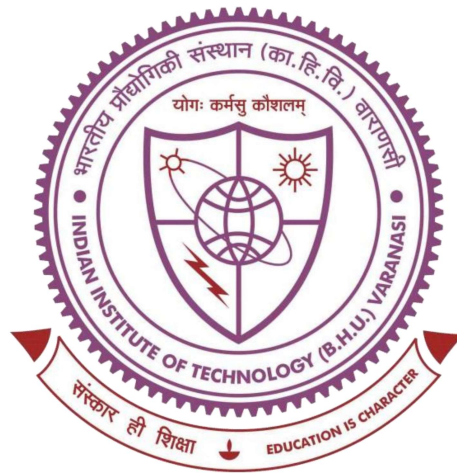
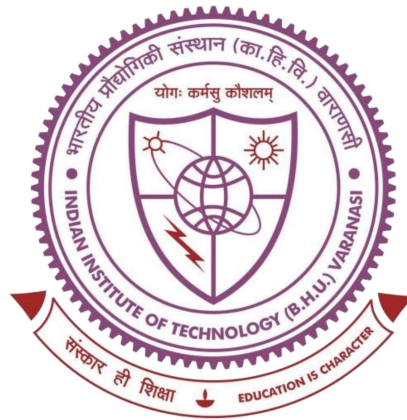


# Multi-Criteria Driven Integrated Zero-Order Shape Optimization of Structural Elements



*ISHAN JHA*

**Multi-Criteria Driven Integrated Zero-Order Shape Optimization of  
Structural Elements**



Thesis submitted in partial fulfillment for the Award of Degree

**“Doctor of Philosophy”**

*by*

**“ISHAN JHA”**

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
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March, 2023

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*“It is with a profound sense of gratitude that I dedicate this thesis to my beloved **Parents** and to **Professor Krishna Kant Pathak**, my mentor and guiding light, who instilled in me an unwavering spirit of determination and dedication and who tirelessly exhorted me to aim for the highest standards of excellence...”*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My heartfelt thanks and deepest appreciation goes to my esteemed Ph.D. supervisor, **Professor Krishna Kant Pathak**, Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering of the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) in Varanasi. His invaluable counsel, encouragement, inspiration and unwavering support were a constant source of strength throughout my research journey. Despite his demanding schedule, he always made time for discussions and kept a keen eye on my thesis progress, even lending his expertise in the preparation of manuscripts for publication. His passion for research and his irrepressible zest for life were a source of constant inspiration, leaving an indelible imprint on my Ph.D. experience.

I am also deeply grateful to the members of my doctoral committee, **Professor Rajesh Kumar**, Professor of Civil Engineering, and **Professor Prabhash Bhardwaj**, Professor of Mechanical Engineering, who offered invaluable suggestions, feedback and expert assessments at various milestones of my work. Their insights have been instrumental in helping me broaden the scope of my research and bring greater refinement to my thesis. I must also express my sincere appreciation to the Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, **Professor Sasankasekhar Mandal**, for providing all the necessary resources that enabled the successful completion of my research. It is with great humility that I extend my gratitude to all the faculty members of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU) in Varanasi, who accorded me the privilege of pursuing my doctoral degree in such an illustrious institution.

I am also extending my gratitude to the **Ministry of Education (MoE)**, Government of India for providing me with financial support during my Ph.D. tenure at IIT (BHU) Varanasi.

I am filled with profound gratitude and affection for my beloved parents, **Mr. Dhruv Narayan Jha** and **Mrs. Anju Kumari Jha**. Your unwavering support has been a constant source of strength and inspiration to me, and this instance was no

different. Dear mother, I am eternally thankful for your steadfast encouragement. And to my father, I express my heartfelt thanks for your boundless love and for imparting upon me the most cherished values of life.

I am deeply grateful to my dear brother, **Mr. Mrigank Jha**, for being my constant companion and for always being a source of encouragement and positivity, even in my most trying moments. Your unwavering belief in me and your reassurance that I am indeed awesome, even when I was unable to see it myself, have been invaluable and will forever hold a special place in my heart.

I extend my sincerest gratitude to my cherished friends **Dr. Tanya Kumar**, **Mr. Ashutosh Ranjan**, **Miss Shalini Kashyap**, and **Mr. Surya Dev Singh** for their steadfast companionship and unwavering support. Their presence in my life has been a source of immense joy and comfort, and I am deeply appreciative of their friendship. Thank you for always being there for me in both good times and bad.

Last but not the least; I would like to thank my seniors, friends, and juniors who supported me unconditionally during my doctoral research.

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## List of symbols and abbreviations

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### Acronyms and other notations

GSO	Gradientless shape optimization
SSCO	Simultaneous Shape and Cable Optimization
SCS	Steel-concrete-steel
PSC	Pre-stressed concrete
FEM	Finite element method
2D	Two-dimensional
3D	Three-dimensional
B-spline	Basis spline
CAGD	Computer-aided geometric design
FE	Finite elements
DFO	Derivative-free optimization
MF	Move factor
MV	Move value
MMF	Minimum membership function
FEA	Finite element analysis
L	Length
B	Breadth
D	Overall depth
MCC	Minimum concrete cover
PL	Point load
UDL	Uniformly distributed load

UIL	Uniformly increasing load
MPL	Multiple point load

### Symbols

$\sigma$	Maximum shear stress (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )
$\sigma_t$	Target maximum shear stress (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )
$X, Y$	Co-ordinates for the generated nodal point
$X_i, Y_i$	Co-ordinates of the master node 'i'
$\zeta$ and $\eta$	Natural co-ordinates
$N_i$	Shape function of nine-noded element
$N_m$	Number of master nodes
$\mu$	Membership value
$L_{min}$	Smallest distance among all the distances between the design node and their respective direction node
$N_d$	Number of design nodes
$\delta$	Deflection (mm)
$\Delta X$ and $\Delta Y$	Perturbation vector
$\beta$ and $\alpha$	Magnitude of perturbation
$\Phi$	Bending stress
$E$	Young's modulus
$\nu$	Poisson's ratio
$\rho$	Density
$t_f$	Thickness of faceplates
$t_c$	Thickness of concrete core
$k$	Order of B-spline
$P_i$	N+1 defining polygon vertices
$N_{i,k}(t)$	Weighting function
$S_c^1, S_c^2, S_c^3$	Shape function of three-noded bar element
$\bar{T}$	Tangential vector
$\bar{N}$	Normal vector
$K$	Curvature
$R$	Radius of curvature
$P_n$	Tension in the cable

$\bar{t}$	Unit tangent vector
$\bar{n}$	Unit normal vector
$F_t$	Tangential force
$F_n$	Normal force
$\bar{F}$	Resultant force
$F_L$	Equivalent nodal force vector
$F_A$	Anchored force vector
$P_{end}$	Tension in cables at end nodes
$F_{final}$	Total load
$G_p^1$ & $G_p^2$	Gauss points
$\omega$	Wobble coefficient
$\gamma_e$	Density of the element
$A_e$	Area of the element
$B_e$	Breadth of the element
m	Total number of elements
$\sigma_{top}$ and $\sigma_{bottom}$	Bending stress at top and bottom of pre-stressed beam
B1, B2, and B3	Three different types of beams
CC	Circular plate with a square cut-out
B3a, B3b, B3c, B3d, and B3e	Five different versions of Beam B3
$P_{B1}$ , $P_{B2}$ , and $P_{B3}$	Three types of PSC beams
M-1, M-2, M-3, M-4, and M-5	Material 1, Material 2, Material 3, Material 4, and Material 5

## ABSTRACT

In today's cost-effective engineering era, optimizing structural shapes is vital. This thesis focuses on minimizing construction costs while maintaining structural integrity. Conventional methods, like gradient-based approaches, can be computationally costly due to sensitivity calculations. Thus, a new multi-criteria-driven zero-order optimization method is suggested.

The work proposes an integrated zero-order fuzzy-controlled shape optimization technique. It optimizes structural components iteratively, automating mesh generation and refinement to maintain a smooth profile. Using design elements and fuzzy set theory, this method facilitates nodal movement, ensuring convergence towards a target maximum shear stress. The software created for this purpose, GSO (Gradientless Shape Optimization), undergoes testing with various structural configurations. Comparative analysis between the proposed zero-order approach and the widely adopted gradient descent method using commercial software reveals the proposed method's superiority in generating industry-ready designs, emphasizing its practical significance.

Expanding its scope, GSO optimizes steel-concrete-steel (SCS) sandwich beams by reshaping faceplates and core interfaces, enhancing structural performance and reducing steel usage. The optimized beam displays minimal deflection changes, around  $10^{-4}$ , demonstrating the method's effectiveness.

Expanding on GSO, another innovative approach is introduced through the software "Simultaneous Shape and Cable Optimization" (SSCO). This technique optimizes both concrete shapes and cable layouts for pre-stressed concrete beams simultaneously, eliminating tensile stress and ensuring minimal concrete cover. Notably, SSCO boasts remarkable computational efficiency, with an overall runtime of less than 1 second for all demonstrated cases. The study also considers frictional losses

during post-tensioning, offering practical solutions for industry applications. Further, the research explores the impact of varying the number of spans in PSC beams on the optimized cable layout and concrete shape, emphasizing material savings. SSCO adeptly identifies the optimal number of spans, achieving a balance between material efficiency and the required supports.

Through these contributions, this thesis advances the field of structural shape optimization by offering cost-effective, efficient, and practical solutions to real-world engineering challenges.

## **PREFACE**

During the current time, where there is a desire to achieve maximum returns while minimizing costs, it is crucial in the field of engineering to ensure that construction costs are minimized without sacrificing the durability and functionality of the structures. Taking this in mind, shape optimization is one of the best ways to achieve the aforementioned criteria. Shape optimization focuses on the way to improve the overall shape of the structure within the sense that it satisfies the given constraints imposed on it. Structural shape optimization is generally solved using either gradient-based methods or zero-order (non-gradient) methods. In gradient-based methods, sensitivity calculations are done, which mostly involve a large number of design variables making it computationally expensive. On the other hand, zero-order methods are much simpler and computationally less expensive. The current work is inspired by the previous research on zero-order methods in the area of shape optimization for structures, and aims to suggest a multi-criteria-driven zero-order procedure for the shape optimization of structural elements. The thesis addresses the following objectives in the field of structural shape optimization.

### **1. Integrated zero-order fuzzy-controlled shape optimization.**

An integrated zero-order technique is suggested, which focuses on automatic mesh generation and mesh refinement after every iteration to acquire a smooth profile and avoid any sharp corners causing erroneous shapes. To acquire a smooth profile, the notion of design elements is practised. In view of avoiding manual mesh refinement after each iteration, an automatic mesh generator has been created. The fuzzy set theory is utilized to manage the nodal movement of the design nodes and ensure final convergence. The shape modifications are made based on the chosen target

maximum shear stress ( $\sigma_t$ ) with the objective of achieving a result that is as close as possible to the target value at all points. This approach works on the zero-order shape optimization concept. The current approach has been developed as a software program called GSO (Gradientless shape optimization), which is written in the FORTRAN programming language. A few examples have been worked upon to show the working of the approach using different constraints like initial imperfections, fixed beams with different materials, beams with different types of loadings, and beams with flat tops. The approach seems to work in all conditions properly and gives a successfully optimized shape of different beams and plates considered.

## **2. A result-based comparative study of the suggested non-gradient method with the gradient descent method.**

Gradient-based techniques have gained much wider acceptance worldwide, and nearly all optimization software utilizes gradient-based methods, while largely overlooking zero-order methods and the research carried out on them. The study compares the results obtained by one of the widely used commercial shape optimization software against the results generated using the proposed approach. To demonstrate the effectiveness of the present method, several structural shapes were optimized under various constraints and the results were compared with those obtained using OptiStruct (a part of the software suite HyperWorks from Altair engineering), which works on gradient descent method. The proposed approach was found to be successful and yielded results that are more suitable for industrial fabrication compared to those obtained by the gradient descent method in OptiStruct. To explain the efficacy of the current approach, a few structural shapes have been optimized under various constraints, and the results of the same are

compared to those obtained using OptiStruct, which works on gradient descent method. The proposed approach works well and produces more industry-fabricable results than what is produced by the gradient descent method in OptiStruct.

### **3. GSO-assisted shape optimization of steel–concrete–steel sandwich beams.**

The GSO shape optimization method is employed to optimize steel-concrete-steel (SCS) sandwich beams. The method utilizes a unique approach of modifying the shape of the faceplates and core at the interface without altering the overall shape of the SCS sandwich beam. This is achieved by implementing a technique that involves perpendicular growth and shrinkage in the design boundary at the faceplate-core interface to obtain an optimized shape. The method involves selecting a target maximum shear stress value ( $\sigma_t$ ) and modifying the shape in such a way that the maximum shear stress ( $\sigma$ ) at any point is less than or equal to the value of  $\sigma_t$ . The method has been found to be effective in determining the optimized shape of the faceplates and core. To demonstrate the effectiveness of GSO, several examples with varying boundary conditions and shapes of the SCS sandwich beam have been analyzed.

### **4. Synergetic concrete shape and cable layout optimization of pre-stressed concrete (PSC) beams.**

A new technique intended towards synergetic optimization of concrete shape and cable layout of pre-stressed concrete (PSC) beams is proposed. Another in-house software labelled “Simultaneous Shape and Cable Optimization” (SSCO) which is an extension of the GSO, is developed. In SSCO, along with shape optimization of concrete, the cable layout is also modified simultaneously. The pre-stressing cable is modelled as a curvilinear three-noded bar element tracing a B-spline profile, while

the concrete is modelled as a discretized continuum using nine-noded lagrangian elements. The concrete is modified from its initial shape using the proposed integrated zero-order technique, whilst the cable is modified employing a coherent algorithm designed towards the modification of ordinates of knot vector. The entire modification process is iterative in nature and is directed towards the removal of tensile stress ( $< 0.5 \text{ N/mm}^2$ ) from the beam while maintaining a minimum concrete cover of 40 mm, giving an overall optimized concrete shape and cable layout. Frictional loss encountered during post-tensioning of cables is also contemplated in the present study. Its effect on the overall optimized concrete shape and cable layout is distinguishably demonstrated. Using SSCO, a few PSC beams having different span lengths, cross-sections, span numbers, imposed loading, and pre-stressing force are efficiently optimized for certain applied constraints. The optimized PSC beam acquired is easy to fabricate and can be used by industries. Further, the study has been extended to investigate the changes occurring in the optimized shape and cable layout of PSC beams due to changes in span length and to find out the optimum number of spans which will strike a perfect balance between the amount of material saved due to optimized shape and the number of spans needed to be given.