Numerical modeling of a new reinforced masonry system subjected to in-plane cyclic loading

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Abstract. This paper describes the behavior of walls under in-plane cyclic shear compression of a new reinforced masonry system composed of horizontal and vertical reinforcements based on Iran’s national building regulation codes in two groups. In the first group, grid-type steel bars were mounted on the cement core between solid clay bricks (double-weather); in the second group, common grid-type steel bars were mounted on perforated bricks and trusses as horizontal reinforcements using advanced numerical simulation (LS-DYNA). A nonlinear finite element discrete modeling according to stress-strain models was applied to represent the previously modeled masonry walls. Masonry units included perforated bricks and solid clay bricks, and the mortar and bonding interfaces were shown as continuum elements. In order to validate the micro-modeling strategy, the input data were based on a reinforced masonry wall previously tested in the laboratory with clear identification and justification. Accordingly, the main objective of this paper is to (a) examine results of specimens in terms of maximum strength, ductility, energy absorption, and failure modes, (b) investigate the effect of aspect ratio and reinforcement type, and (c) compare the modeled walls with other reinforced systems.

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1. Introduction

Masonry structures are highly sensitive to lateral loads induced by earthquakes. Some techniques can be used during the construction of masonry structures to enhance masonry response and some methods can be used for existing buildings as strengthening techniques [1–3]. Over the past years, many scientists worked in masonry fields and proposed different techniques of confining and reinforcing masonry elements. There are several reasons why scientists have provided a wide range of strengthening techniques and design approaches in masonry structures. However, increased vulnerability and carrying capacity might be among important factors that persuade scientists to suggest different approaches [4]. This issue explains the need for progressive large-scale seismic strengthening with techniques accessible to ordinary construction. These techniques certainly have various advantages and disadvantages, which play a consequential role in the performance of masonry structures.

Although the advantages of reinforced masonry outweigh the disadvantages, it is necessarily necessary to evaluate some merits and demerits of reinforced masonry walls to appreciate the behaviors and performances in detail [5,6]. Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP), grid-type steel bars, confined el-
ments, strut, and tie model are the most popular sources of strengthening; however, due to the paucity of guidance, design assessment, effective detailing rules, and so forth, scientists may confront a challenging problem despite some accurate and reliable outcomes from different tested walls by Shermi and Dubey [7], Delghani et al. [8], and Mohabib and Joghataie [9]. A typical case of masonry reinforcement is the application of steel bars to hollow perforated units. The role of steel bars in creating continuity between masonry units is highly observable [10,11]. Hollow masonry units partially and fully grouted with mortar are among the techniques used for masonry construction [12,13]. Da Porto et al. investigated the effectiveness of this technique in the in-plane resistance of masonry panels [14,15]. They attempted to evaluate a new technique regarding steel meshes of grid type through numerical modeling. This solution includes the development of the in-plane behavior of masonry walls.

In Iran, the same construction method with perforated units and vertical reinforcements has frequently been used in recent years. Moreover, the key factor of masonry construction is to resist earthquake loads, which are likely to be transferred based on the direction of loads [1,16]. Therefore, performing the numerical and experimental study of the in-plane behavior of masonry construction is of significance when it comes to the reinforced masonry system. Micro and macro modeling approaches are of utmost importance to numerical analysis, which has been used extensively over the years. In the macro-modeling approach, there is no difference between brick units and mortar, and a homogenization approach is used to obtain the mechanical characteristics of new materials. However, in the micro modeling method, more precisely, both brick units and mortar joints are taken separately into consideration and an interface element is taken to model the discontinuity of masonry constituents. Potential cracks, failure modes, and so forth are the main advantages of the micro modeling approach. However, still, masonry construction needs a well-developed micro model [17,18].

This paper offers two groups of a newly reinforced masonry wall: grid-type steel bars mounted on the cement among solid clay bricks (double-wythe walls). Due to a paucity of information on experimental programs and their effectiveness, the main aim of analyzing this type is to assess their behavior in comparison to perforated brick walls. To this end, the Developing Innovative System (DIS) wall project which plays a significant role in the investigation of clay units and steel bars is utilized and a new method is proposed accordingly [19]. Thus, the general and basic characteristics of the materials and masonry construction have widely been clarified [20].

2. Reinforced masonry system

Grid-type reinforcement including horizontal and vertical steel bars explicates this new system. Particular characteristics of clay masonry units could provide thorough verification (see Figure 1). Indeed, holes in perforated bricks allow vertical steel bars to be located in the units. In terms of mechanical behavior, this system makes a significant contribution to the stability and durability of the wall and prevents fragility of units, mortar, and reinforcement despite transferring horizontal loads.

3. Verification

Firstly, to investigate and compare the behaviors of Reinforced Masonry (RM) and Un-Reinforced Masonry (URM), an experimental model proposed by da Porto et al. [21] was made by LS-Dyna and then, both numerical and experimental models were compared (see Figure 2). Afterward, the verification of reinforced masonry walls with the experimental model proposed by da Porto et al. [20] and Tomazevic et al. [22] (TRS06) was done to gain an analytical comparison between the numerical and experimental models (see Figures 2 and 3). In addition, shapes and dimensions of the numerical model are depicted in Figure 4. Hence, the basic properties of the materials (units, mortar, and reinforcement) for the numerical modeling in LS-DYNA are shown in Tables 1-3. Also, Lorenzo [23] provides properties and parameters for modeling cracks in bricks.

4. Numerical modeling

As previously mentioned, the behavior of Un-reinforced

![Figure 1. Details of (a) horizontal truss reinforcement, (b) horizontally perforated unit, (c) vertically perforated unit, and (d) solid unit.](image-url)
Table 1. Mechanical properties of double-wythe walls.

| Bricks | Joint | Cement part |
|--------|-------|-------------|
| $E$ (N/mm²) | $\nu$ | $F_c$ (MPa) | $k_n$ (N/mm³) | $k_s$ (N/mm³) | $E$ (N/mm²) | $\nu$ | $F'_{c}$ (kg/cm²) |
| 15270 | 0.2 | 0.86 | 31.90 | 17.07 | 15572 | 0.2 | 150 |

Table 2. Elastic properties of the bricks and joints (perforated bricks).

| URM* | Joint | RMb |
|------|-------|-----|
| $E$ | $\nu$ | $k_n$ | $k_s$ | $E$ | $\nu$ | $k_n$ | $k_s$ |
| 9269 (N/mm²) | 0.22 | 34.90 (N/mm³) | 14.42 (N/mm³) | 9269 (N/mm²) | 0.2 | 35.20 (N/mm³) | 16.42 (N/mm³) |
| a: URM: Un-Reinforced Masonry. b: RM: Reinforced Masonry. |

Table 3. Inelastic properties of the joint.

| URM* | Joint | RMb |
|------|-------|-----|
| $F_t$ | $G_j$ | $c$ | $\tan \phi \tan \psi$ | $G^2_j$ | $F_m C_{xx}$ | $F_t$ | $G_j$ | $c$ | $\tan \phi \tan \psi$ | $G^2_j$ | $F_m C_{xx}$ |
| 0.36 | 0.026 | 0.05 | 0.40 | 0.0 | 0.44 | 11 | 16 | 0.36 | 0.026 | 0.07 | 0.45 | 0 | 0.44 | 11 | 16 |
| (N/mm²) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) | (N/mm²) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) | (N/mm²) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) | (N/mm) |
| a: URM: Un-Reinforced Masonry. b: RM: Reinforced Masonry. |

Figure 2. (a) Comparison of numerical finite element model and experimental Un-Reinforced Masonry (URM) [21] and (b) comparison between experimental and modeled cyclic shear compression tests [20]. Slender specimens tested under 0.6 N/mm² vertical compressions.

The numerical model of reinforced masonry walls used in this study was validated by da Porto et al. The verification of the reinforced masonry numerical model based on the corresponding experimental tests is depicted in Figures 2 and 3 with a close similarity, a crack pattern, and the presence of a high shear force. In the numerical analysis, in-plane cyclic loading was considered and displacement as horizontal loading was applied at the mid-height of the concrete beam modeled at the top of the wall.

5. Geometrical properties

Reinforced Masonry walls with different dimensions and steel bars were considered in the parametrical analysis, as presented in Figure 5. Each specimen is characterized by a three-part name. The first part is devoted to the shape of the walls; SQ, SL, and HR for SQuat, Slenider, and Horizontal Rectangle walls, respectively. Reinforced masonry and perforated bricks in the second part are used as reinforced masonry and perforated brick and the numbers refer to the size of steel bars (see Tables 4 and 5).

6. Finite element mesh

Continuum and interface elements of LS-DYNA simulation were selected for the creation of mesh elements, and the eight-node plane-stress continuum element based on a Gaussian quadrature scheme was adopted to model each masonry unit [24]. Then, an interface element (6-node) was used at the mid-length of units in order to represent cracks. Also, to check the convergence of the solution, at least two solutions to the same
problem are required. The solution from the finite element program was checked with a highly accurate solution. If this solution is significantly different from the original solution, then it does not reach convergence. However, if this difference between the two solutions is not considerable (less than a few percent difference), then the solution is considered converged. Based on the information provided in Figure 6(a), the size of the element (10 mm) for creating mesh was selected.

7. Loading and boundary condition

In this study, the specimens are subjected to the in-plane cyclic loading. The compressive axial load, as gravitational load, was applied at the first step and kept constant. Horizontal displacement was consequently applied to the top of the walls until failure. In the numerical modeling, in-plane cyclic loads were applied to the models with a fixed base and a free direction at
the top of the wall to rotate. Moreover, a compressive axial load as the gravity load was applied and kept constant. Figure 6(b) shows the sequence of horizontal displacements applied to the top of the walls [25]. Regarding the boundary condition when considered as an integral part of a structural masonry building, masonry walls tend to be fixed mostly at top and bottom boundaries, meaning that the restriction is effective at both ends. Continuum elements representing the masonry units located at the base of the wall were connected to the interface elements, which were fully fixed to simulate fixed base conditions for
### Table 4. First group of reinforced masonry walls (double-wythe).

| Specimens | Dimension of wall (mm) | Type of bricks | Dimension of cement part (mm) | Reinforcement |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| SQ*RMI0   | 1000 × 100 × 1000      | Clay brick     | 1000 × 100 × 1000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 10        |
| SQRM12    | 1000 × 100 × 1000      | Clay brick     | 1000 × 100 × 1000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
| SL **RM10 | 1000 × 100 × 2000      | Clay brick     | 1000 × 100 × 2000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 10        |
| SLRM***12 | 1000 × 100 × 2000      | Clay brick     | 1000 × 100 × 2000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
| HRRM10    | 2000 × 100 × 1000      | Clay brick     | 2000 × 100 × 1000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
| HRRM12    | 2000 × 100 × 1000      | Clay brick     | 2000 × 100 × 1000           | 4 Φ 10        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |
|           |                        |                |                             | 6 Φ 12        |

*SQ = SQuat, **SL = SLender, ***RM = Reinforced Masonry

### Table 5. Second group of reinforced masonry walls (perforated bricks).

| Specimens | Dimension of wall (mm) | Type of bricks | Reinforcement |
|-----------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
|           |                        |                | Longitudinal  | Transverse   |
| SQPB10    | 1000 × 300 × 1000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 10        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 10        |              |
| SQQBP*12  | 1000 × 300 × 1000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 10        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 12        |              |
| SLPB10    | 1000 × 300 × 2000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 10        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 10        |              |
| SLPB12    | 1000 × 300 × 2000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 10        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 12        |              |
| HR**PB10  | 2000 × 300 × 1000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 10        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 10        |              |
| HRPB12    | 2000 × 300 × 1000      | Perforate brick | 4 Φ 12        | Truss        |
|           |                        |                | 6 Φ 12        |              |

* PB: Perforate Brick; **HR: Horizontal Rectangle.
the masonry walls. The upper beam was connected to the wall through interface elements modeled with linear behavior and infinite stiffness to simulate the perfect bond between connected elements.

8. Material model and mechanical property

The most significant aspect of this section is to introduce the mechanical properties of joints, solid bricks, and perforated bricks with continuous webs and shells that help improve the strength of bricks and the whole wall. Their mean compressive strength in the direction of vertical loads was 9.26 N/mm² and in the direction orthogonal to vertical loads, was 13.24 N/mm² [20]. Moreover, yielding stress of $F_y = 500$ N/mm² was used for steel bars mounted on the reinforced masonry walls. In the micro-modeling approach, distinct materials were used to show the behavior of reinforced masonry walls and, indeed, distinct materials were described as perforated and solid clay bricks, cracks pattern, and unit-mortar interface. Moreover, in this strategy, two-dimensional plan-stress interface element plays an important role [26]. The candidate LS-DYNA materials for masonry walls are soil and foam material model, pseudo tensors material model, concrete material model, win-frith concrete material model, cap material model NO. 25, NO. 145, and NO. 159. In addition, LS-DYNA has fully automated contact analysis capability, which makes this software user-friendly for the contact analysis problem [27]. Of note, all parameters used for numerical modeling were obtained from experimental results (see Tables 1–3). Based on Lourenço and rots modeling strategy [28], to take collapse loads and stiffness into account, it is better to model potential cracks in units. Therefore, potential cracks and stiffness were considered through the discrete cracking model ($K_n = 106$ N/mm² and $K_s = 106$ N/mm², respectively) [29].

9. Parametric analysis

In this section, the analytical model of reinforced masonry walls is given. To achieve the desired goals, grid-type steel bars were mounted on the cement core between clay bricks and in other parts, they are mounted on hollow bricks. The dimension of walls is $(1 \times 1 \text{ m}^2, 1 \times 2 \text{ m}^2, 2 \times 1 \text{ m}^2)$ and the size of steel bars is $\Phi 10$ and $\Phi 12$ for walls with different aspect ratios. The figures of position (dimension and reinforcement) are shown in Table 6.

9.1. Ductility and energy absorption

The ratio of maximum inelastic deformation to effective yield deformation is known as ductility [30]. Determining ductility when yield and ultimate deformation occur is the most perplexing and intricate part of the ductility. The displacement ductility is defined as follows:

$$\mu = \frac{\delta_u}{\delta_y},$$

where $\mu$ is displacement ductility, $\delta_u$ ultimate displacement at 80% of the ultimate load, and $\delta_y$ yield displacement. The yield force to the initial secant stiffness is defined as yield displacement. In addition, the energy absorbed by each wall is calculated using Matlab simulation in the positive loading direction. Using the trapezoid rule is another calculation as the areas under hysteresis loops. The total dissipated energy is defined through Eq. (2):

$$E = \sum (\delta_{i+1} - \delta_i) \left( F_{i+1} + F_i \right) / 2,$$

where $F$ is the force and $\delta$ the displacement.

9.2. Numerical tests results

Outcomes obtained from reinforced masonry walls are presented in this section. The comparisons of modeled hysteretic cycles, energy absorption, ductility and failure modes are described here. Based on axial loads and reinforcement, there is a correlation between yielded steel bars and crack creation. In fact, Figure 7 shows that the slender walls developed mostly flexural cracks on the upper left corner of the walls, whereas squat
walls developed shear cracks on the upper half of the walls, yet without any separation between bricks and mortar. Also, walls with an aspect ratio of 0.5 (\( h/l = 0.5 \)) represent a rocking failure mode of crack. Furthermore, the energy dissipation, strength and displacement, ductility, and failure modes are of utmost importance in the case of seismic response of a structure.

### 9.3. Tests observation

Load-displacement hysteresis loops analyzed using the modeled walls by LS-DYNA with different types and amounts of reinforcement used in this paper are shown in this section, respectively. First off, the load-displacement cycles of the first reinforced group consist of grid-type steel bars mounted on the cement core (see Figure 5(a)) and are presented in the following (see Figure 8). Related comparisons of the mentioned loops in this set were made in terms of maximum strength, displacement capacity, ductility, and crack pattern and energy absorption. Therefore, squat walls with an
Figure 7. Crack patterns at ultimate displacement and reinforced masonry walls under compressive stresses of 1 N/mm².

Table 7. Results of the first group reinforced masonry walls (double-wythe walls).

| Specimens | Reinforcement | Elastic shear force (kN) | Maximum Strength (kN) | Δυ (mm) | Δα (mm) | μ∆ | Energy absorption (kN.mm) |
|-----------|--------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|---------|----|-------------------------|
| SQRM10    | 4 φ 10       | 94.41                   | 208.16               | 3.1     | 11.8    | 3.83 | 1183.804                |
|           | 6 φ 10       | 107.5                   | 223.80               | 2.20    | 7.91    | 3.59 | 1202.10                 |
| SQRM12    | 4 φ 12       | 101.6                   | 218.24               | 3.2     | 12.1    | 3.78 | 1278.430                |
|           | 6 φ 12       | 162.6                   | 240.57               | 2.5     | 7.8     | 3.12 | 1378.90                 |
| SLRM10    | 4 φ 10       | 28.03                   | 76.2                 | 5.65    | 19.5    | 3.45 | 904.68                  |
|           | 6 φ 10       | 56.13                   | 80                   | 3.42    | 13.5    | 3.68 | 924.421                 |
| SLRM12    | 4 φ 12       | 45.21                   | 77.4                 | 5.6     | 20.1    | 3.57 | 938.21                  |
|           | 6 φ 12       | 72.12                   | 87.9                 | 5.21    | 19.8    | 3.8  | 1012.60                 |
| HRRM10    | 4 φ 10       | 134.35                  | 229.70               | 1.2     | 4.5     | 3.75 | 1428.73                 |
|           | 6 φ 10       | 178.25                  | 234.60               | 2.1     | 6.6     | 3.35 | 1518.960                |
| HRRM12    | 4 φ 12       | 142.20                  | 241.12               | 1.7     | 5.2     | 3.47 | 1529.30                 |
|           | 6 φ 12       | 189.70                  | 252.30               | 2.4     | 8.1     | 3.298 | 1577.870               |
| URM       | —            | —                       | 101.26               | 2.1     | 5.5     | 2.6  | 1141.007                |

The aspect ratio of 1 (h/l = 1) represent better responses because of an appropriate height to length ratio. Walls with an aspect ratio of (h/l = 0.5) show a similar response with a rocking failure mode. In the case of walls with an aspect ratio of 2 (h/l = 2), the whole conditions have improved extensively. The results are given in Table 7.

In the second group, steel bars of grid type are mounted on hollow bricks and trusses (see Figures 1(a) and 5(b)) as horizontal reinforcements. Figure 9 shows
numerical hysteresis loops as well as the comparison of the relationship between the lateral load and displacement of the wall in the second group. Indeed, the main reason for analyzing this group is to assess the best functionality of reinforced walls in case of a considerable change to the location of steel bars mounted on hollow bricks. Similar to the first group, walls with an aspect ratio of 1 ($h/l = 1$) showed closer results to the walls with cement core and special truss reinforcement, which led to an increase in the stability and fewer separation of bricks in this group. Results are summarized in Table 8. In what follows, Figure 10 shows the differences between double-wythe and perforated reinforced masonry walls as the values of dissipated energy and ductility.

9.4. Influence of reinforcement
9.4.1. Horizontal reinforcement
Horizontal reinforcement improved the integrity of bricks and mortar bond drastically against lateral
loads. The most important feature of the horizontal reinforcement is that cracks will stop widening and propagating through the walls against horizontal and vertical loads. Also, this type of reinforcement could have an important effect on slender walls and also on the walls reinforced by truss reinforcement because of the smaller strain of trusses than horizontal steel bars [31]. In general, horizontal reinforcement could contribute greatly to the durability and stability of masonry clay brick walls. Figures 11 and 12 show the influence of horizontal reinforcement on the system, in which with the enhancement of horizontal steel bars, better conditions in terms of carrying capacity, energy absorption, and ductility for slender walls would ensue.

9.4.2. Vertical reinforcement
Generally, vertical reinforcement comes to fruition before the attainment of maximum lateral load and
Table 8. Results of the second group reinforced masonry walls (perforated brick walls).

| Specimens | Reinforcement | Elastic shear force (kN) | Maximum strength (kN) | Δy (mm) | Δu (mm) | μΔ | Energy absorption (kN.mm) |
|-----------|---------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|---------|---------|----|-------------------------|
| Vert.     | Horiz.        |                          |                       |         |         |    |                         |
| SQPB10    | 4 φ 10        | 81.8                     | 201.9                 | 3.9     | 15.2    | 3.89| 1086.437               |
|           | 6 φ 10        | 160.4                    | 212.91                | 2.9     | 9.2     | 3.40| 1210.109               |
| SQPB12    | 4 φ 12        | 96.26                    | 205.33                | 3.1     | 11.9    | 3.83| 1171.007               |
|           | 6 φ 12        | 172.38                   | 250.12                | 2.8     | 9.6     | 3.38| 1298.35                |
| SLPB10    | 4 φ 10        | 28.7                     | 76.1                  | 5.68    | 22      | 3.87| 846.403                |
|           | 6 φ 10        | 70.2                     | 84.76                 | 2.7     | 10.4    | 3.89| 921.6                  |
| SLPB12    | 4 φ 12        | 34.10                    | 83.2                  | 5.7     | 23      | 3.85| 803.3                  |
|           | 6 φ 12        | 75.23                    | 86.54                 | 4.1     | 16      | 3.90| 1001.34                |
| HRPB10    | 4 φ 10        | 163.04                   | 200.17                | 2.7     | 6.8     | 3.85| 1168.74                |
|           | 6 φ 10        | 110.43                   | 224.22                | 1.6     | 4.5     | 3.51| 1211.65                |
| HRPB12    | 4 φ 12        | 165.72                   | 215.2                 | 2.7     | 6.7     | 3.48| 1178.9                 |
|           | 6 φ 12        | 137.76                   | 234.9                 | 2.7     | 8.8     | 3.29| 1237.80                |
| URM       | —             | —                        | —                     | —       | —       | —  | —                       |

Figure 10. Comparison of double-wythe walls with perforated walls.
concurrently, the crushing of masonry and buckling of reinforcement occur in the compression zone. Buckling and crushing are both disadvantageous to masonry walls; however, although it is difficult to determine both of them using numerical investigation, vertical reinforcement could contribute greatly to the increased shear strength capacity of masonry walls subjected to compressive and lateral loads (see Figures 11 and 12). However, as implied by the results of slender walls, vertical reinforcement did not help develop the shear capacity of masonry walls. Finally, the effects of reinforcement, whether horizontal or vertical ones, are beneficial for walls with an aspect ratio of 1 ($h/l = 1$), mainly because of higher shear strength, lower displacement, and stiffness. In the case of walls with an aspect ratio of 2 ($h/l = 2$), the displacement capacity of reinforced walls was higher than that of walls with an aspect ratio of 1. Besides, walls with an aspect ratio of ($h/l = 0.5$) showed a suitable response to the rocking failure crack pattern. That being so, vertical and horizontal reinforcements had positive effect on the performance of slender walls.

Figure 11. Behavior of vertical and horizontal steel bars in double-wythe walls.
9.5. Comparison with other reinforced systems

This section shows a comparison between various reinforced systems proposed by different authors and the current method. As shown in Figure 13, double-wythe and Perforated bricks reinforced walls in this system are in good agreement with other reinforced systems. In walls with aspect ratios of 1 and 2, Zhang et al. [32], Shabdin et al. [33], Sandoval et al. [34], and Farooq et al. [35] showed a lower carrying capacity and displacement than double-wythe and perforated reinforced walls. Slender walls with an aspect ratio of \( h/l = 2 \) had a better condition than this system, perhaps due to the location of steel bars in the wall. Also, walls with an aspect ratio of 0.5 showed better results than this system. As Figure 13 shows, \( a/6 \) shows a better condition in case of maximum strength and displacement; however, \( a/6 \) represents a close behavior compared to other reinforced walls. That being so, there is no doubt that using steel bars or FRP materials improves the seismic behavior of un-reinforced walls. Moreover, more research needs to be done to develop the performance of masonry walls because various
parameters like the location of steel bars, reinforcement ratio, or dimension of walls play a crucial role in analyzing and designing reinforced masonry walls.

10. Wall design formula

Many researchers have conducted an extensive test program on normal and high strength reinforced masonry walls with different aspect ratios ($h_w/t_w$). These studies have concluded that a reliable design formula would be needed. The proportion of maximum strength to reinforcement ratio led to a linear equation in which the $(h_w/t_w)$ ratio for reinforced masonry walls was kept constant in each diagram and maximum resistance varied as the reinforcement ratio changed (see Figure 14). These figures and equations facilitate the calculation of carrying capacity according to the ratio of $(h_w/t_w)$, where $h_w$ = height of wall (mm) and $t_w$ = thickness of the wall (mm). By using the test results and published data of double-wythe reinforced walls in this study, the formula designed to calculate carrying capacity takes the following form:

$$F_{dw} = \alpha \rho + \eta_r$$

(3)
where $F_{dw}$ is the maximum load per unit length of double-wythe walls (kN.mm), $\alpha$ and $\eta$ are constant for each diagram (will determine based on Figure 14), and $\rho$ is the reinforcement ratio (%).

Regarding Perforated brick walls, the formula used to calculate carrying capacity is similar to double-wythe walls, where constant parameters vary, as shown in Figure 14. The design formula takes the following form:

$$F_p = \beta \rho + \psi,$$  \hspace{1cm} (4)

where $F_p$ is the maximum load per unit length of perforated brick walls (kN.mm), $\beta$ and $\psi$ are constant for each diagram (determine based on Figure 14), and $\rho$ is the reinforcement ratio (%).

11. Conclusion

This study proposed an innovative system using grid-type steel bars mounted on the cement core and perforated bricks as the second group. To this end, the methodology of research was applied based on the numerical simulation done using appropriate LSDYNA (FEM) software (discrete modeling) and the primary stage was devoted to the validation of numerical analysis based on recent experimental works. The behavior of reinforced masonry walls in terms of maximum strength, failure modes, energy absorption, ductility, loads, and displacement was studied in order to assess their seismic performance, which was the main objective of this work. In this paper, four models were built by solid clay brick and four others by special perforated bricks. Steel bars mounted on the wall are of the following two types:

1. Steel bars of grid type mounted on the cement hollow bricks;  
2. Steel bars of grid type mounted on the cement core between clay bricks.

Steel bars mounted on the cement core between clay brick exhibited better performance in case of shear resistance and displacement. In addition, brick walls were enhanced substantially following the addition of horizontal bars and perpendicular to the walls. The major weakness of brick walls is their low shear strength. Reinforced brick walls and horizontal bars could prevent any crack opening. Results demonstrated that walls with aspect ratios of 1 and 0.5 had higher maximum resistance than those with an aspect ratio of 2. Also, the presence of horizontal and vertical steel bars provided an opportunity for walls to prevent cracks from opening. Indeed, reinforcement not only developed the integrity and durability of brick walls noticeably, but also ensured lower dissipated energy and lower displacement. In general, squat walls had better performances in terms of ductility, energy absorption, and crack patterns. Furthermore, truss horizontal reinforcement improved the seismic behavior of masonry walls significantly because of lower strains than those horizontal steel bars mounted on the cement core.
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