

**Zeitschrift:** IABSE reports = Rapports AIPC = IVBH Berichte  
**Band:** 37 (1982)

**Artikel:** Fatigue testing of reinforced concrete beams to column joints  
**Autor:** Nagai, Y. / Yamagata, Y. / Karatsu, T.  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-28944>

#### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

#### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

#### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

**Download PDF:** 07.02.2026

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**



## Fatigue Testing of Reinforced Concrete Beam to Column joints

Essais de fatigue sur des joints poutre-colonne en béton armé

Ermüdungsversuche an Träger-Stützen-Verbindungen aus bewehrtem Beton

### **Y. NAGAI**

Manager of Techn. Research  
Kobe Steel Ltd.  
Kobe, Japan

### **Y. YAMAGATA**

M. Eng.  
Kobe Steel Ltd.  
Kobe, Japan

### **T. KARATSU**

M. Eng.  
Kobe Steel Ltd.  
Kobe, Japan

### **SUMMARY**

This paper presents experimental studies relating to the fatigue strength of reinforcing bars and anchorages in concrete structures. Beam to column joint specimens were given up to 10 million cycles of loading to study bar strength and enable the development of a reliable mechanical anchorage for repeated severe loads.

### **RESUME**

Cet article présente des études expérimentales sur la résistance à la fatigue de barres d'armature et d'ancrages dans les structures en béton. Des échantillons de joints poutre-colonne ont subi jusqu'à 10 millions de cycles de charges pour étudier la résistance des barres et permettre le développement d'un ancrage mécanique sûr pour des charges répétées.

### **ZUSAMMENFASSUNG**

In diesem Artikel werden Ermüdungsversuche an Armierungsstäben und an Verankerungen in Betonkonstruktionen beschrieben. Probekörper von Träger-Stützen-Verbindungen wurden bis zu 10 Millionen Mal belastet, um das Ermüdungsverhalten der Armierungsstäbe zu untersuchen. Zudem wurde versucht, eine mechanische Verankerung für wiederholte Belastungen zu entwickeln.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Thread-like deformed bars which are formed by hot-rolling are anchored by a mechanical method. Anchor plates and anchor nuts are used in this method. Anchorage of reinforcing bars is the result of a coupled effect which consists of bond stress and bearing stress. Under the tensile stress state of reinforcing bars bond stress occurs between the bars and the concrete, and bearing stress on the concrete occurs through anchor plates and anchor nuts.

The method described above is different from conventional ones, such as bending or hook anchorage, and it is very useful for rationalization and saving on the expense of the field practice of reinforcement. When there are many frames with the same dimensions and details in concrete structures, for example the frames of overhead railroad bridges, this mechanical method may be of good use. Here, fatigue, caused by trains' passing through, should be discussed. However, there has as yet been little research on the fatigue of reinforced concrete structures under cycles as high as  $10^7$  cycles.

The purpose of this research is to investigate the applicability of this mechanical anchoring method to concrete structures under dynamic loads by carrying out fatigue tests, using reinforced concrete L-shaped frames with the mechanical anchors in beam-column joints.

## 2. OUTLINE OF TEST

### 2.1 Specimens

To investigate the fatigue behaviour of mechanical anchorage in beam-column joints of reinforced concrete L-shaped frames, six specimens for the fatigue test at six stress levels, and a specimen for the static test were prepared. Through the static test the stress of reinforcing bars imbedded in concrete and deflections of the beams were determined for the fatigue test.

The details of specimens, the list of specimens and the mechanical properties of reinforcing bars are shown in Fig. 1, Table 1 and 2, respectively.

Dimensions of the beams were 290mm x 470mm (defined as a model with about one third the scale of actual structures). The flexural tension reinforcement ratio was 0.89% (four thread-like deformed bars with a nominal diameter of 25mm). Dimensions of the columns were 500mm x 500mm. The flexural tension reinforcement ratio was 1.9% (twelve thread-like deformed bars with a nominal diameter of 35mm). Because of the placement of the bars, when the stress on the main bars in the beams reached 1,800 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup> at the critical section, the stress on the main bars in the columns went under 500 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup> at the critical section. This is the reason why it was considered that the stress on the main bars in the columns was to be under a quarter of the allowable stress of reinforcing bars ( $f_t$ ) ignoring the effects of fatigue in the design of the overhead bridges of super express "Shinkansen" railroad (under 500 kgf/cm<sup>2</sup> in case of Grade SD35,  $f_t=2,000$  kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>).

### 2.2 Loading and Measuring

The loading point was near the end of the beams as shown in Fig. 1. In the static test for specimen No. D-AS, load reversals were controlled by the stress at the end of the top reinforcements of the beams ( $s\sigma$ ) and the deflection at the loading point ( $\delta$ ), that is, five cycles at  $s\sigma = 1,800$  kgf/cm<sup>2</sup>, five cycles

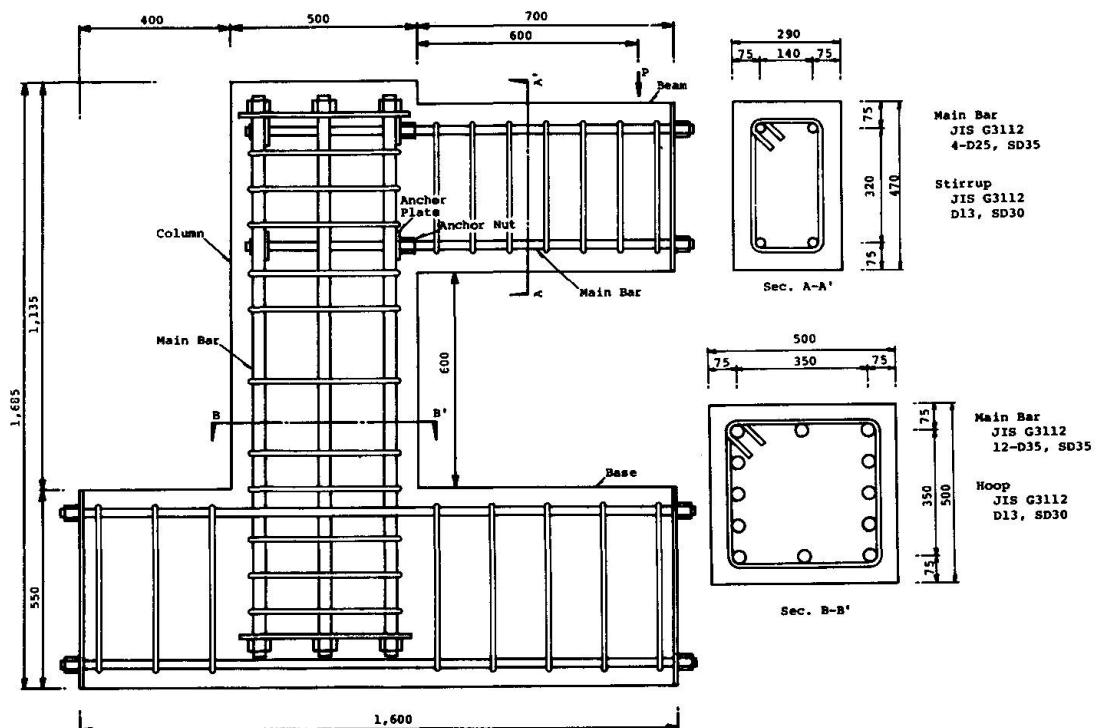


Fig. 1 Details of Specimens (in mm)

Table 1 List of Specimens

Specimen No.	Loading pattern	Beam				Column			
		Main bars	Flexural tension reinforcement ratio (%)	Stirrups	Web reinforcement ratio (%)	Main bars	Flexural tension reinforcement ratio (%)	Hoops	Web reinforcement ratio (%)
D-AS	Static	4-D25 Thread bar	0.89	D13 Spacing 100 mm	0.88	12-D35 Thread bar	1.91	D13 Spacing (mm) Upper 100 Mid. 200 Lower 100	Upper 0.51 Mid. 0.25 Lower 0.51
D-Al~6	Partial pulsating fatigue								

Table 2 Mechanical Properties of Reinforcing Bars

Size	Grade	Section area (cm <sup>2</sup> )	Yield strength (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Tensile strength (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )	Elongation (%)	Young's modulus x10 <sup>6</sup> (kgf/cm <sup>2</sup> )
D35	SD35	9.57	3,950	5,750	32.4	2.06
D25	SD35	5.07	4,090	6,000	27.8	2.07
D13	SD30	1.27	3,520	5,410	28.1	2.10

at  $s\sigma = \sigma_y$  ( $\sigma_y$  = yield stress of reinforcing bars), to  $\delta = 7\delta_y$  ( $\delta_y$  = yield deflection defined as the deflection corresponding to yielding of top reinforcements).

In the fatigue tests for specimens No. D-Al ~ A6, repeated loads by partial pulsating were applied at six stress levels by the electro-hydraulic fatigue testing machine (Photo. 1).

Deflections at the loading point, strains in the reinforcing bars and crack patterns were measured.

### 3. TEST RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 Static Test

Fig. 2 shows the load-deflection relationship obtained from the static test for specimen No. D-AS. Fig. 3 shows the measured strain distribution through the main bars of the beams and the columns ((a): at  $s\sigma = 1,800 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ , (b):  $s\sigma = \sigma_y$ ). Fig. 4 shows the crack patterns under the yielding state of the beam (at  $\delta = 4\delta_y$ ).

Typical flexural behaviour is represented in the load-deflection curve (Fig. 2). That is to say, the stiffness decreased a little when flexural tension cracks appeared. Yielding of the top reinforcements of the beam occurred and simultaneously the beam yielded. After that the frame showed much ductility.

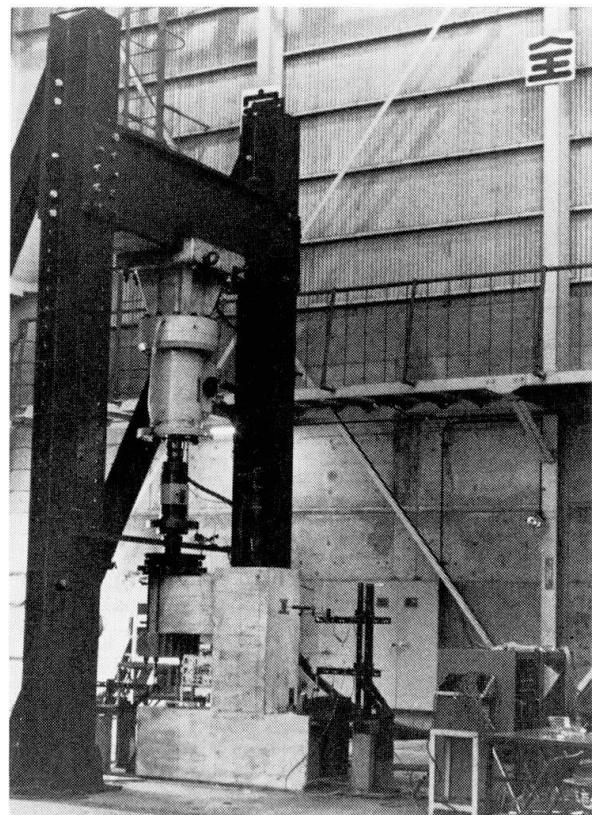


Photo. 1 Test Set-up

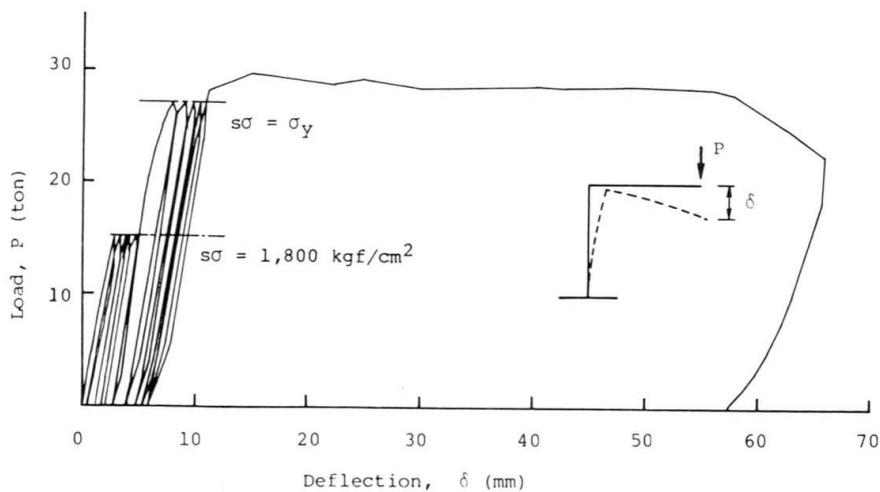


Fig. 2 Load-Deflection Curve (Static Test)

The strains in the top reinforcements in beam-column joints show triangular distribution which indicates almost no stress at the anchor nut. This proves that the anchorage of reinforcements was performed completely under cyclic loading at either  $s\sigma = 1,800 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$  or  $s\sigma = \sigma_y$ . And the strains in the main bars of the column remain at the level of  $200 \times 10^{-6}$  ( $s\sigma < 500 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$ ) when the stress of the beam was  $1,800 \text{ kgf/cm}^2$  (Fig. 3). This shows very clearly that the stress transmission from the beam to the column was performed smoothly by this mechanical anchorage.

### 3.2 Fatigue Test

Table 3 indicates the results of the fatigue tests for specimens No. D-A1 ~ A6 which were carried out at six amplitude levels.

The stress on the bars was determined by using the results of specimen No. D-AS and the results of the standard tensile test of reinforcing bars in the air. Table 4 indicates the results of the fatigue tests for reinforcing bars with a nominal dia. of 25mm and Grade SD35 in the air as compared to in concrete.

Several cracks were observed in the beams of each specimen and their distribution was almost the same. Diagonal cracks did not appear in the concrete web panels of the joints. As a matter of course the top reinforcements of the beams fractured near the critical section (see Photo. 2).

Fig. 5 shows the S-N relationship between stress amplitude ( $\sigma_R$ ) in ordinate and number of cycles to failure (N) in abscissa. In the diagram the '●' shows the test results in concrete and the '○', those in the air.

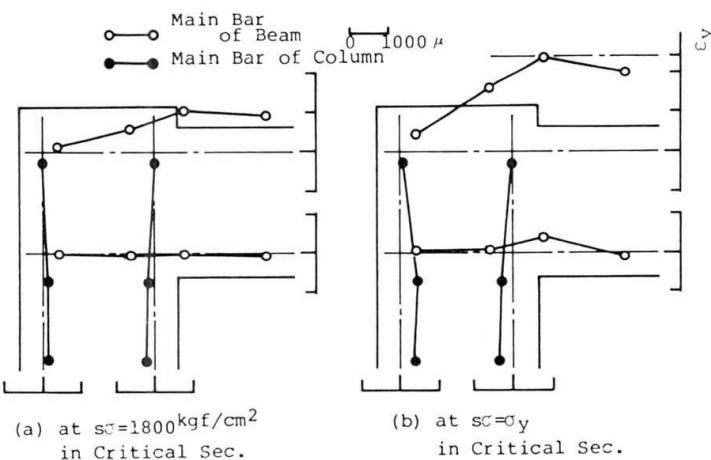


Fig. 3 Strain Distribution through Main Bars in Static Test

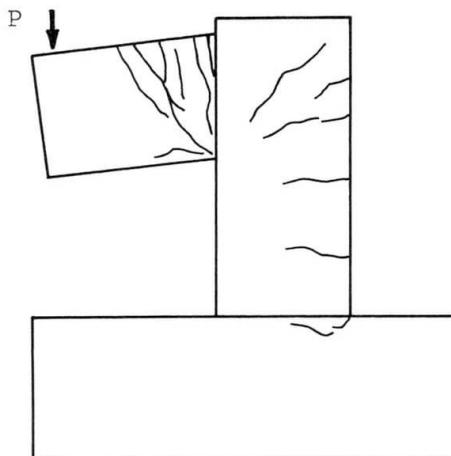


Fig. 4 Crack Pattern (at  $\delta = 4\delta_y$ )



Photo. 2 Fracture Surface of Bar



The fatigue strength of bars imbedded in concrete was  $18.0 \text{ kgf/mm}^2$  at  $2 \times 10^6$  cycles, and  $17.0 \text{ kgf/mm}^2$  at  $10^7$  cycles. There is no significant difference between the test results in concrete and those in the air.

Fig. 6 shows the strain distribution through the top and bottom reinforcements in the beam of specimen No. D-A2, which was measured at the upper limit stress of the first, of the  $50 \times 10^3$ th, then of the  $100 \times 10^3$ th and finally of the  $200 \times 10^3$ th cycle. According to Fig. 6 the strains in the reinforcing bars in the joints were nearly constant, independent of the increase in the number of cycles and they were about zero at the end of anchorage. This shows that the deterioration of the performance of the anchorage in the joints never occurred and the reinforcing bars didn't slip even under dynamic-repeated loads.

It may be concluded that this mechanical anchorage with thread-like deformed bars, anchor plates and anchor nuts is excellent and appropriate from the point

Table 3 Results of Fatigue Tests (in Concrete)

Specimen No.	Concrete compressive strength ( $\text{kgf/cm}^2$ )	Load (ton)		Stress of bar at critical section ( $\text{kgf/mm}^2$ )			Repetition frequency (Hz)	Number of cycles to failure ( $\times 10^3$ cycle)
		P max.	P min.	$\sigma$ max.	$\sigma$ min.	$\sigma_R$		
D-A1	409	22.6	1.0	28.17	1.17	27.00	1.5	172
D-A2	360	20.0	1.0	24.89	1.17	23.72	1.5	559
D-A3	413	17.1	1.0	21.19	1.17	20.02	1.5	798
D-A4	364	16.3	1.0	20.17	1.17	19.00	1.5	1,470
D-A5	428	15.4	1.0	19.16	1.17	17.99	2.5	8,380
D-A6	416	13.5	1.0	17.17	1.17	16.00	2.5	over 10,000

Table 4 Results of Fatigue Tests (in the Air)

Specimen No.	Section area ( $\text{mm}^2$ )	Load (ton)		Stress of bar ( $\text{kgf/mm}^2$ )			Repetition frequency (Hz)	Number of cycles to failure ( $\times 10^3$ cycle)
		P max.	P min.	$\sigma$ max.	$\sigma$ min.	$\sigma_R$		
S-A1	506.7	15.0	0.1	29.6	0.2	29.4	5	224
S-A2		14.2	0.1	28.0	0.2	27.8	5	289
S-A3		13.2	0.1	26.0	0.2	25.8	8	428
S-A4		12.0	0.1	23.7	0.2	23.5	8	692
S-A5		11.2	0.1	22.1	0.2	21.9	8	1,226
S-A6		10.3	0.1	20.3	0.2	20.1	10	over 2,220

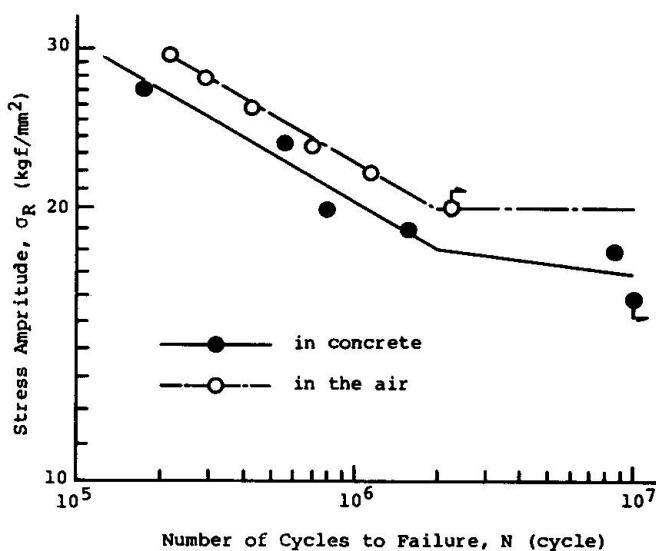


Fig. 5 S-N Diagram

of view of structural performance, and that the mechanical device for anchoring reinforcements is applicable to structures under repeated loading, such as overhead railroad bridges, as a result of the high efficiency in field practice.

#### 4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The fatigue tests using reinforced concrete L-shaped frames with mechanical anchors in the beam-column joints were carried out in order to make clear the fatigue strength of bars and performance of anchorage in concrete structures under dynamic loads. On the basis of the test results presented herein, the following conclusions can be made;

- The mechanical anchoring method conducted surely the L-shaped frames to the mode of flexural failure in the beams.
- The fatigue strength of the bars imbedded in concrete is nearly equal to that of those tested in the air.
- The fatigue strength of the bars imbedded in concrete is  $17.0 \text{ kgf/mm}^2$  at  $10^7$  cycles.
- The deterioration of the performance of the anchorage in the joints never occurred.

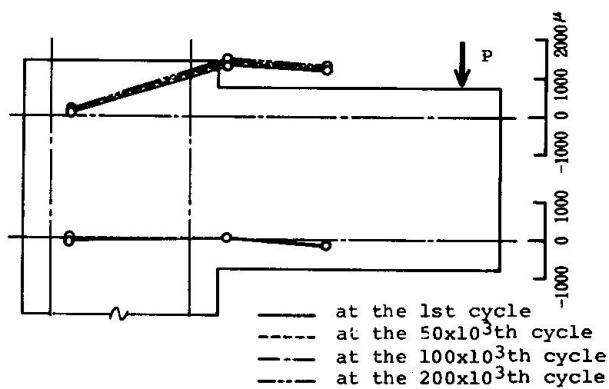


Fig. 6 Strain Distribution through Main Bar of Beam (Fatigue Test)



- It was clarified that the mechanical anchoring method was applicable to concrete structures subjected to dynamic loads.

#### NOTATIONS

P	applied load	$\epsilon_y$	strain in steel bar at yielding
N	number of cycles to failure	$\sigma$	stress
$f_t$	allowable stress of steel bar	$s^{\sigma}$	stress on steel bar
$\delta$	deflection at loading point	$\sigma_y$	yield stress
$\delta_y$	yield deflection	$\sigma_R$	stress amplitude

#### REFERENCES

MIYAZAKI, S., INOUE, H.: Building Requirements of Concrete Structures in TOHOKU-SHINKANSEN, Building Code of JNR, No.37, Mar., 1971.