

DEVELOPMENT, ANALYSIS AND MONITORING OF DISMOUNTABLE TENSEGRITY STRUCTURE

By

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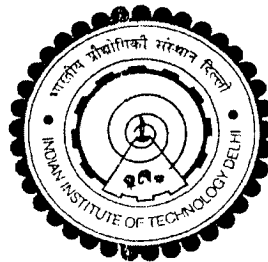
Department of Civil Engineering

Submitted

in fulfillment of the requirements of the degree of

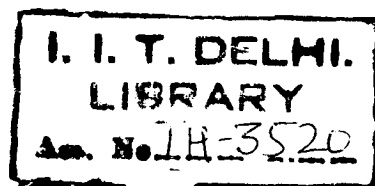
Doctor of Philosophy

to the



Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

JUNE 2007



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CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the thesis entitled, “**DEVELOPMENT, ANALYSIS AND MONITORING OF DISMOUNTABLE TENSEGRITY STRUCTURE**”, submitted by **Mr. Ramakanta Panigrahi** to Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, for the award of the degree of the **Doctor of philosophy** is a record of bonafide research work carried out by him. He worked under our supervision for the submission of this thesis, which to the best of our knowledge has reached the requisite standard.

The research reports and the results presented in this thesis have not been submitted in parts or in full to any other University or Institute for the award of any degree or diploma.



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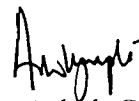
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I owe my sincere heartfelt thanks and deep sense of gratitude to my supervisors Professor Ashok Gupta and Dr. Suresh Bhalla. It was my privilege that I was particularly blessed in having two professors providing me with the assistance and the invaluable guidance throughout the process of completing this dissertation. They encouraged me constantly to persist in an area of inquiry and caused me to explore the important dimensions of my study. They were easily accessible whenever I needed. I am eternally grateful for their kindness, helpful guidance, discussions and timely help. They truly exemplify the role of advisors.

I am grateful to Professor K.G. Sharma, Professor T.K. Dutta and Professor Y. Nath, my committee members. Their educational guidance, questions and incentive through valuable advice relating my research during my presentations, were very useful to my thought process.

I would also like to thank the technical staff of structural laboratory Mr. Sukanta Sahu and Mr. Nitin Chaurasia, who helped me in conducting the experiments and in extending all the facilities required. I also express my sincere thanks to Mr. K.K. Bali and Mr. Ram Kumar for their help in carrying out my fabrication work in the workshop of Civil Engineering Department.

I am thankful to my dear Oriya friends Bulu, Sushanta, Deba and Punam now doing research at IIT Delhi, without all of whom, things would have been very difficult. They were ready to help me at the time of need. My sincere thanks to all the people who made my time memorable during my research work.

I want to thank my wife, Rosy, for her endless love and support for helping me to keep my focus on my research work. She shared all the difficulties and disappointments and without her help, I would not be where I am today. Last but not the least, to my son, Sibun, a thank you, for constantly reminding me of what is truly important in my life!

I owe much gratitude to my parents, my well wishers of Industries Department, Government of Orissa and many people who contribute to this work both directly and indirectly.

P. Parigorhi

ABSTRACT

Thousands of people are rendered homeless and displaced during natural calamities in different parts of the globe every now and then. A low-cost dismountable shelter can be a boon to the homeless during these situations. Tensegrity structures offer the most attractive solution for the purpose of temporary shelter due to their flexibility, lightweight, low cost, self-supporting configuration and reusability. The research on tensegrity structure has recently become an area of interest worldwide.

This thesis primarily focuses on the development, analysis and monitoring the behaviour of a new type of tensegrity based dismountable roof structure. First, a single module, measuring 1mx1m in size, is fabricated using half-cuboctahedron configuration. Instrumentation is carried out right at the fabrication stage. The structure is subjected to destructive load test during which continuous monitoring of the prestress levels, deflections and strains in the members is carried out. The monitored structure is also analyzed using finite element method (FEM) and the numerical results compared with the experimental observations. Further, the numerical model is updated for detailed parametric studies. The investigations are then extended to a tensegrity grid, 2mx2m in size, built by cohesive integration of four single tensegrity modules. In order to make sure that the structure is dismountable, an opening/closing mechanism is devised in one of the cables. The behaviour of the tensegrity structure under different loads (dead loads, live loads, lack of fit in cable, thermal loads and wind loads) and their combinations is studied in detail.

Apart from the fabrication and testing, a new methodology has been developed for design of tensegrity structures using artificial neural network (ANN) based on multilayered feed forward back propagation algorithm.

Further, feasibility of piezo-impedance transducers in identifying structural damage in a strut member based on electro mechanical impedance (EMI) technique is investigated. A new low cost version of EMI is successfully applied on tensegrity structures. Both strain gauges and piezo-transducers are found to complement each other by assisting in load history retrieval (LHR) and structural health monitoring (SHM) respectively. Piezo transducers is also used for global dynamic characterization of tensegrity structures and found suitable for obtaining information concerning the modes of vibration and damage identification of the structure.

Reasonable agreements are found between experimental and numerical studies. The research concludes with the findings obtained through experiments and numerical studies. It is hoped that this research will make significant contributions in the field of tensegrity structures.

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