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Experimental Study on Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Frame Columns Supported with Post-build Wing Walls

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Abstract: Six specimens of concrete frame columns reinforced by post-build wing walls on the opposite faces were designed and fabricated to investigate their seismic performance. Axial compression ratio was considered as the critical factor and divided into 0.31, 0.36, and 0.40 before reinforcement. HRB400 steel grade was used to the longitudinal bar and the ratio of longitudinal reinforcement divided into 1.23%, 1.05% and 0.82%, stirrup reinforcement ratio was 0.6%, and the stirrups were made by HPB300 steel grade. To meet with requirement of 'strong shear, weak bending', the ratio of the shear span to effective depth of columns was equal to 2.4. All specimens were subjected into cyclic reversing load. The testing results showed that wing walls reinforced significantly increased the seismic bearing capacity of the specimens and the wing walls damaged seriously, but the columns were not. The limited drift was ranged from 0.021 to 0.033. The post-build wing walls under horizontal motion may dissipate energy effectively while ensuring that the existing columns without obvious damage under vertical loads and earthquake strong motion.

Keywords: Anti-seismic reinforcement, Axial compression ratio, Concrete frame column, Energy consumption, Post-build wing wall.

1. INTRODUCTION

Substituting a post-build concrete wing wall for in filled or maintenance walls is an efficient method for minimizing the influence on the service function of reinforced buildings and improving their seismic performance in a strong earthquake event. After the earthquake in Wenchuan, reinforced concrete (RC) columns in seismic regions have been strengthened with post-build wing walls to ensure the quick recovery of usual production and lives in these areas [1].

The theoretical analysis and experimental researches have been done by some domestic scholars and new views were proposed. Axial compression ratio, longitudinal reinforcement ratio and volume stirrup ratio were chosen as basic parameters. In general, seismic behavior of the frame columns became better with the decrease of axial compression ratio, the increase of longitudinal reinforcement ratio and volume stirrup ratio. Frame structure was divided into four anti-seismic grades according to the seismic fortification intensity, site condition and building floor number. In this paper, the different anti-seismic grades columns close to the maximum axial compression ratio and the minimum volume stirrup ratio were reinforced, and the reinforcement detailing was determined according to the ratio of section length and wing wall width.

Yang *et al.* [2] studied the seismic performance and the reinforcement effect of a frame with wing walls and columns. They found that the wing walls were damaged firstly by the repeated tension and compression, so the columns were effectively protected. Thus, multiple seismic fortification was provided. A large number of cracks occurred at the end of beams to realize the 'strong column-weak beam' mechanism. Zhang *et al.* [3] designed a typical single-span frame building reinforced with wing walls to study the influence of different wing wall forms and dimensions on the

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strengthening effect of the frame structure. The software ETABS was used to analyse the elasticity and elastoplasticity of the strengthened and non-strengthened structures in three dimensions. The results showed that wing walls should be installed in two directions so that both the seismic bearing and deflection capacities can be improved in both directions of the structure. Zhang *et al.* [4] evaluated a frame and post-build wing wall frame under the horizontal cyclic loading of a pseudo-static experiment. Their results indicated that the hysteresis curves were full, the skeleton curve included large horizontal section after the peak load, and reflect high level of energy dissipation. Guo *et al.* [5] studied experimental specimens to simulate ground columns strengthened by wing walls at the third power plant of Harbin. They concluded that the wing walls behaved together with the column and bearing capacity of specimens was higher than that of the existing columns. The deflection capacity of the specimens reinforced with wing walls was not large, and the bearing capacity and lateral stiffness of the specimens decayed significantly under a cyclic reversing load.

The fact was not considered in the above tests and researches that the frame column bears the vertical load before reinforcement. In strengthening practice, it is difficult to unload frame column. Because the wing wall is not subjected to a compressive stress caused by a vertical load, the wing wall has a lower crack load under tension to relatively early and ultimate compressive strain under compressive to relative delay with a horizontal load.

Six RC frame columns with post-build concrete wing walls were designed with different parameters. The specimens were subjected to low cyclic reverse loading to evaluate the anti-seismic behaviour in terms of the seismic bearing capacity, hysteresis energy dissipation capability, displacement ductility, ultimate inter-story drift ratio, and so on. The test results provide a basis for the seismic strengthening of concrete frame columns to some extent.

2. EXPERIMENT

2.1.. Specimen Design and Fabrication

Six specimens were designed and manufactured. Axial compression was determined, and the minimum longitudinal reinforcement ratio corresponding to axial compression ratio and anti-seismic grade was determined [6]. The reinforcements in wing wall not only has effect of resisting shear force, but also has effect of connecting existing columns and form skeleton of mesh reinforcement. In addition, the horizon reinforcements should also meet the requirement of resisting shear strength between wing walls and existing column. Three axial compression ratio including 0.31, 0.36, 0.40 were designated for exiting frame columns. The ratio of longitudinal reinforcement was 1.23%, 1.05%, 0.82%, respectively, and stirrup ratio was 0.6%. The test basic parameters are shown in Fig. (1) Table 1.

The existing frame columns of the 6 strengthened specimens had cross-sectional dimensions of 250mm×250mm with a 20mm thick concrete cover. All of the columns had a height of 1200mm. The area of post-build wing walls is larger than the area of exist frame columns, thus the two phase back wing wall length is 350mm, the thickness of the post-build wing walls were all 100mm. There were beams respectively placed on the top and bottom of the specimens. The top beam was 1350mm×450mm×450mm×400mm, while the bottom beam was 1350mm×600mm. The standard cubic specimens (150mm×150mm×150mm) were measured to have a average compressive strength of 38.5MPa. The longitudinal reinforcements were HRB400 and the lateral reinforcements were HPB300. Table **2** presents the basic mechanical property indices of the reinforcements. The large-diameter longitudinal reinforcement of the original column was arranged in the corner.

The specimens were made in two phases. First, the concrete columns, top beams and bottom beams were produced. The columns were put on pressure by screw tension to consider the actual reinforce situation. Then, the post-build wing walls were placed on the columns under loading. The specimens were produced in two stages based on the method of horizontal concrete casting.

In the test, four externally pre-stressed tendons were used to anchor both the top and bottom beams in order to reinforce the concrete column under loading. The post-build wing walls were connected to the sides of the column after the vertical loading became stable, as shown in Fig. (2). Before the concrete of the wing walls was cast, the horizontal reinforcement was planted in the column, while the vertical reinforcement was planted in the top and bottom beams. The horizontal and vertical reinforcements had lengths of 15d.





(a) Section dimensions







frame column

350

Wing wall A

20 155 145

15d

 b_0

250

Wing wa

145

350

(b) Columns subjected to pressure

0 ()	5	e	
Table 1. Spec	cimen parameters.		

(a) Reinforcement of the post-build wing walls in the specimens

Fig. (2). Columns subjected to an axial force and bonded rebar of the wing walls.

Specimens	The Axial Compression Ratio	Longitudinal Reinforcement of Columns	Longitudinal Reinforcement Ratio of Columns	The Stirrup of Columns	Vertical Reinforcement of Each Side Wing Wall	Horizontal Reinforcing Steel Bar of Wing Wall
YQKZ1	0.31	4C12+4C8	1.05%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100
YQKZ2	0.31	4C12+4C8	1.05%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100
YQKZ3	0.36	8C10	1.00%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100
YQKZ4	0.36	8C10	1.00%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100
YQKZ5	0.40	4C10+4C8	0.82%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100
YQKZ6	0.40	4C10+4C8	0.82%	A10@100	6C8	C12@100

Table 2. Mechanical properties of steel.

Steel Types	Yield Strength (MPa)	Ultimate Strength (MPa)	Modulus of Elasticity (GPa)
C12	493.3	630.0	21.6
C10	436.5	538.5	21.4
C8	423.8	512.9	21.0
A10	342.6	428.3	22.1

2.2. Test Device and Loading System

The lateral reverse load was exerted by an MTS horizontal hydraulic servo-actuator fixed to the reaction wall. The loading point was located at the centre of the top beam through the vertical centroid line of the original column. A vertical load was applied by a hydraulic jack, which was installed on the distribution beam and remained unchanged during the test process. A rubber hinged support was placed between the vertical hydraulic jack and the specimen. The bottom of the specimen was fixed by vertical ground anchors and horizontal reaction frames on both sides of the

channel flow. Fig. (1) shows the loading device, and Fig. (4) shows the force diagram of the specimen. The hydraulic jack was used to replace the four external pre-stressed reinforcements at the top of each specimen, which applied a predetermined axial force on the original column, in order to avoid them influencing the test results. The replacement process included applying an axial force from zero to the predetermined value by the hydraulic jack and unloading the resultant force of the four bars from the predetermined axial force to zero and then removing them. The horizontal loading tests complied with the loading regimes provided by the current standard [7] (Fig. 5). Linear variable differential transformers (LVDTs) (Fig. 3) were used as horizontal displacement sensors to measure the lateral displacements of relevant parts of the specimens during the loading process. The cracking load was defined as the point at which the specimen began to crack. As shown in Fig. (6), the yield load P_y was determined by the energy method. The ultimate load P_u was the peak load of the skeleton curve, and the displacement corresponding to 85% of the peak load in the descending stage was regarded as the ultimate displacement Δ_u .



Fig. (3). Loading device.



Fig. (4). Stress diagram.







Fig. (6). Energy method.

3. TEST RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

3.1. Test Procedure and Phenomena

The direction of the horizontal load and the name and location of the wing wall are marked in Fig. (1)

The test results of the six specimens showed that the maximum tensile and compressive stresses and strains of the cross-section were all on the edges of the post-build wing walls because these walls were on the opposite faces of the existing columns (Table **3**). The normal stresses and strains of the existing columns due to the horizontal load were not very prominent, the columns played a relatively large role in resisting the horizontal shear force. Not only was the seismic bearing capacity of the specimens clearly improved but also the damage to the original column under horizontal and vertical loads was relatively low because of the effective energy dissipation by the post-build wing walls on both sides.

Table 3. Test Procedure and Phenomenon.(3-1)

Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ1
70.0	+3.9	A horizontal crack measuring 0.04 mm in width appeared on wing wall A and was 330.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
186.7	+16.2	A slanted crack appeared on the concrete column and was 320.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
210.7	+20.0	A slanted crack appeared on wing wall A and was 330.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
253.9	-30.0	Local concrete spalling appeared on the bottom end of the column as soon as the wing walls adjacent to the two sides of the column exhibited slanted cracks 200.0 mm–300.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
	-40.0	The concrete of wing wall A was crushed.

(3-2).

(0 -).		
Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ2
70.0	+3.3	A horizontal crack measuring 0.02 mm in width appeared on wing wall A and was 560.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
147.6	+15.0	A slanted crack appeared on the concrete column at 80.0 and 230.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
	+and-18.0	Slanted cracks appeared on both wing walls A and B.
220.4	-25.0	The local concrete was crushed slightly at the bottom end of the column.
233.1	-31.5	Slanted crossing cracks continuously increased at the bottom end of the column. The widest crack was measured to be 3.0 mm. Meanwhile, a vertical crack appeared on the column, and a large area of the concrete in wing wall A was crushed.

(3-3).

Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ3
100.0	+7.9	A horizontal crack appeared on wing wall A and was 520.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
141.1	+12.0	A slanted crack measuring 0.04 mm in width appeared on the concrete column and was 70.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
	+and-18.0	Slanted cracks appeared on both wing walls A and B.
252.2	-30.0	The local concrete was crushed slightly at the bottom end of wing wall A. As the top lateral displacement increased, the width of the slanted cracks increased to a maximum of 2.0 mm, and the concrete was increasingly crushed at the bottom of the wing walls in response.

(3-4).

Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ4
90.0	+6.7	A horizontal crack measuring 0.02 mm in width appeared on wing wall A and was 210.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
174.7	+13.5	A slanted crack appeared on the concrete column and was 270.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.

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(Table 3) contd.....

Load(kN	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ4
	+and-20.0	Slanted cracks appeared on both wing walls A and B and were 300.0 mm away from the underside of the top beam on the concrete column.
253.5	-25.0	Wing wall A showed widespread crushing, and the longitudinal reinforcement became exposed.

(3-5).

Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ5
		Shrinkage cracks from drying appeared at the bottom of the concrete column before the load was applied.
104.0	+4.5	A horizontal crack measuring 100 mm in length and 0.3 mm in width appeared on wing wall A and was 270.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
196.3	-20.0	A slanted crack appeared on wing wall B and was 540.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
163.9	-22.5	Local concrete spalling appeared at the bottom end of the column.
166.9	-25.0	Local concrete was crushed at the bottom end of wing wall A. The widest crack was measured to be 1.5 mm.

(3-6).

Load(kN)	The top lateral displacement of the column (mm)	YQKZ6
80.0	+4.8	A horizontal crack measuring 0.017 mm in width appeared on wing wall A and was 280.0 mm from the top surface of the bottom beam.
80.0	-4.0	A slanted crack measuring 0.02 mm in width appeared on wing wall B and was 320.0 mm from the underside of the top beam, and a slanted crack measuring 0.017 mm in width appeared 400.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
102.4	+9.6	A slanted crack appeared on the concrete column and was 300.0 mm from the underside of the top beam.
	+and-20.0	Slanted cracks appeared on both wing walls A and B.
147.9	-22.5	Local concrete spalling appeared at the bottom end of the column.
120.7	-25.0	The concrete of wing wall A was crushed on a large scale.



Fig. (7). Failure modes.

Under low reverse cyclic loading, the wing walls experienced the process of cracking, cracking development, yielding of the longitudinal reinforcement close to the edge of the cross-section, and crushing of the concrete at the edge of compression zone. The existing columns were relatively lightly damaged. Thus, the post-build wing walls provided resistance against horizontal earthquake action, achieved effective energy consumption, and guaranteed relatively light damage to the original frame columns under vertical and horizontal loadings. Figs. (7 and 8) were shown the damage

and cracks of the specimens.



Fig. (8). Crack distributions.

3.2. Test Procedure and Phenomena

Hysteretic and skeleton curves of specimens under a horizontal load are both synthetic reflections of seismic behavior. Figs. (9 and 10) present the hysteretic and skeleton curves of each specimen.



Fig. (9). Hysteretic curves.



Fig. (10). Skeleton curves.

- 1. When the horizontal load was less than the cracking load, the specimens were basically elastic. The load displacement curves rose along a straight line during loading, while the deformation was restored after unloading. As the load was increased, the load displacement curves gradually deviated from a straight line, and deformations accelerated so that residual deformations began to appear and reached a certain degree under unloading. The specimens began to assume elastoplastic properties. When the load was less than the yield load, the loading stiffness and unloading stiffness did not change significantly. When the load reached the yield load, the loading stiffness and unloading stiffness decreased with increasing load or lateral displacement.
- 2. The specimens showed better deformability with a low axial compression ratio than with a high axial compression ratio. After the maximum load was reached, the decline in the skeleton curve was relatively slow, which indicates that the ductility was relatively good. When the axial compression ratio of the columns was increased, the skeleton curves showed a relatively steep decline after the peak value, and the bearing capacity degraded relatively rapidly.

3.3. Experimental Results

The cracking load P_{er} , the cracking displacement Δ_{er} , the yield load P_y , the yield displacement Δ_y , the ultimate load P_u , the displacement corresponding to the ultimate load Δ_{max} , the ultimate displacement Δ_u , the load corresponding to the ultimate displacement P'_u , elastic plastic story drift angle θ_p and ductility factor μ of each specimen are shown in Table **4**. In the current code, the limit values for the elastoplastic inter-story drift are 0.02 and 0.008 for a frame structure and shear wall structure [6], respectively. The data were between 0.021 to 0.033, which were all greater than the limits. The elastic plastic interstory drift index of reinforced concrete frame structures, structure failure was 0.016 [8], so the specimens were failure. The specimens ductility coefficient were satisfied with seismic fortification requirements in basically [9].

Specimens	The axial compression ratio	Loading direction	P _{cr} (kN)	Δ _{cr} (mm)	<i>P</i> _y (kN)	Δ _y (mm)	P _{max} (kN)	Δ _{max} (mm)	P _u (kN)	Δ _u (mm)	μ	$\theta_p(rad)$
KZYQ1		positive	70.0	3.8	186.7	16.2	230.1	30.0	173.5	40.0	2.4	0.033
	0.21	reverse	90.0	8.7	191.7	20.0	253.9	30.0	216.9	40.0	2.0	0.033
KZYQ2	0.31	positive	70.0	3.2	186.1	15.0	228.0	25.0	133.1	40.0	2.6	0.030
		reverse	70.0	7.1	176.5	18.0	253.6	35.0	210.6	40.0	2.2	0.033

Table 4-1. Experimental results.

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(Table 6/3) contd.....

Specimens	The axial compression ratio	Loading direction	P _{cr} (kN)	Δ _{cr} (mm)	<i>P</i> _y (kN)	Δ _y (mm)	P _{max} (kN)	Δ _{max} (mm)	P _u (kN)	Δ _u (mm)	μ	$\theta_p(rad)$
KZYQ3	0.36	positive	100.0	7.9	143.0	12.0	212.4	25.0	114.5	38.0	3.1	0.031
		reverse	80.0	9.9	161.1	18.0	252.2	30.0	226.3	35.0	1.9	0.029
KZYQ4		positive	90.0	6.7	161.7	13.5	218.6	25.0	149.3	38.0	2.8	0.031
		reverse	90.0	7.9	172.5	15.0	273.7	30.0	245.4	35.0	2.3	0.029
KZYQ5	0.40	positive	110.0	5.3	151.2	12.0	194.5	16.0	166.2	25.0	2.1	0.021
		reverse	110.0	5.1	180.7	12.0	201.9	16.0	166.9	25.0	2.1	0.021
KZYQ6		positive	80.0	4.8	138.8	12.0	197.7	20.0	166.2	25.0	2.1	0.021
		reverse	80.0	3.9	165.3	12.0	197.9	20.0	150.6	25.0	2.1	0.021

Table 4-2. Comparison between bearing bapacities before and after reinforcement.

Specimens	Axial force (kN)	The calculated value of ultimate load of column (kN)	Tested value of positive horizontal peak load (kN)	Tested value of reverse horizontal peak load (kN)	Positive increase of load (%)	Reverse increase of load (%)
YQKZ1	573.5	54.0	230.1	253.9	326.2	370.3
YQKZ2	573.5	54.0	228.0	253.6	322.2	369.6
YQKZ3	666.0	56.1	212.4	252.2	278.6	349.6
YQKZ4	666.0	56.1	218.6	273.7	289.7	387.9
YQKZ5	740.0	57.3	194.5	201.9	239.6	252.5
YQKZ6	740.0	57.3	197.7	197.9	245.1	245.5

3.4. Stiffness Degradation

Under horizontal low-cyclic reverse loading, the deformations of the specimens developed constantly, and the stiffness gradually decreased with the increasing loads and displacements of the test pieces. The secant stiffness K_i can be used to represent the stiffness under a horizontal low-cyclic reverse loading:

$$K_i = \frac{\left|+P_i\right| + \left|-P_i\right|}{\left|+\Delta_i\right| + \left|-\Delta_i\right|} \tag{1}$$

where P_i represents the load under the control displacement and Δi represents the displacement value corresponding to P_i . Fig. (11) shows the secant stiffness curves at different axial compression ratios of the specimens changing with the displacement. As the displacement increased, the secant stiffness of the test pieces gradually decreased.



Fig. (11). Secant stiffness coefficient K_i versus displacement for different specimens.

3.5. Comparison Between Bearing Capacities Before and after Reinforcement

Before reinforcement, the ultimate horizontal load of each column was estimated according to the current code [10] by using the measured strengths of the concrete and steel. After reinforcement, the test values of the horizontal ultimate load adopted the ultimate loads of the skeleton curves under forward and reverse loadings.

Table 4 indicates that all of the specimens that showed large increases in the seismic capacity.

CONCLUSION

Six RC columns with post-build wing walls were tested under low cyclic reverse loading. The experimental

phenomena and results were analysed, and in the research the following conclusions were drawn.

1) Post-build wing walls can increase the seismic bearing capacity of the frame columns; if the axial force is constant, the columns ability to resist horizontal seismic action can be significantly enhanced. When the axial compression ratio of the columns was increased, the ductility was reduced, and the degradation in stiffness accelerated after reinforcement.

2) Under low reverse cyclic loading, the wing walls experienced the process of cracking, cracking development, yielding of the longitudinal reinforcement close to the edge of the cross-section, and crushing of the concrete at the edge of the compression zone. There were also relatively lightly damaged columns. Thus, the post-build wing walls achieved the purpose of resisting horizontal earthquake action, effective energy consumption, and guaranteeing relatively light damage to the frame columns under vertical and horizontal loadings.

3) Note that, the post-build wing walls did not bear a vertical load, the horizontal cracking load decreased relative to the length-to-thickness ratio of the same section on shear wall and special-shaped columns. This delays the point at which the wing walls are crushed. Experiments will be performed as a follow-up to evaluating the seismic performance of post-build wing walls for RC frame columns through nonlinear finite element analysis, and the results will be used to develop suggested guidelines.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

The authors confirm that this article content has no conflict of interest.

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