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Description	Transverse Reinforcement in Joints and Beam Ends
Citation	北海道大學工學部研究報告, 145, 29-39
Issue Date	1988-12-27
Doc URL	<a href="https://hdl.handle.net/2115/42176">https://hdl.handle.net/2115/42176</a>
Type	departmental bulletin paper
File Information	145_29-40.pdf



( Transverse Reinforcement in Joints and Beam Ends )

# INFLUENCE OF TRANSVERSE REINFORCEMENT IN JOINTS AND BEAM ENDS ON THE BEHAVIOR OF R/C BEAM-COLUMN SUBASSEMBLAGES

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( Received September 10, 1988 )

## Abstract

In the recent earthquake-resistant design of reinforced concrete frames, the importance of the behavior of the beam-column joint is marked since the weak beam-strong column mechanism is recommended in general. The shear failure or shear cracking in joints must be prevented as a matter of course, and moreover the slippage of beam bars from the joint should be also avoided because it will reduce the energy absorbing capacity of frames. To avoid such slippage, the confinement of core concrete in members may have some influence on the limitation of the deterioration of bond stress. Experimental work was carried out in order to determine the influence of transverse reinforcement in joint panels and/or the connecting ends of beams on the behavior of R/C beam-column subassemblages. The test results showed that the heavy transverse reinforcement in joints reduced the slippage of beam bars from the joint panel and enhanced the panel stiffness after cracking, and that such reinforcement in the beam ends showed little effect on relieving of the stiffness degradation of frames after yielding. One of specimens that was treated as bondless within the joint region of the beam bars developed sufficient ductility but low energy absorption.

## 1. Introduction

Reinforced concrete interior beam-column joints designed in such a way as to develop the weak-beam strong-column frame mechanism under lateral loads generally have flexural yield regions at the ends of the connecting beams. These joints have a tendency to show undesirable hysteretic behavior due to the bond deterioration of beam bars within the joint panels during severe cyclic loadings after yielding at the adjacent beam ends. In this paper, the effect of heavy transverse reinforcement in joint panels and/or in beam ends on improving the hysteretic behavior of frames is discussed on the basis of test data.

## 2. Experimental Work

*Test Specimens* : The test specimens are interior beam-column subassemblages corresponding to ones extracted from the intermediate stories of reinforced concrete multistory frames. Five specimens shown in Fig. 1 were subjected to constant axial column loads and lateral load reversals. They had a cross shape with no perpendicular-direction beam and no slab, and about a half scale of actual frame members. All specimens were designed so that plastic hinges at the beam ends should form prior to flexural yielding in the columns and shear failure in the beams, columns or joints. The columns were identical in all specimens with

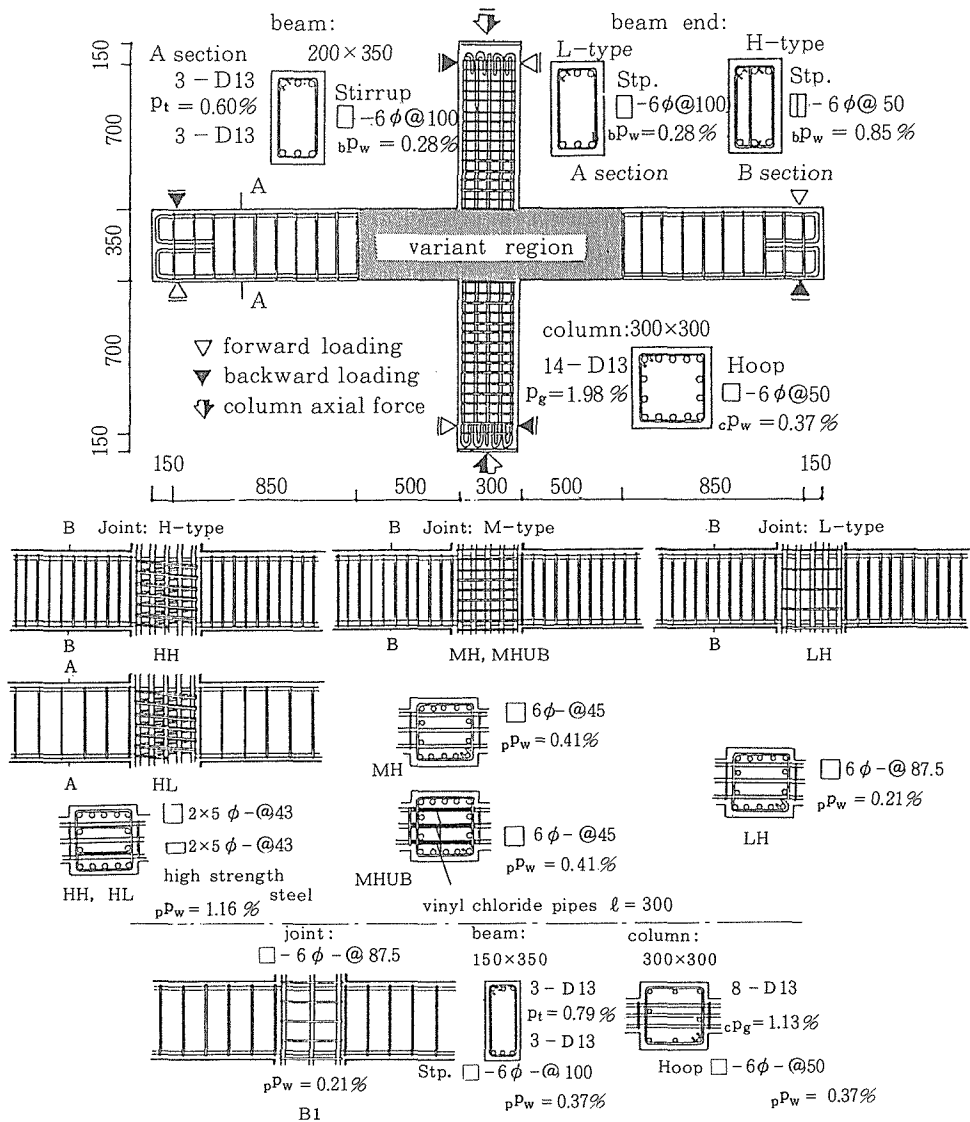


Fig. 1 Detail of specimens

cross-section of 30cm x 30cm, a distance of 175cm between top and bottom reaction points, a longitudinal reinforcement of 14-D13 with a gross reinforcement ratio of 1.98% and hoops of 6mm in diameter at every 5cm spacing with a shear reinforcement ratio of 0.37%. The beams were fundamentally composed of a cross-section of 20cm x 35cm, a distance of 300cm between two loading points, longitudinal bars of 3-D13 with a reinforcement ratio of 0.60% at the both top and bottom, and stirrups of 6mm in diameter at every 10cm spacing with the shear reinforcement ratio of 0.28% at the middle parts of beam span. The beam bars were passed through the joints and the ratio of the column depth to the bar diameter was 23.

Five specimens showed variations in the lateral reinforcement of the joint panels and/or in the transverse reinforcement of the beam ends. As the first variation, the three type of lateral reinforcement in the joint panels were provided as follows : -

'H' : higher reinforcement type, where spiral hoops and spiral ties of high strength steel were arranged at the reinforcement ratio of 1.16%, corresponding to the requirements of NZS 3101-1982<sup>2)</sup>,

'M' : middle reinforcement type, where hoops were arranged at the reinforcement ratio of 0.41%, applied to the requirement of shear reinforcement for columns, other than the special requirement for the flexural hinge regions, in the code of ACI 318-81<sup>3)</sup>,

'L' : lower reinforcement type, where hoops were arranged at the reinforcement ratio of 0.21%, according to the usual practice in Japan.

As the second variation, two types of transverse reinforcement in the beam ends were provided as follows : -

'L' : lower reinforcement type, where stirrups were arranged equally to the middle part of the beam span at the reinforcement ratio of 0.28%,

'H' : higher reinforcement type, where stirrups and sub-ties were arranged at the ratio of 0.85%, three times the ratio in the lower type specimens.

**Table 1** Variations of specimens and properties of concrete

name	Variations			Concrete		
	transverse reinforcement		others	comp.	modulus 10 <sup>5</sup>	split
	Joint	Beam				
HH	high	high		261	2.12	25.4
HL	high	low		280	2.65	31.0
MH	middle	high		287	2.93	27.1
LH	low	high		274	2.62	27.6
MHUB	middle	high	*1	266	2.41	26.6
B1	low	low	*2	216	1.81	23.5

\*1 unbond beam bars within joint

\*2 beam width of 15cm, column axial bars of 8-D13 (previous test series [1])

modulus (secant) = value at 33% of compressive strength

**Table 2** Properties of reinforcement

	yielding	fracture	elongation
D13	3850	5970	22.9
6φ	3800	5220	23.0
5φ	10800	12900	8.3

note :

unit of Tables 1 and 2 is kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, except for elongation of %

The specimens were named for the combinations of the above-mentioned two variations; for example, 'HL' means a specimen which was arranged by higher lateral reinforcement in the joint panel and lower transverse reinforcement in both beam ends. The specimen 'MHUB', one of 'MH' types, was treated to be bondless within the joint region of the beam bars by using vinyl chloride pipes for the purpose of clarifying the role of the bond capacity beam-bars within the joint in the stress transmission mechanism. Table 1 shows the variations of the specimens and also shows the properties of concrete. Compressive strength of the concrete was from 261 to 287 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>. The properties of reinforcement were shown in Table 2. The specimen 'B1' was tested in another experimental series which were reported in detail in the previous paper<sup>1)</sup>, and was compared in this discussion. The situations of this specimen was identical to 'LH' except for the beam width of 15 cm, the axial reinforcement in the column of 8-D13 and the transverse reinforcement in the beam ends of the lower type specimen.

*Loading* The loading arrangement is schematically shown in Fig. 2. Two servoactuators were installed vertically connecting the tips of the beams and the reciprocal loading history given to the specimen is shown in Fig. 3 as represented with the story displacement angle. The axial load on the column was kept constant as  $f_c'b_ch_c/6$  during the test.

*Instrumentation* The displacement at the selected points on the beams and columns shown in Fig. 4(a) were measured using a reference frame. Measurements were also taken on the shear deformation of the joint and the beams as shown in Fig. 4(b). The amount of slippage of longitudinal beam bars from the joint and beams was also measured.

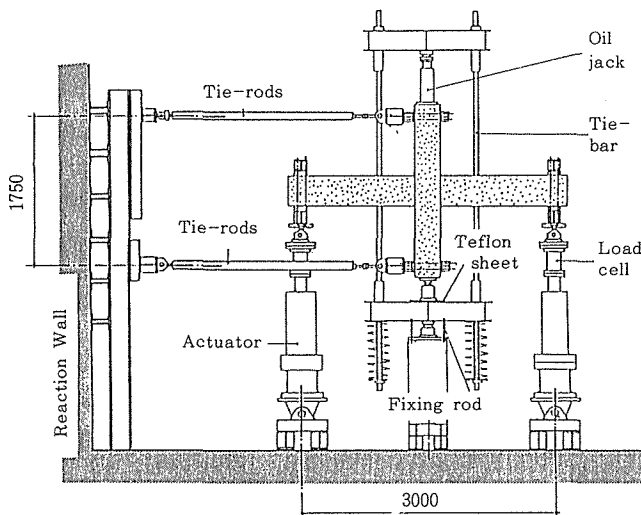


Fig. 2 Loading arrangement

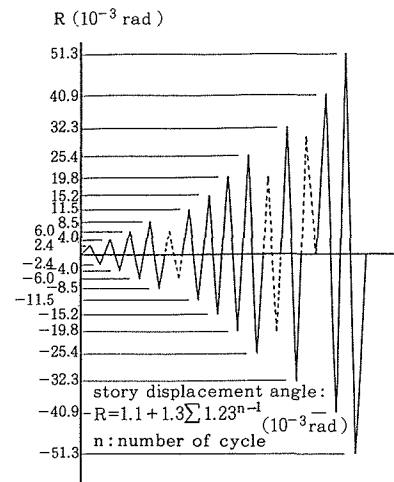


Fig. 3 Forced displacement history

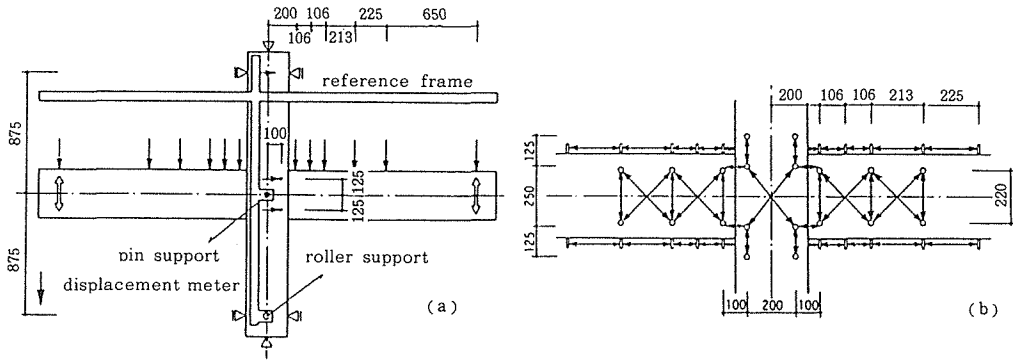


Fig. 4 Measurement

### 3. Experimental Results and Discussion

*Cracking and Failure* Crack patterns in the final stages of the specimens are shown in Fig. 5. The shear cracks in the joint panels of 'HH' and 'HL' with the higher lateral reinforcement in the joints were dispersed over the entire joint regions. And contrastively the shear cracks of 'LH' with the lower lateral reinforcement appeared concentratively as a few wider diagonal cracks. No shear crack occurred in the joint of the unbonded specimen 'MHUB'. These specimens failed due to the flexure of the beam ends while the joint was not fully developed to the ultimate stages. Only the specimen 'B1' failed due to joint shear under the large deformation forced after the ultimate strength of the beams. The difference of the failing mode of 'B1' from that of 'LH' which had the same lateral reinforcement in the joint might result from the narrower beam width and the lesser axial reinforcement in the middle depth of column.

*Strength* The summary of the test results and the comparison with the calculated values are shown in Table 3. The equations to obtain the calculated values are presented below the table. The calculated values of the shear cracking stresses in joints are close to the test values independently of the transverse reinforcement ratio. In the specimen 'MHUB' with unbonded beam bars in the joint panel, however, the shear crack did not occur in the panel though the test values were above the calculated values. The reason may be that the diagonal tension stresses which might result from the bond stresses of the beam bars and column bars had not developed.

All specimens failed the with flexure of the beams and the ultimate strength ratios of the test values to the calculated values lay between 1.2 and 1.3 except 'MHUB', hence it appeared that the beam bars reached the strain hardening range at the maximum loads. The reason why the ratio of 'MHUB' was not enhanced so much may be that the strain of beam bars remained smaller even at a large deflection of the frame after the yielding because the deformable length of the beam bars was not less than the column depth and the uniform tension stress occurred along this length uniformly, and that the moment arms in the

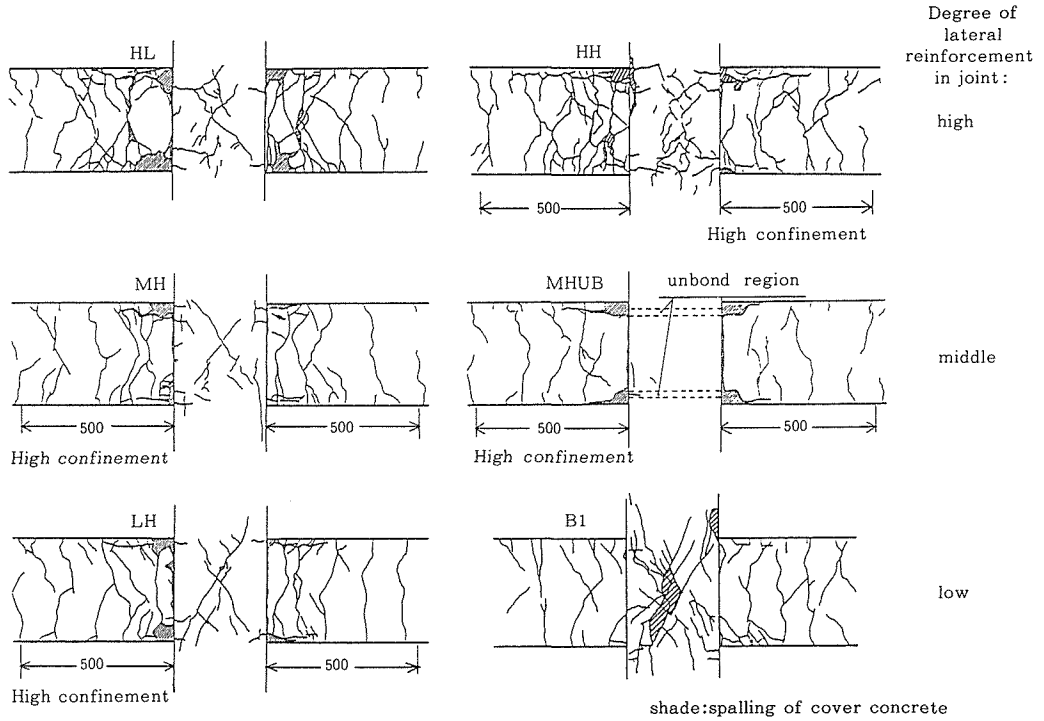


Fig. 5 Crack patterns after test

Table 3 Observed and calculated values

Specimen	loading	shear crack in joint					flexural yield in beam				ultimate strength						
		cycle	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	cycle	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	cycle	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
			R (10 <sup>-3</sup> )	exp V <sub>cot</sub> (tonf)	exp v <sub>jh</sub> (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )	cat v <sup>*</sup> <sub>jh</sub> (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )	(3)/(4)		R (10 <sup>-3</sup> )	ex V <sub>cot</sub> (tonf)	cat V <sub>cot</sub> (tonf)	(7)/(8)		R (10 <sup>-3</sup> )	exp V <sub>cot</sub> (tonf)	cat V <sub>cot</sub> (tonf)	(11)/(12)
HH	+	5	11.4	4.80	32.2		0.86	3	5.31	5.53		1.08	9	32.4	6.48		1.22
	-	4	8.05	5.30	35.6	37.6	0.94	4	5.98	5.03	5.14	0.99	9	32.3	6.59	5.03	1.24
HL	+	3	6.18	5.88	39.4		1.02	3	4.80	5.28		1.01	8	25.5	6.61		1.23
	-	4	8.02	5.86	39.3	38.5	1.02	3	4.67	5.40	5.21	1.04	8	25.5	6.77	5.37	1.26
MH	+	4	7.23	5.73	38.4		0.99	3	5.46	5.39		1.03	8	25.7	6.42		1.20
	-	3	6.07	5.93	39.8	38.9	1.02	3	4.74	5.36	5.21	1.03	8	25.4	6.72	5.37	1.25
LH	+	3	5.42	5.30	35.6		0.93	3	4.92	5.07		0.97	9	32.7	6.67		1.24
	-	5	5.95	5.45	36.6	38.3	0.96	3	4.72	5.01	5.21	0.96	8	25.4	6.42	5.37	1.20
MHUB	+	6	15.4	5.81	39.0		1.03	4	8.14	5.63		1.08	6	15.4	5.81		1.08
	-	9	32.4	5.77	38.7	37.9	1.02	4	6.01	4.21	5.21	0.81	9	32.4	5.77	5.37	1.07

■crack

$$v_{jh} = \frac{1}{b_j j_c} \left[ \frac{M_{b1} + M_{b2}}{j_b} - V_{cot} \right]$$

$$v_{jh}^* = f_i' \sqrt{1 + \frac{\sigma_o}{f_i'}}$$

b<sub>j</sub> = b<sub>c</sub>; joint width (for this case)

$$j_c = \frac{7}{8} d_c, \quad j_b = \frac{7}{8} d_b$$

f<sub>i</sub>' = 1.4√f<sub>c</sub>', σ<sub>o</sub> = column axial stress

■yield

$$cat V_{cot} = \frac{M_{bv} l_b}{e l_b l_c} \tag{8}$$

$$e l_b = \text{clear span of the beam}$$

$$M_{bv} = 0.8 a_t f_y d_b$$

■ultimate

$$cat V_{cot} = \frac{M_{bu} l_b}{e l_b l_c} \tag{12}$$

$$M_{bu} = 0.9 a_t f_y d_b$$

cross-section of the beam ends were relatively short because the beam bars in the compression regions at the column faces did not work as compression bars and the compressive stress in concrete was duplicated.

*Shear Force in Column vs. Story Deflection Angle Relations* The relation between shear force induced in column and story deflection angle in each specimen is shown in Fig. 6. In the figure, the loops of the 8th cycle in which almost all specimen attained the ultimate strength were shaded. The envelope curves obtained from these  $V_{col}$ - $R_B$  curves are shown in Fig. 7. The ductility factors which are the ratios of the deflections at ultimate strength to those at yielding are indicated in Table 4. The ductility factor of the specimen 'MHUB' at forward loading looks extremely small at first glance. This is brought about from the fact that the peak values at reversed loading cycles after yielding slightly fluctuated in the case of 'MHUB' and the maximum of peak values occurred at the rather small deflection as a result. As observed in Fig. 7 it can be said that all specimens had good deformability in the re-estimation from the view point of the limit deflections to which the yielding strength was held. But the loop shape of the specimen 'LH' showed the pinch effect clearly. Fig. 8 showed that the equivalent viscous damping factor became smaller according to the decrease of lateral reinforcement ratio in the joint panels, since the joint shear stiffness degraded after

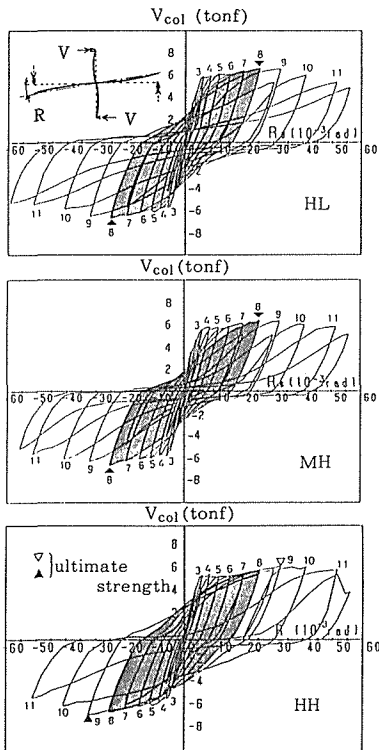


Fig. 6 Column shear - story drift angle relations

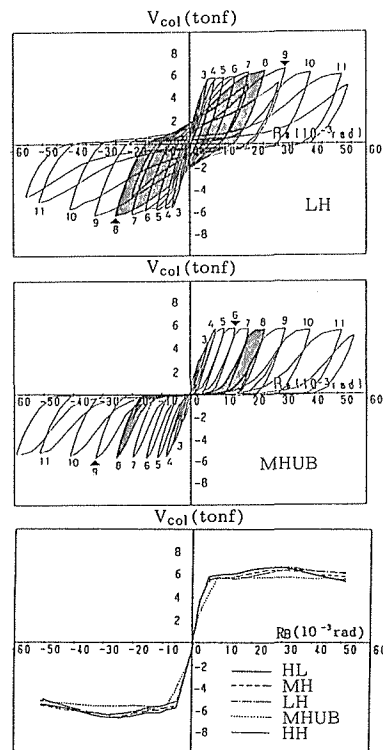


Fig. 7 Skeleton curves in the relations of column shear - story drift angle

Table 4 Deformability

Specimen		HH	HL	MH	LH	MHUB
$R_y$ ( $10^{-3}$ rad)	+	5.31	4.80	5.46	4.92	8.14
	-	5.98	4.67	4.47	4.72	6.01
$R_u$ ( $10^{-3}$ rad)	+	32.4	25.5	25.7	32.7	15.4
	-	32.3	25.5	25.4	25.4	32.4
$\mu_u$	+	6.0	5.3	4.7	6.6	1.9
	-	5.0	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.4
$R_{y'}$ ( $10^{-3}$ rad)	+	>51.8	53.2	>53.2	>53.8	48.3
	-	49.6	>59.2	>54.5	52.8	>59.2

$R_y$  : Story drift angle at yielding of beam bars

$R_u$  : Story drift angle at ultimate strength

$R_{y'}$  : Story drift angle at limit deflection

$\mu_u$  : Ductility factor,  $R_u/R_y$

+

- : backward loading

shear cracking in the joint panels and the slippage of beam bars appeared after shear cracking, as mentioned below. The equivalent viscous damping factor of 'MHUB', unbond specimen, was the smallest at all steps of deflection.

*Characteristics of Deformation* A superimposed illustration of the skeleton curves in the relations of joint shear stress vs. deformation is shown in Fig. 9, except 'HH' and 'LH' in which the shear deformation measuring was defective. The shear stiffnesses of 'HL' and 'MH' degraded just after cracking diagonally in the joint panels. As in Fig. 7, the shear deformation after cracking became larger with the less lateral reinforcement in the joint panel, it was

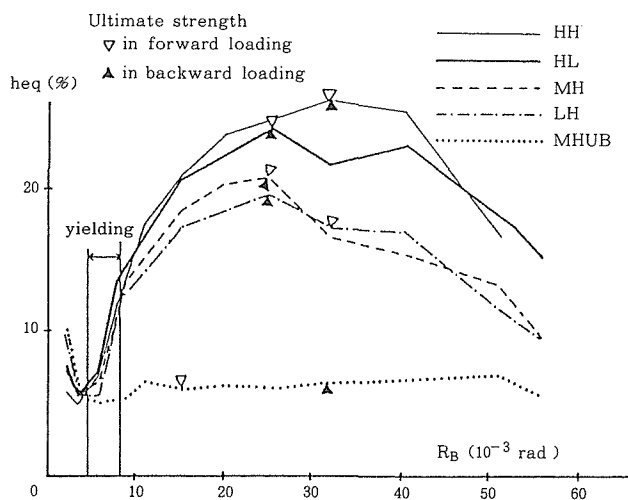


Fig. 8 Equivalent viscous damping factors

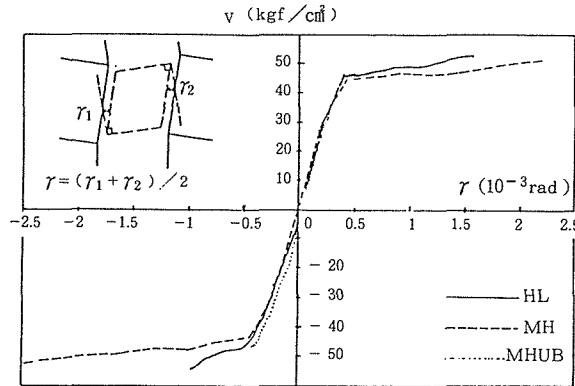


Fig. 9 Skeleton curves in the relations of joint shear stress - shear deformation relations

shown that the lateral reinforcement could relieve the stiffness degradations of joint panels.

Fig. 10 indicates the relation between the slippage of beam bars and story deflection. The slippage was the relative displacement between the center line of the column depth and the referring point which was placed on the column face on the beam bars before the test. As the measuring points on the beam bars were located at a distance of 4 cm from the column faces, the correction for the difference between the measuring points and the referring points was made using the strain of beam bars. Properly the slippage of 'MHUB' appeared simultaneously with the beginning of loading. The slippage of the other specimens began after yielding of the beam bars, and the amount of slippage, especially during pull-out loading, decreased roughly in accordance with the amount of lateral reinforcement in the joints.

*Strains in Reinforcement* Fig. 11 shows the distributions of strains along the top bars at their yielding (corresponding to the third or 4th cycle), at the ultimate strength (the 8th or 9th cycle) and at the larger deflection (the 11th cycle). The length of yield region measured from the column face developed larger toward the beam tips as the transverse reinforcement in the beam ends decreased, and penetrated more into the joint as the lateral reinforcement in the joint panels decreased. In the case of 'HL', the lengths toward the beam tips were the largest and extended to the length equivalent to the beam depth of 35 cm at the final stage of loading, and the lengths penetrated into the joint were the smallest and less than one-third of the column depth.

Fig. 12 shows the strain distributions of column bars at the same height within the joint panels compared with each other in the same height. The strain reached about  $-230 \times 10^{-6}$  when subjected to the axial force alone. The strain distribution curves of 'MHUB', in which the stress transmission was mainly composed of the diagonal strut mechanism, are presented as groups of straight lines with crossing points at the center of column depth. In the strain distribution of the specimens except 'MHUB', relatively great values of the tension strain appeared in vertical bars around the central parts of the column after cracking in the joint

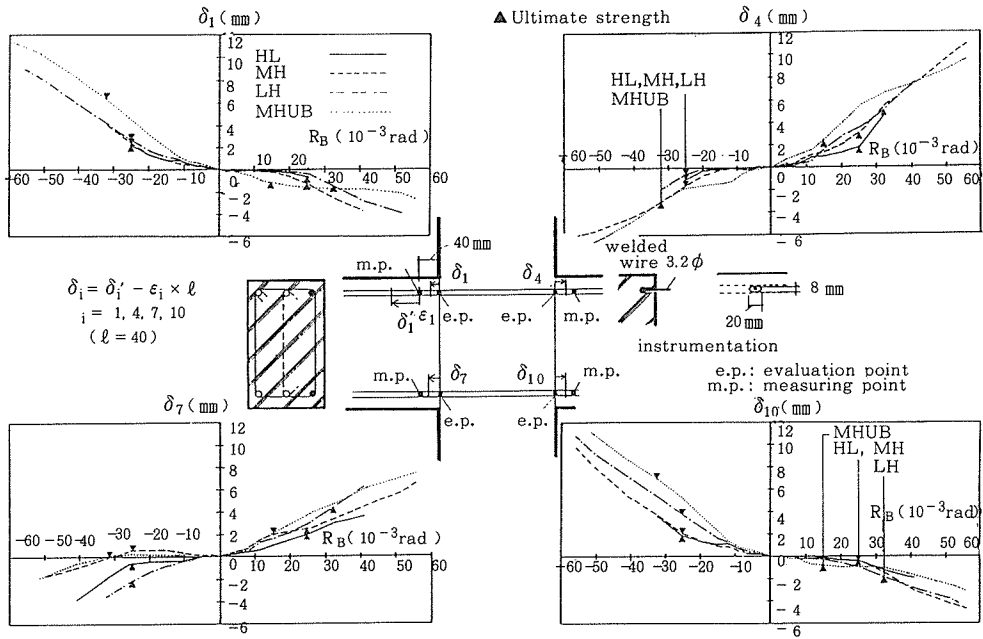


Fig. 10 Beam bar slippage - story drift angle relations

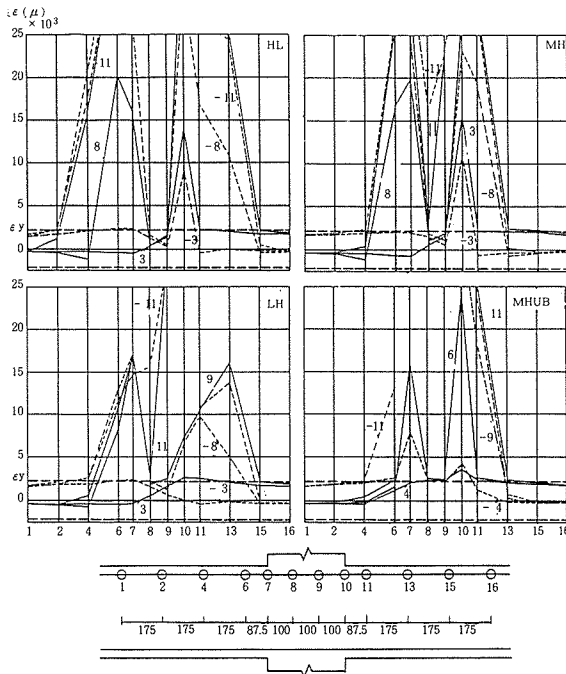


Fig. 11 Strain distributions of beam bars

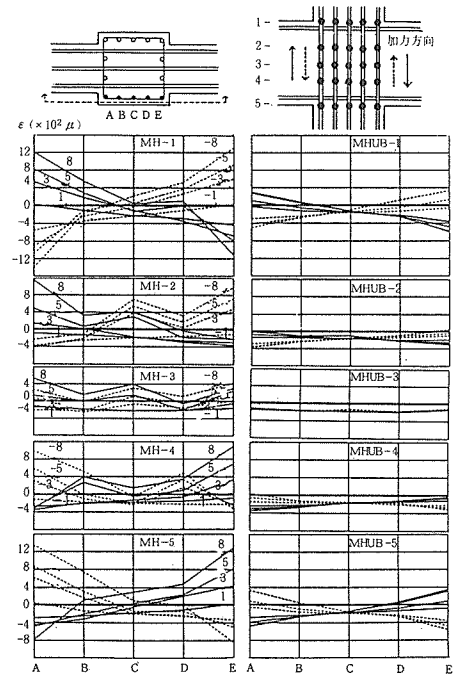


Fig. 12 Strain distributions of longitudinal column bars in joints

panels.

#### 4. Conclusions

The following conclusions may be drawn from the test results :

- (1) The more the lateral reinforcement in the joint panels was provided, the less the slippage of beam bars from the joint panels resulted. Consequently the pinch-effect hardly appeared on the shear force - deflection curves of subassemblages laterally reinforced heavily in the beam-column joints, and the energy dissipating ability of such subassemblages was large.
- (2) The amount of lateral reinforcement in the joint panels did not influence on cracking stress. However, the shear stiffness of the joint panels after cracking was kept higher with the heavier lateral reinforcement.
- (3) The transverse reinforcement in the beam ends was scarcely affected on improvement of the bond deterioration along the beam bars within the joints. But it had a certain effect, as it was, on relieving the stiffness degradation of frames after yielding because the reinforcement confined the concrete beams, and it obstructed the development of yield regions of the beam bars toward the beam tips.
- (4) The specimen with 'unbonded beam bars' within the joint panel showed a low stiffness even on the elastic region of the frame response. However no shear crack occurred in the panel and the shear stiffness of the joint panel degraded, because the shear force in the panel was transmitted mainly through the diagonal compression strut. The ratio of ultimate strength to yield strength was not so much as compared with that of the other specimens, but the deformability was the same or more in the unbonded bar specimen rather than in the others.
- (5) The longitudinal bars arranged in the midst of the column depth had an effect on the enhancement of the shear strength and shear stiffness of the joint.

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