Appendix A

This article was published in

Outinen J., Kesti J., Mäkeläinen P.

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Fire Design Model for Structural Steel S355 Based Upon Transient State Tensile Test Results

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(Received 23 January 1996; revised version received 3 January 1997; accepted 27 January 1997)

ABSTRACT

Experimental research has been carried out during the years 1994–1995 in the Laboratory of Steel Structures at Helsinki University of Technology for investigating mechanical properties of structural steel S355 at elevated temperatures by using the transient state tensile test method. The test results are used here as a basis for modelling the stress–strain relationship of the structural steel S355 at temperatures 20–700°C. Test results are modelled by using the calculation method given in Eurocode 3: Part 1.2 and the material model developed by W. Ramberg and W. R. Osgood. © 1997 Elsevier Science Ltd.

NOTATION

\( E_{\text{a,0}} \) \quad The modulus of elasticity of steel at elevated temperatures
\( T_u \) \quad The steel temperature
\( f_{\text{p,0}} \) \quad The proportional limit at elevated temperatures
\( f_{\text{y,0}} \) \quad The yield strength at elevated temperatures
\( \epsilon_i \) \quad Total strain at temperature \( T_i \)
\( \sigma_i \) \quad Stress at temperature \( T_i \)
\( n_o \) \quad A temperature-dependent factor

1 INTRODUCTION

In the transient state tests the specimen is under constant load, while the temperature rises. The aim of this method is to study the behaviour of the
material in fire temperatures with a small specimen. In a real fire situation a
structure is normally under a constant load and the temperature begins to rise.
That is why this method gives us a more realistic picture of the behaviour of
the studied material than the most commonly used steady state test method.
In the steady state tests the specimen is heated to a constant temperature, after
which a tensile test is carried out.

The test results of structural steel S355 were used as a basis for the simple
models described in this report. The tests were carried out with two equal
tests at each load level of 3, 20, 50, 80, 110, 140, 170, 200, 230, 260, 290,
320 and 350 N/mm². Thermal elongation was determined with five tests. Heating
rate in the transient state tests was 10°C/min.

2 TESTING FACILITIES

2.1 Test specimens

The test specimen having a so-called proportional circular cross-section was
in accordance with the standard EN 10 002-5 [1]. The test specimen is shown
in Fig. 1.

2.2 Testing device

The tensile testing machine used in these research projects was verified in
accordance with the standard EN 10 002-2 [2]. The extensometer is in accord-
ance with the standard EN 10 002-4 [3]. Gauge length of the extensometer
used in the research of hot-rolled structural steels was 25 mm. The oven in
which the test specimen was situated during the tests was heated by using
three separately controlled resistor elements. The air temperature in the oven
was measured with three separate temperature-detecting elements. The steel
temperature was measured accurately from the test specimen using a tempera-

![Fig. 1. Test specimen.](image-url)
ture-detecting element that was fastened to the specimen during the heating. The testing device is shown in Fig. 2.

3 STRESS–STRAIN RELATIONSHIP USING EC3: PART 1.2

3.1 Mechanical properties of steel S355 at elevated temperatures

Simple formulas for calculating the mechanical properties of steel S355 at elevated temperatures, based on transient state test results, are given in eqns (1)–(7). These equations were used instead of the reduction factors given in EC3: Part 1.2 [4].

Modulus of elasticity \( E_{u,0} \):

\[
E_{u,0} = 206,000 - 44.44(T_u - 20), \text{ for } 20^\circ C \leq T_u \leq 200^\circ C
\]  

\[
E_{u,0} = 263,000 - 325T_u, \text{ for } 200^\circ C < T_u \leq 700^\circ C.
\]  

(1) (2)

Proportional limit \( f_{\gamma,0} \):

\[
f_{\gamma,0} = 350 \text{ N/mm}^2, \text{ for } 20^\circ C \leq T_u \leq 200^\circ C
\]  

(3)

![Fig. 2. The transient state tensile testing device.](image-url)
\[ f_{y,0} = 350 - 1 \cdot (T_a - 200), \text{ for } 200^\circ C < T_a \leq 400^\circ C \] (4)

\[ f_{y,0} = 150 - 1/3 \cdot (T_a - 400), \text{ for } 400^\circ C < T_a \leq 700^\circ C. \] (5)

Yield strength \( f_y \):

\[ f_y = f_{y,0} \cdot \frac{T_a}{200}, \text{ for } 20^\circ C \leq T_a \leq 420^\circ C \] (6)

\[ f_y = 1.127 \times 10^{-5} \cdot T_a^3 - 0.01942 \cdot T_a^2 + 10 \cdot T_a - 1254.3, \text{ for } 420^\circ C \leq T_a \leq 700^\circ C. \] (7)

Reduction factors for the mechanical properties of steel S355 calculated with eqns (1)–(7) are compared with the test results in Fig. 3.

3.2 Stress–strain relationship

The stress–strain relationship for steel S355 at elevated temperatures was modelled by applying the calculation method given in EC3 [4] to the reduction factors based upon the transient state tests given in eqns (1)–(7). The calcu-

Fig. 3. Reduction factors for elasticity modulus, proportional limit and yield strength of structural steel S355 compared with the test results.
Fig. 4. Stress–strain curves of steel S355 modelled by using the calculation method given in EC 3 compared with the test results at temperatures 300 and 400°C.

Fig. 5. Stress–strain curves of steel S355 modelled by using the calculation method given in EC 3 compared with the test results at temperatures 500, 600 and 700°C.
4 MODELLLED STRESS–STRAIN RELATIONSHIP COMPARED WITH EC3

A comparison between the calculated stress–strain curves using eqns (1)–(7) and the stress–strain curves of the original EC3 at temperatures 300–700°C is illustrated in Fig. 6.

It can be seen that the stress–strain curves for structural steel determined with the method based on transient state tensile tests are mostly above the EC3 curves and therefore the calculations with the model given in EC3 are safe for structural steel S355.

5 CALCULATION METHOD OF W. RAMBERG AND W. R. OSGOOD

5.1 Ramberg–Osgood model

The stress–strain relationship of steel S355 at elevated temperatures based upon transient state tensile test results was also modelled by using the calculation method developed by W. Ramberg and W. R. Osgood [5]. The equation for calculating the stress–strain values of steel at elevated temperatures with this method is usually given as in eqn (8). The value of $\beta$ is $3/7$.

![Fig. 6. Comparison between the calculated stress–strain curves and those given in EC3.](image_url)
\[
\varepsilon_i = \frac{\sigma_i}{E_{a,0}} + \beta \left( \frac{f_{y,0}}{E_{a,0}} \right) \left( \frac{\sigma_i}{f_{y,0}} \right)^n
\]  

(8)

### 5.2 Stress–strain relationship for structural steel S355

Simple formulas for calculating the parameters of the Ramberg–Osgood model were determined from the test results. The values of elasticity modulus \( E_{a,0} \) are calculated with eqns (1) and (2). The values of yield strength \( f_{y,0} \) are calculated with eqns (9) and (10). In this model the yield strength is based on non-proportional strain 0.2%. Values of parameter \( n_0 \) at temperatures 20–300°C are given in Table 1. Intermediate values can be calculated by using linear interpolation. The values for parameter \( n_0 \) at temperatures 300–700°C are calculated by using eqn (11). In this model the value of \( \beta \) in eqn (8) is 6.7.

\[
f_{y,0} = f_y - 0.016667(T_a - 20), \text{ for } 20^\circ C \leq T_a \leq 200^\circ C
\]  

(9)

\[
f_{y,0} = 352 - 0.54(T - 200), \text{ for } 200^\circ C < T \leq 700^\circ C
\]  

(10)

\[
n_0 = 0.000231 \cdot T^3 - 0.231 \cdot T + 62.5, \text{ for } 300^\circ C \leq T \leq 700^\circ C.
\]  

(11)

Modelled stress–strain curves of steel S355 at temperatures 300–700°C are compared with the test results in Fig. 7.

### 6 CONCLUSIONS

Stress–strain curves determined for structural steel S355 based upon the transient state tensile test results are mostly above the stress–strain curves given in EC3: Part 1.2 [4]. The modified Ramberg–Osgood model is also applicable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Temperature ( T ) (°C)</th>
<th>Parameter ( n(T) )</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>250</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>
for use in fire design. The original Ramberg–Osgood model [6] modified by Olawale–Plank [5] is applicable for steel S355 only up to non-proportional strain 0.2%. With bigger strain values, the stress–strain curves rise above the test results.

The main purpose of this research was to study the behaviour of structural steel S355 [7] under fire conditions and to develop simple formulas for calculating the mechanical material properties of the studied material. In the Laboratory of Steel Structures at Helsinki University of Technology there has also been experimental research on structural steels S235 and S420M and on structural sheet steels S320GD + Z and S350GD + Z [8] using the transient state tensile test method. Similar research has also been carried out for one aluminium alloy and for one austenitic stainless steel. The test results of different steel grades vary so considerably from each other that more experimental research is clearly needed to obtain detailed information about mechanical properties at elevated temperatures for all the steel grades used in steel structures.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to acknowledge the support of the company Rautaruukki Oy and Technology Development Centre (TEKES) in making this research project possible. The authors are especially grateful to Mr Jouko Kanerva M.Sc. (Eng) and Mr Erkki Huhdankoski M.Sc. (Eng) from the company Rautaruukki Oy for their efforts in promoting this research programme.

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