

Cyclic loading test for circular reinforced concrete columns subjected to near-fault ground motion

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ABSTRACT

Near-fault earthquake load causes more serious damage in reinforced concrete (RC) structures when compared with far-field earthquake load. Particularly, a short column under the near-fault earthquake load is vulnerable to shear failure, which requires special design consideration to avoid the brittle failure under the near-fault ground motion. In the present study, quasi-static cyclic tests were conducted on four circular RC columns to investigate load-carrying capacity, deformation capacity, failure mode, stiffness degradation, energy dissipation capacity, and deformation components. For the test parameters, shear-span ratio, longitudinal bars diameter, and cyclic loading type were considered. The test results showed that under the cyclic loading to describe the near-fault ground motion, the RC columns were susceptible to premature concrete spalling and shear failure.

1. Introduction

Near-fault earthquake loads such as 1994 Northridge, 1995 Kobe, and 1999 Chi-Chi earthquakes cause more serious damage in reinforced concrete (RC) structures than that by far-field earthquake load. Compared to the far-field ground motions considered in most of seismic design criteria, the near-fault ground motions show the distinctive response. Generally, the near-fault ground motions include a long period-high velocity pulse in the fault-normal direction and permanent ground displacement (e.g., [1]). The analytical simulation for typical steel moment frames shows that the near-fault ground motions cause large displacement demands at the arrival of the velocity pulse, which require the structure to dissipate considerable input energy in a single or relatively few plastic cycles. The large displacement demand induces significant damage in the structures with limited ductility capacity (e.g., [2]).

Existing studies have mainly focused on flexural behavior of RC bridge columns under near-fault earthquake load. Mayes et al. [3] evaluated the cyclic response of sixteen columns, which had heights of 6.1–15.2 m and periods of 0.7–3.8 s, subjected to several seismic events including near-fault ground motions. They reported that the near-fault ground records increased the displacement demand of columns, which was greater than the displacement capacity of several columns. Orozco et al. [4] tested three identical bridge columns with the shear span ratio

of 2.25 to study the effect of near-fault ground motion on the bridge columns. Under a single pulse to describe the near-fault earthquake load according to standard cycles, the influence of the large velocity pulse on the structural performance of the bridge columns was not significant. Kazuhio and Park [5] tested five RC bridge columns to evaluate the effect of loading pattern on damage of the columns. Test results showed that the loading pattern was not critical to the maximum lateral load-carrying capacity of the columns, but the failure mode was affected by the loading pattern. Using the fatigue based damage model combined with energy dissipation, a simple procedure was proposed to predict the damage and failure of the RC columns subjected to an arbitrary seismic loading pattern. Chang et al. [6] performed pseudo dynamic test of two two-fifths scale bridge columns to investigate seismic responses of as-built and repaired RC bridge columns with the shear span ratio of 2.17 under near-fault ground motion. The test results showed that the significant pulse-like wave destroyed the columns without ductile behavior to dissipate seismic energy. Phan et al. [7] performed a shaking table test on two flexural-governed RC columns under near-fault ground motion, which showed the shear span ratio 2.26, and compared the test results with that of a similar column under far-field ground motion. They reported that the plastic hinge length in columns subjected to near-fault ground motion is comparable to that of columns subjected to far-field motion, but the near-fault earthquake records with forward directivity provided an asymmetric velocity pulse

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with high amplitude, which caused the whip-like behavior of the columns and large residual displacement in one direction. Choi et al. [8] performed a shaking table test on four bridge columns with the shear span ratio of 2.25–3.88 under near-fault ground motion to evaluate the effect of near-fault earthquake load. High amplitude velocity pulse related to near-fault earthquake load caused large residual displacements of the columns, but the ductility capacity and plastic hinge lengths of the columns subjected to near-fault earthquake load were comparable to those of the columns under far-field earthquake load. Brown et al. [9] tested two cantilever columns with the shear span ratio of 1.94 on a shaking table subjected to near-fault and far-field ground motion records. They reported that significant damage occurred by the impulsive effect of near-fault ground record, and the near-fault ground motion increased the strains, curvatures, and drift ratios, compared to those of the far-field ground motion.

In the last few decades, near-fault earthquakes have become a hotspot in earthquake engineering field. Due to long period high velocity pulse of near-fault earthquake, structures would suffer more serious damage and permanent residual deformation than those under far-field earthquake. Thus, greater capacity and ductility are required in the structures under near-fault earthquake. For columns with a relatively small shear span ratio and poor seismic details, shear failure results in low ductility and energy dissipation of the columns. Though shear failure of RC columns has been often reported in recent earthquakes, the shear behavior of the RC columns under near-fault earthquake load has not been a critical issue compared to the flexural strength and ductility of the RC columns. Particularly, as more near-fault ground motions have been recorded, careful considerations are needed for structures located in near-fault ground.

As a fundamental study for RC columns subjected to near-fault ground motion, this study focused on the loading pattern effect on RC bridge columns that show shear failure. To investigate the effect of near-fault ground motion on RC bridge columns, four circular RC columns were tested under quasi-static cycle loadings on the basis of the near-fault and far-field ground motion records. The structural performance including load-carrying capacity, deformation capacity, failure mode, stiffness degradation, energy dissipation capacity, and deformation components were evaluated.

Table 1

Test parameters.

Specimens	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4
Height (mm)	1900 (2.56)	1600 (2.16)	1600 (2.16)	1600 (2.16)
Longitudinal bars (steel ratio, %)	20- Φ 16 (3.74)	20- Φ 16 (3.74)	20- Φ 16 (3.74)	12- Φ 20 (3.51)
f_y / ϵ_y (MPa, mm/mm)	403 / 0.0020	403 / 0.0020	403 / 0.0020	529 / 0.0026
f_u (MPa)	566	566	566	652
Cyclic load ^a	Type 1	Type 1	Type 2	Type 2
f_c' (MPa) ^b	42.3	40.2	51.1	39.9
Axial load (kN)	1210	1180	1417	1120
Axial compression ratio	0.32	0.33	0.31	0.31

f_y : yield strength; ϵ_y : yield strain; f_u : tensile strength.

^a Type 1 and type 2 describe far-field ground motion and near-fault ground motion, respectively.

^b Cube compressive strength of concrete. On the basis of Chinese design code of concrete structures, the axial compressive strength of the concrete cylinder is approximately 80% of the cube compressive strength.

2. Test Program

2.1. Test Specimens

Fig. 1 and Table 1 show four RC column specimens in detail. The column specimens were designed according to Chinese codes and provisions [10–12]. The cross-section of the specimens was circular shape with 370 mm diameter and the hoops were $\Phi 8 @ 100$ mm. The specimens were subjected to uniform axial compression and cyclic lateral loading. The test parameters were the shear span ratios (i.e., 2.56 for C-1 or 2.16 for C-2, C-3, and C-4), longitudinal reinforcing bars (i.e., 20- Φ 16 for C-1, C-2, and C-3 or 12- Φ 20 for C-4). The cyclic lateral loading procedure was to investigate the shear behavior under two-typed cyclic loadings (far-field ground motion for C-1 and C-2 or near-fault ground motion for C-3 and C-4).

For specimen C-1, column height was 1900 mm, which shows the shear span ratio 2.56. On the basis of the design method of the existing three test results showing flexural failure by Liu [13] and Yi et al. [14], C-1 was designed to investigate the failure mode that changes from flexural failure to shear failure. Twenty HRB 400-D16 (GB50010-2010)

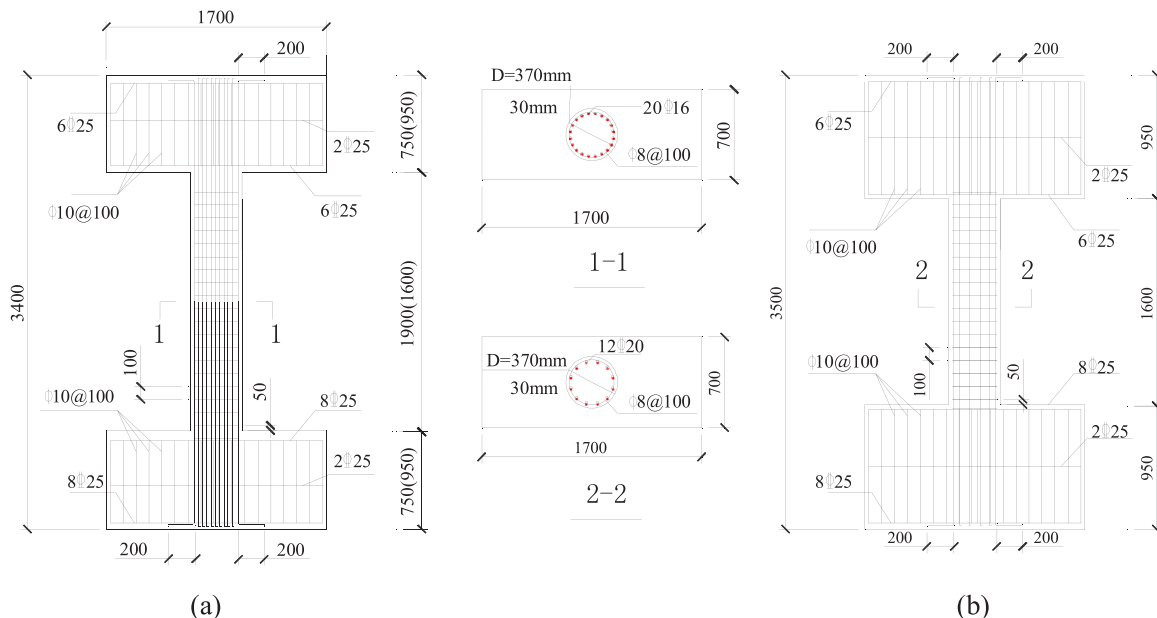


Fig. 1. Dimensions and detail of test specimens (dimension of C-2 to C-3 was denoted in brackets, mm).

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