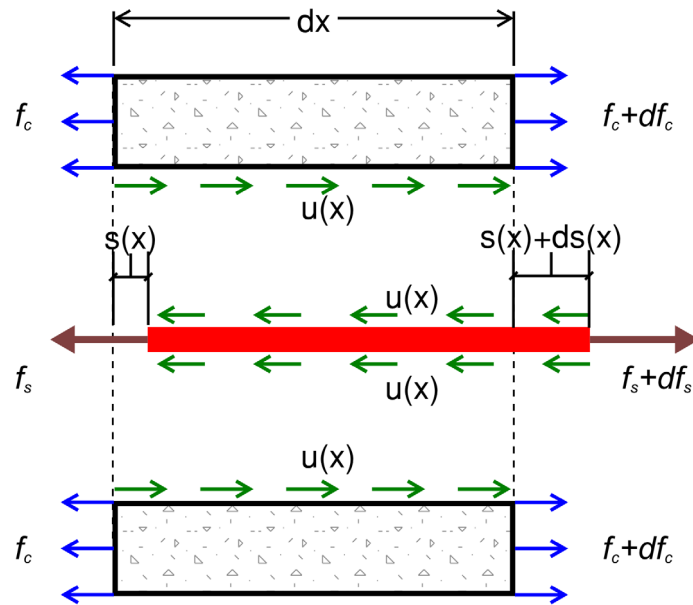
238 $-u(x)C_s dx + A_s df_s = 0$ (8)

239 $\frac{ds(x)}{dx} = \frac{df_s}{E_s} - \frac{df_c}{E_c}$ (9)

240 $\frac{d^2 s(x)}{dx^2} = \left(\frac{C_s}{E_s A_s} + \frac{C_s}{E_c A_c} \right) u(x)$ (10)

241 $s''(x) - \left(\frac{C_s}{E_s A_s} + \frac{C_s}{E_c A_c} \right) F_b \times s^\alpha(x) = 0$ (11)

242

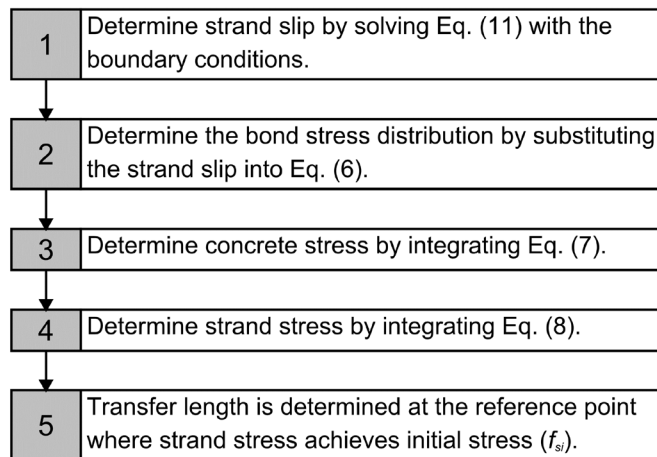


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244 Figure 2 - Stresses distribution on element length dx (see dx position in Figure 1)

245

246



247

Figure 3 - Flowchart of transfer-length determination

248

249 To determine the short-term transfer length and bond-related parameters (i.e., strand end-slip
250 and bond stress), the material properties at prestress transfer are used. These properties

251 include concrete compressive strength, concrete modulus of elasticity and initial strand stress.

252 At the long-term state, the long-term material properties are used, which include concrete

253 compressive strength at 28 days of age, concrete modulus of elasticity at 28 days of age and

254 effective strand stress after allowance for all prestress losses. Regarding the calibration

255 coefficient k_b introduced in Eq. (2), a value of 1.9 is used for the short-term predictions

256 whereas a value of 1.0 is used for the long-term predictions as discussed in Section 6.3.

257

258 5. EXPERIMENTAL DATA

259 The experimental data are collected from two sources; one from a research project at the

260 University of Arkansas, and the other one from the previous studies conducted at the

261 University of Nebraska–Lincoln, the University of Tennessee–Knoxville, and the University

262 of Texas–Austin.

263 5.1. University of Arkansas

264 The study involved casting twenty-four pretensioned concrete beams [47]. Four concrete
265 mixtures were used to cast the beams as presented in Table 1. The mixtures were denoted by
266 their type: N-CC for normal-strength conventional concrete, H-CC for high-strength
267 conventional concrete, N-SCC for the normal-strength self-consolidating concrete, and H-
268 SCC for high-strength self-consolidating concrete. The development of self-consolidating
269 concrete complied with the thresholds required for precast prestressed concrete applications
270 recommended by Khayat and Mitchell [48]. The compressive strength was tested using 100
271 mm by 200 mm cylinders. The average concrete compressive strength ranged from 41.0 MPa
272 to 65.0 MPa at prestress transfer (1 day of age) and 63.0 MPa to 92.0 MPa at 28 days of age.
273 The pretensioned concrete beams had a cross-section of 165 mm by 305 mm and a length of
274 5.4 m. All beams were cast with 18-mm, Grade 1860 prestressing strand. The prestressing
275 strands were tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$ prior to casting. Sixteen beams were cast with one strand,
276 and eight beams were cast with two strands. The reinforcement details for the two beam
277 configurations are shown in Figure 4-(1) and Figure 4-(2).

278 Two pretensioned concrete beams were cast simultaneously using one concrete batch. The
279 beams were cured in the wooden forms for approximately one day. The sides of the forms
280 were then unfolded which allowed the research team to take measurements, as shown in
281 Figure 5-(1). A set of target points (steel discs) were glued onto the surface of the beams at
282 the level of the prestressing strand on both sides and at both ends of the beams as typically
283 illustrated on Figure 4-(3) and Figure 5-(2). Concrete strains were measured using 200-mm
284 long demountable mechanical strain gauges (DEMEC) as shown in Figure 5-(3). The initial
285 (zero strain) readings were recorded before prestress release. After gradually releasing the
286 prestressing strand, the concrete strains were recorded immediately. The beams were then

287 moved to a storage yard. The transfer length of the prestressing strand was determined from
288 the measured concrete strain profile in combination with the 95% average maximum strain
289 (AMS) method developed by Russell and Burns [49], which relies on the change in slope of
290 the concrete strain profile. The distance from the member end (live or dead) to the point at
291 which 95% average maximum strain is measured represents the corresponding transfer length
292 of the prestressing strand.

293 A micrometer was used to measure strand slip at the end of prestressing strand through a
294 metal clamp attached to the strand portion protruded from the beam ends, as typically
295 illustrated in Figure 4-(3). The readings were taken at the same time concrete surface strains
296 were measured. The nominal strand slip is the difference between the initial reading and the
297 subsequent reading. The strand slip at prestress transfer was determined by subtracting the
298 elastic shortening of the free strand portion from the nominal strand slip [50].

299 **5.2. Other Universities**

300 Tadros and Morcous [51] evaluated the transfer length of 18-mm prestressing strand in four
301 prismatic specimens with different levels of reinforcing confinement. The prisms had a 178-
302 mm square cross-section and were 2.4 m long. Self-consolidating concrete, which had a
303 compressive strength of 41.4 MPa at release, was used to cast the prisms. One prestressing
304 strand was placed at the center of each prism and tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$. The measured transfer
305 length at prestress transfer was 787 mm on average, which is 88% and 74% of the ACI 318
306 ($50d_b = 890$ mm) and AASHTO ($60d_b = 1070$ mm) limits, respectively. The effect of
307 confinement was minimal on the measured transfer length.

308 Patzlaff *et al.* [52] measured the transfer length of 18-mm prestressing strand in eight 8.53-m
309 long T-girders. The girder section was 610 mm deep, 200 mm wide at the stem, and 810 mm
310 wide at the top flange. Each girder contained six prestressing strands tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$. All

311 girders were cast with self-consolidating concrete, which had a release-strength and 28-day
 312 strength of 63.5 MPa and 78.5 MPa, respectively. The average transfer length measured at
 313 prestress transfer was 527 mm. This transfer length is 59% and 49% in comparison to the
 314 ACI 318 ($50d_b = 890$ mm) and AASHTO ($60d_b = 1070$ mm) limits, respectively. On the other
 315 hand, similar to the observation on prism specimens [51], the confining reinforcement had no
 316 significant effect on the measured transfer length.

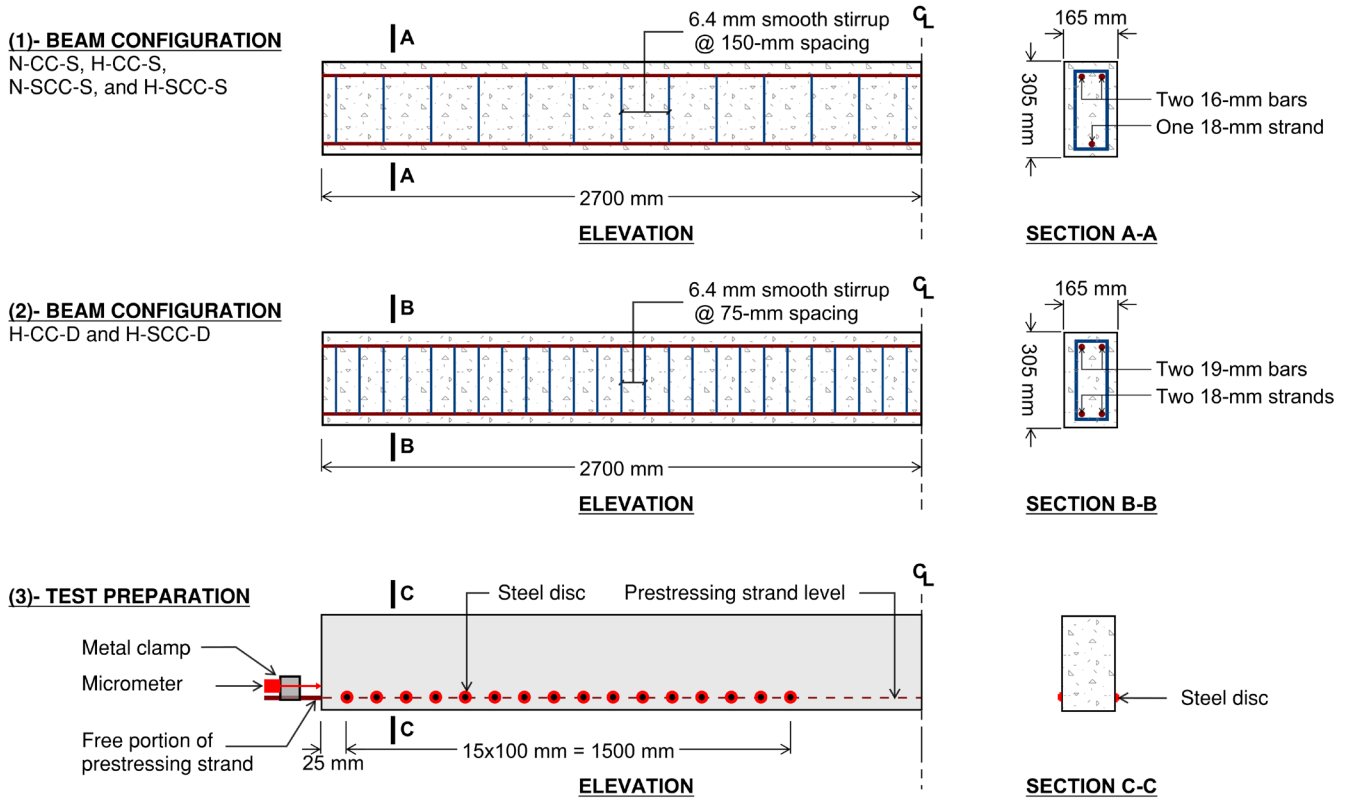
317 Maguire *et al.* [53] measured the transfer length for two full-scale double-Tee girders. The
 318 girder section was 502 mm deep, 2438 mm wide and 15.24 m long. High-strength self-
 319 consolidating concrete was used for the girder fabrication. The concrete had a compressive
 320 strength of 83 MPa release and 103 MPa at 28 days of age. Each stem of the girders
 321 contained ten 18-mm prestressing strands tensioned to $0.6f_{pu}$. The average measured transfer
 322 length at prestress transfer was 419 mm, which is significantly shorter than the ACI 318 ($50d_b$
 323 = 890 mm) and AASHTO ($60d_b = 1070$ mm) limits.

324

325 Table 1 - Concrete mixture proportions

Concrete mixture	N-CC	H-CC	N-SCC	H-SCC
Cement, kg/m ³	415	415	460	489
Coarse aggregate, kg/m ³	996	996	834	834
Fine aggregate, kg/m ³	809	863	881	826
Water, kg/m ³	166	145	184	196
Water / Cement ratio (<i>w/cm</i>)	0.4	0.35	0.4	0.4
Slump flow, mm	N/A	N/A	660	640
Compressive strength at prestress transfer f'_{ci} MPa	43	63	41	54
Compressive strength at 28 days of age f'_c , MPa	66	92	63	73
N-CC = normal-strength conventional concrete; H-CC = high-strength conventional concrete; N-SCC = normal-strength self-consolidating concrete; H-SCC = high-strength self-consolidating concrete.				

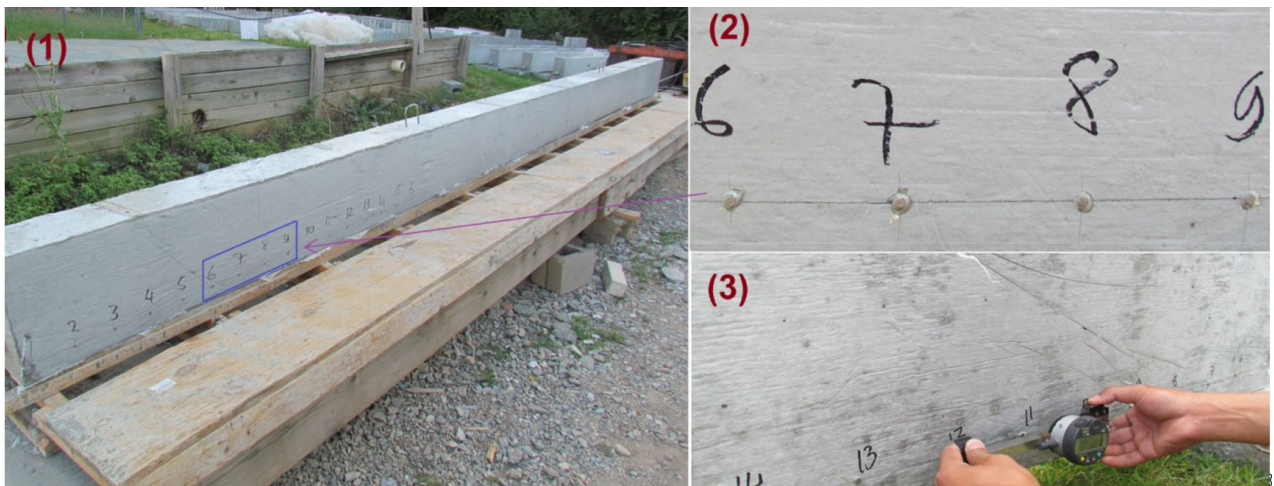
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328 Figure 4 - Beam configurations and test setup for measurement of transfer length and strand
329 slip

330



331

332 Figure 5 - Transfer length measurement: (1) attachment of target points on the surface of a
333 pre-tensioned concrete beam after removing the form; (2) a set of target points placed at
334 spacing of 100 mm; (3) use of mechanical strain gauge to record data

335

336 In related research, Song *et al.* [54] measured the transfer length and investigated the splitting
337 force for two AASHTO Type I girders. Girder I was cast with 18-mm, Grade 1860
338 prestressing strand. Girder II was cast with 16-mm, Grade 2270 prestressing strand. High-
339 strength self-consolidating concrete was used for fabrication of both girders. The concrete
340 compressive strength at release was approximately 67 MPa. Each girder contained 12
341 prestressing strands tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$. The measured transfer length of 18-mm prestressing
342 strand at prestress transfer was 537 mm, which is 60% and 50% of the predicted values by
343 ACI 318 ($50d_b = 890$ mm) and AASHTO ($60d_b = 1070$ mm) limits, respectively. In addition,
344 the use of high-strength concrete was the key reason for the short transfer length in
345 comparison to the code limits.

346 In another study, Morcouc *et al.* [36] measured the transfer length of prestressing strand in
347 two NU 1350 girders. The first girder was 34.0 m long and contained twenty-four 18-mm
348 prestressing strand. The second girder was 43.0 m long and contained thirty-seven
349 prestressing strands. For both girders, the prestressing strands were tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$. The
350 self-consolidating concrete reached 51.5 MPa and 71.4 MPa at one day and at 28 days of age,
351 respectively. On average, the measure transfer length at prestress transfer was 810 mm, which
352 is 91% and 76% of the predicted values for ACI 318 ($50d_b = 890$ mm) and AASHTO ($60d_b =$
353 1070 mm) limits, respectively.

354 Recently, Salazar *et al.* [55] investigated the structural behavior of the end-region for two
355 Tx46 and two Tx70 girders. All girders were 9.0 m long. The Tx46-I and Tx46-II girders
356 were 1168 mm deep and respectively contained twenty-four and thirty 18-mm prestressing
357 strands. The concrete compressive strength at release was 39.3 MPa and 35.9 MPa for the
358 first and second girder, respectively. The Tx70-I and Tx70-II were 1778 mm deep and
359 contained twenty-eight and forty-two prestressing strands, respectively. The concrete

360 compressive strength at release was 44.9 MPa and 57.3 MPa, respectively. All prestressing
361 strands were tensioned to $0.75f_{pu}$. The measured transfer lengths at prestress transfer were
362 1062 mm, 814 mm, 914 mm, and 960 mm for the Tx46-I, Tx46-II, Tx70-I, and Tx70-II,
363 respectively. In comparison to the code-predicted values, the measured transfer lengths were
364 partially longer than the ACI 318 ($50d_b = 890$ mm) and less than the AASHTO ($60d_b = 1070$
365 mm) limits.

366 It should be noted that the end zones of the girders tested by Morcous *et al.* [36] and Salazar
367 *et al.* [55] experienced cracking along the web and bottom flange during the prestress transfer
368 stage.

369 As in this study, it is noteworthy that transfer lengths were determined by applying the 95%
370 average maximum strain (AMS) method developed by Russell and Burns [49]. The
371 experimental data were obtained from DEMEC strain gauges at 100 mm spacing
372 [36,51,53,54] or at 50 mm spacing [52], and from electrical strain gauges installed on the
373 strands at 150-300 mm [55] which required a modified version of the 95% AMS method.

374

375 **6. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSIONS**

376 **6.1. Transfer Length Verification**

377 Figure 6 presents the measured transfer lengths at prestress transfer for the twenty-four
378 pretensioned concrete beams tested at University of Arkansas. The predicted values of
379 transfer length at prestress transfer (short-term) and after allowing for all prestress losses
380 (long-term), which were accounted for by considering a final effective stress of $0.75f_{si}$, are
381 also included, together with the limits from code provisions for transfer length. As it can be
382 observed, the ACI 318 and AASHTO limits provide a conservative prediction for the transfer
383 length (short- and long-term) from the perspective of the Ultimate Limit State design. On

384 average, the measured transfer length is 71% and 59% of the ACI 318 and AASHTO limits,
385 respectively. Eq. (1) provides a prediction similar to AASHTO. The overestimation of the
386 code equations comes from two sources: (a) the code equations ignore the contribution of
387 concrete strength; and (b) the prestressing strands exhibit good bond. It is worth noting that
388 the analytical method considers both factors that improve the transfer-length prediction: on
389 average, the measured transfer length at prestress transfer is 98% of the predicted values.
390 The comparison to the previous studies from other universities revealed two different
391 observations. The analytical method provides a good prediction for the measured transfer
392 lengths at prestress transfer sourced from Tadros and Morcouc [51], Patzlaff *et al.* [52],
393 Maguire *et al.* [53], and Song *et al.* [54]. The measured transfer lengths are 103%, 92%, 87%,
394 and 97% of the predicted values; assuming that the 3% exceeded in the first comparison is
395 acceptable. On the other hand, the analytical method underestimates the measured transfer
396 lengths of the pretensioned concrete girders investigated by Morcouc *et al.* [36] and Salazar
397 *et al.* [55]. The measured transfer lengths are 123% and 128% of the predicted values. This
398 difference is most likely due to the cracking in the end zones which was previously
399 mentioned.

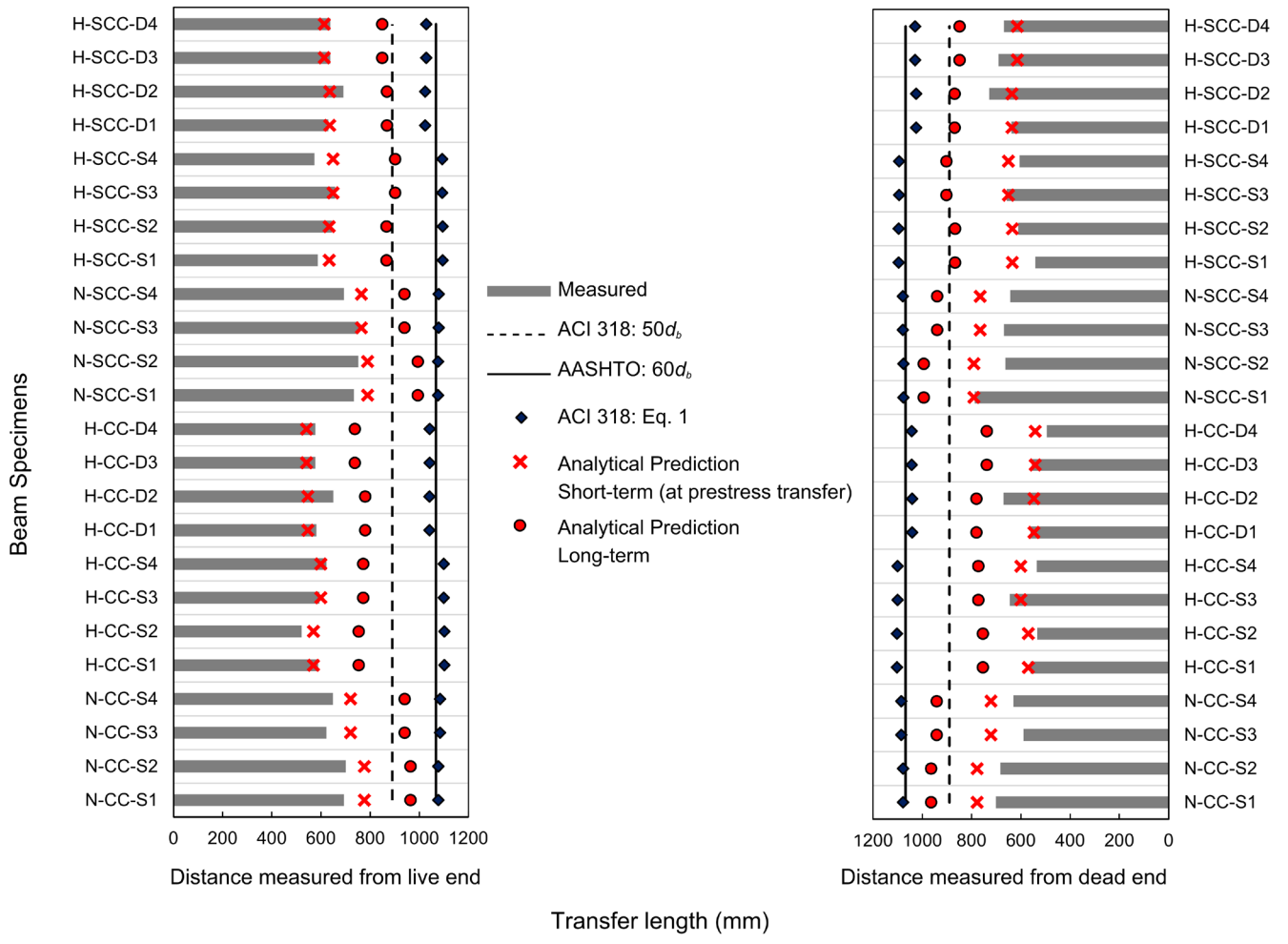


Figure 6 - Measured, analytical, and code-limit transfer lengths

6.2. Strand Slip Verification

Figure 7 presents the measured strand end slips at prestress transfer for the twenty-four pretensioned concrete beams tested at University of Arkansas. The predicted values of strand end slip at both short- and long-term stages are also included. In general terms, it can be observed that the measured and predicted short-term strand slip values ranged from 1.4 mm to 2.2 mm and 1.6 mm to 2.3 mm, respectively. The analytical bond model is able to capture this trend and provides a reasonable prediction for the experimental data. On average, the measured strand slip is 94% of the predicted values. This result ascertains that the strand slip

411 is dependent on the concrete compressive strength.

412

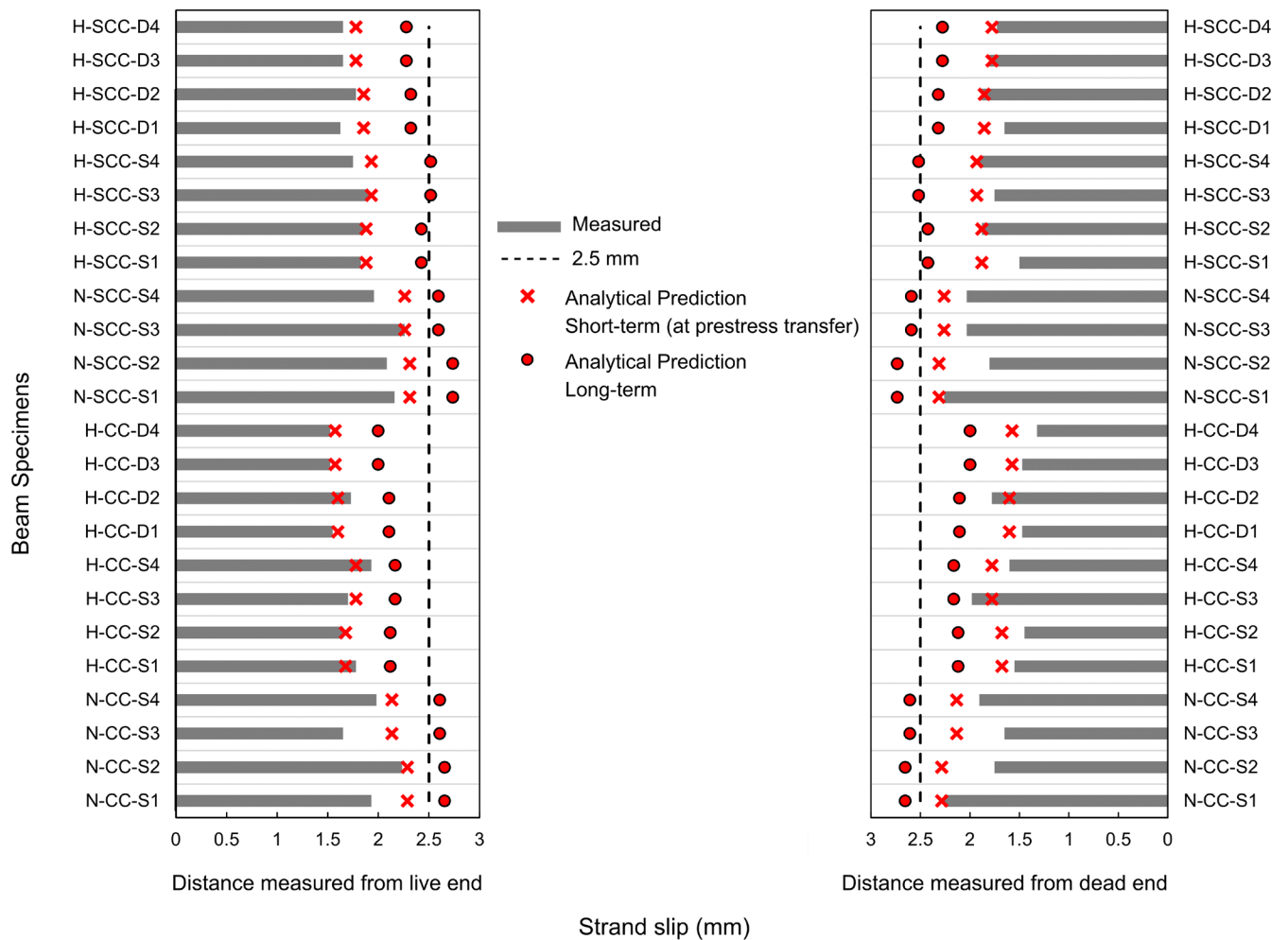


Figure 7 - Measured, analytical, and recommended threshold strand slip

The ACI 318 and AASHTO codes have no threshold for the strand slip even though several studies have demonstrated strand slip is a reliable indicator of strand bond [12,27,56]. Dang *et al.* [56] recommended a strand slip threshold of 2.5 mm based on the correlation of the strand end slip to the transfer and development length of prestressing strand. If a prestressing strand has slip at prestress transfer longer than 2.5 mm, the transfer length and development length is likely to be longer than the code limits; where development length is the required

422 length for prestressing strands to develop f_{ps} ; where f_{ps} is the stress in the prestressing steel
423 strand at the time for which the nominal flexural capacity of a member is required [33,57].
424 Therefore, the analytical determination of the strand end slip at the prestress transfer can
425 provide an early indication of the transfer and development length of prestressing strands.
426 This could then prevent a time-consuming and possibly costly experimental investigation.

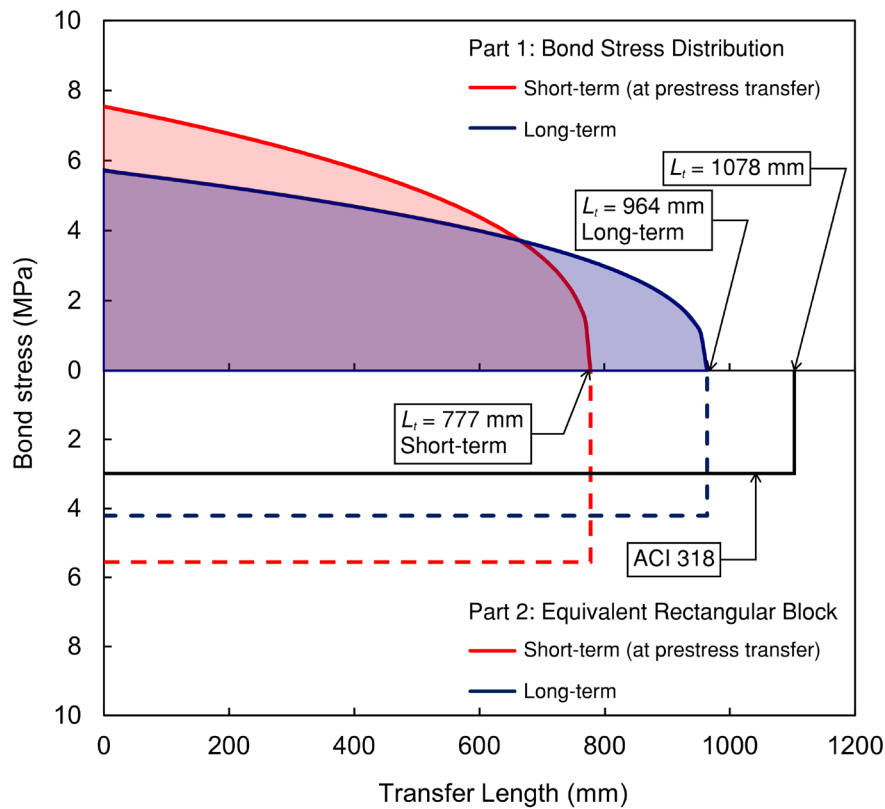
427 **6.3. Bond Stress Distribution**

428 Figure 8 shows the bond stress distribution of beam specimen N-CC-S1. Part 1 at the upper
429 portion of the graph presents the bond stress distribution in a nonlinear form. The bond stress
430 is at a maximum at the beginning and reduces toward the end of the transfer zone. At this
431 point the prestressing strand fully transfers the prestress force to concrete. Part 2 at the lower
432 portion of the graph presents the equivalent bond stress, which is uniform in the transfer
433 zone. The bond magnitude is determined by integrating the bond stress distribution in Part 1
434 and then dividing by the associated transfer length.

435 Part 1 of Figure 8 presents the short- and long-term bond stress distribution. At this stage,
436 Hoyer's effect and mechanical interlock (i.e., calibration coefficient k_b of 1.9 as
437 aforementioned) contribute to strand bond. The predicted transfer length is 777 mm. For the
438 long-term determination, under the effect of concrete creep and shrinkage in the transverse
439 direction, the concrete adjacent to the prestressing strand deforms as it is subjected to the
440 compressive stresses generated by the lateral expansion of prestressing strand [44]. Therefore,
441 the contribution of Hoyer's effect is assumed minimal whereas the mechanical interlock
442 becomes the main contributor to strand bond (i.e., calibration coefficient k_b reduces to 1.0).
443 Simultaneously, the pretensioned concrete member experiences longitudinal deformation due
444 to concrete creep and shrinkage which results in prestress losses. Additional degradation or
445 deterioration of the pretensioned concrete members which may occur can also affect the bond

446 between the prestressing strand and concrete (e.g. strand corrosion). As a result, the
447 magnitude of the maximum bond stress at the beginning of the transfer zone decreases with
448 time, but the transfer zone increases. The predicted transfer length at this stage (long-term,
449 without degradation/deterioration) of the beam specimen N-CC-S1 is 964 mm, which is 24%
450 longer than the predicted value at the prestress transfer stage. For all beam specimens, the
451 increase in transfer length ranged from 23% to 43% with an average of 33% as presented in
452 Figure 6. This range is greater than the increase observed in the 13-mm and 15-mm
453 prestressing strands, which typically ranges from 10%-20% [11,58]. The result shown in
454 Figure 6 also indicates the ACI 318 limit of $50d_b$ is not conservative in predicting the long-
455 term transfer length. This finding reveals that the limit of $50d_b$ is conservative for predicting
456 the transfer length at prestress transfer, but not necessarily for the long-term transfer length.
457 On the other hand, the ACI 318's Eq. (1) and AASHTO limit of $60d_b$ provide a conservative
458 prediction.

459 As shown in Part 2 of Figure 8, the equivalent bond stress at the short- and long-term is 5.56
460 MPa and 4.21 MPa. The ACI 318 bond stress (2.76 MPa or 400 psi) is less than the
461 equivalent bond stresses. This is the source for the conservative prediction of Eq. (1) for the
462 short-term transfer length as shown in Figure 6. In terms of applications, determination of the
463 equivalent bond stress is beneficial in finite-element modeling of pretensioned concrete
464 members. If the location of interest is beyond the transfer zone, the equivalent bond stress can
465 be used to reduce the computational effort. This is the case when calculating the ultimate
466 flexural load capacity of pretensioned concrete members, when the location of interest is
467 typically at the mid-span of the members [59–61]. Otherwise, if the location of interest is
468 within the transfer zone, it is needed to accurately simulate bond stress distribution.



469

470 Figure 8 - Bond stress distribution along the transfer length of beam specimen N-CC-S1

471

472 6.4. Strand Slip Distribution

473 Research commonly focuses on measuring strand end slip immediately after prestress

474 transfer. It is known that strand slip is a maximum at the free end and decreases as one moves

475 closer toward the end of the transfer zone. It is noteworthy that by having a better

476 understanding of the strand slip distribution in that region, one has a better understanding of

477 the behavior of prestressing strand in the transfer zone. Figure 9 presents the slip distribution

478 of beam specimen N-CC-S1. The slip distribution of the strand is nonlinear in the transfer

479 zone. For verification purpose, the slip distribution along the short-term transfer length was

480 compared to the one proposed by Martí-Vargas *et al.* [42] as expressed in Eq. (12), which was

481 obtained from an experimental basis, where $s(x)$ is the strand slip at location x from the free

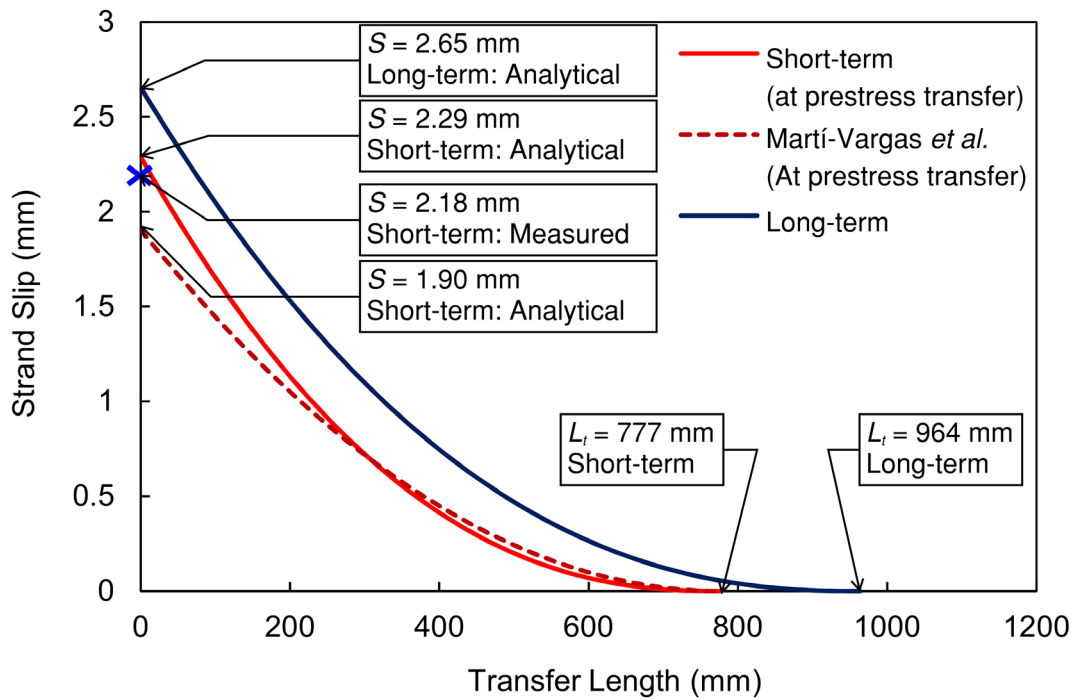
482 end of the pretensioned member.

$$s(x) = 8.7 \frac{(L_t - x)^2}{L_t^2 \sqrt{f_{ci}}} \quad (12)$$

484 As observed in Figure 9, both distribution curves are generally in agreement, regardless of a
 485 slight difference at the beginning of the transfer zone. The analytical method developed in
 486 this study provides a closer prediction to the experimental data. In comparison to the
 487 experimental results, the variation in the strand slip predictions is +0.11 mm in this study and
 488 -0.28 mm for Martí-Vargas *et al.* [42]. In fact, it is worth mentioning that Martí-Vargas *et al.*
 489 [42] studied the slip distribution of 13-mm prestressing strand. Therefore, based on ACI 318
 490 [33] and AASHTO [35] provisions —transfer length is linearly proportional to strand
 491 diameter— and the Guyon’s theory [42] —transfer length is linearly proportional to strand end
 492 slip—, a ratio of strand diameters (18-mm/13-mm=1.4) was applied for consistent
 493 comparison.

494 The results shown in Figure 9 indicated that strand slip increases over time. In comparison to
 495 the short-term strand slip, the long-term strand slip of beam specimen N-CC-S1 increases
 496 0.47 mm, which is 20.5% of the short-term slip. Similar to the increase observed in the
 497 transfer length, concrete creep and shrinkage are the two dominant contributors. For all beam
 498 specimens, the increase ranged from 15% to 32% with an average of 24% as presented in
 499 Figure 7. This finding confirms the assumption of the minimal contribution of the adhesion to
 500 strand bond as aforementioned. The prestressing strand in the transfer zone tends to slip
 501 gradually over time, therefore any adhesion bond formed between the two materials would be
 502 broken or fractured.

503



504

505 Figure 9 - Strand slip distribution along the transfer length of beam specimen N-CC-1

506

507 **6.5. Strand Stress Variation**

508 The variation of strand stress is presented in Figure 10. Due to the nonlinear distribution of
 509 the strand bond (refer to Figure 8), the strand stress varies nonlinearly in the transfer zone.

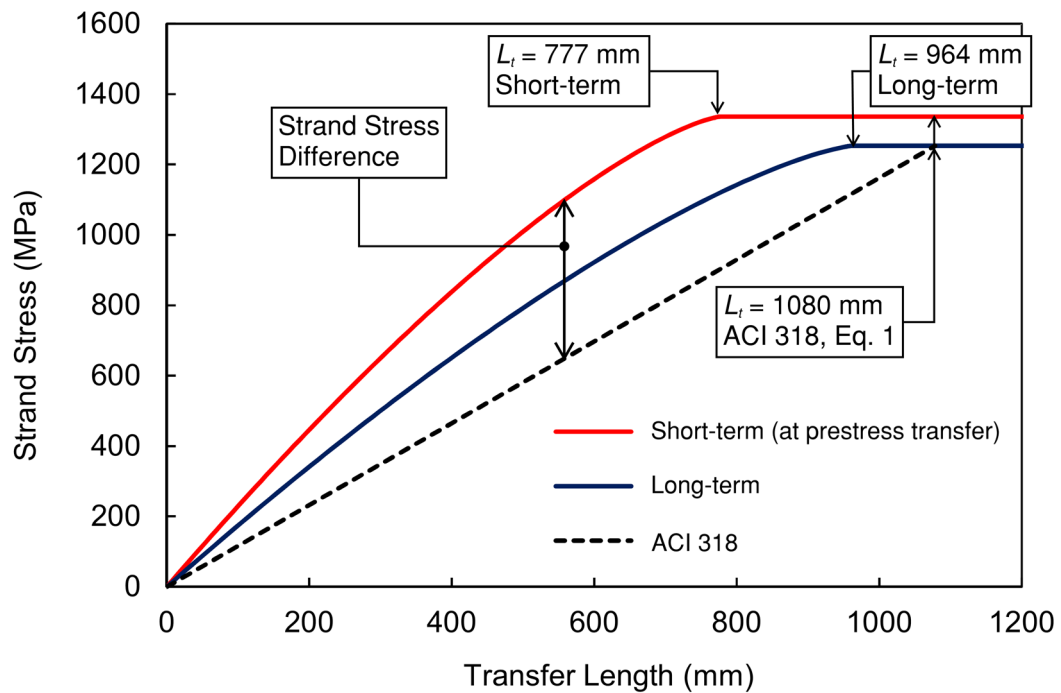
510 However, ACI 318 assumes a linear strand stress as shown in Figure 1. This assumption has
 511 two implications. First, at a given location within the transfer zone, the strand stress is greater
 512 than the assumed value as denoted by the “Strand Stress Difference” in Figure 10. In other
 513 words, the prestress force transferred to the concrete is greater than the code-predicted value.

514 This could potentially lead to concrete cracking in the transfer zone. Second, the interaction
 515 between multiple prestressing strands in the transverse direction is more severe. As

516 graphically visualized by Dang *et al.* [62], each prestressing strand has a ‘cylindrical transfer
 517 zone’ to transfer the prestress force to the adjacent concrete. When several 18-mm

518 prestressing strands are placed in a grid pattern, the cylindrical transfer zones of these strands

519 are partially overlapped near the beginning of the transfer zone. The tensile stress is greater in
 520 the overlapped regions and results in concrete cracking if the tensile stress is greater than the
 521 concrete tensile strength. In fact, a linear strand stress variation was assumed by Dang *et al.*
 522 to investigate the intensified tensile stress in the overlapped region. When considering the
 523 nonlinear strand stress variation observed in this study, the extension of the overlapped region
 524 is greater than expected, which increases the concrete region prone to cracking. This is likely
 525 to be another factor for the long transfer length observed in Morcoux *et al.* [36] and Salazar *et*
 526 *al.* [55] studies, where the prestressing strands were placed at a grid pattern of 51x51 mm.
 527



528
 529 Figure 10 - Strand stress variation along the transfer length of beam specimen N-CC-1
 530

531 **6.6. Research Limitations**

532 The developed bond model excluded the effect of transverse reinforcement to the transfer
 533 length of prestressing strands. Generally it is understood that transverse reinforcement can

534 provide a confining effect to the concrete in compression. Warenycia *et al.* [63] analytically
535 quantified the contribution of transverse reinforcement in confining the concrete in the
536 transfer zone which shortens the transfer length of prestressing strand. In fact, Maguire [51]
537 and Patzlaff *et al.* [52] experimentally found minimal to no contribution of transverse
538 reinforcement as mentioned in the previous discussions. Additional research is needed,
539 particularly in testing large-scale pretensioned concrete girders, to fully understanding the
540 effect of transverse reinforcement. Additionally, more experimental data (i.e., long-term
541 transfer length and strand end-slip) are required and could be valuable to validate the
542 proposed model in this study.

543

544 7. CONCLUSIONS

545 The following conclusions can be made based on the investigation on the strand bond of 18-
546 mm prestressing strand:

- 547 • An analytical bond model has been developed for 18-mm prestressing strand.
548 Through utilization of STSB results, the model considers the effect of concrete
549 compressive strength on the bond performance. A coefficient of 1.9 is suitable for
550 calibrating the difference in the bond mechanism of pretensioned and non-
551 pretensioned 18-mm prestressing strands.
- 552 • The assumption regarding a minimal contribution of the adhesion to the strand bond
553 in the transfer zone has been confirmed. The prestressing strand tends to slip
554 gradually over time, so any kind of bond by adhesion formed between prestressing
555 strand and concrete would be fractured.
- 556 • The developed analytical model provides a good prediction for the transfer length
557 measured in pretensioned concrete beams. The measured transfer length is 98% of the

558 value predicted by the analytical model. For medium-scale pretensioned concrete
559 girders, the analytical model can provide a reasonable prediction. However, the model
560 underestimates the transfer length of large-scale pretensioned concrete girders due to
561 cracking in the transfer zone.

562 • Transfer length increases over time. The long-term transfer length is 33% longer than
563 the short-term. The ACI 318 Eq. (1) and AASHTO limit ($60d_b$) adequately predict the
564 short- and long-term transfer lengths. The ACI 318 limit of $50d_b$ is conservative for
565 predicting the short-term transfer length but not necessarily conservative for the long-
566 term transfer length.

567 • The bond stress distribution is nonlinear in the transfer zone. In comparison to the
568 short-term bond stress distribution, the maximum long-term bond stress is decreased,
569 but the extension of the transfer zone is increased.

570 • The short-term strand slip is reasonably predicted by the analytical model. The
571 measured strand slip is 94% of the predicted values. In comparison to the short-term
572 strand slip, the long-term strand slip is 24% greater on average.

573 • The strand slip distribution is nonlinear in the transfer zone. The slip is maximum at
574 the beginning of the transfer zone (free end of the member) and reduces toward the
575 end of the transfer zone. The variation of the short- and long-term strand slip is
576 similar.

577 • The strand stress variation in the transfer zone is nonlinear, which is not in agreement
578 with the ACI design code assumption. At a given location within the transfer zone, the
579 prestress transfer to the concrete is greater than the code-predicted value. This
580 observation posts a concern regarding concrete cracking in the transfer zone of
581 pretensioned concrete members.

582

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586 assisting with the experimental work.

587

588 **NOTATIONS**

589 α = exponential coefficient of bond stress-slip model

590 A_c = area of concrete, mm²

591 A_s = cross-sectional area of prestressing strand, mm²

592 C_s = strand perimeter, mm

593 E_c = concrete modulus of elasticity, MPa

594 E_s = steel modulus of elasticity, MPa

595 d_b = nominal strand diameter, mm

596 F_b = bond magnitude

597 f_c = concrete stress, MPa

598 f'_{ci} = concrete compressive strength at 1 day of age, MPa

599 f'_c = concrete compressive strength at 28 days of age, MPa

600 f_s = strand stress, MPa

601 f_{si} = initial stress, MPa

602 f_{se} = effective stress, MPa

603 f_{pu} = ultimate stress, MPa

604 k_b = calibration coefficient

605 L_t = transfer length, mm

606 P_f = pullout force corresponding to free end slip of 2.5 mm (0.1 in.), kN

607 P_i = pullout force corresponding to free end slip of 0.25 mm (0.01 in.), kN

608 $s(x)$ = strand slip at location x

609 s_f = strand slip at free end of 2.5 mm (0.1 in.)

610 s_i = strand slip at free end of 0.25 mm (0.01 in.)

611 $u(x)$ = bond stress at location x

612 u_f = average bond stress corresponding to pullout force of P_f , MPa

613 u_i = average bond stress corresponding to pullout force of P_i , MPa

614

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