CHAPTER 23—STRUT-AND-TIE METHOD

CODE

23.1—Scope

23.1.1 This chapter shall apply to the design of structural concrete members, or regions of members, where load or geometric discontinuities cause a nonlinear distribution of longitudinal strains within the cross section.

23.1.2 Any structural concrete member, or discontinuity region in a member, shall be permitted to be designed by modeling the member or region as an idealized truss in accordance with this chapter.

COMMENTARY

R23.1—Scope

A discontinuity in the stress distribution occurs at a change in the geometry of a structural element or at a concentrated load or reaction. St. Venant's principle indicates that the stresses due to axial force and bending approach a linear distribution at a distance approximately equal to the overall depth of the member, $\boldsymbol{h}$, away from the discontinuity. For this reason, discontinuity regions are assumed to extend a distance $\boldsymbol{h}$ from the section where the load or change in geometry occurs.

The shaded regions in Fig. R23.1(a) and (b) show typical D-regions (Schlaich et al. 1987). The plane sections assumption of 9.2.1 is not applicable in such regions. In general, any portion of a member outside a D-region is a B-region where the plane sections assumptions of flexural theory can be applied. The strut-and-tie design method, as described in this chapter, is based on the assumption that D-regions can be analyzed and designed using hypothetical pin-jointed trusses consisting of struts and ties connected at nodes.

The idealized truss specified in 23.2.1, which forms the basis of the strut-and-tie method, is not intended to apply to structural systems configured as actual trusses because secondary effects, such as moments, are not included in the model.