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Experimental Study on the Axial Compression Performance of Bamboo Scrimber Columns Embedded with Steel Reinforcing Bars

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, a new type of bamboo scrimber column embedded with steel bars (rebars) was proposed, and the compression performance was improved by pre-embedding rebars during the preparation of the columns. The effects of the slenderness ratio and the reinforcement ratio on the axial compression performance of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns were studied by axial compression tests on 28 specimens. The results showed that the increase in the slenderness ratio had a significant negative effect on the axial compression performance of the columns. When the slenderness ratio increased from 19.63 to 51.96, the failure mode changed from strength failure to buckling failure, and the maximum bearing capacity decreased by 43.03%. The axial compression performance of the reinforced bamboo scrimber columns did not significantly improve at a slenderness ratio of 19.63, but the opposite was true at slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96. When the reinforcement ratio increased from 0% to 4.52%, the bearing capacity of those with a slenderness ratio of 51.96 increased by up to 16.99%, and the stiffness and ductility were also improved. Finally, based on existing specifications, two modification parameters, the overall elastic modulus E_c and the combined strength f_{cc} , were introduced to establish a calculation method for the bearing capacity of the reinforced bamboo scrimber columns. The calculation results were compared with the test results, and the results showed that the proposed calculation models can more accurately predict the bearing capacity.

KEYWORDS

Bamboo scrimber column; steel bar; axial compression performance; theoretical model

Nomenclature

A_b	Effective area of bamboo scrimber column
A_s	Cross-section area of steel rebar
a_c	One of the material correlation coefficients in GB 50005-2017
b_c	One of the material correlation coefficients in GB 50005-2017
c_c	One of the material correlation coefficients in GB 50005-2017
c	Nonlinear constant



COV_E	Variation coefficient of elastic modulus
E_b	Parallel-to-grain compression elastic modulus of bamboo scrimber
E_{bt}	Parallel-to-grain compression tangent modulus of bamboo scrimber
E_c	Whole elastic modulus of bamboo scrimber column
E_{ct}	Whole Tangent modulus of bamboo scrimber column
E_{cr}	Whole Double modulus of bamboo scrimber column
$E_{c,0.05}$	Fifth percentile value of the modulus of elasticity parallel to the grain
E_{min}	Reference and adjusted modulus of elasticity for beam stability and column stability calculations
E_s	Tension elastic modulus of steel bar
E_{st}	Tension tangent elastic modulus of steel bar
f_c	Yield compressive strength parallel to grain of bamboo scrimber
f_{cc}	Combined strength of bamboo scrimber column
f_y	Yield strength of steel rebar
L	Effective length of bamboo scrimber column
N_{cr}	Critical buckling load
N_u	Ultimate axial compressive bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber column
B	Correlation coefficient of material shear deformation
β_c	A factor for members within the straightness limits
φ	Axial compression stability coefficient in GB 50005-2017
C_p	Axial compression stability coefficient in ANSI/AWC NDS-2018
k_c	Axial compression stability coefficient in Eurocode 5
λ	Slenderness ratio
λ_y	Critical slenderness ratio

1 Introduction

In the era of advocating a low-carbon economy, it is increasingly difficult for traditional building materials to meet the needs of people for sustainable development due to the large consumption of energy and excessive carbon emissions. As one of the earliest building materials, bamboo has gradually attracted the attention of people because of its abundant resource, green nature, and strong ability of carbon sequestration [1–4]. However, natural bamboo has an irregular shape, unstable mechanical properties, and poor durability and cannot be widely used in modern building structures [5,6]. Therefore, a series of engineered bamboo materials with good mechanical properties have been developed by natural bamboo [7,8].

Bamboo scrimber is a new type of high-strength engineered bamboo material made from a series of processing techniques [9]. During the production process, due to the compression on the bamboo fibres and the bonding of the adhesive, the internal microstructure of the bamboo becomes denser, which results in a significant improvement in the mechanical and physical properties, with the compressive strength parallel to grain being approximately 1.68, 3.07 and 2.38 times of that of glued-laminated (glulam) bamboo, spruce-pine-fir (SPF) glulam timber and China-fir, respectively [10–13].

To explore the possibility of applying bamboo scrimber to structural columns, Li et al. [14–17] studied the axial compression properties of bamboo scrimber under different fibre orientations. When the direction of the force was rotated from parallel to grain to perpendicular to grain, the failure mode changed from wrinkle failure to shear failure and then to punching failure. Subsequently, the constitutive relationship was established, simplified, and optimized, the relationships among various mechanical parameters were obtained, and the compressive strength parallel to grain is significantly higher than that in other directions, which makes it possible for bamboo scrimber to be used in structural columns. Studies have

shown that the height of specimens can affect the mechanical properties of bamboo scrimber, but Li et al. [18] believed that the energy absorption capacity of the bamboo scrimber under impact load has nothing to do with the height of specimens, and the energy absorption capacity and deformation capacity of the higher specimens are independent of fibre orientation. In addition, the temperature is also an important factor affecting the mechanical properties of bamboo scrimber [19,20]. With increasing temperature, the compressive modulus and strength parallel and perpendicular to the grain decrease [19]. Therefore, Xu et al. [20] obtained the reduction coefficient of the elastic modulus and the strength concerning temperature through regression analysis, compared it with the model in the Eurocode 5, and believed that the prediction model has good accuracy and safety and can be applied in the structural design.

As the excellent mechanical properties and above benefits, bamboo scrimber is applied to structural members such as columns, and has great potential, but more attention must be paid to the prediction of bearing capacity. Most predictions are based on elastic buckling theory, i.e., the Euler formula. However, for the columns whose buckling occurs after the proportional limit, Euler's formula no longer applies [21]. To ensure the applicable scope of elastic buckling theory, Tan et al. [22] introduced the critical slenderness ratio λ_y and considered that the Euler formula is more suitable for predicting the bearing capacity of columns with slenderness ratios greater than λ_y ; for those with slenderness ratios less than λ_y , the inelastic Newlin-Gahagan approach can give more reasonable predictions. In addition, building codes for wood design & construction also provide calculation methods for the bearing capacity of wooden columns, but since the mechanical properties between bamboo and wood are different and bamboo is a non-uniform and anisotropic material, it is necessary to modify the calculation methods provided by the codes [23–25]. Therefore, Zhang et al. [23–25] revised the calculation formulas for the bearing capacity of wooden columns provided by Code for the Design of Timber Structures (GB 50005-2003) and National Design Specification for Wood Construction (ANSI/AWC NDS-2018), and the predicted results are closer to the real values.

In addition, due to the natural defects of bamboo and technological limitations, the elastic modulus of bamboo scrimber is low, the deformation is large during loading, and finally, brittle failures such as end splitting and fiber tearing occurs, which means that the compressive strength parallel-to-grain of bamboo scrimber cannot be fully used. Therefore, to improve the safety of bamboo structural columns, some researchers have studied various types of reinforced columns. Li et al. [26] found that the external lamination of white iron or fibre cloth can better share the lateral force generated by the axial compression on the columns, the strength and the stiffness of bamboo columns increased significantly as the spacing was reduced, and the axial compression strength of bamboo columns reinforced with glass fibre was increased by 11.9% (the highest). Wang et al. [25] found that aramid fibre-reinforced polymer (AFRP) can improve the axial compressive strength and stiffness of bamboo columns. Yang et al. [27] strengthened a rectangular wooden column by the glass fibre reinforced polymer (GFRP) lattice webs and face sheets, explained the influence of the constraint action of FRP and the change in the stiffness of core materials on the compression performance of columns, and proposed a model for calculating the enhanced load bearing capacity based on the Tsai-Wu strength criterion. Most studies on the reinforced columns considered the use of external reinforcement by attachment. Compared with external reinforcement by attachment, built-in reinforcement has the advantages of high integrity and a relatively high material utilization rate, and buildings are more aesthetically pleasing. However, there have been relatively few studies on the built-in enhancement of bamboo scrimber columns.

This paper proposed one type of novel reinforced bamboo scrimber column embedded with steel reinforcing bars (steel rebars). The axial compression performance of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns was comprehensively evaluated by comparing and analyzing the failure mode, the ultimate bearing capacity, the axial deformation, the strain, and the lateral deflection of 28 specimens with different slenderness ratios and reinforcement ratios. Finally, based on the classical models, a calculation

formula for the bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns embedded with steel rebars was proposed and compared with the classical models and the related specifications, to determine the applicability of proposed calculation methods under different slenderness ratios and reinforcement ratios.

2 Materials and Test Methods

2.1 Materials and Specimens

2.1.1 Mechanical Properties

The bamboo scrimber in this test was made from the middle-lower part of Moso bamboo that had grown for 3–4 years. According to *Standard for Test Methods of Timber Structures* (GB/T 50329-2012), *Standard Test Methods for Small Clear Specimens of Timber* (ASTM D143-2014), and *Metallic Materials-Tensile Testing-Part 1: Method of Test at Room Temperature* (GBT228.1-2010), the mechanical properties of bamboo scrimber and steel rebars in this test were determined. The specific values are shown in [Table 1](#). According to the tests, the average density of bamboo scrimber was 1211.8 kg/m^3 , and the moisture content was 12.3%. The tension and compression parallel to grain stress-strain relationship curves of bamboo scrimber are shown in [Figs. 1](#) and [2](#). In the figures, the black line represents the test curve, and the red line represents the average curve.

Table 1: Mechanical properties

Material	Direction of loading	Strength		Modulus of elasticity	
		Mean (MPa)	Coefficient of variation (%)	Mean (MPa)	Coefficient of variation (%)
Bamboo scrimber	Compression parallel to grain	129.25	4.50	12322.12	16.96
	Tension parallel to grain	108.45	15.78	13518.28	15.74
Steel rebar	Tension	557.14	–	2.01×10^5	–

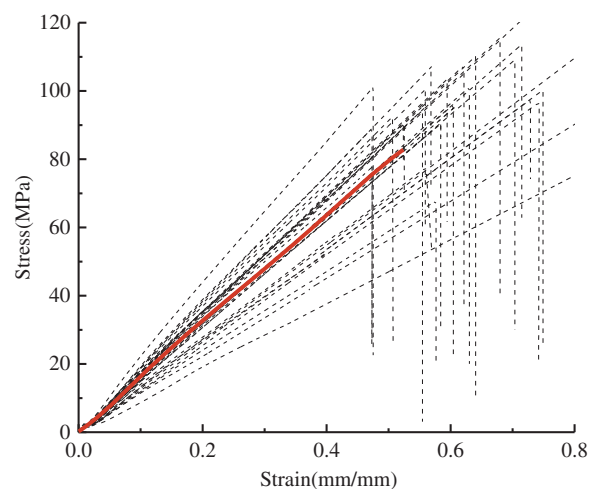


Figure 1: The tension parallel to grain stress-strain relationship curves of bamboo scrimber

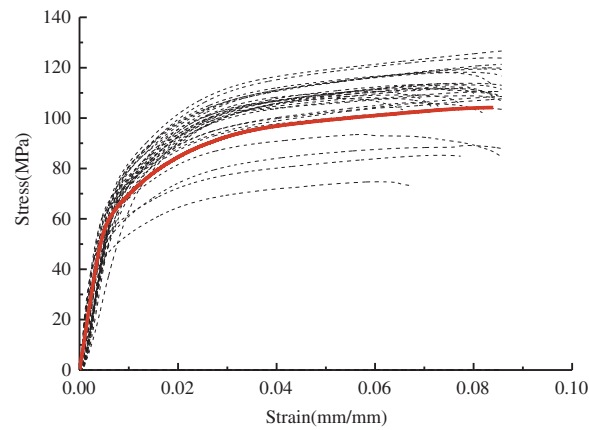


Figure 2: The compression parallel to grain stress-strain relationship curves of bamboo scrimber

2.1.2 Specimen Preparation Process

The reinforced bamboo scrimber column in this test was formed by integral hot-pressing. The natural bamboo from the middle-lower part was planed into slices and rolled into fibrous forms. After a series of processes including carbonization, drying, dipping, secondary drying, curing, hot pressing, cutting, and gluing, a reinforced bamboo scrimber column was formed. The specific steps are shown in Fig. 3.

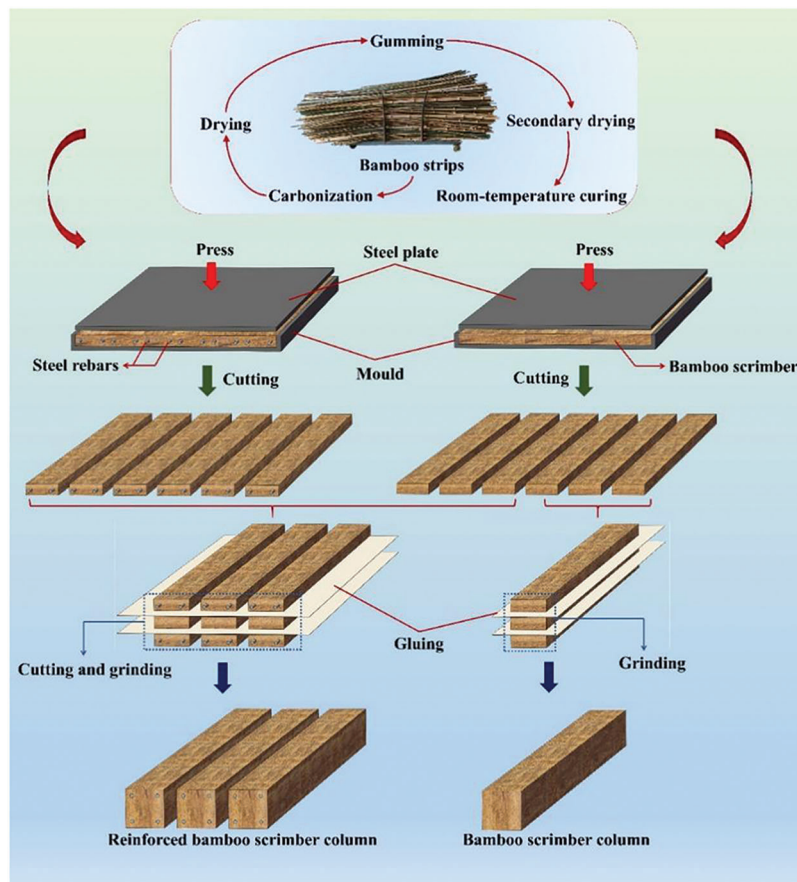


Figure 3: Preparation process

2.1.3 Specimen Design

To investigate the effect of slenderness ratios and reinforcement ratios on the axial compressive performance of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns, 28 specimens were divided into 10 working groups. Table 2 and Fig. 4 show the specifics of these specimens. The name rule is the following, the first character stands for the member type, the first number means the height of the specimen, the second number is reinforcement diameter, and the last one is the number of specimens in the group.

Table 2: Specimen parameters

Group	Number of specimens	Sectional area (mm × mm)	Length (mm)	Slenderness ratio	Diameter of steel rebar (mm)	Reinforcement ratio (%)
C-850-0	3	150 × 150	850	19.63	–	–
C-850-10	3	150 × 150	850		10	1.40
C-850-14	3	150 × 150	850		14	2.74
C-850-18	3	150 × 150	850		18	4.52
C-1600-0	3	150 × 150	1600	36.95	–	–
C-1600-14 ^a	2	150 × 150	1600		14	2.74
C-2250-0	3	150 × 150	2250	51.96	–	–
C-2250-10 ^a	2	150 × 150	2250		10	1.40
C-2250-14	3	150 × 150	2250		14	2.74
C-2250-18	3	150 × 150	2250		18	4.52

Note: ^a Because of the abnormal test results, only two sets of data were used in the subsequent analysis and discussion.

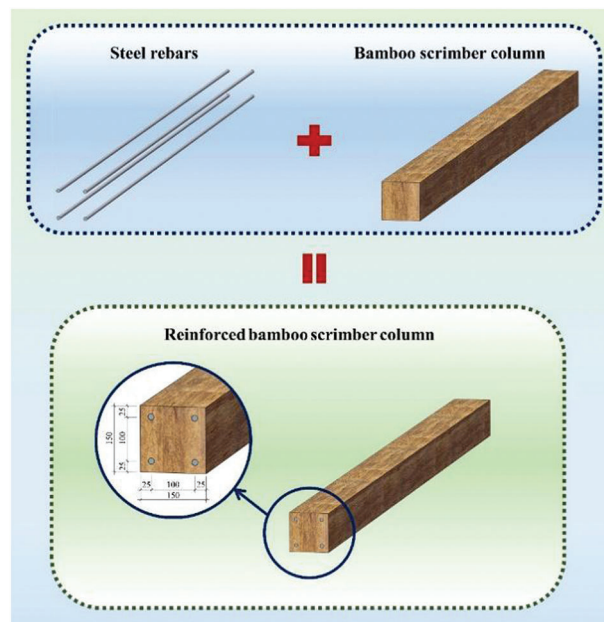


Figure 4: Specimen diagram

2.2 Loading Test

3000t Electro-Hydraulic Servo Press was used in this test, as shown in Fig. 5. The arrangement of instruments is shown in Fig. 6. The distance between LDVTs is 120, 225 and 320 mm respectively with increasing slenderness ratios of columns, and at the slenderness ratio of 51.96, there were 7 LDVTs used during the test which are not shown in Fig. 6. The loading process was contained two stages, the former stage was preload process including 5 cyclic loading to ensure the workability of measurements and keep the right loading position, and the last one was to measure the bearing capacities of columns, whose ratio was 0.5 mm/s.



Figure 5: 3000t Electro-Hydraulic Servo Press

3 Results and Analysis

3.1 Failure Mode

Based on the experiment phenomena, the main failure phenomena can be divided into three categories: cracking failure of adhesive layers, fibre tearing failure, and buckling failure, and these three failure phenomena appeared either alone or in combination. It should be noted that, affected by the processing technology, a 150 mm thick specimen was formed by secondary gluing of three 50 mm thick bamboo scrimber boards. Compared with bamboo scrimber, the secondary gluing strength is relatively low, so the cracking failure of adhesive layers during the loading process occurred.

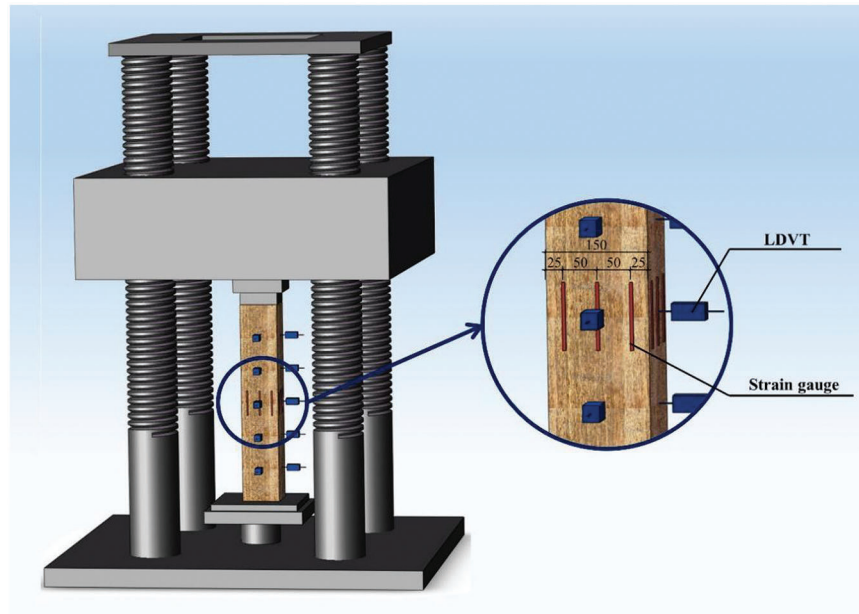


Figure 6: Diagram of the arrangement of instruments

3.1.1 Nonreinforced Bamboo Scrimber Column

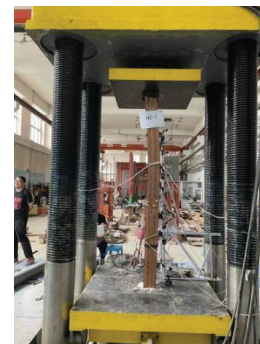
For the nonreinforced bamboo scrimber columns, the failure modes mainly included cracking failure of adhesive layers and buckling failure, and the specific phenomena are shown in Fig. 7a,b. The cracking failure of the adhesive layer belongs to strength failure, which mainly occurred at a slenderness ratio of 19.63. Taking specimen C-850-0-1 as an example. There were no significant experimental phenomena in the early stage of loading. When the load reached 80% of the ultimate load, cracks at the secondary bonding area at the top of the column began to form and quickly extended horizontally and longitudinally until the specimen was completely separated and damaged. It is worth noting that there was no apparent deformation or tearing of specimens during the failure process.



(a) C-850-0-1: Only cracking failure of adhesive layers



(b) C-1600-0-1: Both cracking failure of adhesive layers and buckling failure



(c) C-2250-0-1: Both cracking failure of adhesive layers and buckling failure

Figure 7: Failure modes of nonreinforced bamboo scrimber columns



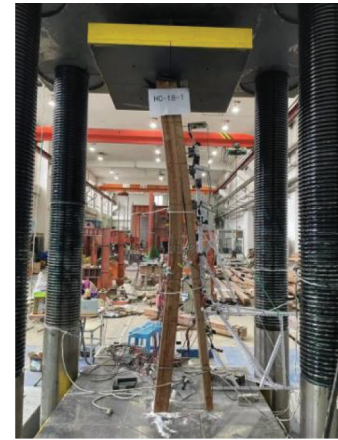
(a) C-850-14-1: Both cracking failure of adhesive layers and fibre tearing failure



(b) C-1600-14-1: Both cracking failure of adhesive layers and buckling failure



(c) C-2250-10-1: Buckling failure



(d) C-2250-18-1: Both cracking failure of adhesive layers and buckling failure

Figure 8: Failure modes of reinforcement bamboo scrimber columns

The bamboo scrimber columns mainly suffered buckling failure and had similar test phenomena during the loading process at slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, as shown in Fig. 7c. Taking specimen C-1600-0-1 as an example. In the early stage of the loading, there were no significant experimental phenomena. As the load increased, the specimen experienced apparent lateral deflection, and the lateral deformation rate of the column accelerated. When approaching the ultimate load, cracks developed at the bonding area at the top of the column and quickly extended until the column was broken. According to the experimental phenomena, the top of the column showed partial cracking of adhesive layers, and the cracks between adhesive layers occurred on the surface but did not run through the specimen. The whole column showed a “C” shape. The bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 51.96 showed more apparent lateral deformation during the failure process than those with a slenderness ratio of 36.96.

3.1.2 Reinforced Bamboo Scrimber Column

For the reinforced bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63, compression strength parallel to grain was still the main cause of failure, and the specific phenomena were cracking of adhesive layers and tearing of fibres, as shown in Fig. 8a. Compared with the nonreinforced group, the main reason for the new fibre tearing phenomenon in the reinforced group is that the steel rebars tend to be

unstable and deformed during the loading process, and under this case, the interaction between the reinforcement and the bamboo scrimber generates inter-fibre tensile stresses, since the bond stress between the rebar surface and the bamboo scrimber is relatively low. When the above-mentioned tensile stresses exceed the maximum bond stress, the bamboo scrimber surface tears. The final failure phenomena showed that tear cracks extended along the direction of rebars and ran through the column, while the cracks between adhesive layers did not penetrate the whole specimen. With increasing reinforcement ratio, the fibre tears were more apparent.

For the reinforced bamboo scrimber columns with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, the steel rebars effectively reduced the lateral deformation and delayed the cracking of adhesive layers. Some specimens with a slenderness ratio of 51.96 did not even have the cracking of adhesive layers. The final phenomena were slight local cracking of adhesive layers at the top of the column and the “C” shape of the column body. When C-2250-18-1 was damaged, the cracks between adhesive layers instantly developed to the middle of the specimen, which is due to the insufficient bond strength between bamboo scrimber boards. The specific phenomena are shown in Fig. 8b–d. The failure modes and ultimate loads of all specimens are shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Ultimate load and initial stiffness of each group of working conditions

Code	Slenderness ratio	Failure mode	Ultimate load (kN)			Initial stiffness ($\times 10^4$ kN)		
			Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)	Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)
C-850-0-1	19.63	Adhesive layer cracking	1964.67	1958.55	–	17.18	17.07	–
C-850-0-2		Adhesive layer cracking	2021.62			17.91		
C-850-0-3		Adhesive layer cracking	1889.35			16.11		
C-850-10-1		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2045.50	2034.76	3.89	22.42	22.32	30.76
C-850-10-2		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	1905.47			23.53		
C-850-10-3		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2153.33			21.00		
C-850-14-1		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2022.89	2048.77	4.43	15.13	15.52	–9.08
C-850-14-2		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2068.21			16.11		

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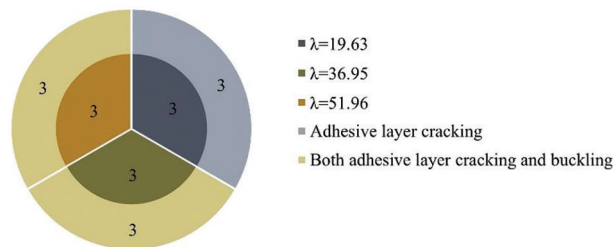
Table 3 (continued)								
Code	Slenderness ratio	Failure mode	Ultimate load (kN)			Initial stiffness ($\times 10^4$ kN)		
			Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)	Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)
C-850-14-3		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2055.22			15.32		
C-850-18-1		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2136.24	2205.27	12.04	17.12	16.69	-2.23
C-850-18-2		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2184.22			16.59		
C-850-18-3		Adhesive layer cracking and fibre tearing	2295.34			16.37		
C-1600-0-1	36.95	Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1680.94	1666.88	-	16.11	16.73	-
C-1600-0-2		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1694.07			17.34		
C-1600-0-3		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1625.64			16.75		
C-1600-14-1		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1784.75	1842.18	10.52	19.82	19.95	19.25
C-1600-14-2		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1899.60			20.07		
C-2250-0-1	51.96	Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1258.39	1267.16	-	15.41	15.76	-
C-2250-0-2		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1296.06			16.54		
C-2250-0-3		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1247.04			15.32		
C-2250-10-1		Buckling	1270.16	1333.51	5.24	18.65	18.30	16.12
C-2250-10-2		Buckling	1396.85			17.94		
C-2250-14-1		Buckling	1506.04	1448.22	14.29	20.89	19.71	25.06
C-2250-14-2		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1204.51			18.74		
C-2250-14-3		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1634.09			19.50		

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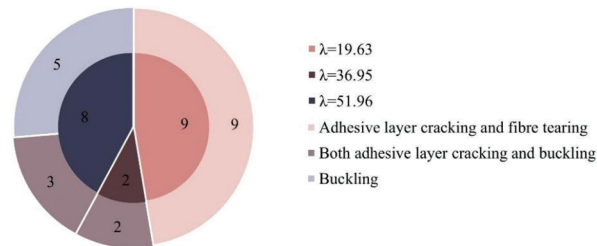
Table 3 (continued)								
Code	Slenderness ratio	Failure mode	Ultimate load (kN)			Initial stiffness ($\times 10^4$ kN)		
			Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)	Value	Mean	Growth rate (%)
C-2250-18-1		Both adhesive layer cracking and buckling	1234.93	1556.17	22.81	18.61	20.52	30.20
C-2250-18-2		Buckling	1519.95			21.94		
		C-2250-18-3						
	Buckling	1592.39	21.04					

3.1.3 Failure Mode Analysis

The distribution of failure modes is shown in Fig. 9 and “ λ ” represents the slenderness ratio. From the results, it is clear that adhesive layer cracking is the main reason resulting in the damage of nonreinforced columns. Compared with the columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63, those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 had additional buckling, and buckling was the decisive failure phenomenon for these two groups.



(a) Nonreinforced bamboo scrimber columns



(b) Reinforced bamboo scrimber columns

Figure 9: Failure mode proportion

For the reinforced bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63, a new fibre tearing phenomenon occurred. In a slenderness ratio of 51.96, only part of the specimens had cracks between adhesive layers, and according to Table 3, they were always in a reinforcement ratio of 2.74%. This is because the steel-bamboo bonding effect can effectively inhibit the cracking of adhesive layers, but with the increase in the diameter of steel rebars, the bonding area between the steel rebars and the bamboo

scrimber increases, which weakens the integrity of columns. When the reinforcement ratio increased to 4.52%, the stiffness of the columns was greatly improved, and only the buckling failure occurred. It indicated that the reinforcing effect of steel rebars was greater than the weakening effect at that time.

3.2 Bearing Capacity

3.2.1 Influence of the Reinforcement Ratio on the Bearing Capacity

The ultimate loads, the initial stiffnesses, and the average values of each group are shown in Table 3 and Fig. 10. The results show that the reinforcement has a limited effect on the ultimate bearing capacity of columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 since the fibres tear along the steel rebars before making full use of the strength of bamboo scrimber. However, the reinforcement can improve bearing capacity effectively for those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 by limiting premature buckling. When the slenderness ratio was 51.96 and the reinforcement ratio was 2.74%, increasing the reinforcement ratio had no significant effect on bearing capacity, which is caused by material discreteness.

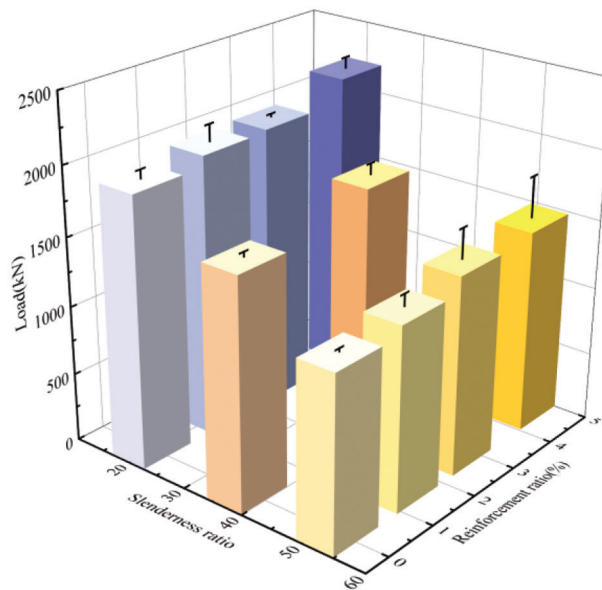


Figure 10: Average ultimate load of each group

3.2.2 Influence of the Slenderness Ratio on the Bearing Capacity

After comparison, it is clear that the bearing capacity of columns decreases as the slenderness ratio increases under the same reinforcement ratio. The difference in the bearing capacity of these three groups gradually decreases as the reinforcement ratio increases, but the overall trend has no change. It indicates that the slenderness ratio is still the determinant factor influencing the axial compressive bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns, while the steel rebars only delay failure.

3.3 Load-Axial Displacement Relationship Curve

3.3.1 Influence of the Reinforcement Ratio on the Axial Displacement

Due to the similarity of data, only one sample for each condition is analyzed. The effect of the reinforcement ratio on the axial deformation is shown in Fig. 11. The curve is divided into elastic stage, elastic-plastic stage, and failure stage. The slope of the elastic stage does not increase significantly as the reinforcement ratio increases when the slenderness ratio is 19.63, which indicates that the steel rebars

have a limited effect on the axial stiffness of columns under this working group. Combined with Table 3, it can be seen that the stiffness shows a trend of not increasing but decreasing with the increase of the reinforcement ratio. There are two reasons: on the one hand, because the columns in this working group did not buckle under axial compression conditions, the elastic modulus has been fully used, and the increase of the initial stiffness is not obvious by adding steel bars; on the other hand, due to the limitation of processing technology, the distribution of bamboo fibers around the rebar is uneven, and with the increase of the diameter of the rebar, the negative influence on the axial compression performance of the specimen increases, and it is easier to cause fiber tears along the direction of the reinforcement bar in advance during the loading process.

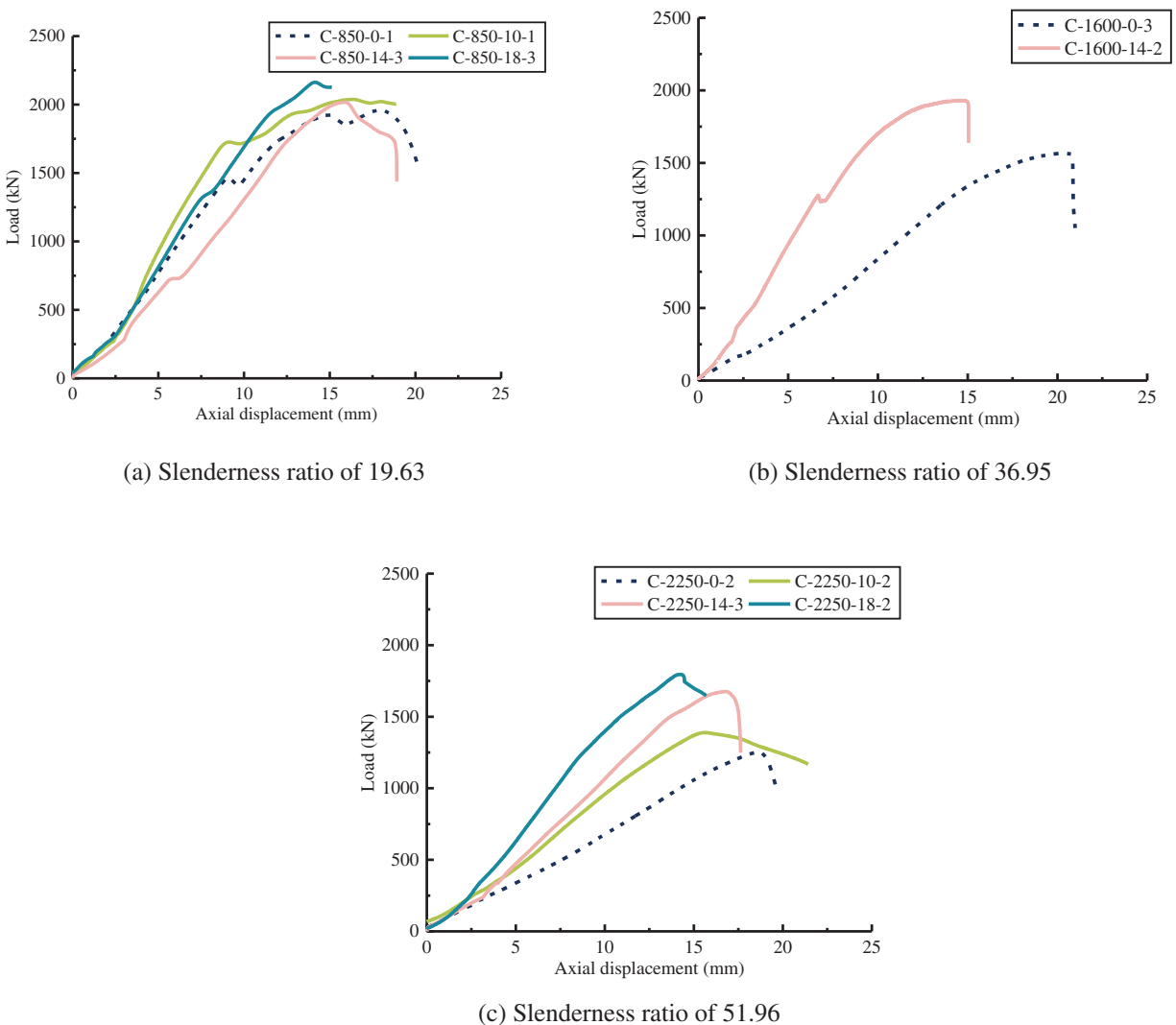


Figure 11: Load-axial displacement relationship curves under the same slenderness ratio

The slope of elastic stage in those groups with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 increases significantly with the reinforcement ratio. Combined with Table 3, it is clear that the steel rebars can constrain the buckling during the axial compression process by exerting its tensile strength.

3.3.2 Influence of the Slenderness Ratio on the Axial Displacement

The effect of the slenderness ratio on axial displacement is shown in Fig. 12. As the slenderness ratio increases, the elastic-plastic stage becomes less apparent, which is caused by the increase in the flexibility of specimens. For the nonreinforced group, the slope of curves gradually decreases as the slenderness ratio increases, which means the rate of axial displacement development accelerates. Combined with Table 3, it is clear that when the slenderness ratio increases, the initial stiffness decreases, which is caused by the change of the failure mode. For the reinforced group, the slope difference between the three curves decreases, and the slope of curves increases significantly under the slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, which means that the rebars can constrain the lateral buckling effectively, and improve the efficiency of elasticity modulus of bamboo scrimber.

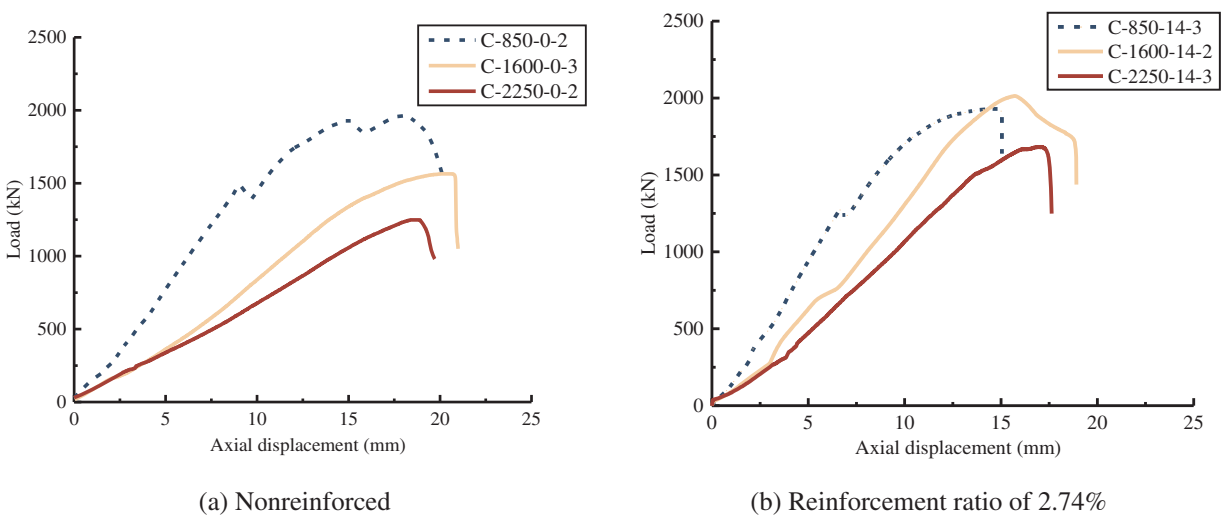


Figure 12: Load-axial displacement relationship curves under the same reinforcement ratio

3.4 Height-Lateral Displacement Relationship Curve

3.4.1 Influence of the Reinforcement Ratio on the Lateral Deflection

As the similar results, only one of each group is selected to be discussed. The effect of reinforcement ratios on the lateral deflection is shown in Fig. 13. The bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 do not experience apparent lateral deformation, and the lateral stiffness of columns is not greatly improved. The specimens with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 have lateral deformation before reaching the ultimate load, but lateral deformation is not significant, and the maximum lateral deflection point is located at the upper 1/3 of the specimen, which is mainly caused by the cracks near the top of the column. After reaching the ultimate load, the lateral deformation rate is significantly accelerated, which mainly results from buckling, so the position of maximum lateral deflection returns to the middle of the specimen when loading ends. The maximum lateral deflection of columns with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 is reduced, and the lateral stiffness is significantly improved, indicating that the steel rebars limit the lateral deformation during the axial compression process, and the effect becomes more significant as the reinforcement ratio increases.

3.4.2 Influence of the Slenderness Ratio on the Lateral Displacement

The effect of slenderness ratio on the lateral deflection is shown in Fig. 14. The specimens with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 maintain smaller lateral deformation, whereas those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 rapidly develop a large reverse “C” shape after reaching the ultimate load. The

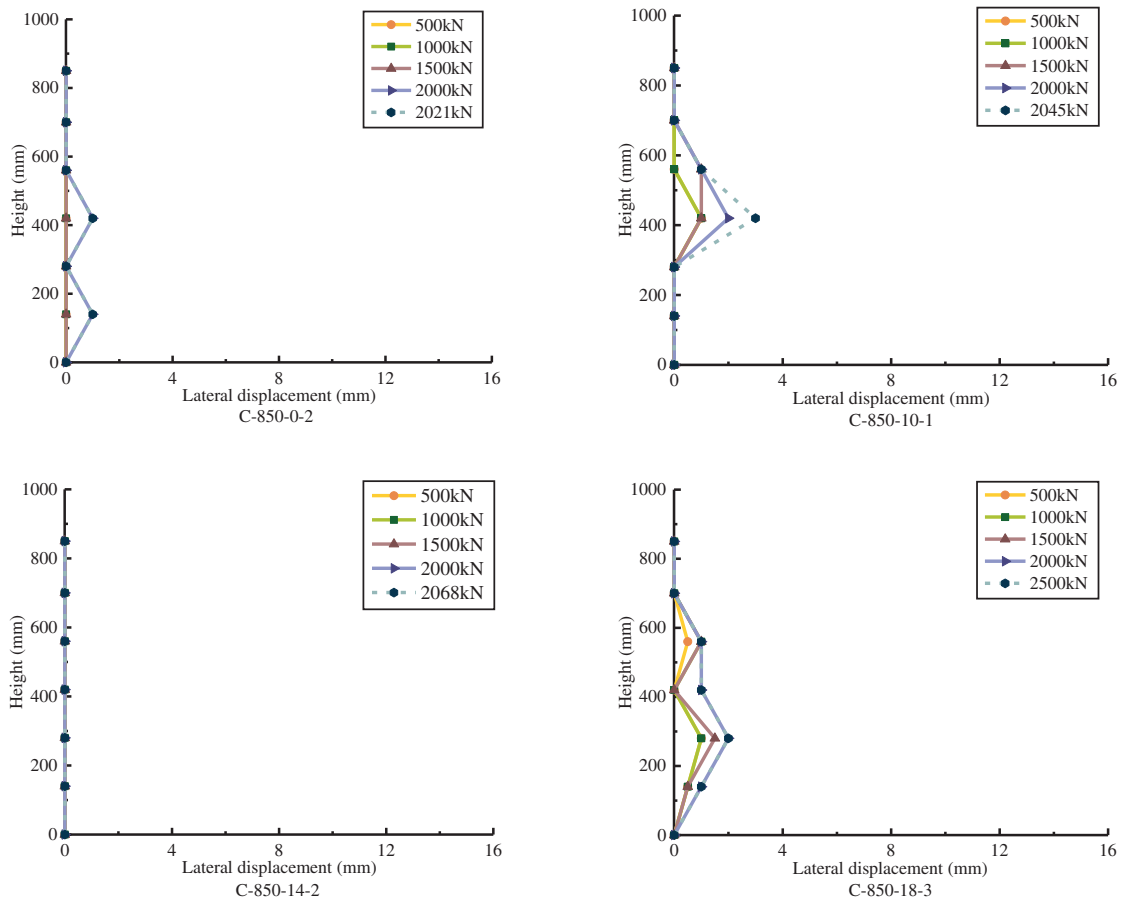
maximum lateral deflection increases as the slenderness ratio increases and lateral deformation rapidly develops until the point of failure.

3.5 Load-Axial Strain Relationship Curve

As specimens of one group show similar results, a typical one of the group is chosen to be analyzed. The left side of the horizontal axis represents the tensile zone, while the right side represents the compressive zone. A, B, C, and D represent four arrangement surfaces of strain gauges.

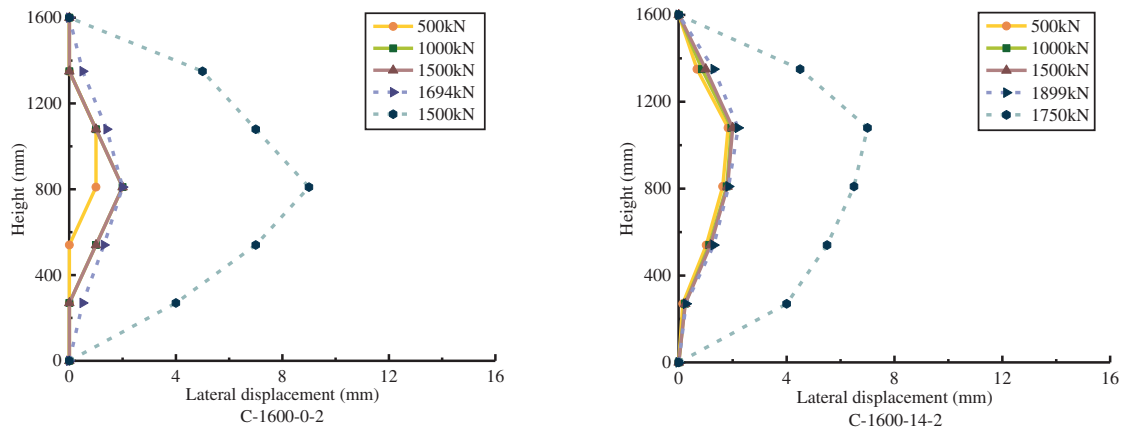
3.5.1 Influence of the Reinforcement Ratio on the Axial Strain

Fig. 15 shows the effect of reinforcement ratio on the axial strain under the same slenderness ratio. When the slenderness ratio is 19.63, the curve has the elastic stage, the elastic-plastic stage, and the failure stage. The failure stage curve presents a platform, that is, the load remains stable at a certain level at this stage, and the axial strain changes sharply until the specimen fails. When the slenderness ratios are 36.95 and 51.96, the curves of specimens quickly enter the failure stage after the elastic stage, there is no apparent elastic-plastic stage in the curve, and only the brittle failure occurs.

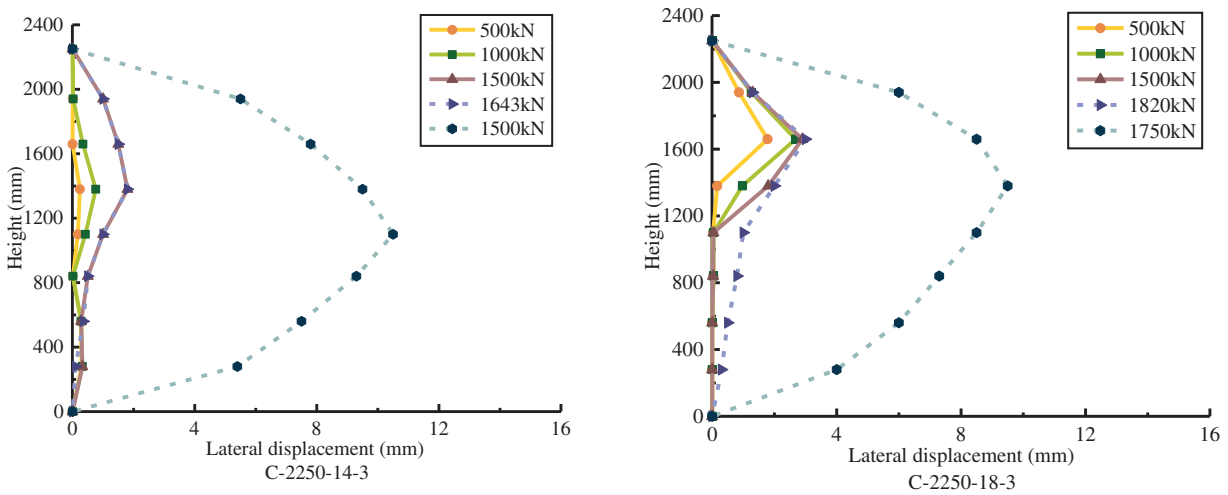
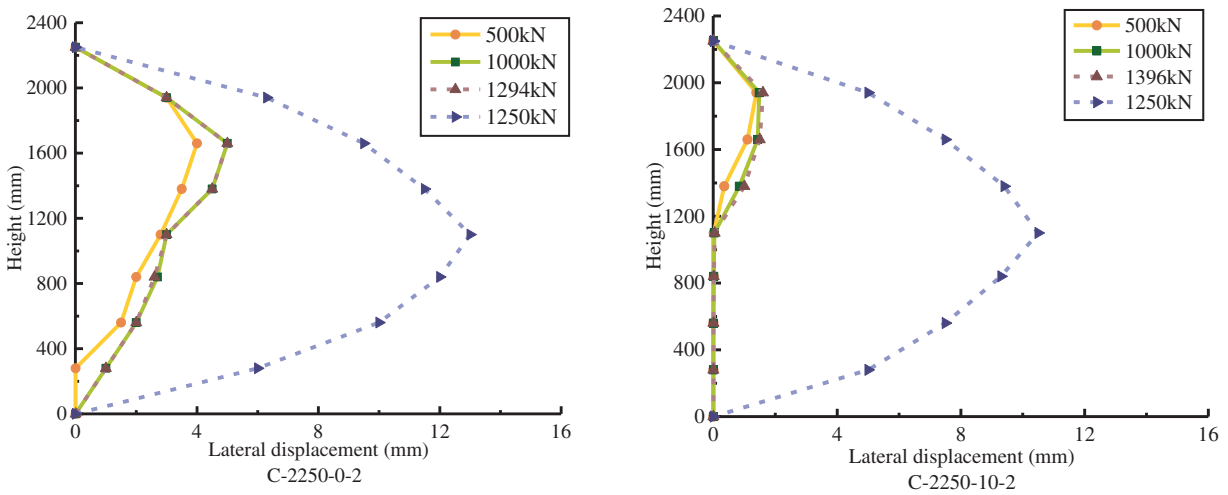


(a) Slenderness ratio of 19.63

Figure 13: (Continued)

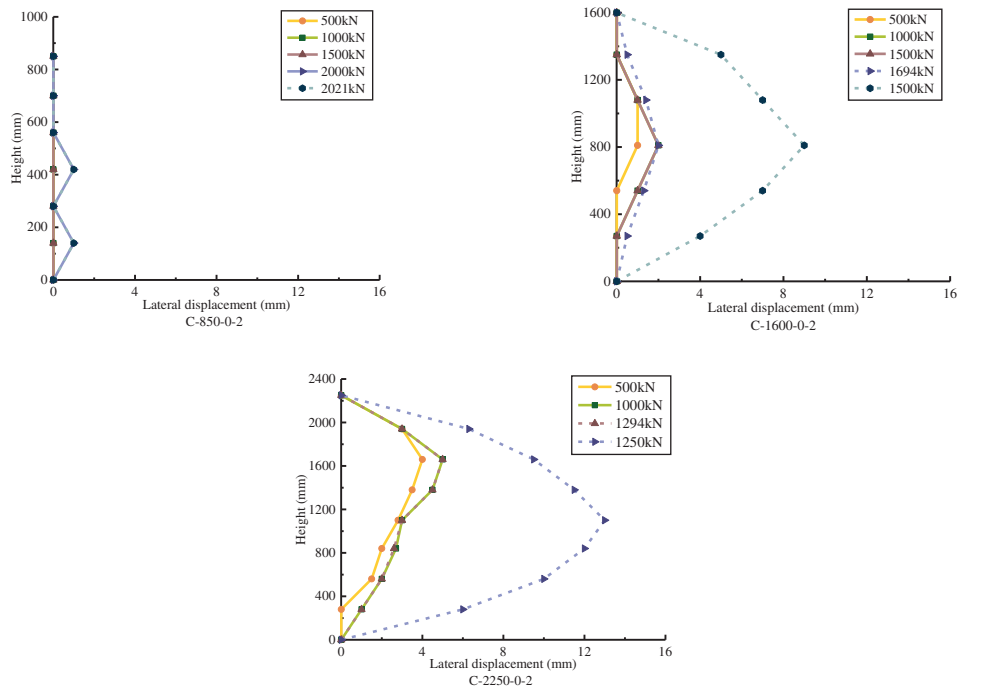


(b) Slenderness ratio of 36.95

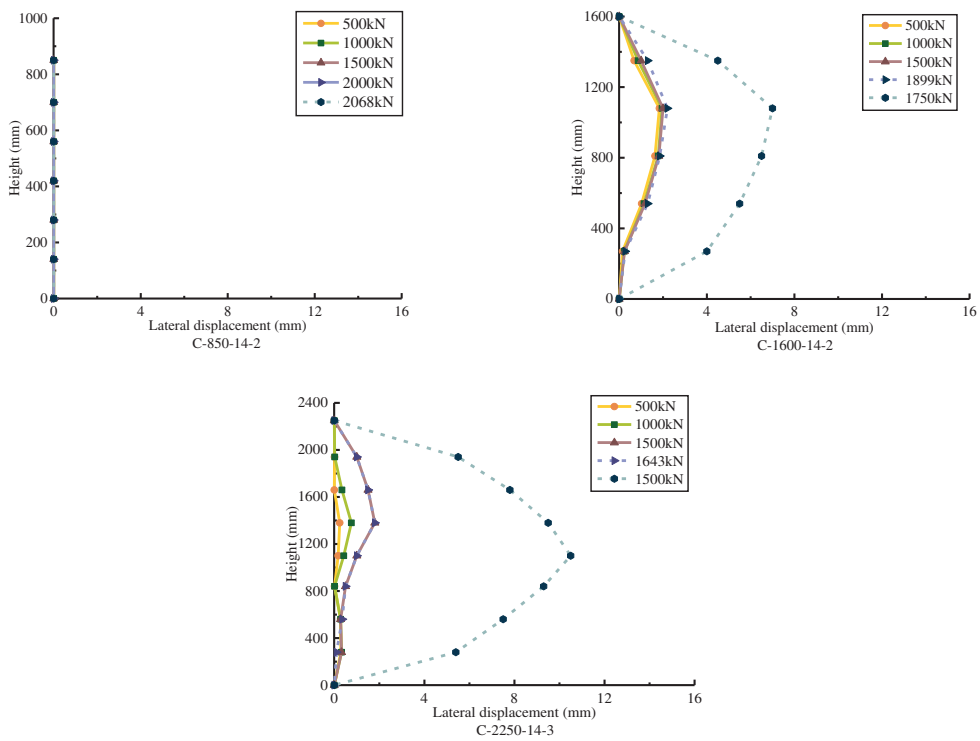


(c) Slenderness ratio of 51.96

Figure 13: Height-lateral displacement relationship curve under the same slenderness ratio



(a) Nonreinforced

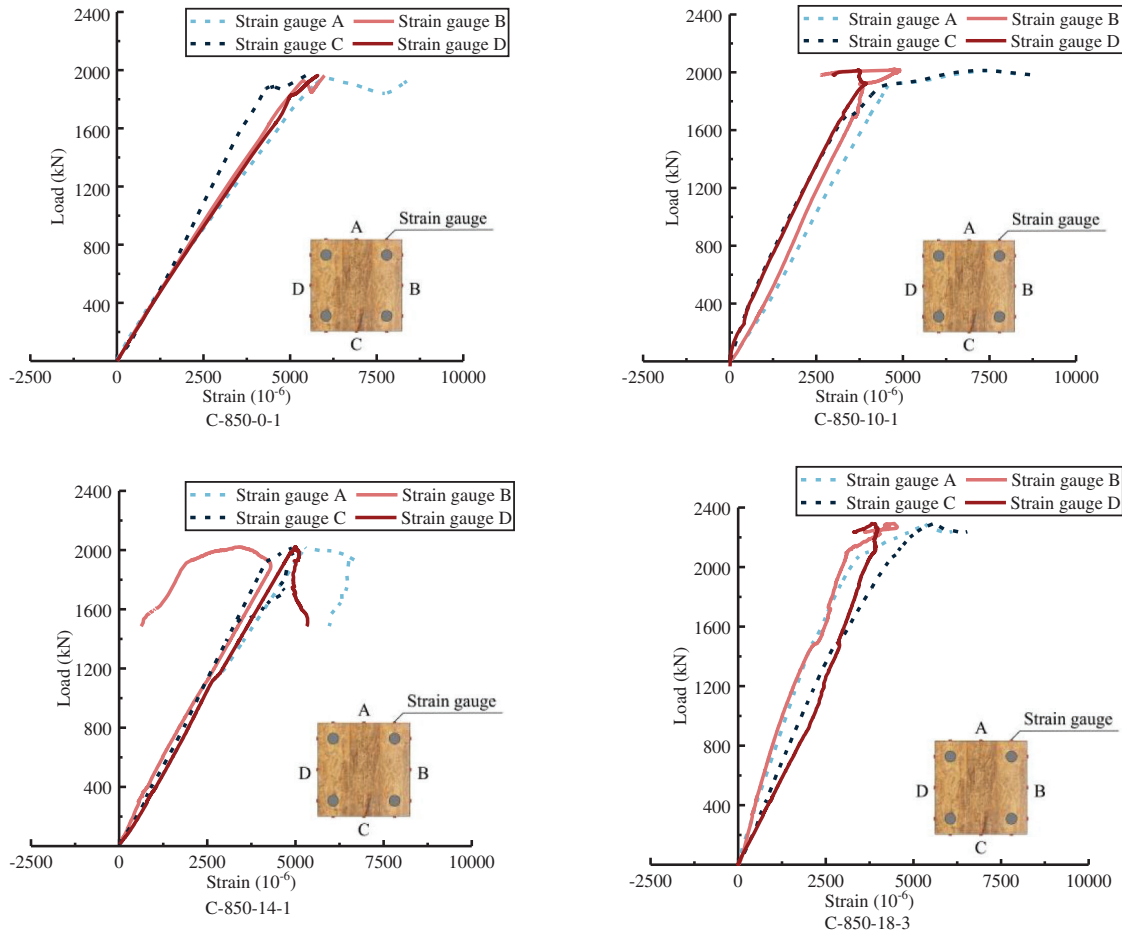


(b) Reinforcement ratio of 2.74%

Figure 14: Height-lateral displacement relationship curve under the same reinforcement ratio

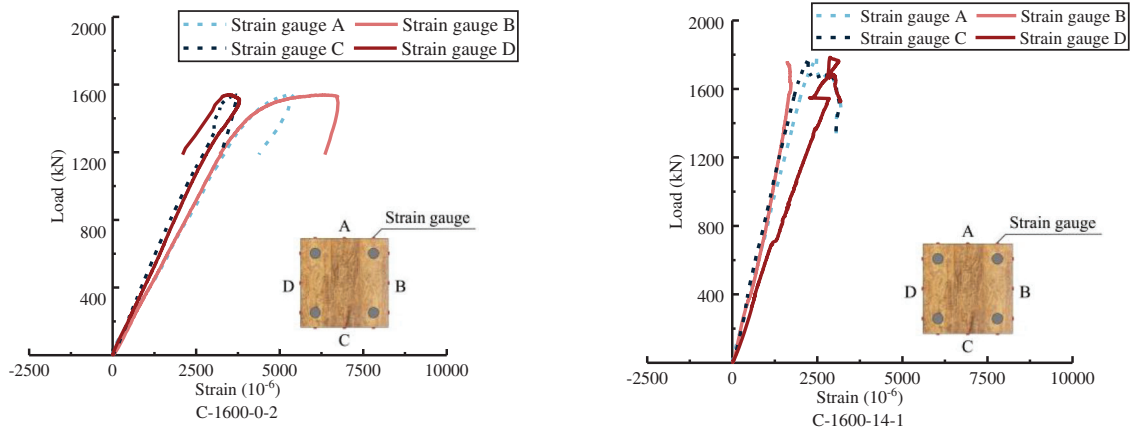
The platform segment of curves under the slenderness ratio of 19.63 is due to the sharp increase in strain caused by the cracking of adhesive layers, and the curves develop and become flat. The curves show a negative development, which is the result of stress redistribution due to the cracking of adhesive layers. When the reinforcement ratio is 4.52%, the curves have almost no negative growth trend, indicating that the steel rebars can constrain crack extension in the lengthwise direction, thereby reducing the stress redistribution and making the stress more uniform. As the reinforcement ratio increases, the inhibitory effect becomes more significant, as shown in Fig. 15a.

The platform segment of curves of specimens with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 is due to the large lateral deformation when reaching the ultimate load, resulting in a bending moment, which causes the strain on one side to increase rapidly and the strain on the opposite side to decrease rapidly. After reinforcement, the platform section is shortened, indicating that the steel rebars can reduce the second-order effect of columns under axial compression. In addition, the larger the reinforcement ratio is, the more significant the inhibitory effect is, as shown in Fig. 15b,c.

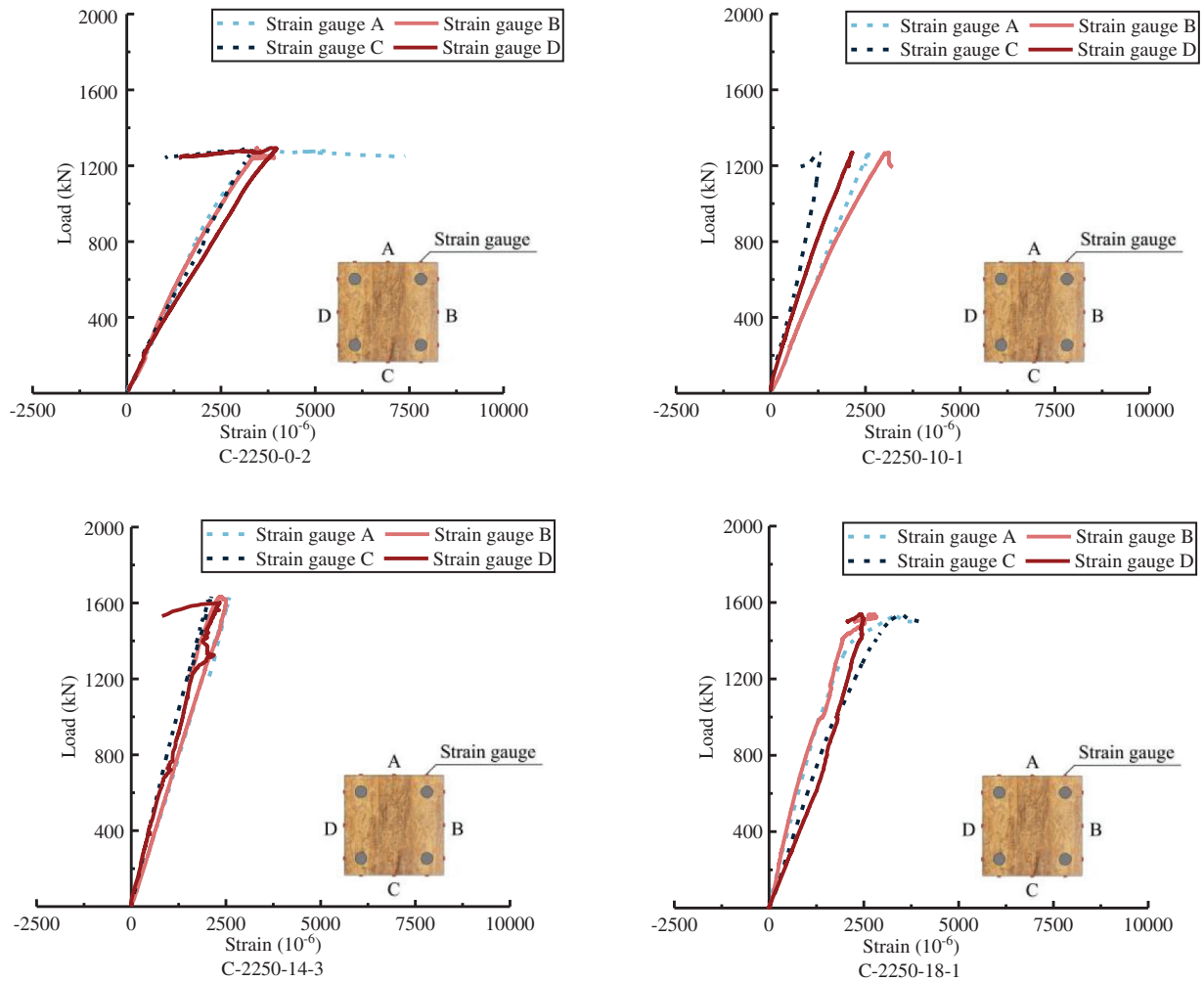


(a) Slenderness ratio of 19.63

Figure 15: (Continued)



(b) Slenderness ratio of 36.95



(c) Slenderness ratio of 51.96

Figure 15: Load-axial strain relationship curve under the same slenderness ratio

3.5.2 Influence of the Slenderness Ratio on the Axial Strain

The effect of the slenderness ratio on the load-axial strain relationship curve is shown in Fig. 16. The platform segment becomes longer as the slenderness ratio increases. And the amplitude of strain increase (decrease) becomes larger, indicating that the specimens become more flexible. For the nonreinforced specimens, the ultimate strain increases with the slenderness ratio. The ultimate strain in the reinforcement ratio of 2.74% gradually decreases with the increasing slenderness ratio, indicating that the axial strain can be effectively controlled by the tension of reinforcement under the higher slenderness ratio.

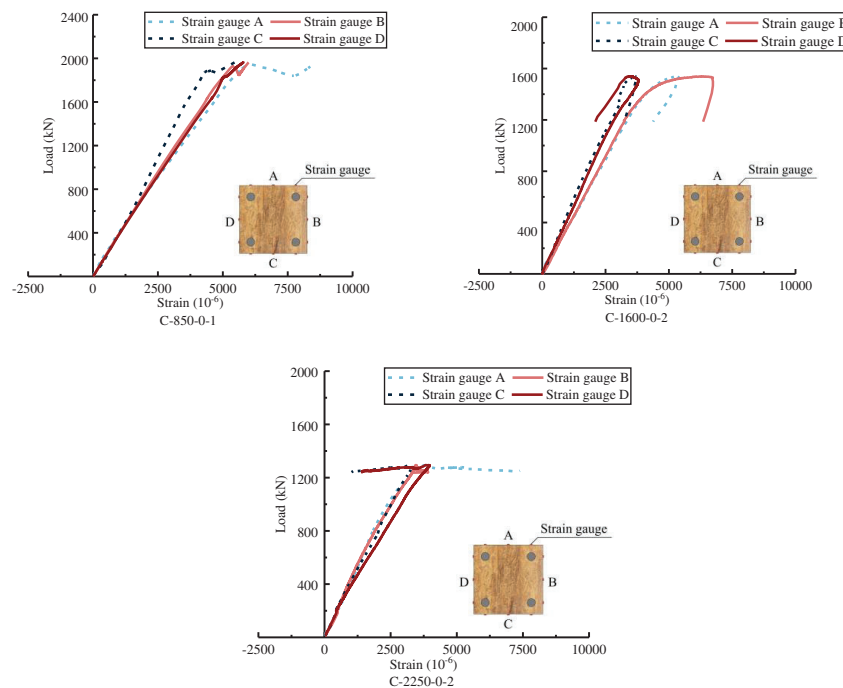
4 Calculation Method of Axial Bearing Capacity

4.1 Fundamental Assumption

The following basic assumptions must be followed before establishing and modifying the calculation formulas for the axial compressive bearing capacity of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns:

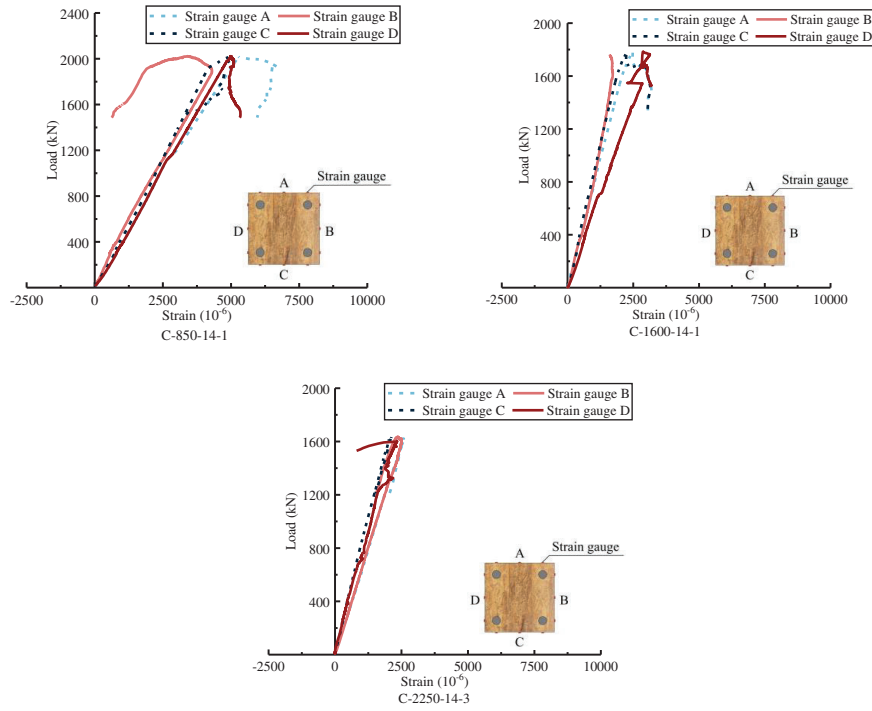
- (1) The component is an equal-section straight rod;
- (2) Load acts on the centroid of section;
- (3) The bending deformation of components under the critical condition is tiny;
- (4) The plane section assumption must be satisfied when the component is bent;
- (5) The tensile stress-strain relationship model of steel used in this model is shown in Fig. 17.

The four-line model was selected as the parallel-to-grain stress-strain model of bamboo scrimber, as shown in Fig. 18 [28]. It is assumed that the tensile behavior of recombinant bamboo is linear elastic and the compressive behavior is non-linear without considering the descending stage. According to the results of material property tests, the parallel-to-grain stress-strain relationship of bamboo scrimber is shown in Eq. (1). According to the calculation results, the yield strength of steel rebar is 400 MPa, and the yield compressive strength parallel to the grain of bamboo scrimber is 100 MPa.



(a) Nonreinforced

Figure 16: (Continued)



(b) Reinforcement ratio of 2.74%

Figure 16: Load-axial strain relationship curve under the same reinforcement ratio

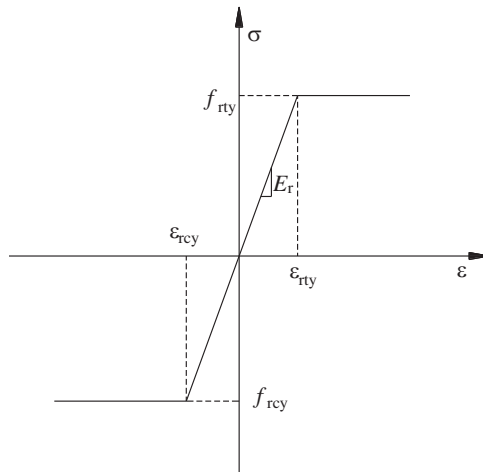


Figure 17: Stress-strain model of steel bar

$$\sigma = \begin{cases} E_{tb} \cdot \varepsilon & 0 \leq \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_{tu} \\ E_{cb} \cdot \varepsilon & 0 \leq \varepsilon < \varepsilon_{cy} \\ 1889.60\varepsilon + 64.41 & \varepsilon_{cy} \leq \varepsilon < \varepsilon_{c0} \\ f_{c0} & \varepsilon_{c0} \leq \varepsilon \leq \varepsilon_{cu} \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

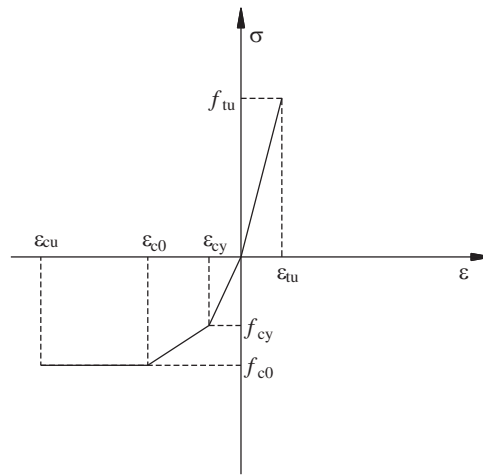


Figure 18: Parallel-to-grain stress-strain model of bamboo scrimber

4.2 Calculation Value of Axial Bearing Capacity in a Slenderness Ratio of 19.63

The failure mode for columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 was strength failure. Therefore, the compressive strength parallel to grain can be used directly to calculate the ultimate bearing capacity under this working group. Eq. (2) is established for the axial compressive bearing capacity of this group, assuming that the steel rebars have entered the yield stage when the specimen is broken.

$$N_u = f_c A_b + f_y A_s \quad (2)$$

where N_u is the ultimate axial compressive bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber column; f_c is the yield compressive strength parallel to the grain of bamboo scrimber; f_y is the yield strength of steel rebar; A_b is the effective area of bamboo scrimber and A_s is the cross-section area of steel rebar.

The calculation results are shown in Table 4. It is believed that Eq. (2) can be used to predict the ultimate bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63, and the lower test value is due to the strength of adhesive layer.

Table 4: Calculated value for bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63

Group	Calculated value (kN)	Test value (kN)	Relative error (%)
C-850-0	2250	1958.54	14.88
C-850-10	2344.2	2034.76	15.21
C-850-14	2434.8	2048.77	18.84
C-850-18	2555.4	2205.27	15.88

Note: Relative error = (Calculated value – Test value)/Test value × 100%.

4.3 Calculation Value of Axial Bearing Capacity in a Slenderness Ratio of 36.95 and 51.96

4.3.1 Theoretical Model

Euler Formula

Buckling is the primary failure mode of columns with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96. Euler formula is a fundamental and widely used method for calculating the bearing capacity of those that occur

buckling during the elastic stage. It calculates the ultimate bearing capacity by introducing the elastic modulus E_c and the specifics are shown in Eqs. (3) and (4).

$$E_c = \frac{E_b A_b + E_s A_s}{A_b + A_s} \quad (3)$$

$$N_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E_c I}{L^2} \quad (4)$$

Tangent Modulus Theory and Double Modulus Theory

However, the Euler formula is based on elastic theory and only applies to calculating the bearing capacity of columns whose buckling occurs before the proportion limit. For those buckling after the proportion limit, it is necessary to consider the nonlinear properties of materials during the stability analysis and calculate bearing capacity by an effective modulus rather than the elastic modulus. Tangent modulus theory and double modulus theory proposed by F. Engesser are the most widely used [29,30].

Tangent modulus theory assumes that there is no negative strain along the cross-section of the column and that the neutral axis and centroidal axis of sections do not shift during the bending process. Instead of the elastic modulus E_c , the tangent modulus E_{ct} is used during calculating the ultimate bearing capacity, and the calculating process is as shown in Eqs. (5) and (6).

$$E_{ct} = \frac{E_{bt} A_b + E_{st} A_s}{A_b + A_s} \quad (5)$$

$$N_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E_{ct} I}{L^2} \quad (6)$$

According to double modulus theory, when the column is slightly bent, compressive strain increases on the concave side while tensile strain increases on the convex side, and the neutral axis shifts towards the convex side. According to these assumptions, the tangent modulus E_{ct} is used as the deformation modulus on the concave side, the elastic modulus E_c is used on the other side, and the double modulus E_{cr} is the combined modulus of the two, as represented by Eq. (7), and the bearing capacity calculation formula is shown as Eq. (8).

$$E_{cr} = \frac{4E_{ct}E_c}{(\sqrt{E_c} + \sqrt{E_{ct}})^2} \quad (7)$$

$$N_{cr} = \frac{\pi^2 E_{cr} I}{L^2} \quad (8)$$

4.3.2 National Codes

There have been no applicable regulations for calculating the bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns. As a result, to calculate the axial compressive bearing capacity of bamboo scrimber columns with non-elastic buckling, three specifications included Standard for Design of Timber Structures (GB 50005-2017), National Design Specification for Wood Construction (ANSI/AWC NDS-2018) and Eurocode 5 are referred. The elastic modulus E_c and the combined strength f_{cc} are introduced during modifying, and the calculation of the combined strength f_{cc} is shown as Eq. (9).

$$f_{cc} = \frac{f_c A_b + f_y A_s}{A_b + A_s} \quad (9)$$

GB 50005-2017

In this code, the calculation results of the bearing capacity of columns are modified by introducing an axial compression stability coefficient φ . The revised calculation model is as follows:

$$\varphi = \frac{a_c \pi^2 \beta E_c}{\lambda^2 f_{cc}}, \lambda > \lambda_c \quad (10)$$

$$\varphi = \frac{1}{1 + \left(\lambda^2 f_{cc} / b_c \pi^2 \beta E_c \right)}, \lambda \leq \lambda_c \quad (11)$$

$$\lambda_c = c_c \sqrt{\frac{\beta E_c}{f_{cc}}} \quad (12)$$

where a_c , b_c , and c_c are material correlation coefficients; β is the correlation coefficient of material shear deformation; $a_c = 0.91$, $b_c = 3.69$, $c_c = 3.45$, and $\beta = 1.05$ are employed in this paper.

ANSI/AWC NDS-2018

In this code, the calculation results of the bearing capacity of columns are modified by introducing an axial compression stability coefficient C_p . The revised calculation model is as follows:

$$C_p = \frac{1 + (f_{cE}/f_{cc})}{2c} - \sqrt{\left[\frac{1 + (f_{cE}/f_{cc})}{2c} \right]^2 - \frac{f_{cE}/f_{cc}}{c}} \quad (13)$$

$$f_{cE} = \frac{0.822 E_{\min}}{\left(l/b \right)^2} \quad (14)$$

$$E_{\min} = 1.05 E_c [1 - 1.645 (\text{COV}_E)] / 1.66 \quad (15)$$

where E_{\min} is the reference and adjusted modulus of elasticity for beam stability and column stability calculations. COV_E is the variation coefficient of elastic modulus; c is the nonlinear constant; $\text{COV}_E = 0.10$ and $c = 0.9$ are employed in this paper.

Eurocode 5

In this code, the calculation results of the bearing capacity of columns are modified by introducing an axial compression stability coefficient k_c . The revised calculation model is as follows:

$$k_c = \frac{1}{k + \sqrt{k^2 - \lambda_{\text{rel}}^2}} \quad (16)$$

$$k = 0.5 [1 + \beta_c (\lambda_{\text{rel}} - 0.3) + \lambda_{\text{rel}}^2] \quad (17)$$

$$\lambda_{\text{rel}} = \frac{\lambda}{\pi} \sqrt{\frac{f_{cc}}{E_{c,0.05}}} \quad (18)$$

where β_c is a factor for members within the straightness limits; $E_{c,0.05}$ is the fifth percentile value of the modulus of elasticity parallel to the grain; $\beta_c = 0.1$ is employed in this paper.

4.3.3 Comparison and Analysis

The calculated values of six bearing capacity models are compared with the test values, as shown in Fig. 19. When the reinforcement ratio is 0 or 2.74%, GB 50005-2017, and Eurocode can provide reasonable predicted values in the slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96. For the non-reinforcement groups, both the two non-elastic classical models and NDS-2018 underestimate the bearing capacity of columns, whereas the Euler formula overestimates it. When the reinforcement ratio is 2.74%, the calculated value given by NDS-2018 is relatively conservative, while all three classical models overestimate the influence of slenderness ratio and are unsuitable for predicting bearing capacity.

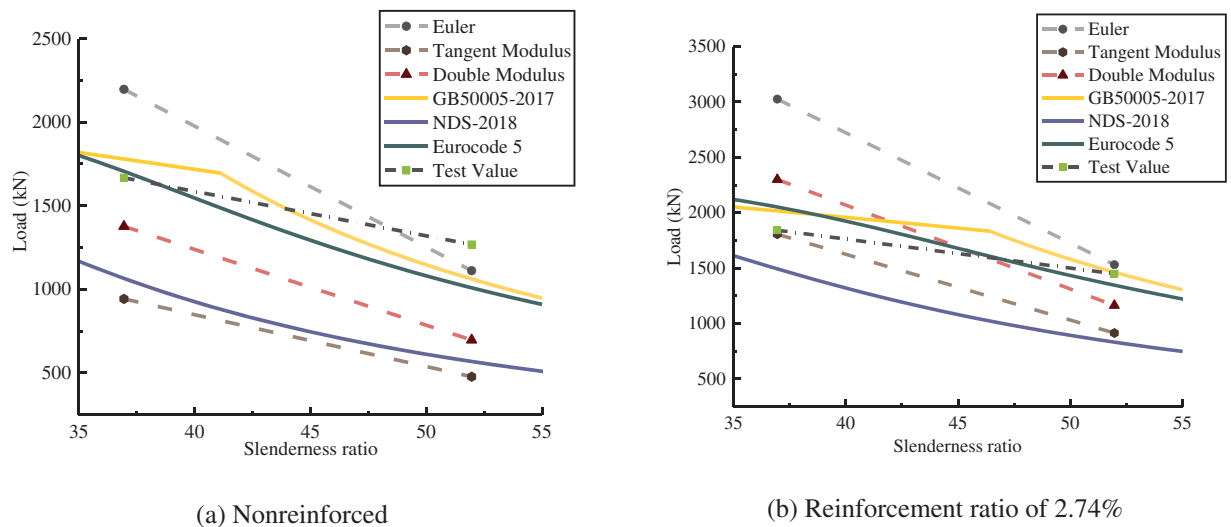


Figure 19: Comparison between calculated values and test values under various bearing capacity models

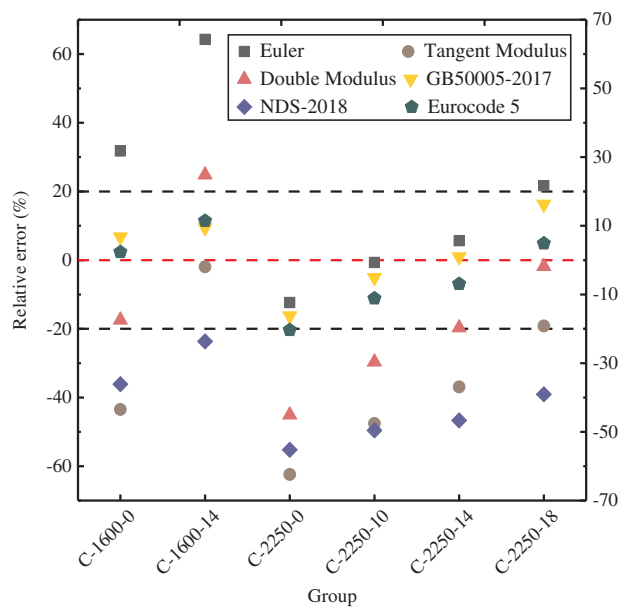


Figure 20: Relative error of each bearing capacity calculation model

The relative error between the calculated values of six bearing capacity models and the test values is shown in Fig. 20. It is noticed that the 0 reference line and the 20% line defined in the figure are only for the convenience of comparison, which have no theoretical significance in themselves. Tangent modulus theory and NDS-2018 are unsuitable for predicting bearing capacity in the slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, and their relative errors are around -40%. In a slenderness ratio of 36.95, the average relative error of the Euler formula is about 50%, and in a slenderness ratio of 51.96, the average relative error of the double modulus model is about -25%. With slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, the maximum relative error of GB 50005-2017 is 16.28%. For Eurocode 5, the maximum relative error is -20.35%. By comparison and analysis, it can be seen that the modified GB 50005-2017 and Eurocode 5 can be used to predict the ultimate bearing capacity of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96.

5 Conclusions

In this paper, one type of novel reinforced bamboo scrimber column is presented. 28 specimens were tested to investigate the axial compressive performance, and the test values were compared with the calculated values of classical models and codes. The specific conclusions are as follows:

- (1) Under axial compression, the failure modes of bamboo scrimber columns can be divided into the cracking failure of adhesive layers, the fibre tearing failure, and the buckling failure, which are influenced by the slenderness ratio and the reinforcement ratio. For the columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63, the failure mode was strength failure for the main point, and the bearing capacity was primarily determined by the compressive strength parallel to the grain of bamboo scrimber and the yield strength of steel rebars. For those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, the failure mode was instability failure for the main point, and the material utilization efficiency in these two working groups was lower than that in a slenderness ratio of 19.63 due to the restriction of slenderness ratio.
- (2) The beneficial effect of steel rebars on the bearing capacity of columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 was not noticeable, while it could significantly enhance those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96. The axial and lateral deformation of specimens were controlled gradually as the reinforcement ratio increased, and the bearing capacity was increased by 5.24% to 16.99%.
- (3) In the same reinforcement ratio, the bearing capacity of columns decreased as the slenderness ratio increased, accompanied by an increase in axial and lateral deformation. The columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63 had no apparent lateral deformation, but those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96 had a clear lateral "C" shape.
- (4) Finally, a calculation method for the bearing capacity of reinforced bamboo scrimber columns was proposed by theoretical analysis. The results showed that the model proposed in this paper can accurately predict the ultimate bearing capacity of columns with a slenderness ratio of 19.63. For those with slenderness ratios of 36.95 and 51.96, several commonly used bearing capacity calculation models of timber columns were modified by introducing the elastic modulus E_c and the combined strength f_{cc} . The analysis results showed that calculation models based on GB 50005-2017 and Eurocode 5 can provide more accurate predictions.

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Availability of Data and Materials: The datasets used or analyzed during the current study are available from the corresponding author upon reasonable request.

Ethics Approval: Not applicable.

Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest to report regarding the present study.

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