EXPERIMENTAL AND NUMERICAL ANALYSIS OF A STRONGBACK FRAME AS RETROFIT OF A MOMENT-RESISTING FRAME

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ABSTRACT

Steel moment-resisting frames (MRF) are widely used in the United States to resist seismic forces. MRFs have many advantages, including high ducility, and vieted members and connection detailing requirements. However, MRFs require large members to meet story drift criteria. The low elastic stiffness of MRF can also result in greater drift-induced nonstructural damage compared to stiffer systems. Moreover, strong-column-weak-beam requirements can result in significant member sizes, and – even in the cases where strong-column-weak-beam requirements are satisfied – MRFs can still be vulnerable to story mechanisms in one or a few stories. Recently, the concept of a strongback has been utilized successfully to delay or prevent story mechanism behavior in braced frames. The storogback is presented by a steel truss or spine column that is designed to remain essentially elastic, thus allowing the system to transfer inelastic demands across stories. Although the strongback can result in more unified high-ermode force demands. This study characterizes the dynamic response of the retrofit of an MRF with a strongback spine, particularly the high-ermode accelerations and force demands. The base MRF is designed and specially detailed to dissignate energy. The addition of the strongback sould also result in relaxed strong-column-weak-beam design requirements. Story drifts and high-ermode force are considered to determine which cases produce the largest drifts and high-ermode forces. The results of this study will be used to inform the design of a shake table test using the strongback as a retofit scheme at Celefense. Steel moment-resisting frames (MRF) are widely used in the United States to resist seismic forces. MRFs have many advantages, including high ductility, architectural

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work reported on this poster titled, "Experimental and Numerical Analysis of a Strongback as a Retrofit of a Moment-Resisting Frame' was supported in part by National Science Foundation (NSF) under grant number CMMI-1920305 as an a award to the Principal Investigator, Dr. Larry Fahnestock and/digital industes or Winn-1950005 and a sama award to the Finicipal Investigator, bit. Lany Fahnesotok, from the University of Chicago Urbana-Champaign and Ch-Principal Investigators Dr. Richard Sause and Dr. James Riches from Lehigh University as well as their students. The writers also wish to express their appreciation to our Japanese counterpart Masahiro Kurata from Kyoto University, Akira Nishitani from Wasade University, and Tachiro Okzazif from Hokkado University. Lastly, the writers would like to thank Yohsuke Kawamata for helping us coordinate the experimental testing at E-Defense. The findings, opinions, recommendations and conclusions in this paper are those of the authors alone and do not necessarily reflect the views of others, including the sponsors.



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