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**BUCKLING OF ELASTIC CIRCULAR PLATES WITH AN ELASTICALLY  
RESTRAINED EDGES AGAINST ROTATION AND INTERNAL ELASTIC RING  
SUPPORT**

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**Abstract.** The buckling of elastic circular plates with an internal elastic ring support and elastically restrained edges against rotation and simply supported is concerned. The classical plate theory is used to derive the governing differential equation. This work presents the existence of buckling mode switching with respect to the radius of internal elastic ring support. The plate may buckle in an axisymmetric mode in general, but when the radius of the ring support becomes small, the plate may buckle in an asymmetric mode. The cross-over ring support radius varies from 0.09891 to 0.1545 times the plate radius, depending on the rotational stiffness of the elastic restraint at the edges and elastic restraint of the ring. The optimum radius of the internal elastic ring support for maximum buckling load is also determined. Extensive data is tabulated so that pertinent conclusions can be arrived at on the influence of rotational restraint, translational restraint of internal elastic ring support, Poisson's ratio, and other boundary conditions on the buckling of uniform isotropic circular plates. The numerical results obtained are in good agreement with the previously published data.

**Key words:** buckling; circular plate; elastic ring support; rotational spring stiffness; mode switching.

**I. Introduction.**

Buckling of plates is an important topic in structural engineering. The prediction of buckling of structural members restrained laterally is important in the design of various engineering components. In particular, circular plates with an internal *elastic ring* support find applications in aeronautical (instrument mounting bases for space vehicles), rocket launching pads, aircrafts (instrument mounting bases for aircraft vehicles) and naval vessels (instrument mounting bases). Based on the Kirchhoff's theory, the elastic buckling of thin circular plates has been extensively studied by many authors after the pioneering work published by Bryan [1]. Since then, there have been extensive studies on the subject covering various aspects such as different materials, boundary and loading conditions. Also the buckling of circular plates was studied by different authors Wolkowisky [2] and Brushes [3]. However, these sources only considered axisymmetric case, which may not lead to the correct buckling load. Introducing an internal *elastic ring* supports may increase the elastic buckling capacity of in-plane loaded circular plates significantly. Laura et al. [4] investigated the elastic buckling problem of the aforesaid type of circular plates, who modeled the

plate using the classical thin plate theory. In their study only axisymmetric modes are considered.

Kunukkasseril and Swamidas [5] are probably the first to consider *elastic ring* supports. They formulated the equations in general, but presented only the case of circular plate with a free edge. Wang and Wang [6] studied the fundamental frequency of the circular plate with internal elastic ring support. They have considered the four basic boundary conditions.

Although the circular symmetry of the problem allows for its significant simplification, many difficulties very often arise due to complexity and uncertainty of boundary conditions. This uncertainty could be due to practical engineering applications where the edge of the plate does not fall into the classical boundary conditions. It is accepted fact that the condition on a periphery often tends to be part way between the classical boundary conditions (free, clamped and simply supported) and may correspond more closely to some form of elastic restraints, i.e., rotational and translational restraints Kim and Dickinson [7], Wang et al. [8], Wang and Wang [9], Ashour [10], Rdzanek et al. [11], and Andrei Zagrai and Dimitri Donskoy [12]. In a recent study, Wang et al. [8] showed that when the ring support has a small radius, the buckling mode takes the *asymmetric* mode. Wang and Wang [9] showed that the *axisymmetric* mode assumed by the previous authors might not yield the correct buckling load. In certain cases, an *asymmetric* mode would yield a lower buckling load. But they have studied only the circular plate with *rigid ring* support and elastically restrained edge against rotation. Recently, Wang [13] studied the buckling of a circular plate with internal elastic ring support by considering only the classical boundary conditions. The purpose of the present work is to complete the results of the buckling of circular plates with an internal *elastic ring* support and elastically restrained edge against rotation and simply supported by including the *asymmetric* buckling modes, thus correctly determining the buckling loads.

## II. Definition of the problem.

Consider a thin circular plate of radius  $R$ , uniform thickness  $h$ , Young's modulus  $E$  and Poisson's ratio  $\nu$  and subjected to a uniform in-plane load,  $N$  along its boundary, as shown in Fig. 1. The circular plate is also assumed to be made of linearly elastic, homogeneous and isotropic material. The edge of the circular plate is elastically restrained against rotation and simply supported and supported by an internal *elastic ring* support, as shown in Fig. 1. The problem at hand is to determine the elastic critical buckling load of a circular plate with an internal *elastic ring* support and elastically restrained edge against rotation and simply supported.

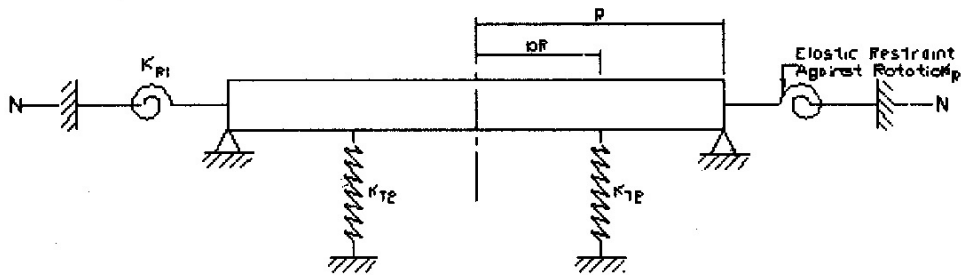


Fig. 1

Buckling of a Circular plate with an internal elastic ring Support and Elastically Restrained edge against Rotation and Simply Supported.

## III. Mathematical formulation of the problem.

The plate is elastically restrained against rotation and simply supported at the edge of radius  $R$  and supported on an internal *elastic ring* of smaller radius  $bR$  as shown in Fig. 1. Let subscript I denote the outer region  $b \leq \bar{r} \leq 1$  and the subscript II denote the inner region  $0 \leq \bar{r} \leq b$ . Here, all lengths are normalized by  $R$ . Using classical (Kirchhoff's plate

theory), the following fourth order differential equation for buckling in polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$ .

$$D\nabla^4 w + N\nabla^2 w = 0, \quad (1)$$

where  $w$  is the lateral displacement,  $N$  is the uniform compressive load at the edge. After normalizing the lengths by the radius of the plate  $R$ , Eq. (1) can be written as

$$D\nabla^4 \bar{w} + k^2 \nabla^2 \bar{w} = 0, \quad (2)$$

where  $\nabla^2 = \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \bar{r}^2} + \frac{1}{\bar{r}} \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{r}} + \frac{1}{\bar{r}^2} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \theta^2}$  is the Laplace operator in the polar coordinates  $r$  and  $\theta$ .

Where  $\bar{r}$  is the radial distance normalized by  $R$ .  $\bar{D} = Eh^3 / 12(1-\nu^2)$  is the flexural rigidity,  $\bar{w} = w / R$ , is normalized transverse displacement of the plate.  $k^2 = R^2 N / \bar{D}$  is non-dimensional load parameter. Suppose there are  $n$  nodal diameters. In polar coordinates  $(r, \theta)$  set

$$\bar{w}(\bar{r}, \theta) = \bar{u}(\bar{r}) \cos(n\theta). \quad (3)$$

General solutions (Yamaki [14]) for the two regions are

$$\bar{u}_I(r) = C_1 J_n(k\bar{r}) + C_2 Y_n(k\bar{r}) + C_3 \bar{r}^n + C_4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \log \bar{r} \\ \bar{r}^{-n} \end{array} \right\}; \quad (4)$$

$$\bar{u}_{II}(r) = C_5 J_n(k\bar{r}) + C_6 \bar{r}^n, \quad (5)$$

where top form of the Eq. (4) is used for  $n=0$  and the bottom form is used for  $n \neq 0$ ,  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5$  &  $C_6$  are constants,  $J_n(\cdot)$  &  $Y_n(\cdot)$  are the Bessel functions of the first and seconds of order  $n$ , respectively. Substituting Eq. (4) and (5) into Eq. (3) yields the following:

$$\bar{w}_I(\bar{r}, \theta) = \left[ C_1 J_n(k\bar{r}) + C_2 Y_n(k\bar{r}) + C_3 \bar{r}^n + C_4 \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \log \bar{r} \\ \bar{r}^{-n} \end{array} \right\} \right] \cos(n\theta); \quad (6)$$

$$\bar{w}_{II}(\bar{r}, \theta) = \left[ C_5 J_n(k\bar{r}) + C_6 \bar{r}^n \right] \cos(n\theta). \quad (7)$$

The boundary conditions at outer region of the circular plate in terms of rotational stiffness ( $K_{R1}$ ) is given by the following expressions

$$M_r(\bar{r}) = K_{R1} \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}); \quad (8)$$

$$\bar{u}_I(\bar{r}) = 0. \quad (9)$$

The radial moment at outer edge is defined as follows

$$M_r(\bar{r}) = -\frac{D}{R^3} \left[ \bar{u}_I''(\bar{r}) + \nu \left( \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}) - n^2 \bar{u}_I(\bar{r}) \right) \right]. \quad (10)$$

Eqs. (8) and (10) yield the following

$$\left[ \bar{u}_I''(\bar{r}) + \nu \left( \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}) - n^2 \bar{u}_I(\bar{r}) \right) \right] = -\frac{K_{R1} R^2}{D} \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}). \quad (11)$$

Therefore, the boundary conditions are as follows

$$\left[ \bar{u}_I''(\bar{r}) + \nu \left( \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}) - n^2 \bar{u}_I(\bar{r}) \right) \right] = -R_{11} \bar{u}_I'(\bar{r}); \quad (12)$$

$$\bar{u}_I(\bar{r}) = 0, \quad (13)$$

where  $R_{11} = \frac{K_{R1} R^2}{D}$ .

Apart from the elastically restrained edge against rotation and simply supported edge, there is an internal *elastic ring* support constraint and the continuity requirements of slope and curvature at the support, i.e. at  $\bar{r} = b$

$$\bar{u}_I(b) = \bar{u}_{II}(b); \quad (14)$$

$$\bar{u}_I'(b) = \bar{u}_{II}'(b); \quad (15)$$

$$\bar{u}_I''(b) = \bar{u}_{II}''(b); \quad (16)$$

$$\bar{u}_I'''(b) = \bar{u}_{II}'''(b) - T_{22} \bar{u}_{II}(b), \quad (17)$$

where  $T_{22} = \frac{K_{T2} R}{D}$ . The prime ( ' ) denotes the differentiation with respect to  $\bar{r}$ . The non-trivial solutions to Eqs. (12), (13), (14) – (17) are sought. The lowest value of  $k$  is the square root of the normalized buckling load. From Eqs. (4), (5), (12), (13) and (14) – (17) we get the following.

$$\begin{aligned} & \left[ \frac{k^2}{4} P_2 + \frac{k}{2} (\nu + R_{11}) P_1 - \left( \frac{k^2}{2} + \nu n^2 \right) J_n(k) \right] C_1 + \\ & + \left[ \frac{k^2}{4} Q_2 + \frac{k}{2} (\nu + R_{11}) Q_1 - \left( \frac{k^2}{2} + \nu n^2 \right) Y_n(k) \right] C_2 + \\ & + [n((n-1)(1-\nu) + R_{11})] C_3 + \\ & + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (\nu + R_{11}) - 1 \\ n((n+1)(1-\nu) - R_{11}) \end{array} \right\} C_4 = 0; \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

$$[J_n(k)] C_1 + Y_n(k) C_2 + 1 C_3 + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 0 \\ 1 \end{array} \right\} C_4 = 0; \quad (19)$$

$$J_n(kb) C_1 + Y_n(kb) C_2 + b^n C_3 + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \log b \\ b^{-n} \end{array} \right\} C_4 - J_n(kb) C_5 - b^n C_6 = 0; \quad (20)$$

$$\frac{k}{2} P_1' C_1 + \frac{k}{2} Q_1' C_2 + n b^{n-1} C_3 + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} 1 \\ b \\ -n b^{-n-1} \end{array} \right\} C_4 - \frac{k}{2} P_1' C_5 - n b^{n-1} C_6 = 0; \quad (21)$$

$$\frac{k^2}{4}(P_2' - 2J_n(kb))C_1 + \frac{k^2}{4}(Q_2' - 2Y_n(kb))C_2 + n(n-1)b^{n-2}C_3 - \left\{ \frac{1}{b^2} \right. \\ \left. n(n+1)b^{-n-2} \right\} C_4; \quad (22)$$

$$-\frac{k^2}{4}(P_2' - 2J_n(kb))C_5 - n(n-1)b^{n-2}C_6 = 0;$$

$$+\frac{k^2}{8}(P_3' - 3P_1')C_1 + \frac{k^2}{8}(Q_3' - Q_1')C_2 + n(n-1)(n-2)b^{n-3}C_3 + \left\{ \frac{2}{b^3} \right. \\ \left. -n(n+1)(n+2)b^{-n-3} \right\} C_4 - \\ - \left[ \frac{k^2}{8}(P_3' - 3P_1') - T_{22}J_n(kb) \right] C_5 - \left[ n(n-1)(n-2)b^{n-3} - T_{22}b^n \right] C_6 = 0; \quad (23)$$

$$P_1 = J_{n-1}(k) - J_{n+1}(k); P_2 = J_{n-2}(k) + J_{n+2}(k); P_3 = J_{n-3}(k) - J_{n+3}(k);$$

$$Q_1 = Y_{n-1}(k) - Y_{n+1}(k); Q_2 = Y_{n-2}(k) + Y_{n+2}(k); Q_3 = Y_{n-3}(k) - Y_{n+3}(k);$$

$$P_1' = J_{n-1}(kb) - J_{n+1}(kb); P_2' = J_{n-2}(kb) + J_{n+2}(kb); P_3' = J_{n-3}(kb) - J_{n+3}(kb);$$

$$Q_1' = Y_{n-1}(kb) - Y_{n+1}(kb); Q_2' = Y_{n-2}(kb) + Y_{n+2}(kb); Q_3' = Y_{n-3}(kb) - Y_{n+3}(kb).$$

The top forms of Eqs. (17) – (23) are used for  $n = 0$  (*axisymmetric* buckling) and the bottom forms are used for  $n \neq 0$  (*asymmetric* buckling).

#### IV. Solution.

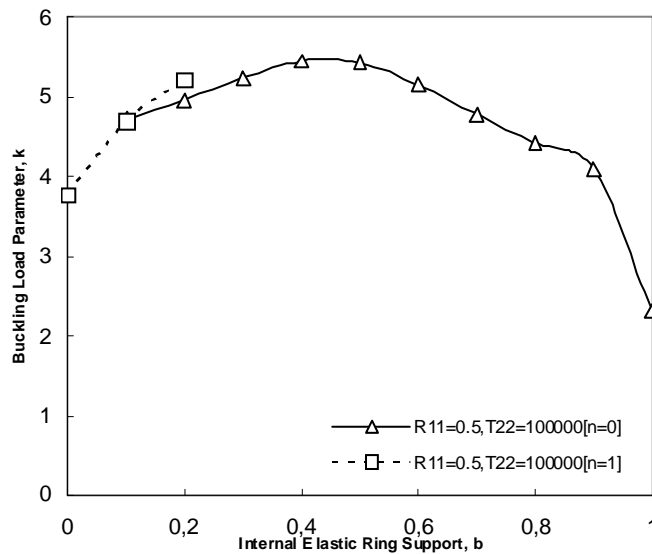
For the given values of  $n, \nu, R_{11}, T_{22}$  &  $b$  the above set of equations, gives exact characteristic equation for non-trivial solutions of the coefficients  $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_5$  &  $C_6$ . For non-trivial solution, the determinant of  $[C]_{6 \times 6}$  must be removed. The value of  $k$ , calculated from the characteristic equation by a simple root search method. Using Mathematica, computer software with symbolic capabilities, solves this problem.

#### V. Results and discussions.

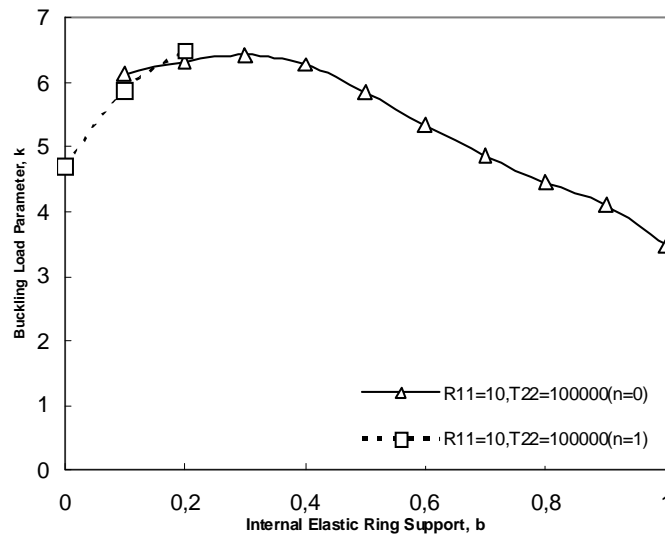
The influence of rotational spring stiffness parameter on buckling load for a given translational spring stiffness parameters of an *elastic ring* support is shown in Figs. 2 – 5. Figs. 2 – 5, show the variations of buckling load parameter  $k$ , with respect to the internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , for various values of rotational spring stiffness parameters ( $R_{11} = 0, 0.5, 10, 100$  &  $\infty$ ) by keeping translational spring stiffness parameter of an internal *elastic ring* support constant ( $T_{22} = 100000$ ). It is observed from Figs. 2 – 5, that for a given value of  $R_{11}$  and by keeping  $T_{22}$  constant, the curve is composed of two segments. This is due to the switching of buckling modes. For a smaller internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , the plate buckles in an asymmetric mode (*i.e.*,  $n = 1$ ). In this segment (as shown by dotted lines in Figs. 2 – 5) the buckling load decreases as  $b$  decreases in value. For larger internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , the plate buckles in an axisymmetric mode (*i.e.*,  $n = 0$ ). In this segment (as shown by continuous lines in Figs. 2 – 5) the buckling load increases as  $b$  decreases up to a peak point corresponds to maximum buckling load and thereafter decrease as  $b$  decreases in value.

The cross over radius varies from  $b = 0.09891$  for  $R_{11} = 0$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$  to  $b = 0.1545$  for  $R_{11} = \infty$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$  as shown in Figs. 2 and 5 respectively. The major interest in the

design of supported circular plates is the optimal location of the internal *elastic ring* support for maximum buckling load. The optimal solutions for this case are presented in Table 1. It is observed that the optimal ring support radius parameter decreases with increase in rotational spring stiffness parameter and also the optimal buckling load capacity increases with rotational spring stiffness parameter. Introducing internal elastic ring support, when placed at an optimal position increases the elastic buckling capacity significantly, and the percentage of increase in buckling loads is presented in Table 1. It is observed that the percentage increase in buckling load parameter decreases with increase in  $R_{11}$ . This is due to the amount of increase in buckling load without elastic ring support with  $R_{11}$  is more than that of increase in buckling load with elastic ring support with  $R_{11}$ .



*Fig. 2*  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $R_{11} = 0.5$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$ .



*Fig. 3*  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus Internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $R_{11} = 10$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$ .

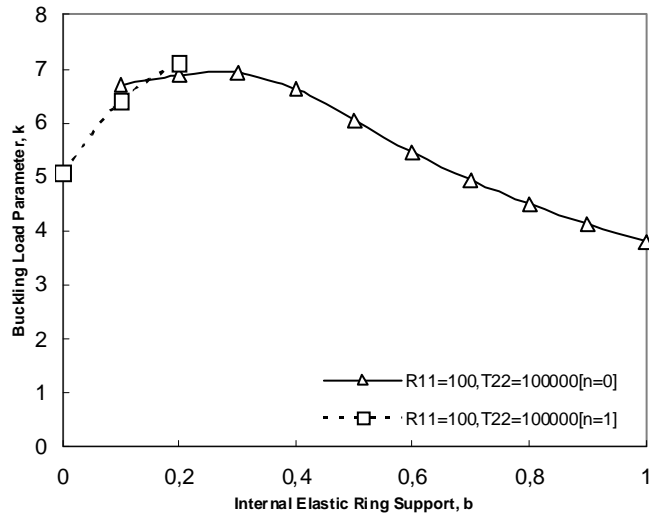


Fig. 4  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $R_{11} = 100$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$ .

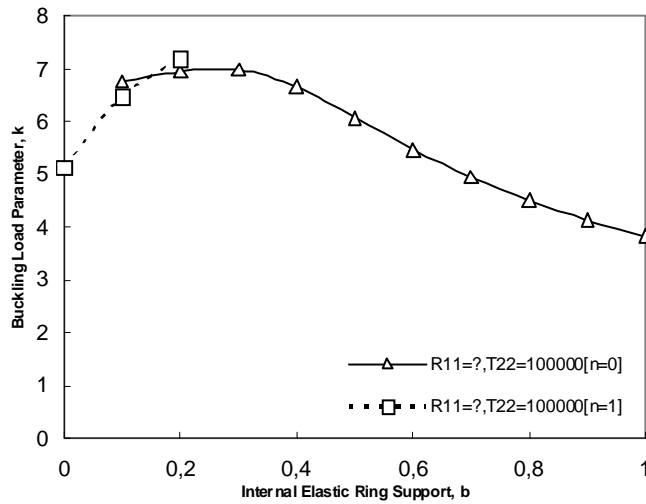


Fig. 5  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $R_{11} = \infty$  &  $T_{22} = 100000$ .

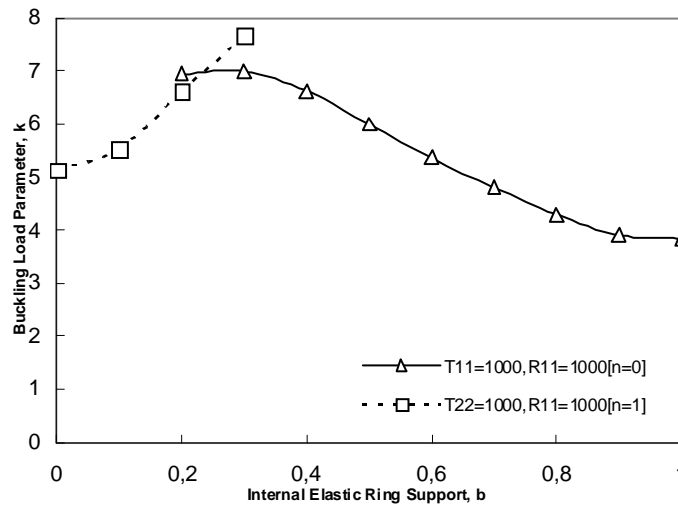
Table 1.  
Optimal Location of an Internal Elastic Ring Support  $b_{opt}$ , the corresponding Buckling Load Parameter  $k_{opt}$  and Percentage Increase in Buckling Load Parameter.

$T_{22} = 100000$					
$R_{11}$	0	0.5	10	100	$\infty$
$b_{opt}$	0.4998	0.4010	0.3001	0.2982	0.2966
$k_{opt}$	5.3669	5.4571	6.4333	6.9313	6.9989
%	161.95	135.52	84.39	82.71	82.66

The influence of translational spring stiffness parameter of an *elastic ring* support on buckling load for a given rotational spring stiffness parameter is shown in Figs. 6 – 8. Figs. 6 – 8, show the variations of buckling load parameter  $k$ , with respect to the internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , for various values of translational spring stiffness parameter of an internal *elastic ring* support ( $T_{22} = 1000, 100000 \& \infty$ ) by keeping rotational spring stiffness parameters constant ( $R_{11} = 1000$ ). It is observed from Figs. 6 – 8, that for a given value of  $T_{22}$  and by keeping  $R_{11}$  constant, the curve is composed of two segments. This is due to the switching of buckling modes. For a smaller internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , the plate buckles in an asymmetric mode (*i.e.*,  $n = 1$ ). In this segment (as shown by dotted lines in Figs. 6 - 8) the buckling load decreases as  $b$  decreases in value. For larger internal *elastic ring* support radius  $b$ , the plate buckles in an axisymmetric mode (*i.e.*,  $n = 0$ ). In this segment (as shown by continuous lines in Figs. 6 – 8) the buckling load increases as  $b$  decreases up to a peak point corresponds to maximum buckling load and thereafter decrease as  $b$  decreases in value.

The cross over radius varies from  $b = 0.2333$  for  $T_{22} = 1000 \& R_{11} = 1000$  to  $b = 0.1518$  for  $T_{22} = \infty \& R_{11} = 1000$  as shown in Figs. 6 and 8 respectively. The optimal solutions for this case are presented in Table 2.

Introducing internal elastic ring support, when placed at an optimal position increases the elastic buckling capacity significantly, and the percentage of increase in buckling loads is presented in Table 2.



*Fig. 6*  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ ,  
for various values of  $T_{22} = 1000 \& R_{11} = 1000$



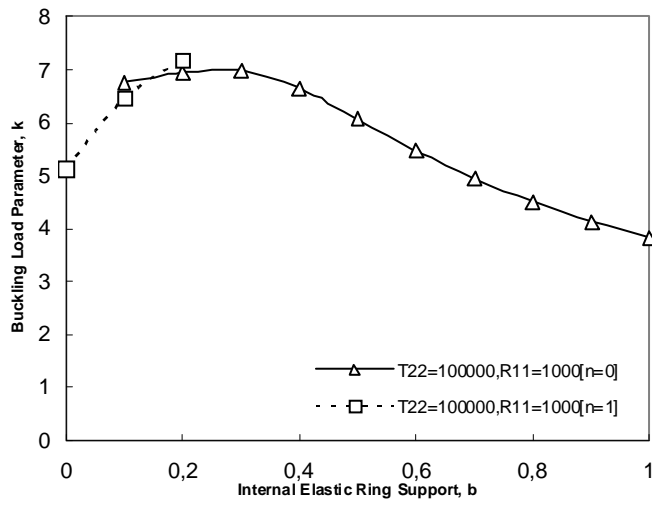


Fig. 7  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $T_{22} = 100000$  &  $R_{11} = 1000$ .

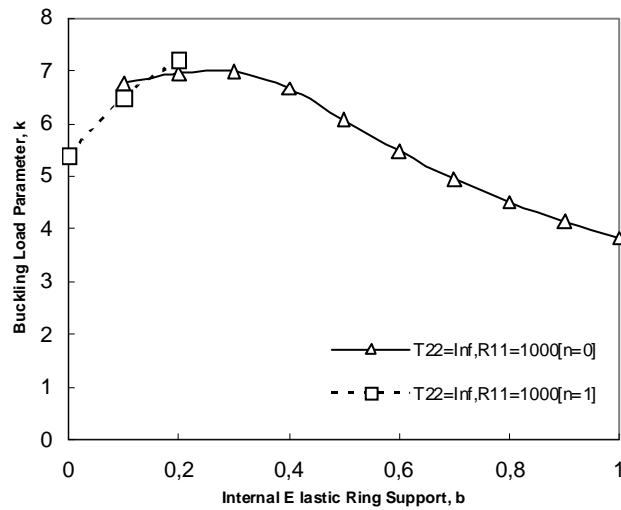


Fig. 8  
Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , versus internal *elastic ring* Support Radius  $b$ , for various values of  $T_{22} = \infty$  &  $R_{11} = 1000$ .

Table 2.  
Optimal Locations of Internal Elastic Ring Support  $b_{opt}$ , the corresponding Buckling Load Parameter  $k_{opt}$  and Percentage Increase in Buckling Load Parameter.

$R_{11} = 1000$			
$T_{22}$	1000	100000	$\infty$
$b_{opt}$	0.2999	0.2987	0.2984
$k_{opt}$	6.9857	6.9898	6.9901
%	82.49	82.60	82.61

Table 3.  
Comparison of Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , with Wang et al. [17] for various Rotational Stiffness Parameters  $R_{11}$  and Poisson's ratio = 0.3.

$R_{11}$	0	0.1	5	10	100	$\infty$
Wang et al.	4.198	4.449	10.462	12.173	14.392	14.682
Present	4.19766	4.44864	10.46134	12.17242	14.39200	14.6814

Table 4.  
Comparison of Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , with Laura et al. [4], Wang et al. [17] and Bhaskara Rao and Kameswara Rao [16] for Rotational stiffness Parameter  $R_{11} = 0$  &  $\nu = 0.3$ .

Ring support radius, $b$	Laura et al [4]	Wang et al. [17]	Bhaskara Rao and Kameswara Rao [16]	Present
0.1	4.5244	4.5235	4.52341	4.52341
0.2	4.7718	4.7702	4.77018	4.77018
0.3	5.0725	5.071	5.07091	5.07091
0.4	5.3301	5.3296	5.32964	5.32964
0.5	5.3666	5.3666	5.36659	5.36659
0.6	5.1284	5.1261	5.12606	5.12606
0.7	4.7789	4.7727	4.77266	4.77266
0.8	4.4249	4.4215	4.42141	4.42141
0.9	4.1122	4.1063	4.10629	4.10629

Table 5. Comparison of Buckling Load Parameter  $k$ , with Laura et al. [4] and Bhaskara Rao and Kameswara Rao [16] for Rotational stiffness Parameter  $R_{11} = \infty$  &  $\nu = 0.3$ .

Ring support radius, $b$	Laura et al [4]	Bhaskara Rao and Kameswara Rao [16]	Present
0.1	6.772	6.50105	6.50105
0.2	6.9649	6.95592	6.95592
0.3	6.9964	6.99485	6.99485
0.4	6.6693	6.66257	6.66257
0.5	6.0852	6.07454	6.07454
0.6	5.4845	5.4755	5.4755
0.7	4.9588	4.95263	4.95263
0.8	4.5277	4.51266	4.51266
0.9	4.1509	4.14357	4.14357

The results of this kind were scarce in the literature. However, the results are compared with the following cases. (i). For any value of  $R_{11}$  and as  $T_{22} \rightarrow \infty$  and  $b \rightarrow 1$ , all the curves converge to  $k = 3.83165$  which is of the clamped plate and it is agree with those of Wang et al. [9]. (ii). When  $R_{11} \rightarrow \infty$  &  $T_{22} = 10$ , or clamped support with internal elastic ring support, the optimum location is at a radius of  $b = 0.290$ , with a buckling load of  $k = 4.20875$ , and also as  $b \rightarrow 1$ , the buckling load,  $k = 3.83163$ , these results are in well agreement with the

of Wang [6]. (iii). When  $R_{11} \rightarrow 0$  &  $T_{22} = 10$ , or simply supported edge plate with internal *elastic ring* support, the optimum location is at a radius of  $b = 0.417$ , with a buckling load of  $k = 2.69104$ , and also as  $b \rightarrow 1$ , the buckling load,  $k = 2.04882$ , these results are in well agreement with the of Wang [6]. (iv).

Table 3, presents the buckling load parameters  $k$ , for a circular plate with simply supported edge and rotational restraint with  $T_{22} = 0$  (i.e., with no ring support), against those obtained by Wang et. al. [15]. (v). When  $R_{11} \rightarrow \infty$  &  $T_{22} \rightarrow \infty$ , or rotationally restrained and simply supported circular plate with internal *rigid* support, the optimum location is at a radius of  $b = 0.265$ , with a buckling load of  $k = 7.01554$  that agree with the results of Wang et al [15]. (vi).

Tables 4 and 5, presents the buckling load parameters  $k$ , for a circular plate with an internal ring support ( $T_{22} \rightarrow \infty$ , i.e., *rigid* ring support) and elastically restrained edge against rotation and simply supported, against those obtained by Laura et al. [4], Wang et al. [17] and Bhaskara Rao and Kameswara Rao [16].

## VI. Conclusions.

The buckling problem of thin circular plates with an internal *elastic ring* support and elastically restrained edge against rotation and simply supported has been solved. The buckling loads are given for various rotational restraints [ $R_{11}$ ] and translational restraints of internal ring support [ $T_{22}$ ]. It is observed that the buckling mode switches from an asymmetric mode to an axisymmetric mode at a particular ring support radius. The cross-over radius is determined for different values of rotational restraints and translational restraints of elastic ring support. The optimal ring support is affected by the rotational stiffness parameters and translational spring stiffness parameters of an internal *elastic ring* support. The optimum location increases with decreasing  $T_{22}$ , whereas the buckling load decreases with  $T_{22}$ . The optimum location increases with decreasing  $R_{11}$ , whereas the buckling load decreases with  $R_{11}$ . However, it is observed that the influence of rotational restrains on buckling load is more predominant than that of translational restraints of internal *elastic ring* support. In this paper the characteristic equations are exact; therefore the results can be calculated to any accuracy. These exact solutions can be used to check numerical or approximate results. The tabulated buckling results are useful to designers in structural design and vibration control.

### Nomenclature:

- $w(r, \theta)$  – Transverse deflection of the plate;
- $h$  – Thickness of a plate;
- $R$  – Radius of a plate;
- $b$  – Non-dimensional radius of ring support;
- $\nu$  – Poisson's ratio;
- $E$  – Young's modulus of a material;
- $D$  – Flexural rigidity of a material;
- $K_{T2}$  – Translational Spring Stiffness of Internal *elastic ring*;
- $K_{R1}$  – Rotational spring stiffness;
- $R_{11}$  – Non-dimensional rotational spring stiffness Parameter;
- $T_{22}$  – Non-dimensional translational spring stiffness parameter of internal *elastic ring*;
- $N$  – Uniform in - plane compressive load;
- $k$  – Non-dimensional Buckling Load Parameter.

РЕЗЮМЕ. Розглянуто випучування пружної круглої пластинки з внутрішнім кріпленням у вигляді пружного кільця і зовнішньою границею, яка обмежує пружне обертання і є вільно опертою. Виведено диференціальні рівняння, що описують задачу, для чого використано класичну теорію пластинок. Запропоновано доведення існування перемикання на моду випучування в залежності від радіуса внутрішнього кільця. Пластинка може випучуватися, взагалі кажучи, за осесиметричною модою, але для малого радіуса кільця пластинка може випучуватися за неосесиметричною модою.

Перехідне значення відношення радіуса кільця до радіуса пластинки змінюється від 0,9891 до 0,1545 в залежності від жорсткості кільця і обмеження на обертання на зовнішній границі пластинки. Також визначено максимальний радіус кільця, пов'язаний з максимальним значенням навантаження. Числові дані згруповані таким чином, що вони дозволяють зробити висновки щодо впливу обмеження на обертання, обмеження на поступальний рух кільця, коефіцієнта Пуассона та інших граничних умов на випучування однорідної круглій пластинки. Отримані числові результати добре узгоджуються з даними, опублікованими раніше.

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