

# Investigation of Shear Lag Effect in Tall Tube-type Buildings

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## Abstract

The dominant structural systems used for high-rise buildings are tube-type systems. Tall tube-type structures act as a cantilever box girder and become prone to the shear lag phenomenon. This phenomenon causes nonlinear stress along the side of the tubular structures, while the beam theory assumes the stress to be linear. This mechanism reduces the efficiency of tube-type structural systems to resist lateral loads. This study explains a detailed discussion of the shear lag effect and the cause of its existence in two cases, positive and negative, through simple numerical analyses. To this end, the impact of lateral deformation on the shear lag effect was investigated in three tube-type structural systems: framed tube, diagrid, and hexagrid with different heights of 50-, 80-, and 110- story buildings subjected to wind load. The lateral deformation of the model structures was compared with the planer deformation (shear and bending deformation) of the cantilever box girder as the benched mark. Analysis results illustrated that the tube type structural system configuration affected the shear and bending deformation portions and the shear lag effect. Based on the results, the direction of the shear flow was changed according to the slope direction of the tangent line of the deflection curve (first deviation) and caused two cases, positive and negative ones. From the numerical results of candidate models, when the tangent line's angle became zero, the shear lag became minimum. When the curvature of the deflection curve (second deviation) was changed (upward into inward), the shear lag became maximum.

**Keywords:** Tall Building, Tube Type Structural System, Shear Lag Effect, Diagrid, Hexagrid, Framed Tube

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## 29 **1. Introduction**

30 The tube-type system is the most effective structural framework for tall buildings. In tall tube-type  
31 buildings, locating the main structural system on the perimeter causes the building to behave like  
32 a cantilevered box girder. The shear lag effect is an unavoidable phenomenon revealed to any box  
33 structures that are loaded laterally [1-4]. Thus, tubular structures are prone to forming the shear  
34 lag phenomenon. It changes the expected plane section assumptions in box structures and causes  
35 non-uniform stress along the sides, which is inconsistent with the elementary beam theory.

36 The shear lag phenomenon was exhibited in tall buildings with framed tube systems. Researchers  
37 recognized the importance of the shear lag effect in tubular structures a long time ago. This  
38 phenomenon reduces the efficiency of the tube-type structural system [5-7]

39 Most existing research reported the shear lag effect in tube-type tall buildings, and few papers  
40 studied its reason [8]. Although many studies on the shear effect have long been conducted, they  
41 couldn't achieve a unit conclusion, being applicable to all tube-type structural systems with  
42 different configurations. From the previous results, the shear lag effect appears in two cases of  
43 positive and negative. In the first studies, the shear lag effect was positive and led to a higher stress  
44 level at the corner columns of the perimeter frames compared with the inner columns. Foutch and  
45 Chang [9] recognized an anomaly shear lag effect, opposite to the positive shear lag (PSL), called  
46 negative shear lag (NSL). Chang and Zheng [10] confirmed the occurrence of negative shear lag  
47 in the box girder. Since then, research was developed to study the origin of the shear lag effect and  
48 the relation between two positive and negative ones. Krístek and Studnicka [11] indicated that in  
49 the box girder, the cause of negative shear lag was the varying shear flow as if the shear flow  
50 becomes constant, the shear lag does not happen. Singh and Nagpal [12] also reported negative  
51 shear lag in framed tube buildings and indicated that the negative shear lag originated from the  
52 positive shear lag. Rovnák and Rovnáková [13] discussed Singh and Nagpal's conclusion and  
53 stated a different opinion. They concluded that the positive and negative shear lags were not  
54 dependent on one another.

55 In the second part of the studies, extensive research was developed to evaluate stress distribution  
56 in tubular structures, considering the shear lag phenomenon. Haji-Kazemi [7] studied this  
57 phenomenon in a cantilever box girder representing the framed tube buildings to provide an exact  
58 analysis method for evaluating stress and displacement in the perimeter columns. Lee et al. [14]  
59 considered the additional bending stresses in the framed-tube structures subjected to lateral loads

60 to estimate the shear lag effect. Mahjoub et al. [15] studied the performance of the framed tube to  
61 assess the axial stress distribution on the exterior panels, considering the shear lag effect.

62 Despite the need for a solution, there was not a general explanation for the shear lag problem.  
63 Therefore, in the third part of the studies, a simple method continued to evaluate the shear lag  
64 effect in tall buildings. Leonard [16] considered the shear lag effect in the diagrid system with a  
65 given factor. This factor is the ratio between axial stress at the corner column and axial stress at  
66 the middle of the panel. Since then, several studies have been conducted to evaluate the shear lag  
67 effect with this factor [17-20]

68 Recently, Shi and Zhang [21] have presented a simplified calculation of the shear lag effect for  
69 diagrid structures. However, little study has been conducted to evaluate the shear lag effect's cause  
70 and characteristics in tall tube-type buildings. Typical research illustrated that the shear lag effect  
71 in tube-type structures is affected by lateral deflection [22-24]. Thus, assessing the relationship  
72 between the tall buildings' shear lag effect and lateral deflection is required. The lateral deflection  
73 of a structure consists of two modes of shear and bending deformation. The overall deflection of a  
74 tube structure is due to the shear and bending deflection components of a rigid frame, usually  
75 specified as the shear racking and cantilever components [25]. For various structural systems, the  
76 portion of shear and bending deformations are different.

77 However, the introduction section was studied the shear lag effect in three parts. First: the concept  
78 of the shear lag effect and cause and origin. Second: finding solution and distribution of shear and  
79 axial stress, and the third: evaluating it with a recommended shear lag factor.

80 Based on the previous research, all of them confirmed the shear lag effect as a problem in tubular  
81 structures. This problem has two sides. One side is related to origin, source, and reason, and  
82 another side is associated with the solution. Most of the previous research has proposed a reason  
83 for it and then tried to solve it. However, they could not achieve a unique reason and solution  
84 covering different tubular structures and find a unique answer to what causes the shear lag to be in  
85 two types of negative and positive.

86 This paper discussed the cause of the shear lag effect by evaluating it with the shear lag factor  
87 recommended by previous studies.

88 This research evaluates the reason for the shear lag effect and the cause of its existence in two  
89 cases, positive and negative. The elementary beam theory assumption for the analysis of tall tube-  
90 type buildings is also discussed. To this end, the impact of lateral deformation components on the

91 shear lag effect is examined through different numerical analysis models, including 50-, 80-, and  
92 110-story building models with different framed tubes, diagrid, and hexagrid tube-type structural  
93 systems.

94

## 95 **2. Descriptions**

### 96 ***2.1 Tube-type structural systems***

#### 97 *Framed tube system*

98 Khan [26] first proposed the framed tube system as the ideal structural system of a hollow tube  
99 located around the building. It was a rigid frame with closely spaced columns joined by deep  
100 girders on all facades that would behave like a tube frame.

#### 101 *Diagrid system*

102 Nowadays, the diagrid system has been widely used as the most efficient tube-type structural  
103 system for tall buildings. It contains multiple diagonal elements triangulated at the exterior faces  
104 of the building. The diagonal angle plays a significant role in the ultimate strength of diagrids [27-  
105 37]

#### 106 *Hexagrid system*

107 Based on academic research, a tubular space-truss structure, called hexagrid, was firstly studied  
108 by Mashhadiali and Kheyroddin [37]. Hexagrid structure is constructed by multiple grids with a  
109 hexagonal pattern around the building, limited by mega columns. It resists lateral loads by truss  
110 action controlled by four mega corner columns. Some studies were conducted to develop the newly  
111 hexagrid [39-43].

112

### 113 ***2.2 Shear lag phenomenon***

114 Two assumptions considered by the beam theory are that a plane remains a plane after bending  
115 and that the slope of beam deformation  $\theta$  is small and is defined as (Eq. 1):

$$116 \quad \theta = \frac{d\Delta}{dx} \quad (1)$$

117 where  $\Delta$  is the beam deformation at location  $x$ .

118 This assumption resulted in the linear distribution of stress in the beam cross-section. The  
119 curvature of building deflection  $\phi$ , is defined as (Eq. 2):

120 
$$\Phi = \frac{1}{R} = \frac{d^2\Delta/d^2x}{[1 + (d\Delta/dx)^2]^{3/2}} \quad (2)$$

121 where R is the radius of curvature.

122 Based on the above assumptions, the second derivative of the deflection  $d^2\Delta/d^2x$  results in (Eq. 3):

123 
$$\frac{1}{R} \approx \frac{d^2\Delta}{d^2x} = \frac{d\theta}{dx} \quad (3)$$

124 The axial strain,  $\epsilon$ , is defined as (Eq. 4):

125 
$$\epsilon = z \frac{d\theta}{dx} \quad (4)$$

126 The axial stress, N, is determined based on the bending moment at the distance of z, from the  
 127 central line, and it is distributed uniformly along the side of the beam. From Hooke's stress-strain  
 128 laws (Eq. 5):

129 
$$N = \frac{Mz}{I} = Ez \frac{d\theta}{dx} \quad (5)$$

130 M is the bending moment at the x location, and E and I are Young's modulus of the material and  
 131 the moment of inertia of the beam section, respectively.

132 As a cantilever beam, the stress distribution is nonlinear in tall tube-type buildings due to the shear  
 133 lag effect (S.L.). The shear lag phenomenon occurs in two cases. In the cases of negative shear lag  
 134 (concave) (S.L.<sup>-</sup>), the stress in the center of the flange panel exceeds the corner of the panel, and  
 135 for the positive shear lag (convex) (S.L.<sup>+</sup>), the stress distribution is in inverse (Fig. 1a)

136 Under the lateral loading, the exterior frames perpendicular to the load direction is referred to as  
 137 flanges (f). Those aligned in the direction of loading are referred to as tube cantilever webs (w).

138 Nonlinear shear stress distribution causes changes in longitudinal axial stress. Fig. 1b shows the  
 139 shear and bending stress produced by beam theory and the shear lag effect.

140 From the equilibrium equations, for example, for the flange panel (Eq. 6):

141 
$$\sum F_x = 0 \quad , \quad N_x = N + N_s \quad (6)$$

142 The shear stress,  $N_s$ , is defined as a conditional relation which is shown in the figure based on the  
 143 shear flow  $n_i$ . It is defined as (Eq. 7):

144 
$$N_s = \begin{cases} n_0 \leq 0 \\ n_{i-2} - n_{i-1} \leq 0 \\ n_i \geq 0 \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

145  $n_0$  and  $n_i$  are the shear flow at the central line and external edge, respectively. The resultant stress  
146 of  $2n_0$  is a negative direction at the centerline. Thus, the axial stress,  $N_x$  at the external edge, is  
147 more than  $N$ , and at the internal edge, it is less than  $N$ . This results in a positive form of shear lag  
148 effect.

149 However, the direction of axial stress,  $n$ , is related to the slope of the tangent line of deformation  
150  $\theta$ . When the slope becomes opposite, the result becomes reverse, and negative shear lag forms.

151 From Eq. 5, the zero slope of the deformation curve leads to a zero shear lag effect. When the  
152 slope becomes greater, the shear lag becomes more significant. At the point where the curvature  
153 is changed (upward into inward), the slope and, consequently, the shear lag becomes maximum  
154 (Fig. 2).

155 In tube-type buildings, combining two modes of shear and bending deformations results in  
156 changing slope (first derivation of deflection) and the curvature of building deflection and affects  
157 the shear lag effect. In fact, combining lateral stiffness of two web and flange panels results in the lateral  
158 displacement profile.

159 In this study, the dimensionless factor 'Shear lag ratio' is defined to estimate the shear lag effect.  
160 This parameter is the ratio of the resultant axial stress at corner elements ( $\sigma_c$ ) to the consequent  
161 axial stress at the middle elements ( $\sigma_m$ ) of the same story level (Eq. (8)). This ratio is calculated  
162 for both web (w), and flange (f) faces.

$$163 \text{ Shear lag ratio} = \frac{\sigma_c}{\sigma_m} \quad (8)$$

164 Therefore, the shear lag ratio is less than one in negative shear lag while it is more than one in  
165 positive shear lag [16].

166 In this study, the shear lag effect was investigated and compared at different story levels of the  
167 model structures.

168

### 169 ***2.3 Cantilever beam deformation***

170 In simple words, tall buildings may account for cantilevered vertical beams (Fig. 3). Where  $\mathbf{u}$  and  
171  $\beta$  are the lateral deformation and rotation measure, respectively; the terms;  $\Delta_h$  and  $\Delta_v$  are the  
172 horizontal and vertical displacement of the building, respectively.

173 From a motion perspective, the optimal design is related to a state of uniform bending deformation  
174 ( $\chi^*$ ) and shear deformation ( $\gamma^*$ ) under the lateral loading [44].

175 The displacement at the top of the beam is given by Eq. (9).

$$176 \quad \Delta(H) = \gamma^* H + \frac{\chi^* H^2}{2} \quad (9)$$

177 H: Building Height.

178 Where  $\gamma^* H$  corresponds to the shear deformation and  $\chi^* H^2 / 2$  corresponds to the bending  
179 deformation.

180 A dimensionless factor S, which is the ratio of the bending displacement to the shear displacement  
181 [44], is expressed as Eq. (10):

$$182 \quad S = \frac{\chi^* H^2}{2} / \gamma^* H \quad (10)$$

183 The maximum displacement is considered at the top of the beam as (Eq. (11)):

$$184 \quad \Delta(H) = \frac{H}{\alpha} \quad (11)$$

185 Typical  $\alpha$  value is used to determine maximum lateral displacement.

186 Integration of Eqs. (9) and (10) with Eq. (11) expands to (Eqs. (12)- (13))

$$187 \quad \chi^* = \frac{2S}{H(1+S)\alpha} \quad (12)$$

$$188 \quad \gamma^* = \frac{1}{(1+S)\alpha} \quad (13)$$

189 From the measure of the shear mode of deformation and overall lateral displacement, the S factor,  
190 which is the ratio between bending and shear deformations, can be computed based on the  
191 proposed method by Smith and Coull [45] through the SAP2000 program [46]. In this method, the  
192 joints of models are restrained in the z direction (u3) to obtain the shear mode of the deflection  
193 (Fig. 4 a, b). Then, the bending mode is calculated by minus of shear mode and overall lateral  
194 displacement.

195

### 196 **3. Analysis and design**

#### 197 **3.1 Analytical models**

198 A series of model structures with different aspect ratios (Ratio between the building height to the  
199 plan width) of 50-, 80- and 110- story buildings were considered for the framed tube, diagrid, and  
200 hexagrid systems to evaluate their structural behavior as shown in Fig. 4 c, d. The width of the  
201 plan, 56 m, is constant in all model structures, and the story height of the building was considered

202 4m. Thus, the different aspect ratios for different building heights were obtained 3.6, 5.7, 7.9,  
203 respectively.

204 Based on the optimal angle (65 to 70 degrees) achieved by Moon's [26], Kim's [17], and  
205 Mashhadiali's [38] conclusions, the angle of  $66^\circ$  was considered for diagrid structures. In the  
206 building with a similar aspect ratio, the internal members were designed with the same cross-  
207 section because they were considered to carry only gravity loads. Rigid diaphragms were assigned  
208 to the composite floor slab, and the diaphragms were not tied rigidly to the perimeter grids. The  
209 floor system is composite

210 The structural software used to design 3D models was SAP2000 [46]. The model structures were  
211 analyzed subjected to wind load established by the document SEI/ASCE 7 [47]. The Dead and live  
212 loads were considered 5 and 2.5 kPa, respectively. The design parameters were assumed to be  
213 category III, exposure B, and the basic wind speed 110 mph. The models were designed based on  
214 AISC [48] requirements. The stress ratios in typical steel members were checked based on the  
215 design philosophy of LRFD and considered to be less than 1.0. The design methodology was  
216 applied to satisfy  $H/400$  ( $\alpha:400$ ) allowable lateral displacement.

217 Steel material with yield stress 345 MPa was applied to structural elements. The Design sections  
218 of box, tube, and W sections were assigned to the columns, diagonal elements, and beams,  
219 respectively.

220

### 221 ***3.2 Analytical results***

222 A building framed-tube system consists of closely spaced columns on the building perimeter joined  
223 to each other with deep spandrel beams.

224 In resisting overturning moments of the framed tube system, the overall bending results in axial  
225 deformation of the columns (elongation or shortening) as a cantilever bending on the flange panel,  
226 and the overall shear racking of the frame is related to bending of the beams and columns with  
227 double curvature on the web panel [25].

228 The S factor was computed from the measure of the shear mode of deflection and overall lateral  
229 displacement (Table 1).

230 Results illustrated that in framed tube building models, the shear deflection component governed  
231 the lateral deflection, and the portion is significantly more than the bending component. However,  
232 it decreased by increasing the height of the building. Fig. 5 illustrates the axial stresses of framed



233 tube structures in the web (w) and flange panel (f). To evaluate the shear lag effect, the numerical  
234 shear lag ratio (Eq. 8) was calculated at different story levels (P1:0.125H, P2:0.25H, P3:0.5H,  
235 P4:0.75H, P5: 0.875).

236 In framed tube models, lateral displacement first is upward, and then it is changed to inward at  
237 point 1, where the shear lag ratio is maximum due to changes in curvature. Comparing numerical  
238 results with the beam theory achievements confirmed that the shear lag effect was changed based  
239 on the slope and curvature of the building deformation.

240 From the results, the least shear lag effect occurred at zero slope of the building deformation, which  
241 is at points 4, 3, and 3 in 50-, 80, and 110 story buildings, respectively, and positive and negative  
242 shear lag occurred in opposite directions due to change in slope at bottom and top of point related  
243 to zero slope (Fig. 6). In the 50-story building model at points 1,2, and 3, the shear lag factor is  
244 more than one, and it is considered positive where the curvature is downward, and the slope of  
245 lateral displacement profile is clockwise (CW). In this model, at point 4, the shear lag factor is  
246 about one, and it is considered zero where the curvature is downward, and the slope of the lateral  
247 displacement is zero. At point 5, the shear lag factor is less than one, and it is considered negative  
248 where the curvature is downward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile is counterclockwise  
249 (CCW).

250 In the 80 and 110-story building models at points 1 and 2, the shear lag factor is more than one,  
251 and it is considered positive where the curvature is downward, and the slope of lateral displacement  
252 profile is CW. In this model, at point 3, the shear lag factor is about one, and it is considered zero  
253 where the curvature is downward, and the slope of the lateral displacement profile is zero. At point  
254 4, the shear lag factor is less than one, and it is considered negative where the curvature is  
255 downward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile is CCW. At point 5, the shear lag factor  
256 is more than one, and it is considered positive where the curvature is upward and CCW.

257 In all framed tube models, the curvature of the lateral deflection is downward due to significant  
258 shear deformation. However, at the top of the building models, it is upward due to negative  
259 stiffness. It happens because the stiffness is more than that it is needed for the shear force induced  
260 by the lateral load and the shear lag effect is not accurate.

261 As mentioned earlier, diagrid structures are constructed with triangulated exterior structural  
262 elements.

263 In resisting overturning moments of the diagrid system, the overall bending results in axial  
264 deformation in diagonal elements as a cantilever bending on the flange panel, and the overall shear  
265 racking of the diagrids is related to the axial deformation in diagonal elements on the web panel.  
266 Results stated that the major portion of diagrid model deformation was significantly related to  
267 bending deflection produced by the axial deformation, and the fewer portions are connected to  
268 shear deformation (Table 2). In diagrid models, lateral displacement is upward and then inward.  
269 Following is the typical axial stress diagram in SAP diagrid structures (Fig. 7). Because the diagrid  
270 system has diagonal members, the shear lag effect should be computed from the resultant vertical  
271 axial forces at the special node. Comparing numerical results with the beam theory achievements  
272 confirmed that the shear lag effect was changed based on the slope and curvature of the building  
273 deformation.

274 From the results, the least shear lag effect occurred at the zero slopes of the building deformation  
275 at points 1 and 3. At some points of the buildings, negative shear lag occurred due to the direction  
276 of the slope, and at the other points, a positive one occurred (Fig. 8). In the 50-story building model  
277 at point 2, the shear lag factor is less than one, and it is considered negative where the curvature is  
278 upward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile is counterclockwise (CCW). In this model,  
279 at point 3, the shear lag factor is about one, and it is considered zero where the curvature is upward,  
280 and the slope of the lateral displacement is zero. At point 4, the shear lag factor is more than one,  
281 and it is considered positive where the curvature is upward, and the slope of lateral displacement  
282 profile is clockwise (CW). At point 5, the shear lag factor is more than one, and it is considered  
283 positive where the curvature is downward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile is  
284 clockwise (CW).

285 In the 80-story building model at point 1, the shear lag factor is about one, and it is considered  
286 zero. At point 2, the shear lag factor is less than one, and it is considered negative where the  
287 curvature is upward, and the slope of the lateral displacement profile is clockwise (CW). In this  
288 model, at point 3, the shear lag factor is about one, and it is considered zero where the curvature  
289 is upward, and the slope of the lateral displacement is zero. At point 4, the shear lag factor is more  
290 than one, and it is considered positive where the curvature is downward, and the slope of lateral  
291 displacement profile is clockwise (CW). At point 5, the shear lag factor is more than one, and it is  
292 considered negative where the curvature is downward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile  
293 is counterclockwise (CCW).

294 In the 110-story building model at point 1, the shear lag factor is about one and is considered zero.  
295 At points 2,3,4 and 5 the shear lag factor is less than one, and it is considered negative where the  
296 curvature is upward, and the slope of lateral displacement profile is clockwise (CW).

297 In all diagrid models, the curvature of the lateral deflection is upward due to significant bending  
298 deformation.

299 Hexagrid structural system contains multiple grids with hexagonal patterns, locating at the building  
300 exterior, which is limited by the mega columns, is subjected to the shear lag effect.

301 In resisting overturning moments of hexagrid system, the overall bending results in axial  
302 deformation in diagonal and vertical elements of the grids and shortening and elongation of the  
303 mega columns as a cantilever bending on the flange panel. The overall shear racking of the  
304 hexagrids is related to the bending of the mega columns and axial deformation in diagonal elements  
305 on the web panel.

306 Results illustrate that in the hexagrid structures, both shear and bending deflections are contributed  
307 to the lateral deflection (Table 4). However, it was significant by increasing the building height.

308 The calculation of the axial stress in the hexagrid system is simple due to vertical elements at the  
309 joints (Fig. 9).

310 Comparing numerical results with the beam theory achievements confirmed that the shear lag  
311 effect was changed according to changes in the slope and curvature of the building deformation.

312 The lateral deformation of hexagrid models tended to deform more straightly due to the balance  
313 between bending and shear mode deflection. This is due to the configuration of hexagrid structural  
314 system. The shear lag ratio confirmed the results (Fig. 10).

315 In 50, 80, and 110-story building models, at all points, the shear lag factor is about one, and it is  
316 considered zero where the slope of the lateral displacement is zero.

317 Thus, the shear lag effect in hexagrid models was less than framed tube and diagrid structures.  
318 This result was more significant by increasing the building height.

319

#### 320 **4. Discussion**

321 The tall tubular structure with the most similar behavior to a cantilevered beam with the same  
322 height (H) and width (B) is desirable for optimum design. Fig. 11 shows the comparing results of  
323 shear and bending deformation of the cantilevered beam from Eqs. (12), (13), and the candidate

324 structures from SAP2000, calculated for various S factors. The results compared the specific height  
325 of the model structures (H: 440, 320, 200) and  $\alpha$ :400.

326 Results illustrated that the proposed method is able to estimate the S factor, which is the ratio  
327 between bending and shear deformation for tall tube-type building models through the SAP2000  
328 program. This method is more accurate for model structures with an aspect ratio of about 6 and  
329 even more. Thus, it can be concluded that high-rise tubular buildings behave similarly to the box  
330 girder more than one with a low aspect ratio. However, in 50 story model buildings, the shear  
331 deformation is closer to the box girder deformation than the bending deformation.

332 The results of shear mode deflection state that in framed tube structures, the major portion of  
333 building deformation is shear deflection. In diagrid structures, bending deflection governs the  
334 lateral deflection. In contrast, in hexagrid structures, both deformation modes contribute to the  
335 lateral displacement. It made the lateral deformation curve be upward and inward.

336 Combining two modes of deflections causes changes in the direction of the slope of the  
337 deformation curve and, consequently, changes in axial stress distribution. Eventually, the shear lag  
338 effect occurs. At story levels with zero slopes, a minimum shear lag occurred on the building  
339 models' lateral displacement profile. Changing the slope direction in the opposite direction along  
340 with the height of the building models and changing the axial stress direction caused the shear lag  
341 effect to exist in two cases, positive and negative.

342 The numerical results of the shear lag ratio in structural models under lateral loads confirmed the  
343 beam theory achievements about the conception of the shear lag effect. At the story level, where  
344 the ratio is more than one (Positive), the slope direction is opposite to the level where the ratio is  
345 less than one (Negative).

346 Comparing numerical results indicated that framed tube structures had the most shear lag effect.

347 The bending deflection of the framed tube structures is due to axial column deformation, whereas  
348 the shear deflection is due to the bending of individual spandrels and columns [25].

349 From the analysis results, in the frame tube system, the flexible spandrels and the government of  
350 shear mode in lateral displacement are the causes of the shear lag effect. In fact, shear racking  
351 action comes from web frames. On the web frames, the primary resistance of the columns, which  
352 are in tension and compression, is modified by the flexibility of the spandrel beams. This causes  
353 the axial stresses to be nonlinear. Thus, based on the concept of the space truss system, elimination  
354 of bending action and replacing it with axial deformation causes the shear lag effect to reduce.

355 Thus, results indicated that the shear lag effect decreased in diagrid and hexagrid systems more  
356 than the framed tube system. In hexagrid structures, more balance between shear and bending  
357 deflection resulted in less shear lag effect.

358

## 359 **5. Conclusion**

360 This study investigated the conception of the shear lag phenomenon through the numerical analysis  
361 conducted on different tube-type buildings such as a framed tube, diagrid, and hexagrid structural  
362 systems with various aspect ratios.

363 Although the beam theory assumes that the axial stress distribution is linear in tube-type structures,  
364 the shear lag causes the axial stress to be nonlinear. This phenomenon appears in two cases,  
365 positive and negative forms, in two opposite directions.

366 To evaluate the base of the shear lag phenomenon, the axial stress distribution in tubular structures  
367 under lateral loads was evaluated based on the beam theory. Results indicated that it was directly  
368 related to the slope of the tangent lines on the deformation curve (first derivation of deflection).  
369 Zero slopes of the deformation curve led to minimum shear lag effect, and by changing the slope  
370 direction, the positive or negative shear lag occurred.

371 In tall tube-type buildings, combining two modes of shear and bending deformations results in  
372 changing the direction of the slope and the curvature of building deflection and affects the shear  
373 lag effect. In this study, the two components of lateral deformation of building models were  
374 compared with the planer deformation of a cantilevered vertical beam.

375 To evaluate the shear lag effect in building models, the shear lag ratio was defined as the ratio of  
376 the resultant axial stress at corner element ( $\sigma_c$ ) to the resultant axial stress at the middle element  
377 ( $\sigma_m$ ) of the same story level. Therefore, the shear lag ratio is less than one in negative shear lag,  
378 while that is more than one in positive shear lag. It was calculated at different story levels along  
379 with the height of the building.

380 Comparing the numerical results of the shear lag ratio with the beam theory achievements  
381 indicated that changing slope direction of lateral deformation of models caused two cases of  
382 positive and negative ones so as, at the point with zero slopes of deformation curve, the shear lag  
383 ratio was about 1. Before and after this point, by changing the direction of slope, the positive or  
384 negative occurred.

385 Analysis results illustrated that the configuration of the tube-type structural system affected the  
386 shear and bending deformation portions and, consequently, the shear lag effect. The results of  
387 shear mode deflection state that in framed tube structures, the major portion of building  
388 deformation is shear deflection, and in diagrid structures bending deflection governs the lateral  
389 deflection, while in hexagrid structures, both deformation modes contribute to the lateral  
390 displacement.

391 Results indicated when two portions of shear and bending deformation for lateral displacement  
392 were balanced; the shear lag effect for tube-type buildings was minimum. Results showed that  
393 using a truss system such as hexagrid and diagrid structures significantly reduced the shear lag  
394 effect comparison to the corresponding framed tube system with flexible spandrels.

395 From the least to greatest, the shear lag effect occurred in hexagrid, diagrid, and frame tubes,  
396 respectively.

397 In this paper, the buildings were designed under the wind load because, in tall buildings, the wind  
398 load is more critical than the earthquake. However, the results are extendable for different tubular  
399 structural systems with different lateral deformations, resulting from various lateral loadings,  
400 building heights, and configurations, etc.

401 This study is a numerical study to discuss the shear lag effect in tubular structures. Further  
402 investigation and parametric study are needed to achieve more accurate results accounting for this  
403 effect in tube-type structures.

404

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408

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