

EXPERIMENTAL LOAD-DRIFT RELATIONS OF CONCRETE BEAM REINFORCED AND CONFINED WITH HIGH-STRENGTH STEEL BARS UNDER REVERSED CYCLIC LOADING

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Abstract

High-strength steel bars have different characteristics from normal-strength steel bars. Thus, the use of high-strength steel bars still needs to be investigated further before it can be used confidently in concrete structures. In the design, a reinforced concrete beam should also have enough ductility besides its loading capacity. One of the indicators identifies that a structure has sufficient ductility is its ability to maintain the load steadily due to progressive deformation. This paper presents the test results of three reinforced concrete beams designed with concrete strength (f'_c) of 30 MPa. Two different yield strengths (f_y) of longitudinal and transverse reinforcements were used, namely, 420 and 550 MPa. The cross-sectional dimensions of the beams were 200 × 300 mm with a total span of 2000 mm and a rigid stub at the midspan. The beams were simply supported by double rollers at their tops and bottoms. These special supports were located at both ends of the beams. The load applied at the midspan of the beam through the rigid stub with the displacement control. The loading pattern protocol by the drift was set from 0 to 5.5 percent. Based on the test results, it can be seen that the beams with high-strength steel bars could achieve a higher load capacity than the beams with normal-strength steel bars. On the other hand, the beams with high-strength steel bars produced lower deflection than the beams with normal-strength steel bars. Furthermore, it can be concluded that all the beams could withstand the minimum required of 3.5 percent. None of the beams indicated brittle failures. All of the beams could survived until the end of the cycles at a drift of 5.5 percent. This condition indicates that the reinforced concrete beams with higher-strength reinforcement (f_y of 550 MPa) could also maintain their load capacities under large deformation beyond the first yielding of the longitudinal steel bars.

Keywords: Cyclic Load, Disaster Risk Reduction, Flexural Strength, High-Strength Steel, RC Beams

Introduction

Concrete building structures located in earthquake-prone regions have higher risk than others [1,2]. Earthquakes often claim many lives due to the collapse of the buildings. Besides, the consideration on internal forces such as bending moments, axial forces, shear forces, and torsion [3,4], the design of building structures in earthquake-prone regions requires good and specific detailings of reinforcement as well as confinement such that the structures have

sufficient ductilities [5,6]. These requirements result in high volumetric ratio of reinforcement that causes the congestion of reinforcement [7,8]. One of the possible solutions is to use the high-strength steel bars for both longitudinal and transverse steels. The use of high-strength steel bars as reinforcement in concrete has several advantages, namely reductions of required steels, labor costs, and most importantly, the steel congestion in concrete [9-11].

Due to the need of higher-strength steel bars for concrete structures as explained above, the strength of steel bars continues to increase and this needs to be researched carefully before it can be used with confidence in concrete structures. In ACI 318M-14 [12], the maximum yield strength of steel bar permitted for flexural design calculations of concrete members is 420 MPa (Grade 60). Higher strength of steel bar that allowed to use for flexural design calculations of concrete members located in highly-seismic zones (assigned as SDC D, E, and F) have been produced by the local steel manufacturers such as Grade 80 (f_y of 550 MPa), Grade 100 (f_y of 690 MPa), and Grade 120 (f_y of 830 MPa). Furthermore, the latest edition of ACI 318M-19 [13] already permits the use of steel bar with the yield strength up to 550 MPa (Grade 80) for flexural design calculations of concrete members. ASTM A706/A706M-16 [14] also specifies the yield strengths of steel bars up to Grade 80 (f_y of 550 MPa), whereas ASTM A1035/A1035M-20 [15] specifies even higher yield strengths of steel bars of Grade 80 (f_y of 550 MPa), Grade 100 (f_y of 690 MPa), and Grade 120 (f_y of 830 MPa). These new grades of steel bars have different chemical compositions from those specified in ASTM A615/A615M-20 [16] for Grades 40 to 100. They have distinct characteristics from steel bars of Grades 40 to 100 in ASTM A615/A615M-20 [16]. The most significant difference is in terms of mechanical properties which is reflected by the stress-strain relation. The stress-strain curves of Grade-100 and 120 steel bars do not show clear yield plateau [15]. They are different from steel bars with Grades 40 and 60 that shows the clear elastic, yield plateau, and plastic including strain hardening branches [16].

However, the development on the use of higher-strength steel bars in Indonesia is not as fast as in the developed countries, such as in USA and Japan. The steel bars produced by the local manufacturers in Indonesia has just reached up to Grade 100 (f_y of 690 MPa). However, for flexural design calculations of concrete members located in highly-seismic zones (assigned as SDC D, E, F), the maximum yield strength is still limited to 420 MPa [17]. Up to present, the application of steel bars with yield strength (f_y) of 550 MPa (Grade 80) for concrete structures (assigned as SDC D, E, F) are still in doubt due to the Code limitation [17] and the lack of researches and studies on its application in reinforced concrete members such as concrete beams (flexure). ACI 318M-19 [13] states that several requirements must be satisfied. Some of these requirements are: 1) the target yield strength (f_y) and the tensile strength (t_s); 2) the minimum elongation; and 3) the minimum tensile-yield strength ratio (1.25 percent). These requirements depend on the yield strength and diameter of the steel bars. Researches have been carried out to investigate these requirements which include the characteristics of stress-strain curves, the tensile-yield strength ratio, and the maximum elongation for several higher-strength steel bars. The results obtained indicate that higher-strength steel bars could still meet all these three requirements even though the values are not as high as the corresponding values of the normal-strength steel bars [18-20].

Several studies have investigated the possibilities of using these high-strength steel bars for several structural members. Among them are the investigations related to the flexural behavior, crack width due to bending moment, shear behavior, and drift capacity of the beams with high-strength steel bars [21-24].

Research Significance

Various provisions stipulate the application of steel bars for reinforced concrete members. They involve the requirements for the use of steel bars in concrete structures, namely ASTM A615/A615M-20 [16]. There are Grade 40 (f_y of 280 MPa), Grade 60 (f_y of 420 MPa), Grade 80 (f_y of 550 MPa), and Grade 100 (f_y of 690 MPa). In addition to ACI 318M-19 [13], there is also a design guide provided by the ACI, namely ACI ITG-6R-10 [25] that allows the use of steel bars with the specified yield strength, f_y , more than 420 MPa (Grade 60). In the previous edition of ACI 318M [12], the specified yield strength of particularly longitudinal deformed steel bars allowed for flexural members such as beams is limited to 420 MPa or the stress associated with the strain value of 0.0035. Grade 60 steel bar has a minimum yield strength of 420 MPa with a clear yield plateau in the stress-strain curve [16]. It also limits the specified yield strength, f_y , of deformed steel bar used for shear reinforcement to 420 MPa (Grade 60) [12], which is in the latest edition of ACI 318M increased to 550 MPa (Grade 80) [13]. However, ACI ITG-6R-10 [25] allows the use of specified yield strength, f_y , up to a maximum of 690 MPa as concrete confinement only (ties or spiral). ACI 318M-19 [3] specifies the maximum values of f_y or f_{yt} of steel bars permitted for design calculations according to the usage and application of the steel reinforcement in concrete members. Table 1 shows the limitations of yield strengths of steel bars for certain usage and application in concrete members [13].

Table 1. Maximum Yield Strength of Steel Bar According to Its Usage and Application [13]

Usage	Application	Maximum value of f_y or f_{yt} permitted for design calculations, MPa
Flexure; axial force; and shrinkage and temperature Lateral support of longitudinal bars; or concrete confinement	Special seismic systems	Special moment frames Special structural walls Other
		550 690 690
	Special seismic systems	Special moment frames Spirals Other
		690 690 550
	Special seismic systems	Special moment frames Special structural walls
		550 690
Shear	Spirals	420
	Shear friction	420
	Stirrups, ties, hoops	420 550
		420
Torsion	Longitudinal and transverse	420
Anchor reinforcement	Special seismic systems	550
	Other	550
Regions designed using strut-and-tie method	Longitudinal ties	550
	Other	420

Some of the efforts to improve the ductility of concrete structures, among others, are by providing sufficient confinement to the structural members, and also by using steel bars for longitudinal reinforcement which provide adequately long elongation. The previous studies were conducted on either normal-strength concrete (NSC) or high-strength concrete

(HSC) with several variations in the yield strengths of steel bars. They show that the concrete confinement can increase both strength and ductility of the concrete members. Several previous researches have already proposed the relationships for predicting the stress-strain behaviors of the confined concrete and the increases in strength and deformation/ductility [26-31].

The use of higher-strength steel bars for the design of both longitudinal and transverse reinforcements in the highly-seismic regions is permitted by the Code [13]. However, it must satisfy several requirements. One of the requirements is the minimum value of tensile-yield strength ratio of at least 1.25 percent [13]. Tavio et al. [19] have researched various strengths of steel bars (f_y of 550, 650, and 700 MPa) produced by a local steel manufacturer and some of them have been used in construction. It shows that most of the high-strength steel bars used were still hard to attain the required tensile-yield strength ratio. Thus, in this research, a new product of steel bars particularly for Grade 80 steel bars were engineered and manufactured by a local steel company to meet all of the code requirements especially the tensile-yield strength ratio.

The drift ratio can be defined as the damage and ductility indicators of structural members. Ductility is a capability of a structural member to maintain its strength and capacity under deformation in the post peak response. There are several ductility parameters used to evaluate the behavior of reinforced concrete members. Among these parameters are the curvature ductility factor (μ_ϕ), the displacement ductility factor (μ_Δ), and the lateral drift ratio (δ) [32].

In the structural design, a building structure must be able to withstand a reverse cyclic loading as a representation of the actual earthquake load. The concrete beams with high-strength steel bars of Grade 97 (f_y of 670 MPa) had similar flexural and almost stable deformation capacities as those of beams with normal-strength steel bars of Grade 60 (f_y of 415 MPa). They also experienced quite slow degradation in the hysteretic curves up to the drift of 5 percent. All these conditions show the possibility of introducing the applications of high-strength steel bars as longitudinal reinforcement in concrete beams part of seismic-resistant structures [33]. The ductility of a structural member is governed mainly by its stiffness stability in post-peak response. Considerable degradation in stiffness of a structural member under reversed cyclic loading occurs particularly after the steel bars start to yield [33,34].

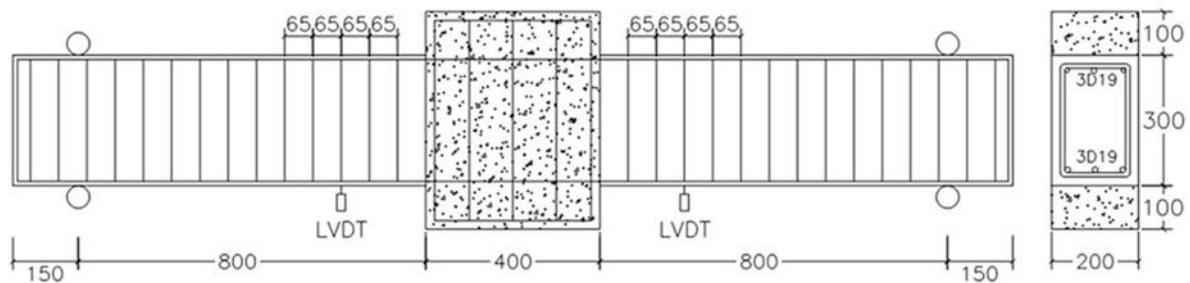
In the paper, a research on concrete beams reinforced and confined with higher-strength steel bars under reversed cyclic loading is reported. The application of higher-strength steel bars is to provide higher flexural beam capacity which is nowadays required as an alternative solution for longer beam span with very strict dimensional limitation due to the architectural demand. This research confirms that concrete beams reinforced and confined with higher-strength steel bars could also perform comparable ductile flexural behavior as those reinforced and confined with normal-strength steel bars. They also did not experience any brittle failures similar to those obtained in monotonic loading [35].

Methodology

In the study, three beam specimens were tested under cyclically reverse loading with a setup similar to the previous study [32]. The tests were carried out by applying the reverse cyclic load (push and pull loads) on the beam stub shown in Figure 1. The test beam specimens were simply-supported at both ends (Figures 1 and 2). The dimensions and properties of the test beam specimens are given in Figure 2 and Table 2.



Figure 1. Photograph of test setup of a beam specimen



Note: all dimensions are in mm

Figure 2. The dimension and setup of the beam specimen

Table 2. Concrete and Steel Bars Used for Test Beam Specimens

Beam ID	Concrete	Longitudinal Steel		Transverse Steel	
	f_c' (MPa)	f_y (MPa)	Diameter (mm)	f_y (MPa)	Diameter (mm)
C1	30	420	19 (D19)	420	10 (D10)
C2	30	550	19 (D19)	420	10 (D10)
C3	30	550	19 (D19)	550	10 (D10)

All the test beam specimens in the study were designed with the same concrete strength, namely f_c' of 30 MPa. Meanwhile, for steel bars, two types of reinforcement were used, i.e. longitudinal and transverse reinforcements. Each reinforcement used two different yield strengths, namely f_y of 420 and 550 MPa. The bar diameters used for longitudinal and transverse steels were 19 and 10 mm (D19 and D10 in which “D” indicates “Deformed”, while “19” or “10” indicates “bar diameter” in mm), respectively. Table 2 lists the variables of concrete and steel bars used for the test beam specimens. The test beam specimens were designed with the cross-sectional dimensions of 200 × 300 mm and a total span of 2300 mm. At the beam midspan, there was a stub with the dimensions of 400 × 400 × 300 mm. The

dimensions and properties of the beams were selected to follow those reported in the previous study [35]. For longitudinal reinforcement, three steel bars of D19 were used for each top and bottom side of the beam. For transverse reinforcement, they were distributed uniformly with a spacing of 65 mm along the beam spans at both sides of the stub.

The experimental tests carried out on the beam specimens were using the reversed cyclic loading. The load was performed using an actuator equipped with a load cell at the end of the stroke ram. The load cell was used to measure the applied load. The deflections or deformations of the beam were also measured using the LVDTs installed next to both faces of the stub and under the load. The data obtained included the progressive load and deformation or deflection of the beams until their maximum and final conditions of testing. The beam test setup and the instrumentation can be seen in Figures 1 and 2.

The loading method used in the study was a quasi-static reversed cyclic loading. The loading protocol follows the ACI 374.1-05 [36] which requires every loading step to undergo three cycles. The drift ratio was used as a control parameter for loading instead of the force. According to ACI 374.1-05 [36], a drift ratio of at least 3.5 percent must be satisfied subjected to several requirements to ensure that the structural members such as beams or columns can be assigned as a part of a special moment frames (SDC D, E, and F/highly-seismic zone). The loading-pattern protocol according to ACI 374.1-05 is given in Figure 3. Each test beam specimen was subjected to a reversed cyclic loading using actuator installed vertically and mounted with the beam stub as can be seen in Figure 1. Each specimen experienced at least 11 cycles of incremental drift-controlled ratios following the loading-pattern protocol [36]. The drift ratios were set to increase step by step from 0 to 5.5 percent, i.e. 0, 0.2, 0.25, 0.5, 0.8, 1.0, 1.4, 1.75, 2.2, 2.8, 3.5, 4.5, and 5.5 percent. The end of testing depends on the resistance of the beam in maintaining the load. The drift ratio is the vertical displacement/deflection measured at the center of the beam stub divided by half-span of the beam as shown in Figure 4.

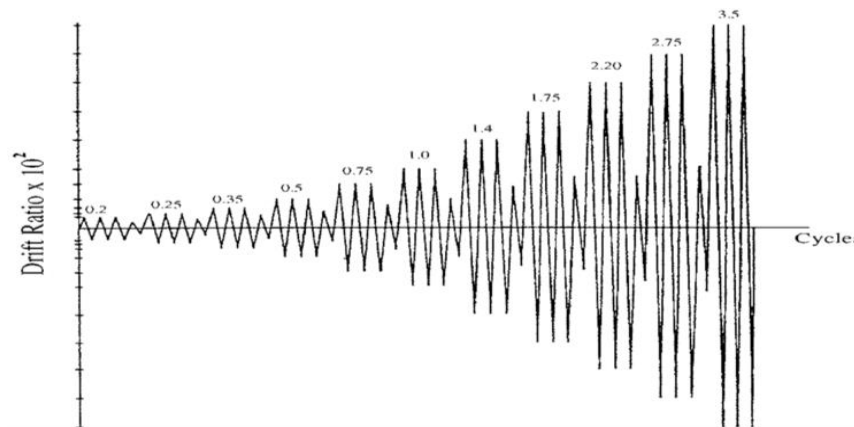


Figure 3. Loading-pattern protocol according to ACI 374.1-05 [36]

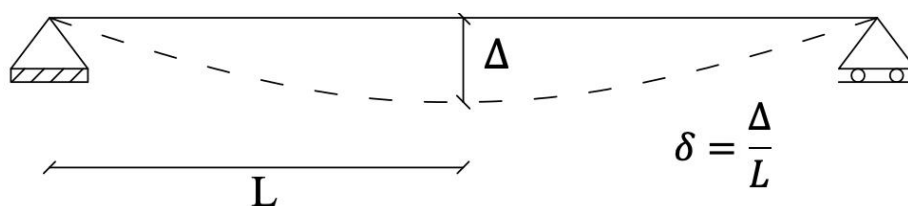


Figure 4. The drift ratio (δ) of the beam

Experimental Results and Discussion

Testing of concrete strength was carried out in the study. Based on the concrete cylinder test results, the average concrete strength (f_{cr}) at 28 days of age attained approximately 37 MPa. Figure 5 depicts the stress-strain curves of the steel bars used in the test beam specimens. Steel bars with the specified yield strength (f_y) of 420 MPa had the average yield strengths (f_y) of about 437.9 and 466.7 MPa for D10 and D19, respectively. Meanwhile, steel bars with the specified yield strength (f_y) of 550 MPa had the average yield strengths (f_y) of approximately 546.3 and 583.4 MPa for D10 and D19, respectively. The tensile test results of steel bars are given in Table 3. From Table 3, it can be seen that all the steel bars used has satisfied the minimum elongation of 14 and 12 percent for Grade 60 (f_y of 420 MPa) and Grade 80 (f_y of 550 MPa), respectively, and the minimum tensile/yield strength ratio of 1.25 [14,15].

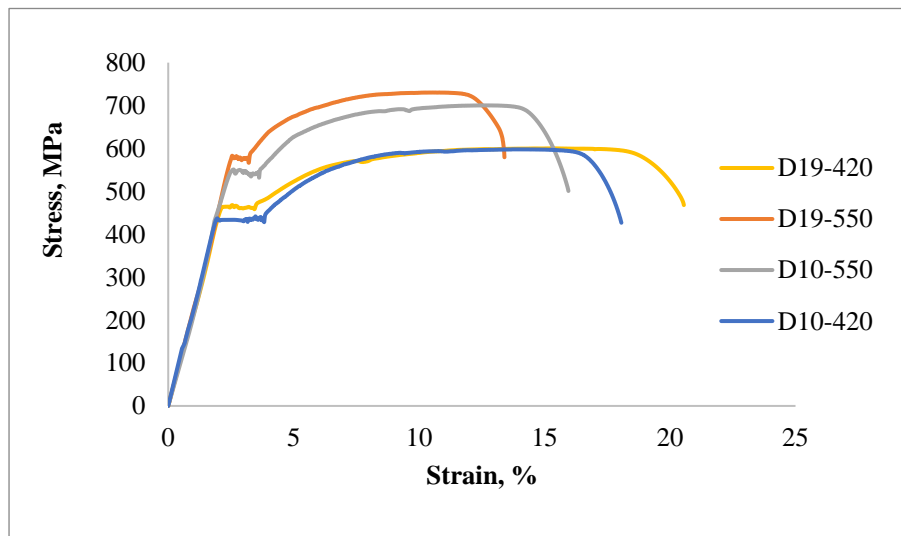


Figure 5. Stress-strain curves of steel bars used in the test beam specimens

The experimental test results include the load and displacement/deflection readings of each step and cycle of the test beam specimens. Table 4 shows the evaluation of the maximum loads and the corresponding drift ratios which is obtained from the displacements/deflections at the maximum loads (Figure 4). The maximum load is used to predict the value of the ultimate load which can be computed using the formula, $P_u = 0.8P_{max}$.

Table 3. Mechanical Properties of Steel Bars Used in Test Beam Specimens

Diameter (mm)	Specified Yield Strength (MPa)	Average Yield Strength (MPa)	Tensile Strength (MPa)	TS/YS Ratio	Elongation (%)
10 (D10)	420	437.9	586.6	1.34	17.2
19 (D19)	420	466.7	600.4	1.29	20.6
10 (D10)	550	546.3	685.7	1.26	16.9
19 (D19)	550	583.4	730.8	1.25	13.4

Table 4. Load and Drift Ratio at Maximum and Ultimate States

Beam ID	$P_{\max}^{(+)}$ (kN)	Drift Ratio at $P_{\max}^{(+)}$ (%)	$P_{\max}^{(-)}$ (kN)	Drift Ratio at $P_{\max}^{(-)}$ (%)	$P_u^{(+)}$ (kN)	Drift Ratio at $P_u^{(+)}$ (%)	$P_u^{(-)}$ (kN)	Drift Ratio at $P_u^{(-)}$ (%)
C1	238.1	2.8	238.9	2.8	190.4	4.5	191.1	4.5
C2	301.5	3.5	306.1	3.5	241.2	4.5	244.9	4.6
C3	311.3	3.5	300.8	3.5	249.0	5.0	240.6	4.7

Based on Table 4, it can be seen that beams with higher-strength steel bars (C2 and C3) have the ability to carry higher loads than the control beam (C1). It shows that the use of higher-strength steel bars successfully confirms to increase the load capacities of the beams (C2 and C3). Also, the drift ratio of Beams C2 at ultimate load is comparable to that of Beam C1. These findings suggest that beams with higher-strength of steel bars as longitudinal reinforcement can be used with confident instead of those with normal-strength steel bars (Grade 60). The use of higher-strength steel bars for transverse steel does not increase the load capacity of Beam C3 compared to Beam C2, but it certainly improves the drift ratio of Beam C3 when compared to Beam C2. This also indicates that the use of higher-strength steel bars as transverse reinforcement in concrete beams can improve the drift ratio which represents the ductility of the beam.

Table 4 shows that Beams C2 and C3 reach the highest maximum loads compared to Beam C1. This is because Beams C2 and C3 were designed with high-strength steel bars (f_y of 550 MPa) for their longitudinal reinforcements. The maximum push (+) and pull (-) loadings on Beam C2 occurred at Cycle 11 with the drift ratio of 3.5 percent. Beam C1 as the control beam was designed with the same reinforcement diameters but with different yield strength of steel bars (f_y of 420 MPa). This beam achieved lower maximum load than Beam C2.

The maximum push (+) load of Beam C1 occurred at Cycle 10 with the drift ratio of 2.8 percent, while the maximum pull (-) load occurred at the same cycle and drift ratio. Beam C3 which was designed with the same grade of longitudinal reinforcement (Grade 80 or f_y of 550 MPa) and higher grade of transverse reinforcement (Grade 80 or f_y of 550 MPa) than Beam C2 could achieve a comparable maximum load. The maximum push (+) and pull (-) loads of Beam C3 occurred at the same cycle and drift ratio (Cycle 11 and drift ratio of 3.5 percent, respectively). Table 4 also provides the ultimate loads and their corresponding drift ratios. From Table 4, Beams C1 and C2 experienced the ultimate load at Cycle 12 with the drift ratio of 4.5 percent, whereas Beam C3 experienced the ultimate load at Cycle 13 with the drift ratio of 5.0 percent. It can be seen that the ultimate state of Beam C3 occurred at later cycle than Beams C1 and C2. This is because Beam C3 was reinforced with higher-strength steel bars for transverse reinforcement than Beams C1 and C2. Thus, the drift ratio of Beam C3 was greater than those of Beams C1 and C2.

For the effect of transverse reinforcement in terms of flexural capacity, it can be concluded that there is almost no contribution. This is indicated by Beam C3 which could attain a maximum load of about 3.2 percent slightly greater than that of Beam C2 under push (+) load. However, Beam C3 could only reach a maximum load of about 1.7 percent slightly lower than that of Beam C2 under pull (-) load. This is due to the difference between these two beams only on the yield strengths of their transverse reinforcements.

The application of reversed cyclic loading to the beam can be reflected by the hysteretic curve from the response of each beam. Figure 6 shows a hysteretic curves drawn from the load-drift ratio measurements at the beam stubs. Data readings include loads and displacements/ deflections that occur in the upper and lower stubs of the beams. From Figure 6, it can also be seen that all the beams could sustain the required drift ratio of 3.5 percent. Furthermore, all the beams could survive without experiencing any sudden collapse up to a drift ratio of 5.5 percent. This findings confirm that the use of higher-strength steel bars for concrete reinforcement particularly for longitudinal steel is highly recommended.

The measurements of loads and displacements/deflections were not only taken at the beam stub, but also at the beams adjacent to the faces of the stub. The loads that occur at each cycle can be related to their corresponding drift ratios. The relationship between load and drift ratio (obtained from the measured displacement/deflection) can be represented by the hysteretic curve. To simplify, a backbone curve can be developed in lieu of the complete hysteretic curve shown in Figure 6. From the figure, it can be seen that all the test beams can sustain the drift ratio greater than 3.5 percent. Even though all the beams were tested to the drift ratio of 5.5 percent, they could only achieved the drift ratio of less than 5.5 percent when evaluated under the ultimate load, P_u (taken as $0.8P_{max}$).

Table 5 shows that Beam C1-left can withstand the drift ratio of more than 3.5 percent. The readings of the lefthand and righthand faces of the stub of Beam C1 are not equal. The lefthand side of Beam C1 reached about 4.3 and 6.6 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively; whereas the righthand side of the beam reached about 4.5 and 4.8 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively. Beams C2 and C3 indicate almost similar results between the left and righthand sides of the beams. The righthand side of Beam C2 reached 5.0 and 7.1 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively; while the lefthand side of the beam reached about 4.8 and 6.1 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively. The righthand side of Beam C3 reached about 4.8 and 6.5 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively, while the lefthand side of the beam reached about 5.0 and 5.8 percent drift ratios at the push (+) and pull (-) loads, respectively. These indicate that all the test beams could satisfy the drift requirement. In addition, there was no beam experienced any brittle or sudden collapse.

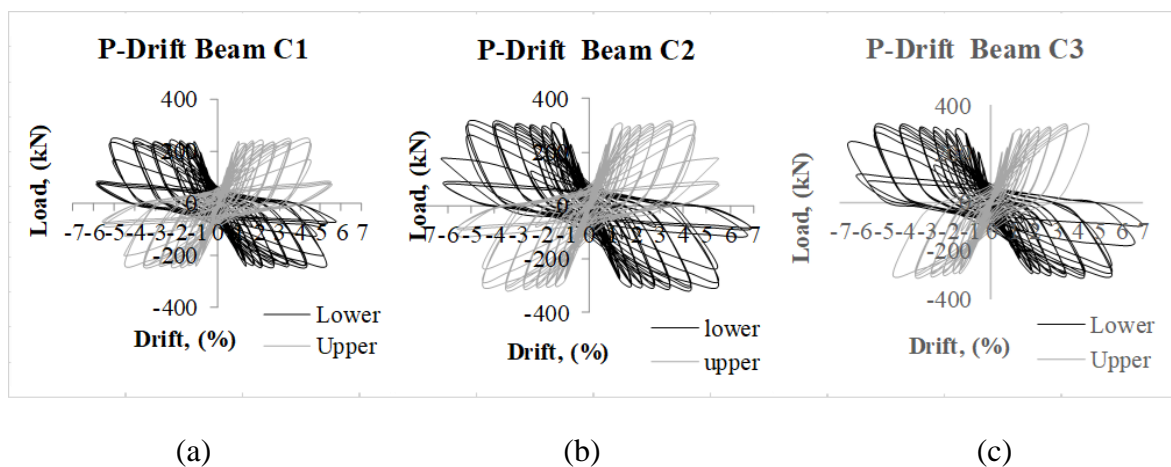


Figure 6. Hysteretic curves of the beam stubs: (a) Beam C1, (b) Beam C2, and (c) Beam C3

Table 5. Drift Ratios at Ultimate Loads of Stubs and Beams

Beam ID	Drift Ratio at Stub (%)		Drift Ratio at Righthand Side of Beam (%)		Drift Ratio at Lefthand Side of Beam (%)	
	At P_u (+)	At P_u (-)	At P_u (+)	At P_u (-)	At P_u (+)	At P_u (-)
	C1	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.8	4.3
C2	4.5	4.6	5.0	7.1	4.8	6.1
C3	5.0	4.8	4.8	6.5	5.0	5.8

The hysteretic curves were also observed on the lefthand and righthand sides of the beams shown in Figure 7. These hysteretic curves show the relationships between the loads and the drift ratios of the beams during reversed cyclic loading. Each loading cycle was repeated three times. The deflection measurement of Beam C1 could not be carried out completely especially for the lower LVDT at the lefthand side of the beam due to its malfunction. It could only measure up to Cycle 7. However, for other beams (C2 and C3), the measurement could be completed until the end of all cycles.

From each cycle, the relationship between the load and its corresponding drift ratio can be simplified by taking only each peak point. These relationships are then presented in the form of the backbones of P-Drift curves as shown in Figure 8.

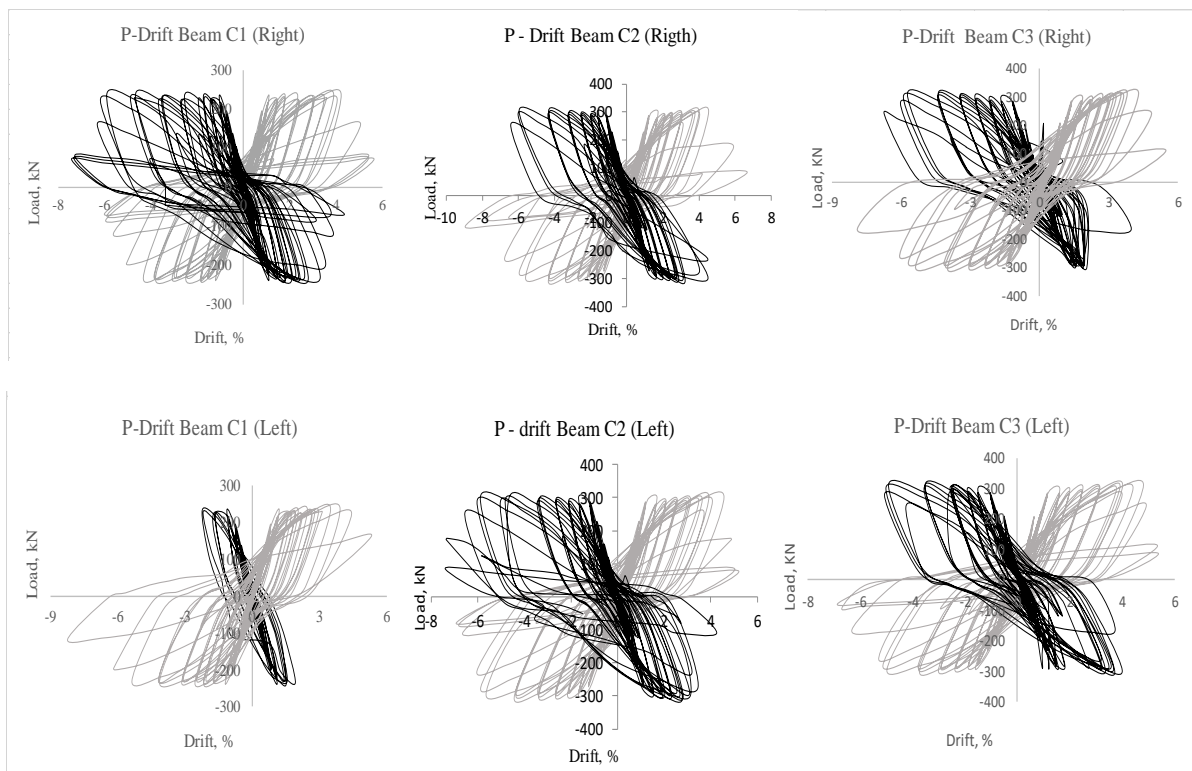
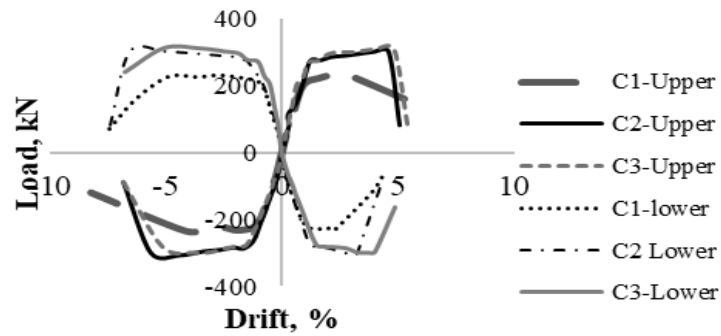
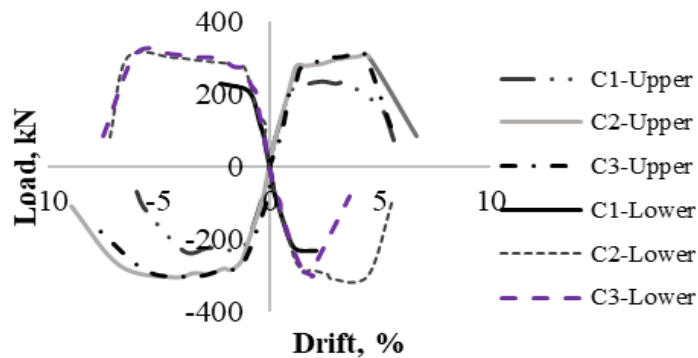


Figure 7. Hysteretic curves of all test beams



(a)



(b)

Figure 8. Backbone curves of all test beams: (a) righthand-side beam, (b) lefthand-side beam

Figure 8 shows the backbone comparison of the hysterical curves of each beam. Measurements were made at the right and lefthand sides of the beams. It can be seen that Beams C2 and C3 that used high-strength steel bars could reach longer deformations than Beam C1. Another parameter that can be used to analyze ductility is the ability of structural members to sustain deformation without significant degradation of stiffness or load and transmit it into energy dissipation. From Figure 8, it can be seen in overall that Beam C2 and C3 performed longer deformations than Beam C1. The strengths of Beams C2 and C3 are higher than Beam C1. These findings also confirm that beams with higher-strength steel bars (Grade 80 or f_y of 550 MPa) can still provide sufficient ductility to sustain the reversed cyclic loading.

The post-peak deformations that achieved by Beams C2 and C3 are exceeding that of Beam C1. These two beams even though have experienced large post-peak deformations but they were still able to maintain the loads. It is also shown in Figure 8 that the areas under the hysteretic curves exhibit the ability of the beams to dissipate energy. This parameter can also indicate the ductility of the beams under reversed cyclic loading.

All of the above analysis and discussion shows that further extensive research is still needed to come up with higher-strength steel bars with better mechanical properties that do not only satisfy all the standard and code requirements, but also reliable to be implemented in seismic-resistant concrete structures which are located in highly seismic regions (SDC D, E, and F).

Conclusions

Based on the research results that have been elaborated and discussed above, it can be concluded that the beams with higher-strength steel bars can certainly attain higher load capacity than those with normal-strength steel bars. Beam C3 reached the highest P_{\max} of about 311 kN, whereas Beam C2 at P_{\max} of about 300 kN. In terms of deflection or drift ratio, the beams with higher-strength steel bars experienced larger deflections or drift ratios compared to those of the beam with normal-strength steel bars. All the beams were capable of achieving the drift ratios exceeding 3.5 percent as required by the building code. Besides, the beams with higher-strength steel bars did not experience any brittle and abrupt collapse as concerned earlier. These findings recommend the possibility of higher-strength steel bars (Grade 80 or f_y of 550 MPa) to be implemented in the future as a viable option for concrete members particularly beams which are parts of the special moment frames located in highly-seismic zones (SDC D, E,F).

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