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Evaluating damage of reinforced concrete structures subjected to bending using the parameters of

electric response to mechanical impact

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Abstract

The paper considers a method for evaluation of reinforced concrete damage due to the bending

of concrete beams reinforced with steel and fiberglass reinforcement. The evaluation procedure is based

on measuring the electrical response to mechanical impact. Measurements of the electrical response are

carried out periodically during a gradual increase in the external load. The analysis of signals in time and

frequency is the basis for the algorithm for evaluating the damage processes in reinforced concrete

structures subjected to four-point bending. On the basis of numerical simulation and experimental study

of the load graphs, the stages of damage process in reinforced concrete beams under bending action were

determined. A good correspondence between experimental and theoretical results is shown. As diagnostic

parameters characterizing the stages of damage in reinforced concrete beams, it is proposed to use the

energy decay coefficient of the electrical responses, the coefficient of cross-correlation of the signal

spectrum in the process of loading with the signal spectrum from the same sample before loading, and the

frequency shift at which the maximum coefficient of correlation can be observed. Most informative

frequency ranges where the proposed diagnostic parameters relation to the degradation processes of

reinforced concrete during bending is more reliable were determined. The proposed method can be used

to monitor the development of damage in reinforced concrete under bending conditions.

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