

PARAMETRIC STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF MASONRY INFILL WALLS ON THE SEISMIC RESISTANCE OF RC BUILDINGS

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The seismic resistances of RC buildings with masonry infill (MI) walls confined by Reinforced concrete (RC) frames are affected by the crucial role, either positive or negative, played by these walls. In this study, a nonlinear numerical investigation on the lateral behavior of masonry infilled RC buildings is carried out. Variety of parameters for both MI walls and buildings are considered. Different configurations of MI walls, size of wall openings, absence of MI walls in the first storey and MI wall thickness are investigated. The application buildings are either moment resisting frames (MRF) or dual shear wall-moment resisting frames (SW-MRF) buildings. The MRF buildings have 6 floors, while the SW-MRF buildings have 5 different heights represented by the number of floors (from six to twenty floors). Equivalent strut methodology is used and modified to model the behavior of infill walls taking into consideration the effect of opening sizes. Nonlinear static push-over analysis is carried out for the applied case study buildings. It is found that MI walls can highly increase the base shear capacity of either building types while significantly reduce the displacement capacity of MRF buildings, RC shear walls can resist this negative effect. The existence of soft first storey can drastically alter the lateral response of buildings. The influence of MI walls fades as the building height increases. The new distribution of failure mechanism is introduced.

KEYWORDS: masonry infill walls push-over analysis, wall openings, soft storey, seismic codes

1. INTRODUCTION

Masonry infill walls are widely used in most existing RC buildings around the world. This wide spread is related to the economical mean they provide to divide and enclose spaces to any required purposes. In regions with seismicity history or even high wind speeds, the lateral loads due to earthquakes or wind loads are the prevailing forces that require, rather than the ordinary gravity loads, special attention in assessing the behavior of such buildings. The structural contribution of masonry infill walls to the buildings they are implemented in is seldom included in the analysis and design of such structures [1] - [3]. This ignorance occurs although many experiments on RC frame buildings confining masonry infill walls show that infill walls have a high initial lateral stiffness and low deformability. The contribution of masonry infills may change the lateral load transfer mechanism of the structure from predominant frame actions to predominant truss actions. [1], [4]. The reality that the infill walls have significant

contribution to the lateral performance of RC structures, either in a positive or negative way, and can highly alter the structural response of buildings was highly supported and illustrated by the performance of buildings in the recent earthquakes (e.g., 1985 Mexico City, 2001 Bhuj (India) and 1999 Kocaeli (Turkey) earthquakes) [5], [6].

Behavior of MI walls is difficult to be predicted because of significant variations in material properties that can be used in the manufacturing of MI walls and different configurations by which they can be applied to buildings [4], [7]. The presence of openings, such as doors and windows, in MI walls can decrease stiffness and strength of infilled frames and hence change the expected behavior [5]. A large number of residential and commercial buildings had soft stories at the first-floor level due to the absence of MI walls in this storey, inside and on the sides of main streets. This happens because the first stories have been often used for shopping and commercial purposes, heavy MI walls start immediately above the soft storey. Inspections of last earthquake damages, as well as the results of some analytical studies, have shown that structural systems with a soft storey can lead to serious problems during severe earthquake ground shaking. The presence of a soft storey may result in increased deformation demands significantly, and puts the burden of energy dissipation on the first-storey columns. [6], [8], [9].

To deal with the subject of MI walls, various national codes can be broadly grouped in two categories of those that consider or do not consider the role of MI walls while designing RC frames. A very few codes specifically recommend isolating the MI walls from the RC frames such that the stiffness of MI does not play any role in the overall stiffness of the frame. As a result, MI walls are not considered in the analysis and design procedure. The isolation helps to prevent the problems associated with the brittle behavior and asymmetric placement of MI walls. Another group of national codes prefer to take advantage of certain characteristics of MI walls such as high initial lateral stiffness, cost-effectiveness, and ease in construction. These codes require that the beneficial effects of MI walls are appropriately included in the analysis and design procedure and that the detrimental effects are mitigated. In other words, these codes tend to maximize the role of MI walls as a first line of defense against seismic actions, and to minimize their potential detrimental effects through proper selection of their layout and quality control [4]. The Egyptian Code of Loads (September 2008) [10] renewed some general provisions related to the MI walls (called in this code Non-structural elements NSE). These provisions include that if the NSE are with risk impact on causalities or affect the main structure of building, they must be designed to resist seismic loads. If the NSE are with high importance or risk, the seismic analysis of the structure should include real representation of all building components. Also, the 2008 *ECOL* relates the interstorey drift limitations to the type of NSE (whether brittle, ductile or isolated). No provisions related to modeling of MI walls, effect of openings or soft stories are presented in this new edition of code.

The subject of masonry infilled reinforced concrete frames had attracted many researchers over the past five decades. There effort have been paid in many areas related to this subject such as modeling and idealization of infill walls [11], [12], experimental investigations [13], [14], modeling infill openings as windows and doors [5], [15], natural period of infilled frames [16], [17] and numerical investigations [18]-[21]. However, certain areas still need further investigations. Among the research needs identified were (1) the influence and interaction of some MI parameters (i.e.,

wall configuration, opening size, wall thickness and existence of soft stories); (2) the interaction between MI and RC shear walls; (3) the influence of building height on the response of frames with MI walls; and (4) redistribution of plastic hinges.

The main purpose of this study is to analytically investigate the nonlinear lateral behavior of masonry infilled reinforced concrete buildings. The investigated example buildings are either moment resisting frames MRF or dual system consists of shear walls and moment resisting frames SW-MRF buildings. The effect of many parameters of MI walls on the seismic response of RC masonry infilled buildings is considered. These parameters include different configurations of infills, variable opening sizes, MI wall thickness and the existence of first soft storey. The interaction between masonry infills and RC shear walls on buildings with different heights is evaluated through analyzing the example SW-MRF buildings with different five heights represented by the number of floors which ranges between six and twenty floors. The infill masonry walls are idealized using the equivalent strut methodology taking into consideration the effect of openings, the nonlinear hinge models available in the ETABS software [22] are modified to account for the specific behavior of MI walls. Nonlinear push-over analysis is carried out to assess the behavior of the MI-RC buildings with the different studied parameters; the results are introduced in the form of normalized base shear-lateral displacement curves. The propagation and formation of plastic hinges for sample buildings are also discussed.

2. DESCRIPTION AND DESIGN OF EXAMPLE BUILDINGS

All the studied buildings have almost the same plan features as shown in **Fig. 1**. The buildings are with plan dimensions of 25.0 m in the longitudinal direction and 18.0 m in the lateral direction. The typical bay dimensions are 5.0 m and 6.0 m in the mentioned preceded directions, respectively. Different building heights represented by the number of floors are considered in this study, 6, 9, 12, 16 and 20 floor buildings are analyzed. For all buildings the height of the first floor is equal to 4.0 m, while the height of the typical remaining floors is 3.0 m, sample elevation is shown in **Fig 2**.

The gravity load resisting system consists of solid slabs supported by beams, columns and shear walls (if exist). Two different lateral load resisting systems are considered. These systems are dual reinforced concrete shear wall-frame system SW-MRF, which is applied to the considered building with all different heights, beginning from 6 floors to 20 floors. The other MRF system is assigned only for buildings with height equivalent to 6 floors and depends on the frame action generated from the connection between beams and columns.

All the studied buildings are designed according to the requirements of the 2008 *ECOL*. All the studied buildings are assumed to be located in seismic region 3 which is remarkable with acceleration equal 0.15 g and type 1 response spectra which is specified for regions other than coastal regions along the Mediterranean sea. The subsoil on which the buildings are founded is considered to be of class C. The equivalent static load method using the horizontal design spectra for elastic analysis is used; a reduction due to the capability of the structure to resist seismic forces in the plastic range is applied.

The considered loads are the dead loads of the building, superimposed dead load of 1.5 KN/m² and live load equal 2.5 KN/m². The dead load of walls is applied

directly on beams. The loads which are considered in the seismic design of buildings are the full dead loads plus 50 % of the live loads [10]. The beams are designed to have a section of 0.2 x 0.6 m for buildings with 6 and 9 floors and 0.25 x 0.6 m for buildings with other heights. The column sections are varying with different height buildings and along their heights. The sections of columns on the first floor for the buildings with different heights are shown in **Table 1**. Buildings with number of floors equal 6, either MRF or SW-MRF buildings have the same columns sections while a reduction in column reinforcement may be applied to SW-MRF buildings.

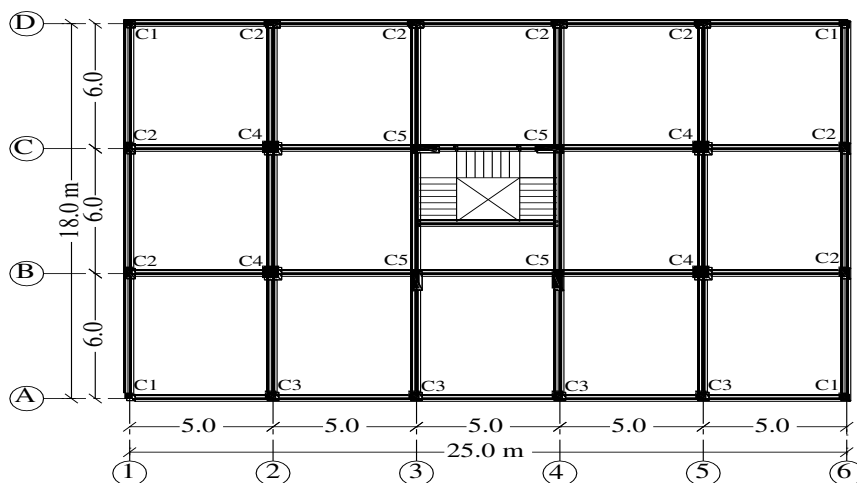


Fig. 1: General plan of the investigated MRF building

The effective total lengths of shear walls in the first storey in each orthogonal direction (L_w) is designed to meet the mentioned seismic requirements and is taken as a ratio of the total height of building. This ratio (L_w/H) is 0.20 for walls along the short direction and 0.165 for walls situated in the longitudinal direction. The thickness of shear walls is taken 0.2 m. The position of shear walls for buildings with different heights is shown in **Fig. 3**. The compressive strength of used concrete is 25.0 MPa while the used steel is high tensile with yield strength of 400 MPa. The MI walls have modulus of elasticity equal 5.0 GPa and strength of 4.0 MPa.

Table 1: Dimensions of columns (m) in the first floor

Col. Model	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
Dim. (6 floors)	0.30 x 0.30	0.30 x 0.50	0.40 x 0.40	0.60 x 0.60	0.30 x 0.90
Dim. (9 floors)	0.30 x 0.45	0.30 x 0.65	0.45 x 0.45	0.65 x 0.65	0.30 x 1.00
Dim. (12 floors)	0.30 x 0.55	0.30 x 0.95	0.55 x 0.55	0.75 x 0.75	0.30 x 1.25
Dim. (16 floors)	0.30 x 0.75	0.30 x 1.15	0.60 x 0.60	0.90 x 0.90	0.30 x 1.35
Dim. (20 floors)	0.40 x 0.75	0.40 x 1.15	0.70 x 0.70	1.00 x 1.00	0.40 x 1.50

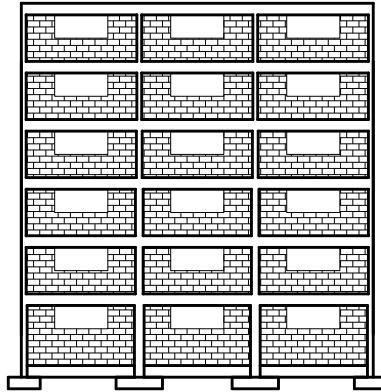


Fig. 2: Elevation of sample external walls (6 floors building)

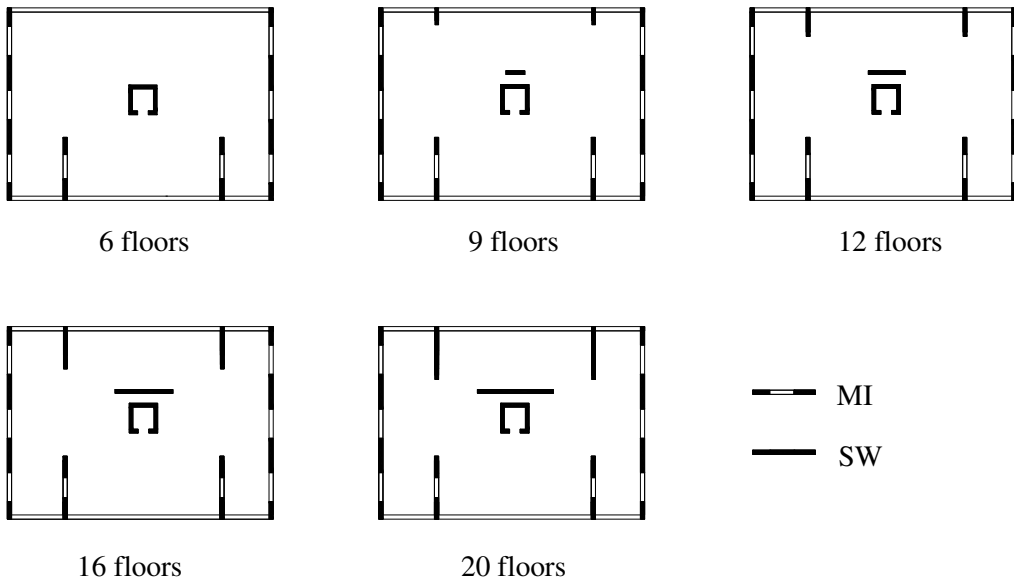


Fig. 3: Positions of RC shear and sample MI walls for buildings with different heights

3. MODELING APPROACH AND CODE PROVISIONS

The MI walls, which are enclosed by two columns and two beams, are usually modeled as equivalent diagonal compression strut as shown in **Fig 4**. Dealing with the equivalent strut methodology, the *Eurocode-8* [23] specifies that shear capacity of columns is required to be checked and recommended a strut width of an unspecified fraction of the panel diagonal length. *FEMA-306* [24] recommends the following equations, which are based on the early studies of Mainstone [12] and Smith [11] to calculate the properties of diagonal compression strut:

$$A_e = w_e t \tag{1}$$

$$\text{where } w_e = 0.175 (\lambda h)^{-0.4} \sqrt{h^2 + l^2} \quad (2)$$

$$\text{where } \lambda = \sqrt[4]{\frac{E_i t \sin(2\theta)}{4 E_c I_c H_i}} \quad (3)$$

A_e and w_e are area and width of strut, respectively. h and l are the height and length of the frame panel, respectively, E_c and E_i are the elastic moduli of the column and of the infill panel, respectively, t is the thickness of the infill panel, θ is the angle defining diagonal strut, I_c is the moment of inertia of the column and H_i is the height of the infill panel. In the present study the above mentioned procedure recommended by *FEMA-306* is used in idealizing the behavior of solid masonry infills.

The properties of the equivalent diagonal strut, which represents the MI wall, under lateral loadings, change due to the existence of openings such as doors and windows. Generally, most national codes do not include the effect of openings on the stiffness and strength of MI walls or present procedures about how to model wall openings. *Eurocode-8* specifies that only the solid walls or walls with a single door or window opening are assumed to be imparting any significant strength to the structure and gives some details about the openings. However, researches state that the two main parameters affecting the properties of equivalent strut represents infill walls with openings are size and position of opening. In this study, the effect of opening is considered using a stiffness reduction factor λ which varies according to the two mentioned parameters. This factor can be obtained from graphs presented by Asteris [15]. The final infill wall, with opening, area is the product of the area obtained in Eq. 1 and the stiffness reduction factor λ .

To carry out the nonlinear push-over analysis, the nonlinear hinge properties of equivalent strut is idealized using force displacement constitutive law suggested by *FEMA-273* [25] for members subjected to axial forces. This axial force model is modified for the infill walls to account for the weak behavior of infill walls in tension which is only about 20 % its compressive capacity [7]. Beams and columns are also assigned nonlinear hinge properties suggested by *FEMA-273* depending on their moment capacity. As no plastic hinges can be applied to shell elements in ETABS, the stiffness of shear walls are modified by a factor equal 0.5 to account for their nonlinear behavior [10].

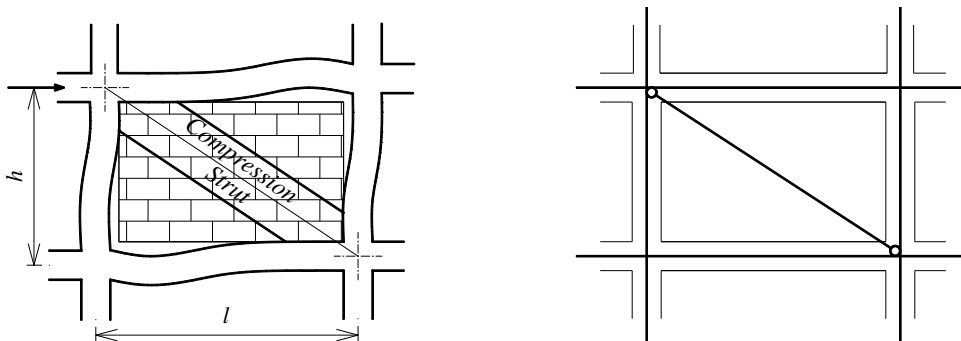


Fig. 4: Modeling of reinforced concrete frame with MI walls

4- CONSIDERED PARAMETERS

To investigate the nonlinear lateral behavior of the masonry infilled frames in comparison with the corresponding bare frame cases, a variety of parameters should be considered. These parameters may be related to the infill walls or the building itself. In this study, the considered parameters include the configuration of infill panels, the opening ratio in each infill panel, the soft first storey, the thickness of masonry infill walls and finally, the total height of the considered building.

The configuration of MI walls is represented by the ratio between the number of panels fully occupied with infill walls to the ratio of the total number of panels in the specified direction (N_i / N_t). In this study, the lateral short direction is considered. Three different infill configurations are studied which are represented by infilled panels to total panels ratio (N_i / N_t) of 33.33 %, 44.44 % and 66.67 %, respectively. Buildings with (N_i / N_t) equal to 44.44 % are shown in **Fig. 3**.

Due to the crucial role that can be played by the openings in infill walls, three different common opening sizes are to be applied to each considered infill panel with opening. The heights of openings are kept fixed and equal to 1.2 m while the width of opening is assigned to be 1.2 m, 2.0 m or 4.0 m. These openings are located in almost a central position and gives stiffness reduction factor to be multiplied by the infill equivalent strut area of 60 %, 40 % and 20 %, respectively.

The absence of infill walls in the first floor (soft first storey) as the case in many buildings at which the first floor is assigned to be an open area without any partitions for different commercial purposes is also studied.

As it is very common in Egypt to use MI walls of bricks having width equal to 0.12 m or 0.2 m, the effect of using either of the two brick thicknesses is investigated (unless mentioned, walls with thickness 0.12 m is considered)

Finally, the lateral behavior of the infilled frames in comparison with the corresponding bare frames over different heights is investigated to discuss the interaction between RC and MI walls. This is attained by analyzing the example buildings with different heights represented by the number of floors. The considered number of floors of the example buildings is 6, 9, 12, 16 and 20 floors.

The results of the nonlinear push-over analysis are introduced in the form of normalized base shear-displacement curves; this is along with discussing the mechanism and formation of plastic hinges of different studied cases.

5- NONLINEAR ANALYSIS OF 6 FLOOR BUILDINGS

The nonlinear push-over analysis of the 6 floor buildings with either lateral load resisting systems, moment resisting frame (MRF) and dual shear wall-frame system (SW-MRF), is carried out to assess the effect of the considered infill parameters. The following notations are used:

OBF: The original bare frame without MI walls.

R33, *R44* and *R66*: The number of bays occupied with MI to total bay numbers in the lateral direction (N_i / N_t) is equal to 33.33 %, 44.44 % and 66.67 %, respectively.

R44-20, *R44-40* and *R44-60*: Buildings with (N_i / N_t) equal to 44.44 %, the MI walls have openings result in stiffness reduction factor λ of 20%, 40% and 60%, respectively.

R33-40S, *R44-40S* and *R66-40S*: Soft first storey buildings having MI walls with openings yield λ of 40 %, (N_i / N_t) equal 33.33 %, 44.44 % and 66.67 %, respectively.

9F, *12F*, *16F* and *20F*: The number of floors is 9, 12, 16 and 20, respectively.

The effect of different MI solid walls, without openings, configurations represented by (N_i / N_t) values equal 33.33 %, 44.44 % and 66.67 % is studied. The nonlinear push-over analysis curves for both MRF and SW-MRF buildings are shown in **Figs. 5** and **6**. It can be observed that comparing the nonlinear behavior of the *OBF* buildings with the normalized (V/W) design values obtained from the 2008 *ECOL* leads to that the first yield (V/W) value of the *OBF* is about 2.06 times the code design value for the MRF while it is about 1.59 for the SW-MRF buildings. Existence of RC shear walls influences an increase in the slope of the push-over curve for SW-MRF building in comparison with the MRF building which exhibits push-over curve with almost horizontal slope. This behavior results in at failure (V/W) value about 3.8 times the design one for MRF building, while it is about 4.06 for SW-MRF building.

The MI walls have a pronounced effect on the lateral response of the studied frames. Generally, the presence of MI walls increases the stiffness of the building, represented by (V/W), relying on the infill configuration and type of building. MI walls applied to MRF building could increase the maximum normalized base shear relative to the values of the corresponding *OBF* with ratios equal to 113.23 %, 80.25 % and 50.12 % for different (N_i / N_t) values equal 66.67 %, 44.44 % and 33.33 %, respectively. Similar trends could be observed for SW-MRF buildings but with percentage increase of 84.11 %, 60.55 % and 55.28 % for the same preceded configurations, respectively.

In contrary to the gain in the stiffness associated with the consideration of MI walls, there is a notable reduction in the ductility, relative to *OBF* for MRF building. The accounted reduction in peak nonlinear displacement relative to the corresponding value of *OBF* is not less than 35.5 % and almost independent of the configurations. This high reduction in lateral displacement could negatively alter the lateral response of building by shifting the building performance points or may lead to the incapability of the building to meet appropriate performance point when subjected to high lateral loads. It is evident from the shown figures that the existence of shear walls could highly control the reduction of ductility expected to the masonry infilled SW-MRF building, the reduction in maximum displacement capacity of these cases relative to the same *OBF* building does not exceed 7.91 %. For these SW-MRF buildings, the peak displacement capacity is so close for the different studied configurations.

As it is practical to have openings in the MI walls with different sizes, the lateral response of the case study buildings with openings having different sizes is analyzed. For brevity, only the results of configuration *R44* with different opening sizes are displayed in comparison with the same configuration with solid MI walls as shown in **Figs. 7** and **8**. It is clear that the existence and size of openings have an importance on both strength and ductility of masonry infilled MRF buildings. The peak building displacement capacity increases as the opening size increases. The percentage increase relative to the same configuration without openings are 7.75 %, 21.62 % and 43.68 % for opening sizes corresponding to stiffness reduction factors of 60 %, 40 % and 20 %, respectively.

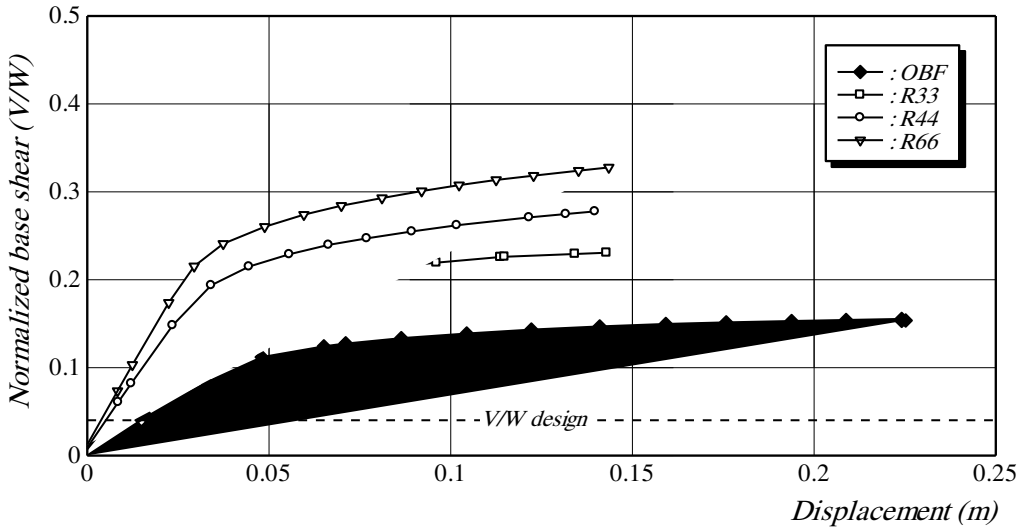


Fig. 5 : Effect of MI wall configurations (MRF building)

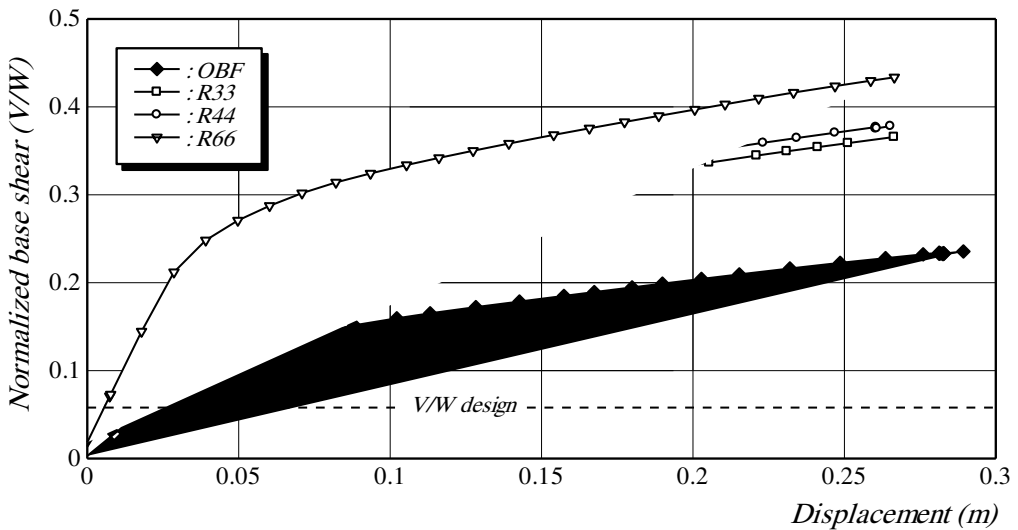


Fig. 6 : Effect of MI wall configurations (SW- MRF building)

On the contrary, for SW-MRF buildings, the opening size has minor effect on the building displacement capacity. The percentage increase in peak building displacement capacity for buildings with different opening sizes relative to corresponding configuration with solid MI does not exceed 5.85 %. Related to the maximum normalized base shear, it is found that the influence of opening sizes is close for both building types, MRF and SW-MRF, and is inversely proportional to the opening size. The percentage reduction in the stiffness, related to same configuration with solid MI walls ranges between 14.6 % and 27.6 % for MRF building while this ratio ranges between 12.17 % and 27.6 % for SW-MRF building.

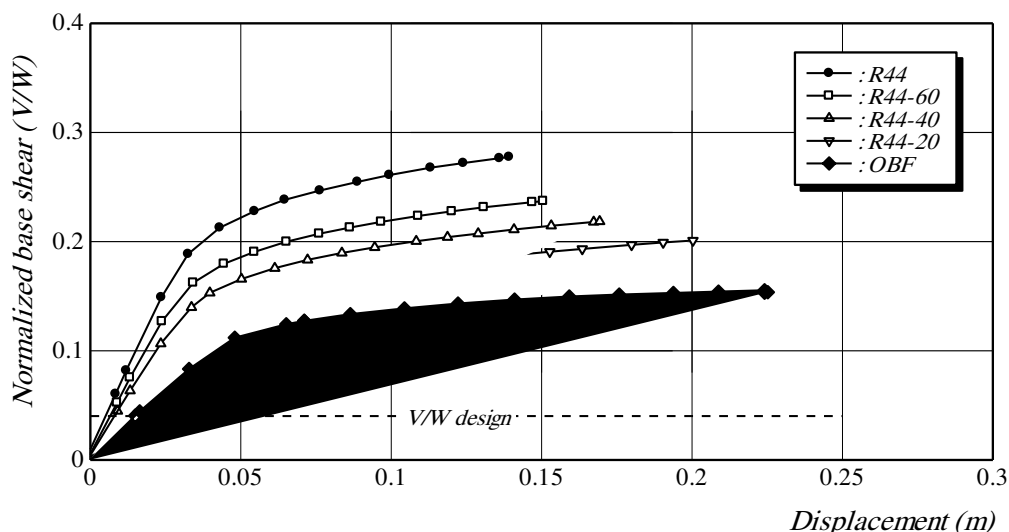


Fig. 7 : Effect of MI walls opening sizes (MRF building)

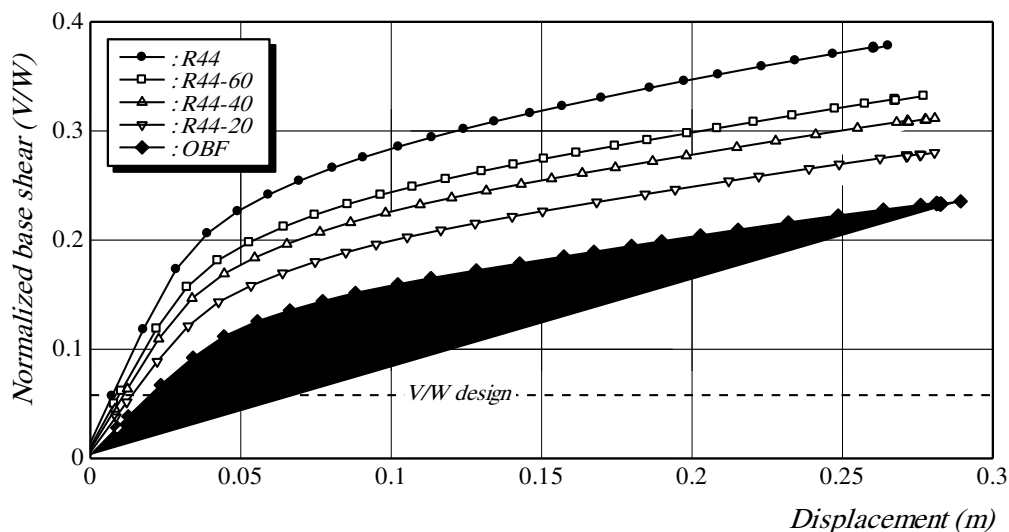


Fig. 8 : Effect of MI walls opening sizes (SW-MRF building)

The influence of the absence of MI walls in the first storey, which is commonly used in residential and commercial buildings, forming what is called (first soft storey) is studied. The results of different configurations with (N_i / N_t) equal to 33.33 %, 44.44 % and 66.67 % having opening size generates a stiffness reduction factor of 40 % for the two considered building types are shown in **Figs. 9** and **10**. It can be found that the absence of walls in the first storey while applying them in the rest of stories, can negatively alter the lateral response of MRF buildings. Compared to the reference *OBF* case, MI walls could increase the peak shear wall capacity of the mentioned MRF building by values range between 2.67 % and 16.90 % for the different configurations, arranged from *R33-40S* to *R66-40S*, respectively. This minor

increase in the building normalized base shear capacity is associated with a drastic reduction in the nonlinear displacement capacity and hence building ductility. The reduction in nonlinear displacement relative to the reference *OBF* sample case ranges between 39.47 % to 49.55% for cases *R33-40S* and *R66-40S*, respectively. For more illustration, a comparison could be made also between sample cases with and without regular infills as cases *R44-40* and *R44-40S*, for example. This comparison results in that there is a reduction in both maximum normalized base shear and nonlinear peak displacement of 21.6 % and 24.0 %, respectively due to the absence of MI walls in the first storey.

Discussing the results of the preceded sample cases but for SW-MRF buildings yields that, again, it is clear that the existence of uniform RC shear walls has a great influence in controlling the nonlinear displacement capacity when applying irregular MI walls lead to first soft storey. The maximum reduction in the nonlinear displacement associated with any of the masonry infilled building cases relative to the reference *OBF* building does not exceed 9.5 %. Carrying out a comparison between two cases of building type SW-MRF with regular and irregular infill walls as cases *R44-40* and *R44-40S*, its found that the values of nonlinear displacement is almost the same while the percentage reduction in normalized base share does not to exceed more than 3.5 %.

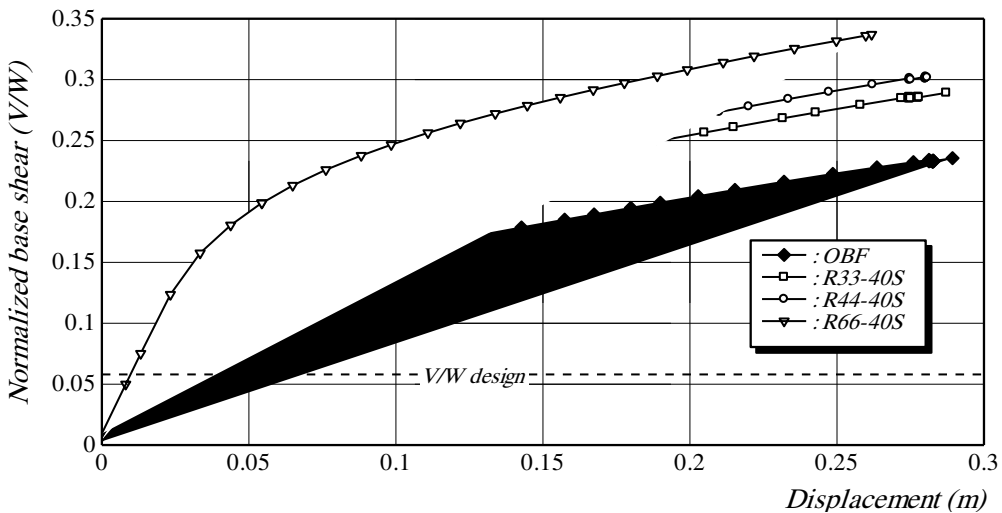


Fig. 9 : Effect of absence of MI walls in the first storey (MRF building)

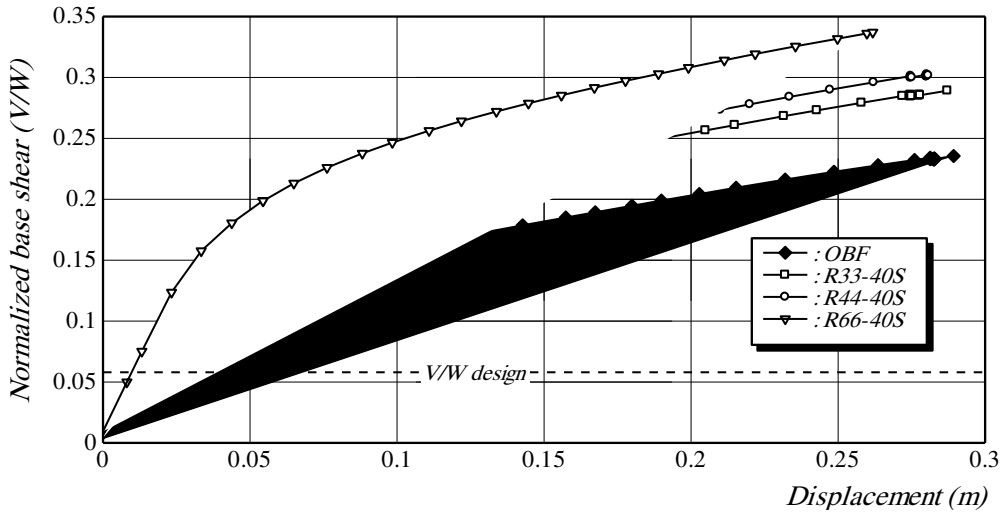


Fig. 10 : Effect of absence of MI walls in the first storey (SW-MRF building)

The effect of the thickness of MI walls, either 0.12 m or 0.20 m, on the lateral response of infilled frames is studied. The obtained nonlinear push-over results for example cases *R44-40* with either mentioned MI wall thicknesses are compared as shown in **Fig. 11**. It is found that the effect of MI wall thickness is almost minor. Generally, increasing the MI wall thickness relatively increases the lateral stiffness while decreasing their ductility. It is also still observed that the influence of MI wall thickness is more pronounced for MRF buildings than SW-MRF buildings. The percentage changes in the results due to changing the infill thickness from 0.12 to 0.2 are increase in (V/W) of about 10.0 % and 7.3 % for MRF and SW-MRF buildings, respectively while the percentage reduction in the nonlinear displacement capacity is about 14.35 % and 2.90 % for the preceded mentioned building types, respectively.

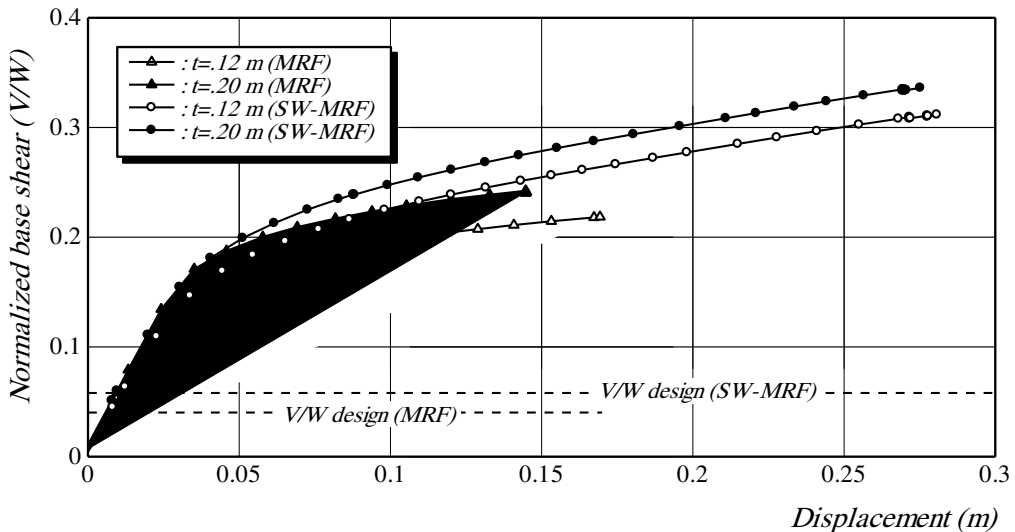


Fig. 11 : Effect of MI wall thickness

6- NONLINEAR ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENT HEIGHT BUILDINGS

The behavior of selected MI wall properties implemented in SW-MRF buildings with different heights ranging between 9 and 20 floors in comparison to the reference *OBF* example study buildings is studied. The results are shown in **Figs. 12 to 14**. It can be observed that the ratio between the first yield normalized base shear and the designed one for *OBF* buildings with different heights ranges between 1.20 and 1.96. Considering MI walls with (N_i / N_t) value equal to 44.44 % and with opening sizes give stiffness reduction factor λ of 40 %, the preceded mentioned ratios of first yield to design base shear value increase to a range between 1.64 and 2.71.

The general behavior of either *OBF* or masonry infilled buildings are that the normalized base shear highly decreases as the building height increases. In contrary to that behavior, the nonlinear displacement capacity increases as the building height increases. Investigating the lateral effect of MI walls on SW-MRF buildings with variable heights leads to that there is increase in the maximum normalized base shear capacity due to the consideration of MI walls. The percentage increase in maximum (V/W) is adversely proportional to the building height and is equal to 25.29 %, 17.25 %, 15.18 % and 14.28 % for buildings with number of floors equal to 9, 12, 16 and 20, respectively. Regarding the maximum nonlinear displacement capacity, it is found that there is reduction in the obtained values associated with implementing MI walls. This reduction is proportional to the height of building. The percentage reduction in the maximum displacement capacity relative to the *OBF* bare frame building is obtained to be 3.97 %, 13.83 %, 21.75 % and 22.63 % for buildings with floor numbers ranging between 9 and 20 floors, respectively. This means that due to the implementation of MI walls, the gain in normalized base shear is inversely proportional to building height. On the contrary, the reduction in maximum nonlinear displacement is proportional to building height. It is also remarkable that the slope of the normalized push-over curves increases as the number of floors decreases.

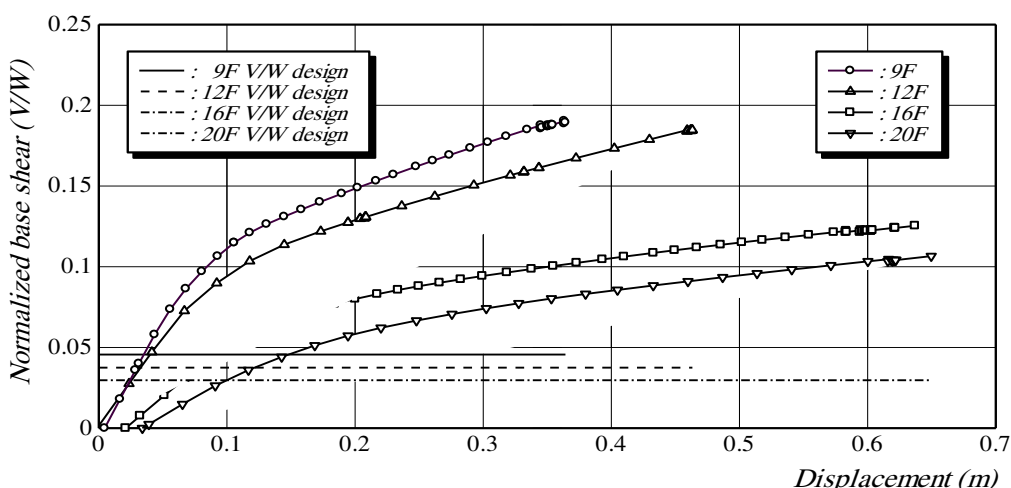


Fig. 12 : Lateral response of *OBF* buildings with different heights

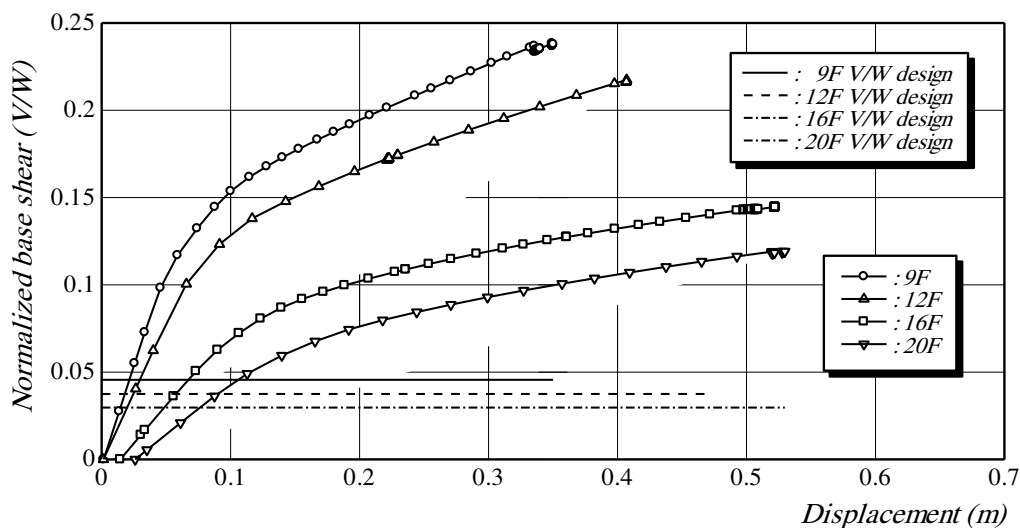


Fig. 13 : Effect of MI walls on buildings with different heights

The influence of SW-MRF building height on some properties of the MI walls as opening sizes, soft first storey and wall thickness is also investigated. It was obvious that the difference in results due to the variation of any of these wall properties and parameters decreases as the height of SW-MRF building increases. Taking SW-MRF building with (N_i / N_t) value equal to 44.44 % as a case example. It is found that if the MI walls stiffness reduction factor, related to the opening size, changes from 20 % to 60 % the percentage increase in stiffness is 13.5 % for 12 floors buildings while it is 12.0 % for 20 floors building, this behavior is shown in **Fig. 14**. The lateral response of buildings with either regular or irregular infills (first soft storey) comes closer as the building height increases till they are almost identical for 20 floors building. Also, changing the wall thickness from 0.12 m to 0.2 m results in an increase in stiffness of about 7.6 % for 12 floors building and 5.0 % for 20 floors building.

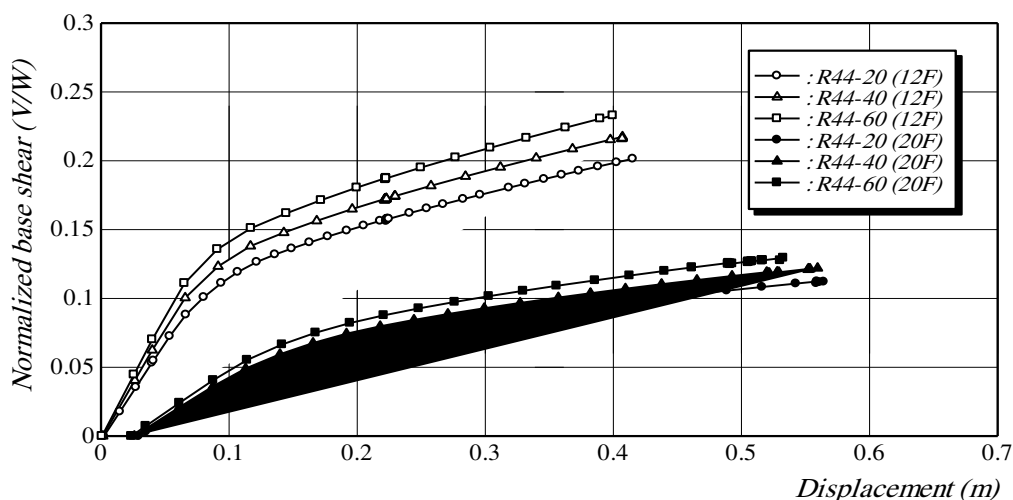


Fig. 14 : Effect of MI wall opening sizes on buildings with different heights

7- FORMATION OF PLASTIC HINGES AND FAILURE MECHANISM

The propagation and formation of plastic hinges (PH) in different members as columns, beams and MI walls of the different example buildings, in this study, depend on the the *ATC-40* [26] guidelines. As shown in **Fig. 15**, five points labeled A, B, C, D and E are used to define the force deflection behavior of the hinge and three points labeled IO, LS and CP are used to define the acceptance criteria of the hinge. (IO, LS and CP stand for Immediate Occupancy, Life Safety and Collapse Prevention, respectively). The values assigned to each of these points vary depending on the type of member as well as many other parameters defined in the guidelines.

The formation of PH in the *OBF* of building type MRF is first discussed. It is found that the ratio of columns suffer from PH to the total ones is more than 75.0 %, of which about 54.0 % have plastic hinge of limits (LS-CP). The rest of building columns suffer from PH of less risk which are within the limits (IO-LS) and (B-IO). The ratio of beams with PH is much less than these of the columns as only the beams in the lateral direction are affected by the push-over forces. About 17.0 % of building beams have PH, out of them 53.0 % within limits (LS-CP). This behavior is shown in **Fig. 16 (a)**.

The consideration of solid infill wall, without openings, could change the PH mechanism for the corresponding *OBF* building. Discussing, for example, MRF building with solid MI walls of configuration *R44* as shown in **Fig. 16 (b)**, the number of columns with PH is relatively reduced to become 71.0 %. The real influence is revealed in that out of these columns with PH, less than 20% are within the limits (LS-CP). The reduction in number and limits of PH comes at the expense of MI walls, 82 % of these MI walls suffer from PH, about 18% out of them completely failed. The failure mechanisms of masonry infilled MRF buildings with MI walls openings is illustrated for sample building with infill properties *R44-40* as shown **Fig. 16 (c)**. The existence of openings in the MI walls affect the formation of PH in columns by minor reduction in the number of columns with PH to be about 65% of columns but increases the number of columns with PH of limits (LS-CP) to be 35%. The failure mechanism for both beams and infill walls is similar to the corresponding case with solid MI walls.

The PH formation and failure mechanism for cases with soft first storey due to the absence of MI walls in this storey is discussed for case *R44-40*. The response is remarkable by the lateral nonlinear displacement of the first storey which is about 63.9 % of the maximum building displacement located in the top floor of building, noting that this ratio for the corresponding *OBF* does not exceed 39.2 %. This behavior can be easily observed from **Fig. 16 (d)**. It is also found that although the ratio of columns with PH is only 43.0 % out of which about 29.6 % within the limits (LS-CP), almost all the columns of the first floor have PH within this limit. The number of MI walls having PH is about 59.0 %, 10.0 % of which completely failed.

The failure mechanism for different cases of SW-MRF buildings with 6 floors is also discussed for variety of cases. The PH behavior of *OBF* is first discussed and found to be different from the behavior of corresponding MRF building in that the total ratio of columns with PH highly increases to be 92.4 %, out of this ratio about 72.5 % of columns have PH within the limits (LS-CP) while 1.5 % failed. This behavior is illustrated in **Fig. 17 (a)**. The existence of MI walls does not highly affect the number of columns with PH but affects the type of PH. Considering, for example, cases with

MI wall configurations *R44* and *R44-40*, it is found that the ratio of columns with PH within the limits (LS-CP) decreased to be about 62.0 %. Similar PH mechanism are obtained for the MI walls for the mentioned example cases. About 97.0 % of MI walls experienced plastic hinges, out of them about 68.0 % with PH within the limits (LS-CP) while about 7.5 % of them failed completely as illustrated in **Fig. 17 (b)**.

The effect of building height on the failure mechanism is also illustrated for some selected sample cases with 12 and 20 floors. It is found that as the height of building increases the ratio of *OBF* columns with PH to the total columns decreases. For example while this ratio is 73.3 % for 12 floors building it decreases to reach 46.9 % for 20 floors building. Most of the observed column PH are within the limits (B-IO). The consideration of infill walls, as case *R44-40*, could reduce the number of columns with PH to be 52.0 % and 34.0 % for 12 and 20 floor buildings, respectively. This enhancement of column PH comes at the expense of the MI walls, 95.5 % of MI walls suffer PH, of which 3.6 % completely collapsed. The corresponding ratio for 20 floor buildings are 95.0 % of which 46.0 % completely failed.

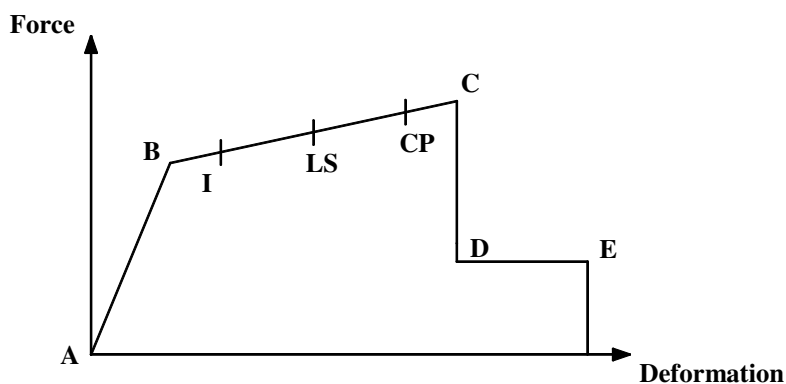
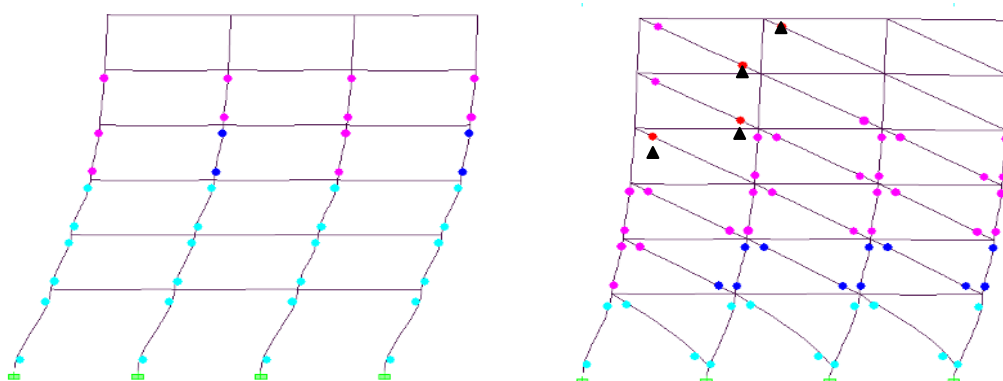


Fig. 15 : Force-deformation for PH limits

● (B-IO) ● (IO-LS) ● (LS-CP) ◀(D-E)



(a) *OBF* building

(b) *R44* building

Fig. 16 : Examples of PH formation for MRF buildings

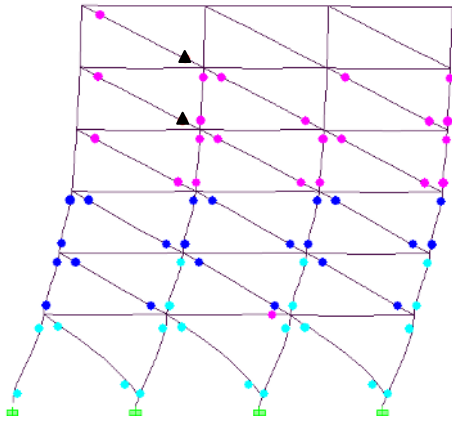
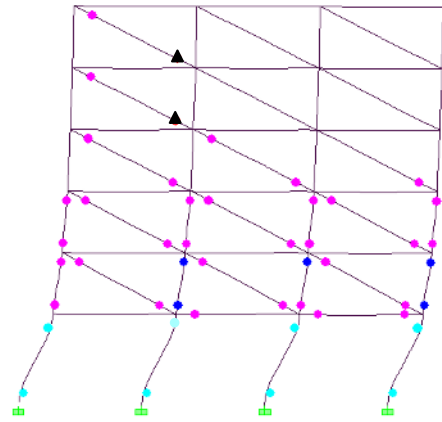
(c) *R44-40* building(d) *R44-40S* building

Fig. 16 (cont.) : Examples of PH formation for MRF buildings

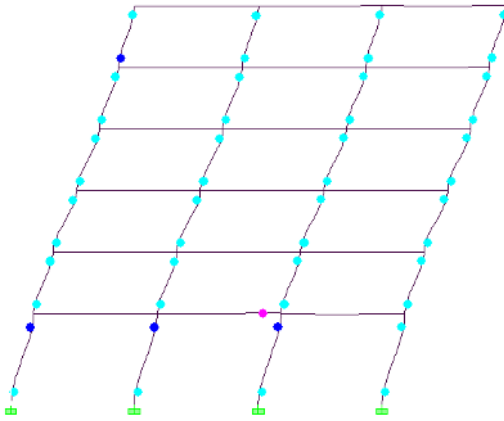
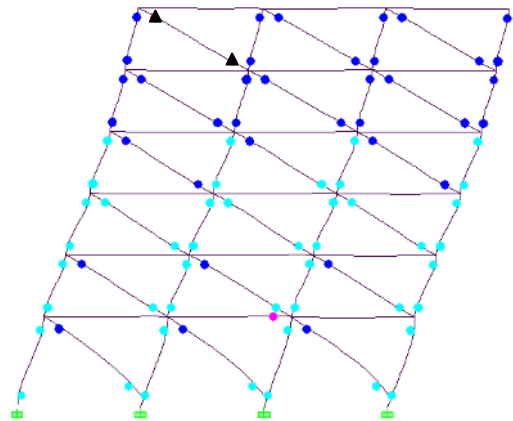
(a) *OBF* building(b) *R44-40* building

Fig. 17 : Examples of PH formation for SW-MRF buildings

8. CONCLUSIONS

A nonlinear lateral response analysis is carried out to investigate the effect of MI walls when applied to buildings of different lateral load resisting systems as MRF or SW-MRF buildings. A variety of MI wall parameters are considered. These parameters include the number of panels occupied with MI walls to total panels in lateral direction (N_i / N_t), different infill opening sizes, creation of soft first storey and MI wall thickness. The effect of building height is also studied through investigating SW-MRF buildings with five different heights. Based on the results obtained from this analytical study, the following conclusions could be drawn out.

- 1) The influence of MI walls on the lateral response of buildings should not be simply neglected. MI walls can significantly change the lateral response of RC framed

- buildings to which they are applied. Solid MI walls regularly distributed over the building height can highly increase the peak base shear capacity to values up to 113.0 % and 84.0 % for MRF, and SW - MRF buildings, respectively.
- 2) Although MI walls have relatively similar contribution to lateral stiffness of either MRF or SW-MRF buildings, its influence on peak nonlinear displacement capacity is significantly affected by the type of building. While they can drastically reduce the displacement capacity of MRF buildings to values up to 50.0 %, the existence of uniform RC shear walls can highly restrict the reduction of peak displacement capacity to less than 8.0 %.
 - 3) The most influential MI wall parameter is where a soft first storey is generated in MRF buildings due to omitting the MI walls from the first storey while applying them to the rest of stories. While a tiny gain could be achieved in stiffness, a drastic reduction could occur to displacement capacity. For an example case, an increase in base shear capacity of less than 3.0 % was associated by a reduction in peak displacement capacity of about 40.0 %.
 - 4) The effect of masonry wall configurations represented by the number of bays occupied with MI to total bay numbers in the lateral direction (N_i / N_t) along with the opening size were the second important parameters affecting infilled frames. These two parameters could significantly alter the building capacity for both MRF and SW-MRF buildings and negatively affect the ductility of MRF buildings.
 - 5) Masonry infill walls with small thickness equal 0.12 m can significantly alter the response of the buildings, either MRF or SW-MRF, to which they are applied. The variation of masonry infill wall thickness between 0.12 m and 0.2 m yields relatively, minor change in the results of nonlinear lateral response.
 - 6) The building height parameter is found to affect the results of masonry infilled buildings in a manner that the percentage increase in stiffness due to the contribution of MI walls is inversely proportional to the building height. In contrary to this, the reduction in displacement capacity is proportional to the building height. The effect of parameters as opening size, first soft storey and wall thickness fades as the building height increases.
 - 7) MI walls can highly change the distribution of damage within the structure. Generally, The existence of MI walls could enhance the plasticity of building columns but this comes on the expense of MI walls. Most of MI walls of the studied example buildings suffer from plasticity with variable limits.
 - 8) The new edition of the 2008 *ECOL* renewed some general provisions related to the matter of MI walls (called non structural elements in this code). Detailed provisions need to be included about some MI wall aspects as modeling methodology, effect of infill parameters as soft first storey and openings in infill walls.

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السلوك العرضي للاختي للمباني الخرسانية المسلحة ذات حوائط

بناء مختلفة الخصائص

إن حوائط البناء المحصورة داخل الأطر الخرسانية و المستخدمة في معظم المباني تلعب دورا بالغ الأهمية، إيجابا أو سلبا، في تغيير السعة الإستيعابية العرضية للمنشآت الموجودة بها. وقد ظهر هذا جليا من خلال الأبحاث التجريبية ومن خلال مجموعة من الزلازل التي حدثت مؤخرا. علي الرغم من هذا فإن معظم الأكواد إما أن تهمل تأثير هذه الحوائط بالكلية أو تذكر أهمية تضمينها ولكن بطريقة عامة. وقد يعود صعوبة تقييم سلوك المباني ذات حوائط البناء للتنوع الكبير في خصائص هذه الحوائط وأوضاعها المختلفة وما قد يكون بها من فتحات وعدم وجودها في الطابق الأول وسمكها وغيره.

وتأتي هذه الدراسة العددية باستخدام طريقة الدفع للاختي لبحث تأثير حوائط البناء علي السلوك العرضي للاختي للمباني الخرسانية. وقد تم إجراء الدراسة علي مباني ذات أطر خرسانية مقاومة للعزوم أو مباني لها نظام مزدوج في مقاومة القوي العرضية يتألف من حوائط قص خرسانية بالإضافة إلي الأطر المقاومة للعزوم. وقد تم تطوير نموذج مبسط لتمثيل السلوك للاختي لحوائط البناء باستخدام طريقة الدعامه المكافئة. تم دراسة بعض خصائص حوائط البناء مثل نسبة وجودها بالإتجاه العرضي، وجود فتحات بالحوائط ومساحاتها المختلفة، عدم وجود حوائط بناء بالطابق الأرضي في حين وجودها بباقي الطوابق (كما هو الحال في العديد من المباني السكنية والتجارية) وكذلك السمك المختلف لحوائط البناء. وقد تم بحث تأثير التداخل بين حوائط البناء وحوائط القص الخرسانية وذلك لمباني ذات ارتفاعات مختلفة من ستة طوابق وحتى عشرين طابقا. كما تم أيضا مناقشة بعض متطلبات الأكواد فيما يخص حوائط البناء.

ومن خلال النتائج التي تم الحصول عليها وجد أنه يجب ألا يتم إهمال تأثير حوائط البناء لما لها من أهمية بالغة علي السلوك العرضي للمباني الخرسانية الموجودة بها حيث وجد أنها قد تؤدي إلي إحداث زيادة كبيرة في سعة القص للمبني وصلت إلي 113% في حالة المباني ذات الأطر الخرسانية و 84% في حالة المباني ذات

النظم المزدوجة. علي الرغم من حوائط البناء ذات تأثير متقارب علي سعة القص للمباني ذات نظم المقاومة العرضية المختلفة إلا أن تأثيرها علي سعة المبني للإزاحة القصوى يعتمد علي نوع المبني حيث أن حوائط القص الخرسانية لها قدرة عالية علي كبح هذا التأثير السلبي لحوائط البناء. من أهم الخصائص المؤثرة لحوائط البناء هو عدم وجودها بالطابق الأرضي في حين وجودها بباقي الطوابق حيث أدي هذا الي زيادة طفيفة في سعة القص (بلغت 3%) مع نقص حاد في سعة الإزاحة القصوى (بلغت 40%). جاء تأثير نسبة وجود حوائط بناء بالاتجاه العرضي ووجود فتحات بالحوائط ومساحاتها المختلفة في المرتبة الثانية من حيث الأهمية. وقد وجد أن حوائط البناء ذات السمك الأدنى (12 سم) لها تأثير فعال علي سلوك المبني حيث أن تنوع سمك الحوائط كان هو الأقل تأثيرا. وفيما يخص تأثير ارتفاع المبني وجد أن الزيادة في سعة القص نتيجة لوجود حوائط البناء تتناسب تناسباً عكسياً مع ارتفاع المبني في حين أن النقص الحادث في سعة الإزاحة القصوى يتناسب تناسباً طردياً معه كذلك فإن تأثير خصائص حوائط البناء يقل كلما زاد ارتفاع المبني. كما وجد أن حوائط البناء تعيد توزيع شكل الانهيار للمبني حيث أن لها تأثيراً إيجابياً علي درجة المفصلات اللدنة للأعمدة ولكن يأتي هذا علي حساب الحوائط نفسها التي عاني معظمها من وجود مفصلات لدنة. وأخيراً توصي هذه الدراسة بأن يتضمن الكود المصري للأحمال بعض المتطلبات التفصيلية الخاصة بحوائط البناء مثل طريقة تمثيلها وتأثير الفتحات بها وتأثير عدم وجودها في الطابق الأرضي.