

Using DIANA in the education

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Since 1992, graduate students at the Department of Structural Engineering, NTNU, has been using DIANA in modeling concrete structures. The program contains many formulations which makes it favorable when modeling concrete structures, and is therefore an excellent tool for students when learning about concrete behaviour. However, to make the most of the advantages DIANA provides in education of master students, one should minimize the time spent on learning how to use the program. Some experiences with using DIANA in the education will be given.

First of all, students likes using DIANA. When comparing results from DIANA with different solution methods and well accepted theories, they find it useful in learning and understanding concrete behavior. It also provides an overall understanding of finite-element analysis, which can be very useful in working life. Still, they mention a need for additional teaching as the Online Documentation and Help-functions in DIANA seems a bit confusing. Students often find it difficult to follow the instructions and information, and in general they miss complementary explanations.

The main issue seems to be that there is a need for more educational user manuals on DIANA. Existing user instructions appear more informative than educational, and therefore a few suggestions on how to make it easier using DIANA for the first time is made.

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