

# The Use of Steel Damper for Enhancing the Seismic Performance of R/C Frame with Soft First Story

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**Abstract** The responses of reinforced concrete frame building having soft first story under three selected earthquakes record is presented. The soft first story is characterized by the open space on the ground floor, while the story above having infill walls. In order to improve the seismic responses of r/c frame building, the steel damper of flexural type are installed into building on the first story. The finite element method is employed to simulate the response of the frame building subjected to selected severe earthquakes using non-linear time history analysis. The equivalent three strut model is adopted to account the interaction of masonry infill with structure members on building responses, and the presence of the opening in reduction both stiffness and strength of the masonry infill are also considered. The simplified tri-linear model of stress-strain relationship is applied to account for the nonlinearity of the equivalent strut material, while hysteretic behavior of steel damper approximated by a bilinear model. In addition, the inelastic behavior of beam and column elements with rigid end zone is also adopted. Furthermore, the results are obtained from nonlinear analysis to be used for comparison the seismic performance of the building under consideration. Finally, it was clearly noticed that the use of steel damper not only to avoid the premature collapse of building but also to increase the seismic performance of the soft first story buildings significantly.

**Keywords** Steel damper, Soft story, Strut model, Infill wall, Seismic performance

## 1. Introduction

The absence of infill wall on the first story cause significant changes of the story stiffness under consideration, and may lead to damage or collapse due to soft first story mechanism formed. Figure 1. presents examples of buildings with first soft story having a poor performance during past earthquakes. However, these similar buildings is being adopted among architects, because these buildings offer open space which usually intended for lobby, parking or retail store. According to FEMA 451-B [7] that structures having soft story shall be designated as having vertical structural irregularity. The building is said having soft story when the lateral stiffness is less than 70 percent of that in the story above or less than 80 percent of the average lateral stiffness of the three stories above. A building are categorized as extreme soft story If its posses the lateral stiffness is less than 60 percent of that in the story above or less than 70 percent of the average lateral stiffness of the three stories above.

The widely used infill wall for reinforced concrete

building in Indonesia are solid brick, clay brick, and aerated concrete block. The presents infill wall not only increases the lateral stiffness of the frame up to 85% but also increases the structural strength up to 80% [8]. In addition, the experimental test r/c frame which strengthening by solid infill brick wall were conducted by Pujol et al. [13]. The test results confirmed that the present infill wall can increases the strength up to 100% and stiffness up to 500%. Therefore, the present infill wall incorporated into main structure must be taken into account in order to obtain the reliable responses. The main problem to consider the present infill wall during design process is due to the uncertainty properties are built and highly nonlinear behavior. Many researcher point out that the distribution infill wall associated with irregularities in plan and/or in elevation will change the dynamic behaviour and causes negative effect [2, 15].

Several method have been proposed in modeling masonry infill, and they are group into two categories: macro model and micro model [16]. In macro model, infill wall was assumed as equivalent strut either single strut method or multi strut method. The advantages of macro modeling is its simplicity in computation process. However, many researcher believed that one single strut model is not sufficient to capture the complex behaviour infilled frame because the interaction of the infill wall with frame are

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Published online at <http://journal.sapub.org/jce>

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represented only by the two loaded corner of the frame connected though a single strut. The micro modeling, based on finite element method in which the masonry panel and structure frame divided into several elements. The application of this modeling is more difficult and also too time consuming due to complexity the model, but it can predict the interaction of the infill walls with structure more precisely.

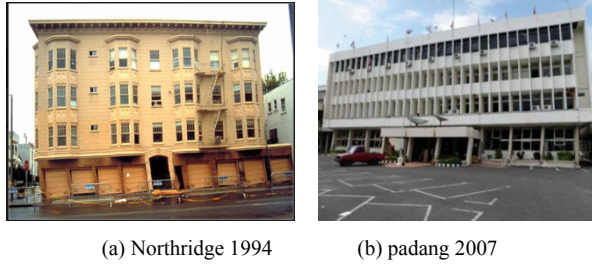


Figure 1. Examples of soft first story mechanism & collapse

Kaushik et al. [10] performed comparative study using finite element method by considering the different analytical models for masonry infill. It was confirmed that 3-strut model can estimate force resultants in r/c members with sufficient accuracy. Furthermore, Ateris [2] have performed nonlinear dynamic time history analysis of four story r/c frame with infill wall opening using Seismostruct and RUAMOKO software. The accuracy of the numerical model is evaluated by comparing the analysis results with experimental results. It was observed that 3-strut model provides a good fit to experimental results. The aim of this paper is to investigate the behavior of r/c frame with and without considering the interaction between infill walls and structure. It was also studied the seismic behavior of r/c frame with steel damper in placed.

## 2. Modeling of Infill Masonry Wall

### 2.1. Determination of the Equivalent Strut Width

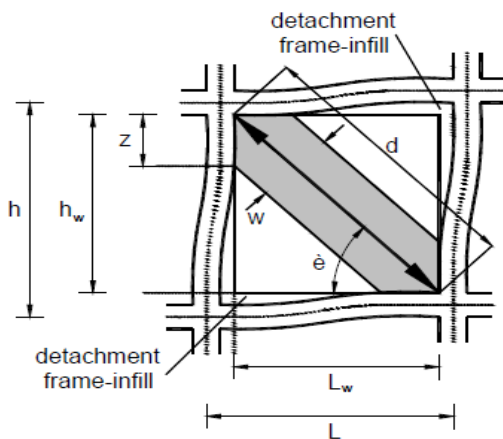


Figure 2. Masonry infill frame sub-assembly [2]

The behavior of infilled frame under lateral loads was

investigated by Ateris [2] using finite element method. It was observed that the contact length between the infill and the frame members are varied, and the frame's contribution to the overall stiffness is influenced by change in its mode of distortion. Figure 2 shows the general behavior infilled frame under lateral load.

The width of equivalent diagonal strut is given by [6]:

$$w_s = 0.175d(\lambda_h h)^{-0.4} \quad (1)$$

where

$$\lambda_h = \left\{ (E_w t \sin 2\theta) / (4E_c I_c h_w) \right\}^{0.25} \quad (2)$$

where  $d$  is the diagonal length of the masonry panel,  $h$  is the column height,  $E_w$  is the modulus of elasticity of the masonry panel,  $t$  is the thickness of the masonry panel,  $E_c I_c$  is the flexural rigidity of the column,  $h_w$  is the height of the masonry panel,  $\theta$  is angle of the inclination of the diagonal strut with horizontal line. The increasing lateral loads will reduce the length of the contact between masonry infill wall with r/c frame. Park and Paulay [12] proposed the contact length of between infill wall and column or beam as

$$z = (\pi / 2) \left\{ (4E_c I_c h_w) / (E_w t \sin 2\theta) \right\}^{0.25} \quad (3)$$

### 2.2. Three - Strut Model of Infill Wall

In the 3-strut model, the masonry infill wall replaced by 3-equivalent pin-jointed diagonal strut having the same thickness as infill wall and having equivalent width as defined in Eq.(1). The joint of strut and beam and column members are presented in figure 3.

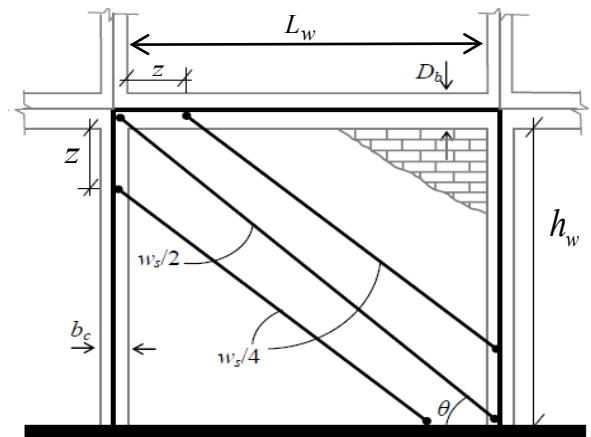


Figure 3. Three-strut model for masonry infill wall [10]

Simplified three piece-wise linear segments (figure 4) of the stress-strain curve for masonry wall which proposed by Kaushik et al. [9] to be used in the modeling masonry wall as diagonal strut. This curve is derived based on experimental results of 84 prism specimens made of masonry brick.

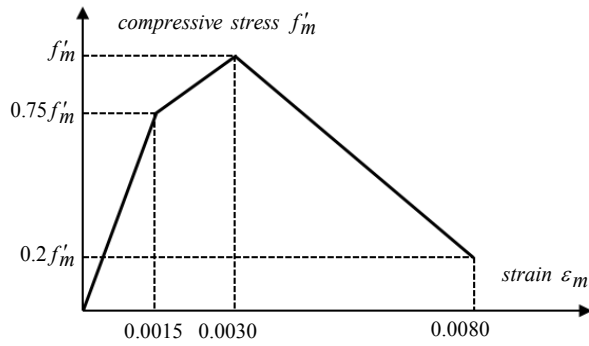


Figure 4. Tri-linear stress-strain model for masonry brick

### 2.3. Effect of Opening on the Lateral Stiffness

Although, it was clearly noticed that the infills play a role in increasing the lateral stiffness of complete structure, the past experience have proved that partially infilled frame structures showed poor behaviour during earthquakes event. Additionally, the increase in the opening percentage lead to a decrease on the lateral stiffness of infilled frame [2, 14]. Thus, the presence of infills opening will influence the whole seismic behavior infilled frame structure.

The effect of opening on the lateral stiffness have been proposed by Asteris [2] through parametric study using finite element method. The stiffness reduction factor is given by

$$\eta = 1 - 2\alpha_w^{0.54} + \alpha_w^{1.14} \quad (4)$$

where  $\alpha_w$  is the ratio of the area of opening to the area of infill wall. Furthermore, when calculate the strength of infill wall with opening, the strength reduction factor assume equal to the stiffness reduction factor.

## 3. Steel Damper

### 3.1. Displacement Dependent Damper



Figure 5. Two examples of strengthening building with steel yielding damper (Courtesy by Earthquake Proof System)

Force in these dampers are proportional to displacement. This type of energy dissipation devices take advantage of hysteretic behavior of metal in inelastic range to dissipate substantial portion of input energy, thus reducing structural response in main member of the structures. Numerous of different type devices that take advantage flexure, shear, or

axial deformation in the plastic range has been tested and implemented [5, 17-19]. The benefit of this type of dampers such as: stable hysteretic behavior, long-term reliability, and easily incorporated to the structure. The flexural type of this damper is used in this paper and incorporated into structure through bracing with chevron configuration. Examples of strengthening of existing r/c building with steel yielding damper depicted in figure 4.

### 3.2. Basic Characteristic of Steel Damper

A good damper must posses a stable and large hysteretic curve through a yielding of steel plate. In order to do so, a damper must have a large rotational capacity when its deformed inelastic range. Figure 6 shows a plastic mechanism for a single story frame incorporating a damper elements mounted at the top chevron bracing. The plastic rotational demand ( $\theta_d$ ) can be estimated from equation 5.

$$\theta_d = (H/h)\theta_p \quad (5)$$

where  $H$  is the story height,  $h$  is the damper elements height, and  $\theta_p$  is the plastic story drift angle.

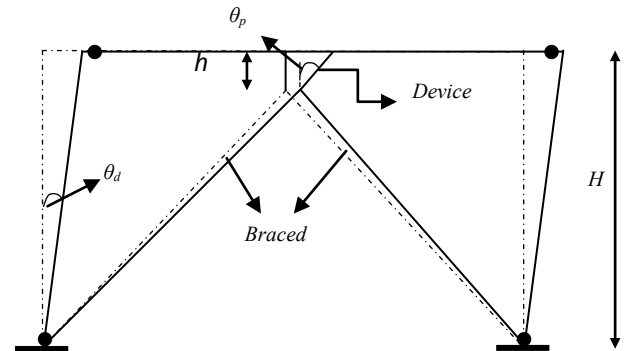


Figure 6. Deformation mechanism of a single story of frame with damper elements

For a purpose discussion, a damper element will be defined as a damper device plus two bracing as depicted in figure 6. The horizontal stiffness of the damper element ( $K_a$ ) can be determined as follows:

$$K_a = \frac{K_b K_d}{K_b + K_d} \quad (6)$$

where  $K_b$  is the bracing stiffness, and  $K_d$  is the damper device stiffness. The strength ratio  $SR$  is defined as the ratio of the horizontal damper element stiffness to the structural story stiffness without damper element in place,  $K_s$ . Thus,

$$SR = K_a / K_s \quad (7)$$

Xia and Hanson (1992) recommended that  $SR$  ratio not less than 2, even though this parameter is less effective in controlling the maximum device ductility ratio if compare with device yield displacement. Figure 7. shows the nonlinier modeling of restoring force damper and bare frame.

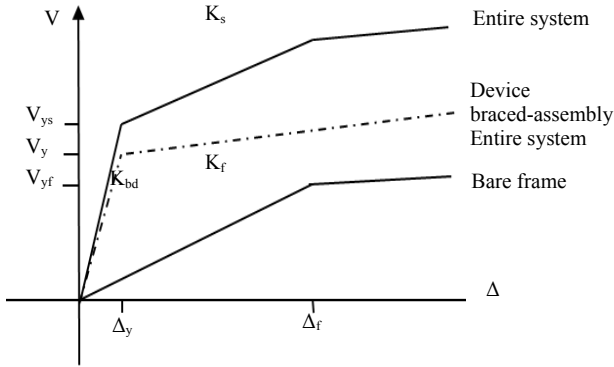


Figure 7. Nonlinear modeling of restoring force frame and damper

### 3.3. Modeling of Steel Damper

The primary factor affecting damper elements are elastic stiffness ( $K_e$ ), yield displacement ( $d_y$ ), and yield force ( $P_y$ ) as reported by Whittaker et al [18]. Therefore, a bilinear model is appropriate to represent of damper device inelastic behavior as depicted in figure 8. The hysteretic energy is dissipated of device in one cycle can be determined from equation 8.

$$W_d = 4P_y (1 - \eta)(\Delta - \Delta_y) \quad (8)$$

where  $W_d$  is area under hysteretic curve and  $\eta = K_p / K_e$  is ratio of elastic stiffness to plastic stiffness of the device.

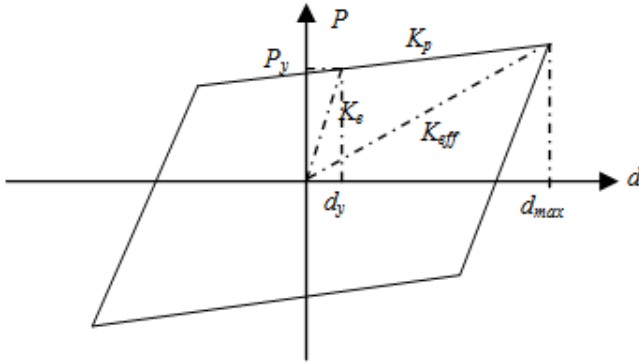


Figure 8. Bilinear modeling of device

## 4. Energy Based Damage Index

In recent years, energy based approach are often used in earthquake resistant structures design [4]. In order to quantify performance of a structures during earthquake, drift and damage index are commonly accepted as performance criteria. Damage index model based on cumulative plastic deformation and maximum hysteretic energy demand has been developed by several researcher, such as [3, 12, 20]. In this paper, damage index model are proposed by Park and Ang [12] are employed to investigate the damage level of the building with and without damper under three series selected ground motion. Park and Ang damage index as a linear combination of the damage caused

by maximum deformation and that contributed cyclic loading effect. In term of damage index can be expressed as

$$DI = \frac{\delta_m}{\delta_u} + \frac{\beta}{Q_y \delta_u} \sum_{i=1}^n \int_0^t dE_i \quad (9)$$

where,  $\delta_m$  is maximum displacement obtained from non-linear response history analysis for any given earthquake,  $\delta_u$  is ultimate displacement obtained from non-linear static pushover analysis,  $Q_y$  is yield strength of the structure obtained from capacity curve,  $\beta$  is constant to account the effect of cyclic load and structural properties; ranges from 0.05-0.15,  $E_i$  is hysteretic energy demand at  $i^{th}$  plastic hinge, and  $n$  is number of plastic hinges. In this context, the interpretation between damage level and damage index as listed in table 1.

Table 1. Interpretation of damage index

Degree of damage	Damage index	State of structure
No damage	<0.1	Serviceable or localized minor cracking
Minor	0.1-0.25	Minor damage (light cracking throughout)
Moderate	0.25-0.40	Severe cracking, localized spalling
Severe	0.4-1.0	Severe damage (concrete crushing)
collapse	>1.0	Loss of building

## 5. Numerical Study

### 5.1. Building Description

The elevation four story r/c building with open story at the ground floor and masonry infill walls in the other story are shown in figure 9. Figure 10 present the strengthening of the structure using yielding damper. The window opening is 1mx1.5m. Design parameters for the structure are summarized as

- Concrete strength:  $f'_c = 25 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $E_c = 23500 \text{ MPa}$
- Reinforcement steel :  $f_y = 400 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $E_{st} = 200000 \text{ MPa}$
- Masonry wall:  $f'_m = 4 \text{ MPa}$ ,  $E_m = 750 f'_m = 3000 \text{ MPa}$
- Dead load: 40kN/m (1-3 floor); 30kN/m (roof).
- Live load: 15kN/m (1-3 floor); 12kN/m (roof).
- Columns size are 400mm x 400mm with the following reinforcement: 16 Ø16mm for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> story (designated as column type1; 12 Ø16mm for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> story (designated as column type2).
- Beams size are 300mm x 500mm (1-3 floor) with the following reinforcement: top (5 Ø16mm), bottom (3 Ø16mm) and designated as beam type 1.
- beams dimension for the top floor are 250mm x 500mm with reinforcement: top (4 Ø16mm), bottom (3 Ø16mm), and designated as beam type 2.

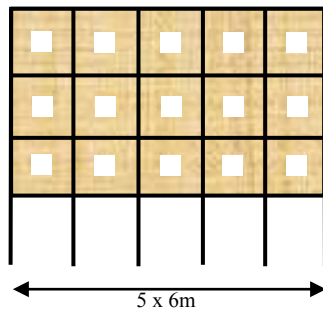


Figure 9. 4-story of concrete frame

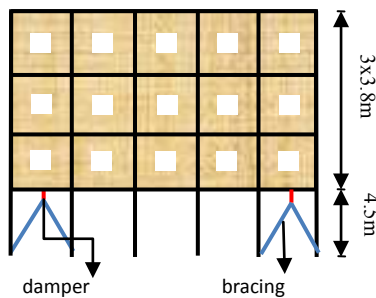


Figure 10. 4-story of concrete frame with steel damper

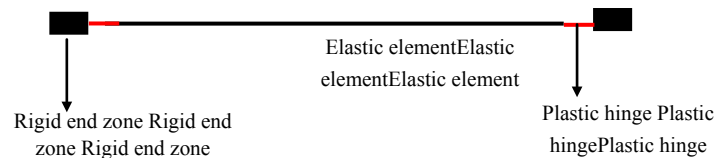
## 5.2. Structural Analysis and Modeling

Finite element analysis of the frame were performed

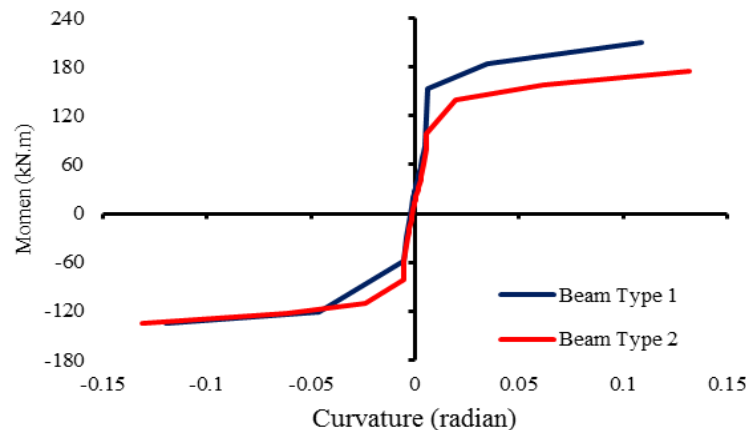
using PERFORM-3D software under 3 (three) acceleration records, i.e. El-Centro, San-Fernando and Tabas scaled to 0.5g. All beams, columns and braces were modeled as one dimensional element. Beam and column elements were modeled as an elastic segment with distributed plastic hinge and rigid end zone element as depicted in figure 11 and 12. The rigid end zone was selected a half of column width for beam element and a half of beam width for column element. Beams are usually have small axial forces and bent in only one plane, so that moment-curvature relationship was applied to account the inelastic behavior of the beam element. Additionally, columns are usually have large axial forces and bent in biaxial plane, so that is necessary to account for PMM interaction. In the dynamic analysis, Rayleigh damping was constructed, so that the damping ratio is close to 5% over a range of periods from  $0.2T_1$  to  $T_1$ , where  $T_1$  is the first mode period. Furthermore, in order to limit inter-story drift to less than 1%, by adding steel damper with  $SR=12$ , yield strength, 900 kN,  $Ke=360\text{kN/mm}$ , and 1% post yield stiffness ratio. The plastic hinge length is given as recommended by Park and Paulay [11]:

$$l_p = 0.08l + 0.022d_b f_y \quad (10)$$

where  $l$  is the distance between the maximum moment and point of inflection, and  $d_b$  is diameter of the longitudinal reinforcement.



(a) Column element



(b) Moment – Curvature relationship

Figure 11. Beam element modeling

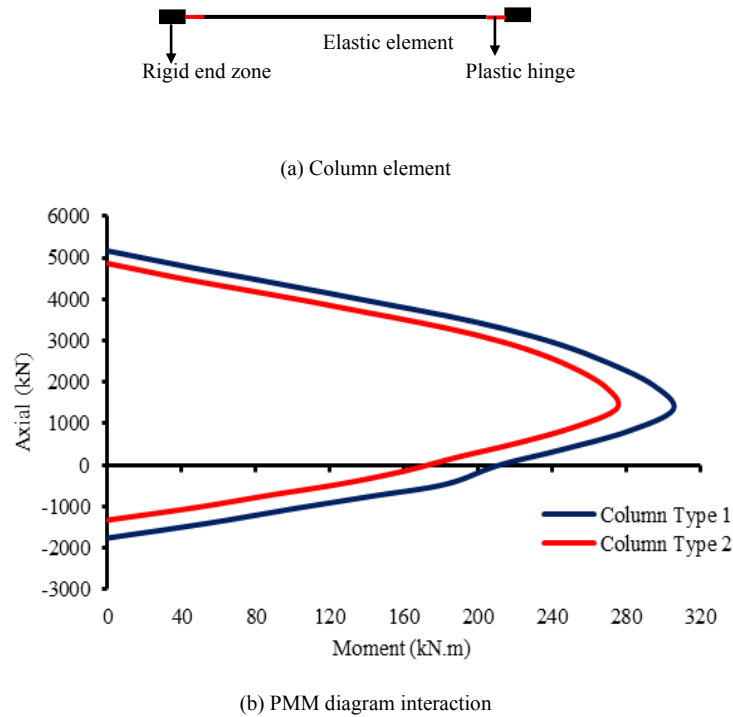


Figure 12. Column modeling

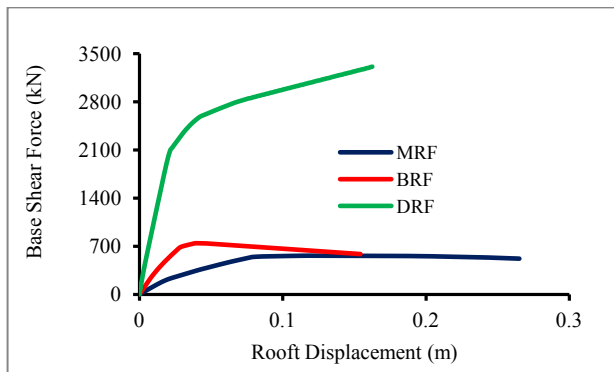
Figure 13. Evaluation of  $Q_y$  and  $\Delta_y$  from capacity curve

Table 2. Characteristics of the structure

Frame	Fundamental Period (sec.)	$Q_y$ (kN)	$\Delta_y$ (m)
MRF	1.23	199	0.018
BRF	0.86	286	0.010
DRF	0.4	2087	0.021

For discussion purposes, the r/c frame regardless of the interaction infill wall with structure denoted as MRF, when considered as structural components denoted as BRF, and when steel damper incorporated to the BRF on the first story denoted as DRF. Figure 13 depict capacity curve from nonlinear static pushover analysis, while table 2 summarized relevant characteristic of MRF, BRF, and DRF frames. When plot the capacity curve for DRF by use nonlinear static pushover analysis, the displacement of damper (equal to displacement of first story) is limited to 20 yield displacement.

## 6. Results and Discussion

### 6.1. Inter-story Drift

Inter-story drift is one of the response parameters that are widely used in determining the seismic performance of a structure subjected to ground motion. Figure 14 shows the comparison inter-story drift of MRF, BRF and DRF under 3 selected scaled ground motion. It was noted that inter-story drift on the first story higher than others story due to soft story effect. Additionally, the effect of infill walls also increases the inter-story drift on the first story except for Tabas earthquake. In contrast, the present infill walls reduce inter-story drift on the others story significantly due to effect of added stiffness. The improvement of the seismic performance using steel damper on the first story can be observed through DRF frame. The inter-story drift on the first story reduced significantly below 1% as targeted because of the effect of added damping and stiffness. It was also observed that the maximum inter-story drift occurred under input motion of El-Centro, followed by Tabas, and San Fernando.

Furthermore, the earthquake characteristic influence the interstory drift of the structures as shown in Figure 15. It was observed that for MRF and BRF structures, the smallest interstory drift occurred due to San Fernando earthquake followed by Tabas and El-Centro earthquake. However, for DRF structure, the effect of Tabas earthquake and El-Centro earthquake almost the same. It can be noticed that for soft first story structure is characterized by large drift concentrated on the first story, while upper story behave as rigid body. This behaviour can be demonstrated through BRF frame where inter-story drift above the first story is



relatively the same. Consequently, the flexural ductility demand on the column at first story larger than their capacity. This phenomena can also be investigated through the capacity curve, in which MRF and BRF structures exhibit a poor performance due to soft first story effect. This systems failed on a small displacement of less than 4% drift that commonly adopted as a criterion for ductile structure. It can be also demonstrated that the both structures (MRF and BRF) show excessive loss stiffness, and lead to premature collapse.

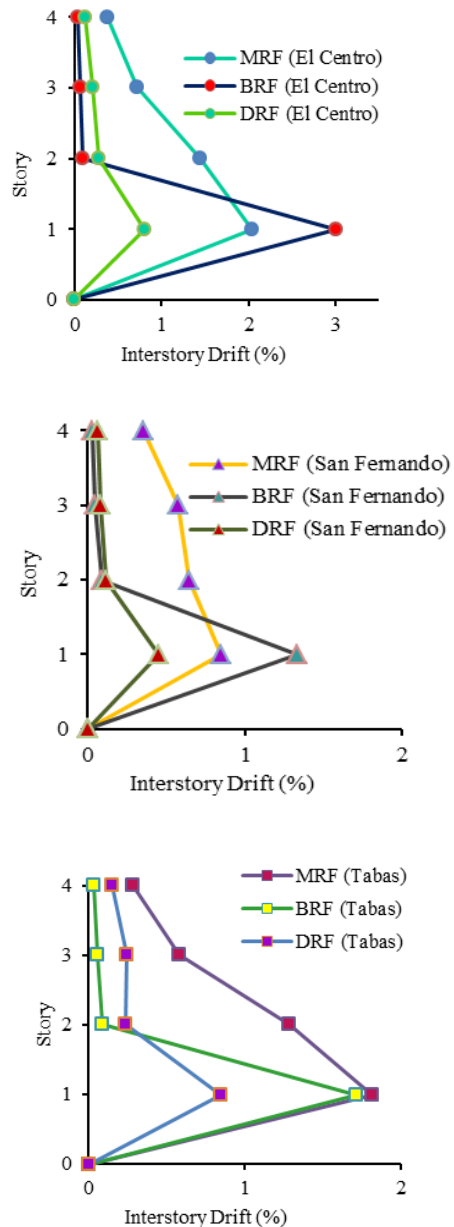


Figure 14. Inter-story drift VS story height

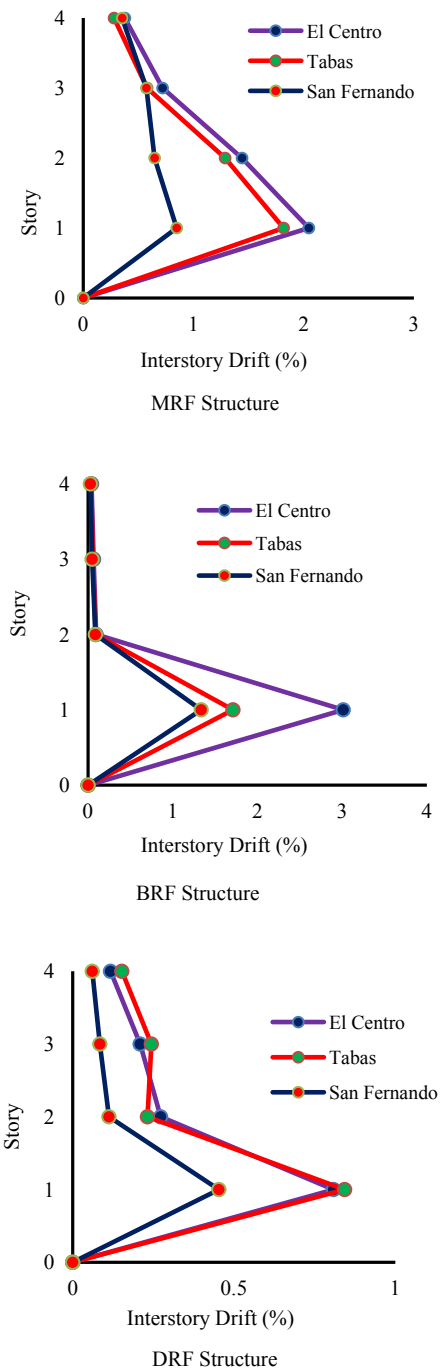


Figure 15. The effect of the earthquake characteristic on the interstory drift

## 6.2. Input and Hysteretic Energy Demand

The time history of input energy and hysteretic energy for MRF, BRF and DRF frames subjected to 3 (three) ground motion are presented in figure 16 and figure17, respectively.

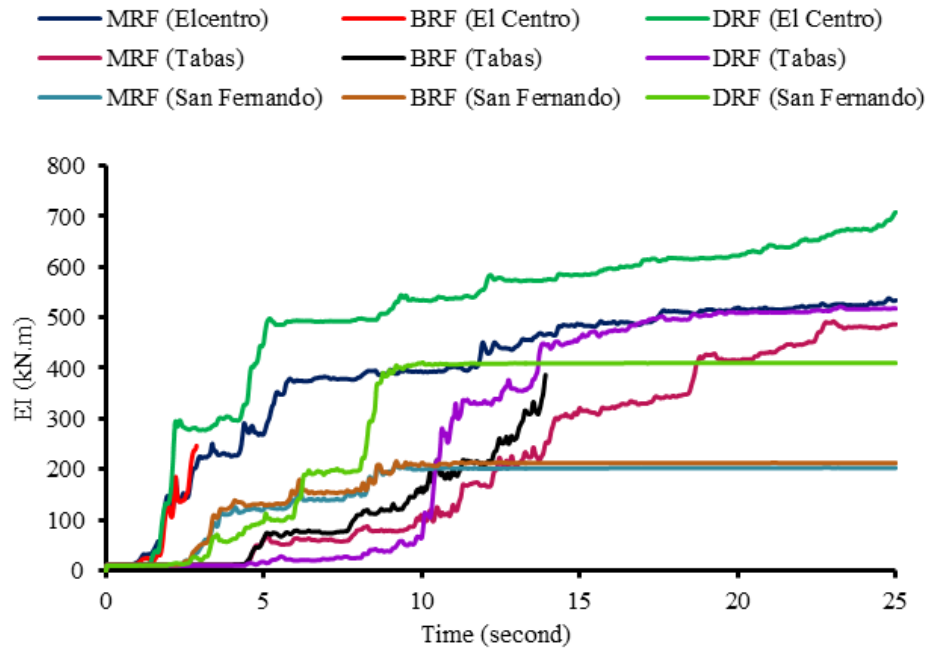


Figure 16. Time history of input energy

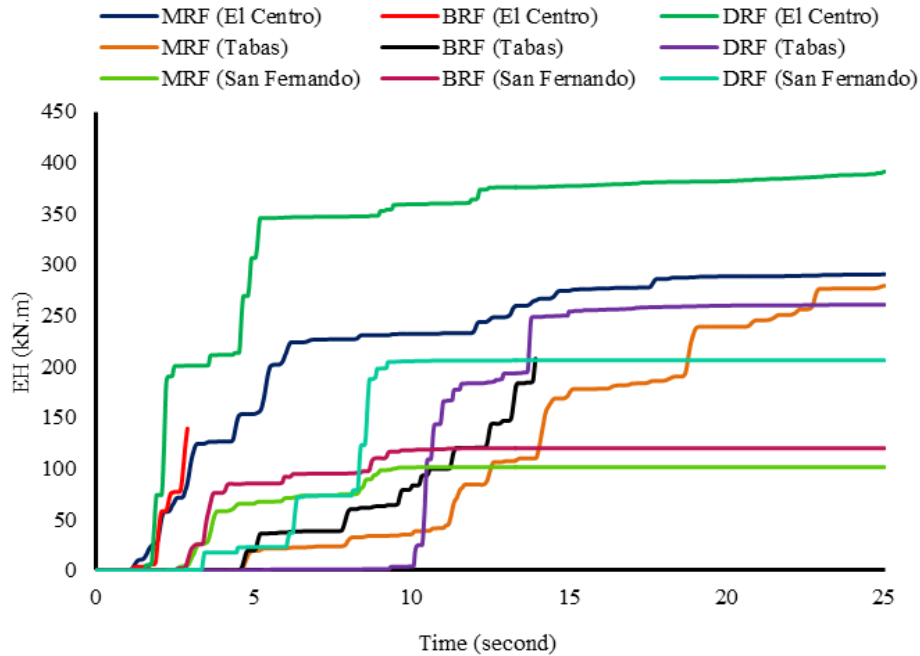


Figure 17. Time history of hysteretic energy

It was demonstrated that there are influence of ground motion characteristics and structural properties to the magnitude of total input energy and hysteretic energy. It is clearly noticed that the BRF frame fail under El-Centro and Tabas prematurely, since plastic hinge formed on the soft first story with rotation demand higher than rotation capacity. In addition, the input and hysteretic energy under San Fernando ground motion is smaller than El-Centro and Tabas ground motion. This is the reason why inter-story drift caused by San Fernando earthquake is lower than the other two earthquakes.

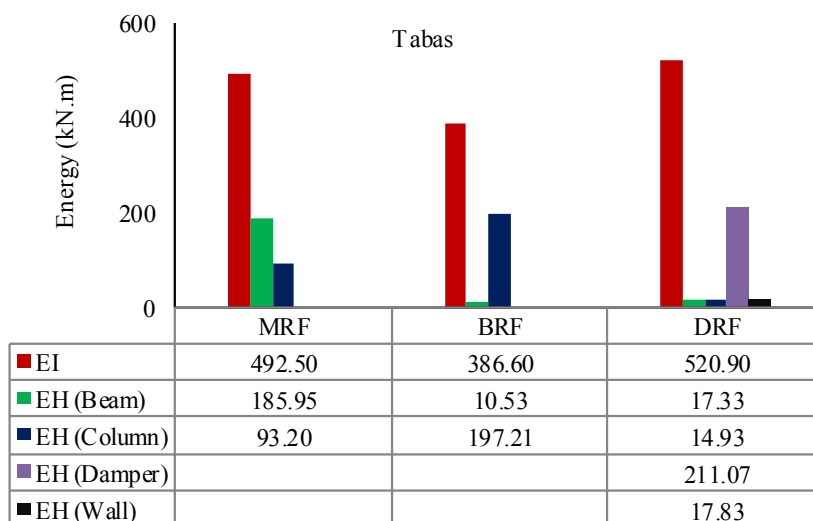
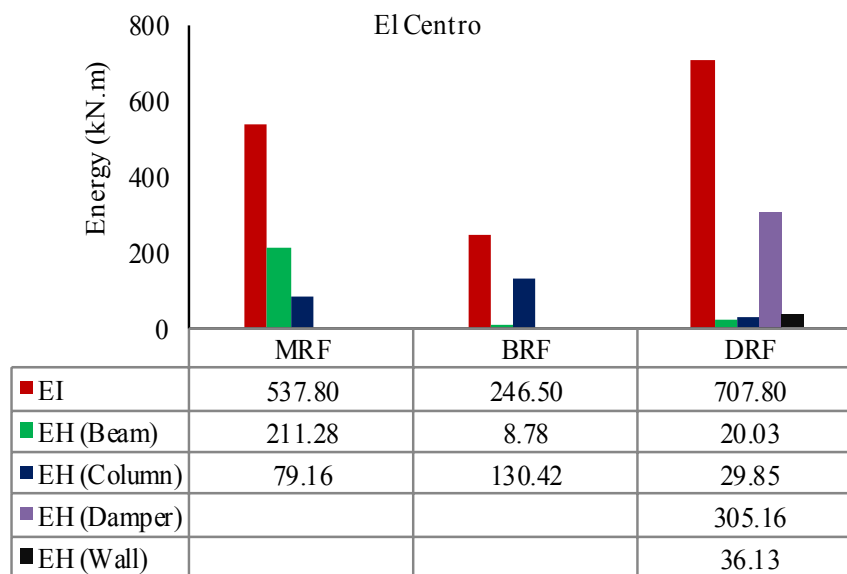
### 6.3. Distribution of Input and Hysteretic Energy Demand

Many researcher believed that the damage to a structures depend on amount of hysteretic energy dissipated and on its cumulative effect. Figure 18 present the total hysteretic energy components, i.e., dissipated by beams element, columns element, walls and dampers element. For the MRF frame, energy dissipated by beams element larger than columns element. In contrast, most of input energy on the BRF frame absorbed by columns component rather than



beams component. The absence of infill wall on the first story (discontinuous in the distribution of stiffness) exhibit the poor behavior on the lateral load carrying system of the structure. This is the reason why BRF frame indicate failure earlier than MRF frame during El-Centro and Tabas earthquake. In addition, for MRF frame in which the largest hysteretic energy demand caused by El-Centro ground motion followed by Tabas and San Fernando. Unlike MRF frame, for BRF frame the hysteretic energy demand under Tabas earthquake larger than El-Centro earthquake and the smallest hysteretic energy demand generated by San Fernando earthquake. Furthermore, DRF frame indicates good behaviour on the lateral load carrying system, although the input energy transmitted into this structure is much higher compare to other systems (MRF and BRF),

particularly under El-Centro excitation. This behavior can be attributed to the concentrated a large portion of hysteretic energy demand on the damper devices, only a small portion of the input energy dissipated by main structural component such as: beams and columns. Therefore, building structure incorporated with hysteretic damper during strong earthquake excitation exhibit better performance, i.e. remain elastic or minor damage. Moreover, infill wall of the BRF frame does not play a role in the absorbing of the seismic input energy. On the contrary, infill walls element on the first story of the DRF frame have contributed to the energy dissipation. However, energy dissipated by this element are not significant compare to energy dissipated by damper device. Damper device are able to absorb more than 40% of the total input energy.



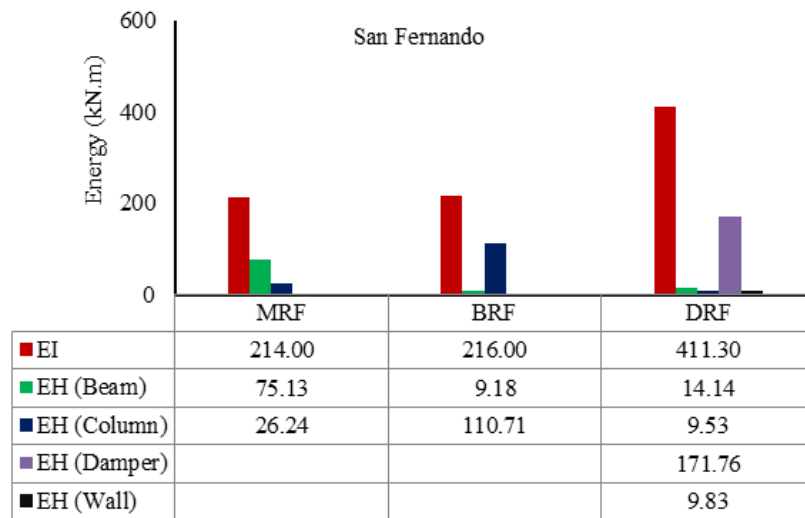


Figure 18. Comparison of the hysteretic energy among the structural members

Table 3. Distribution of the hysteretic energy vs story height

Story	Component	El Centro		
		Hysteretic Energy (kN.m)		
		MRF	BRF	DRF
1	Beam	139.17	8.63	15.08
	Column	78.08	130.42	29.85
	Damper	-	-	305.16
2	Beam	57.52	0.08	4.02
	Column	0.15	0.00	0.00
3	Beam	14.15	0.07	0.93
	Column	0.66	0.00	0.00
4	Beam	0.44	0.00	0.00
	Column	0.27	0.00	0.00
5	Wall			36.125
Total		290.44	139.20	391.16

Story	Component	Tabas		
		Hysteretic Energy (kN.m)		
		MRF	BRF	DRF
1	Beam	130.42	10.41	11.06
	Column	84.20	197.20	14.93
	Damper	-	-	211.07
2	Beam	46.34	0.07	4.42
	Column	7.36	0.01	0.00
3	Beam	9.03	0.05	1.85
	Column	1.61	0.00	0.00
4	Beam	0.16	0.00	0.00
	Column	0.04	0.00	0.00
5	Wall			17.827
Total		279.15	207.73	261.15

Story	Component	San Fernando		
		Hysteretic Energy (kN.m)		
		MRF	BRF	DRF
1	Beam	43.61	9.10	9.10
	Column	25.92	110.71	9.53
	Damper	-	-	171.76
2	Beam	19.14	0.05	3.84
	Column	0.00	0.00	0.00
3	Beam	12.12	0.03	1.19
	Column	0.16	0.00	0.00
4	Beam	0.26	0.00	0.00
	Column	0.16	0.00	0.00
5	Wall			9.83
Total		101.37	119.89	205.26

Table 3 shows the distribution of the hysteretic energy through the height of structure. It can be seen that all structural component within each story of MRF frame undergo inelastic deformation, and cause damage to the structural members. It was also noted that the beams element more suffered than the columns element particularly beams on the lower story.

Furthermore, the most important observation that for BRF frame where the damage is concentrated in the first story column as a soft story effect. This phenomena is characterized by significant hysteretic energy dissipated in the columns of the first story. It is clearly demonstrated that the benefits of using a damper on the first story can enhance the seismic performance of the structure as a whole, since most of the input energy is absorbed by damper system.

#### 6.4. Interpretation of Damage Level

Damage level of the building under study can be predicted through response parameters such as: inter-story drift, plastic

hinge rotation, cumulative hysteretic energy demand, damage index, and many others parameters. In this study damage index proposed by Park and Ang with  $\beta = 0.10$  to be used for predicting the damage level of the structures. Table 4 shows the comparison of the damage level of the structure using damage index and seismic performance based on inter-story drift under three selected earthquake scaled to 0.5g. It is clearly confirmed that MRF and BRF frames collapse due to El-Centro and Tabas earthquake. However, both frames only were extensively damaged under San Fernando earthquake. It was also demonstrated that DRF frame shows superior performance under strong seismic excitation, in which the worst condition of the structure indicates just moderate damage. Additional information was noticed that in this case there are correlation between degree of damage and inter-story drift. The higher inter-story drift, the higher the level of damage of the structures.

## 7. Conclusions

In this paper, the seismic performance of the r/c frame with and without considering the interaction of infill walls and structures is presented. By using steel damper incorporated into structure on the first story not only can avoid the structure collapse premature but also to improve the seismic performance of the structure having soft first story. Based on observation of the results obtained by nonlinear dynamic analysis, the following main conclusion can be drawn:

- The presence of infill walls and absent at first story causes soft story mechanism, and lead to structural behavior more brittle.
- Building structure having soft first story exhibit a poor performance during strong seismic excitation. This condition will be aggravated if there is no infill walls on the first story while the above story stiffer due to presence of the infill wall.
- Ground motion excitations scaled to the same PGA does not guarantee produce the similar response parameters of the building under consideration. Because the response of the building are not only influenced by building dynamic properties but also depend on ground motion characteristic, such as duration of motion, Frequency content and intensity parameter (PGA, PGV, others parameters)
- Lateral deformation of the building structure with open space on the first story concentrated at the first story, while others story behave as rigid motion under strong earthquake. This building is prone to experience severe damage or collapse due to soft story mechanism.
- By using steel damper incorporated into building structure on the first story can enhance the seismic performance of the building, and to prevent building collapse prematurely. The selection of stiffness ratio SR is important factor for successful in strengthening of building structure having soft first story.

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