

Experimental Behavior of Concrete Cylinders Confined with CFRP Composites

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ABSTRACT :

This paper presents the results of experimental studies about concrete cylinders confined with high-strength carbon fiber reinforced polymer (CFRP) composites. Forty small scale specimens (150×300 mm) were subjected to uniaxial compression up to failure and stress-strain behaviors were recorded. The various parameters such as wrap thickness and fiber orientation were considered. Different wrap thicknesses (1, 2, 3, and 4 layers), fiber orientation of 0°, 90°, ±45° and combinations of them were investigated. The results demonstrated significant enhancement in the compressive strength, stiffness, and ductility of the CFRP-wrapped concrete cylinders as compared to unconfined concrete cylinders.

KEYWORDS: CFRP, Fiber orientation, Ductility, Confinement, Strengthening, Concrete column.

1. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the use of fiber reinforced polymers (FRP) as an externally wrapping have achieved considerable popularity for the strengthening and repair of concrete structures. The FRP composites have been used successfully for rehabilitation and strengthening of deficient reinforced concrete elements. The potential market for such applications is huge since the estimated annual cost of repairing bridges in the United States alone is 9.4 billion dollars [1].

One popular technique of FRP strengthening is the wrapping of reinforced concrete columns to increase their axial strength, shear strength, and seismic resistance. In this application, the FRP sheets are generally wrapped around the columns with fibers oriented mainly in the circumferential (hoop) direction. The fibers confine the concrete and increase the axial strength by creating a triaxial stress condition. The FRP wraps also increase the shear resistance of columns and prevent premature failures when columns are subjected to lateral loadings typical of those observed during earthquakes. [2]

Reinforced concrete columns need to be laterally confined in order to ensure large deformation under applied loads before failure and to provide an adequate bearing capacity. In the case of a seismic event, energy dissipation allowed by a well-confined concrete core can often save lives. On the contrary, a poorly confined concrete column behaves in a brittle manner leading to sudden and catastrophic failures. [3]

When the FRP-wrapped concrete is subjected to an axial compression loading, the concrete core expands laterally. This expansion is resisted by the FRP wrap, and therefore the concrete core is changed to a three dimensional compressive stress state. In this state, performance of the concrete core is significantly influenced by the confinement pressure [4]. Several parameters influence the confinement effectiveness of the FRP wrap, which include concrete strength, wrap thickness or number of FRP layers, and wrap angle orientation [5]. Many investigations have been conducted into the behavior of FRP-wrapped concrete.

For a column subjected to a uniaxial compressive load, it is well established that fibers should be aligned along the hoop direction to confine the dilation of the concrete core. In practice, however, almost all the columns are subjected to an eccentric axial load, which can be resolved into a uniaxial compressive load and a bending moment. Because of this, almost all the columns should be treated as beam-columns. For beam-column, hoop direction is the optimal fiber orientation only for uniaxial compressive load; for a bending moment, fibers in the axial direction are more favorable. Therefore, fiber orientation is an important variable in the structural design of FRP-wrapped concrete columns. [6]

In the present paper, focuses are on applications of carbon FRP (CFRP) wraps with various fiber orientations and wrap thickness to increase the axial strength and ductility of unreinforced circular concrete columns.

2. BACKGROUND

A number of studies have been conducted on different configurations for fiber orientations and various wrap thicknesses. Mirmiran and Shahawy [7] conducted experiments on axially loaded 152.5×305 mm concrete-filled FRP tubes made of unidirectional E-glass fibers at $\pm 15^\circ$ winding angle. Various jacket thicknesses of 6, 10, and 14 plies were examined, while winding angle was fixed. Their findings indicated that, as the jacket thickness increased, the strength and ductility increased as well. However, their study was concentrated on one winding angle configuration ($\pm 15^\circ$ winding angle) with no further discussion on this parameter.

Rochette and Labossiere [6] studied the influence of wrap thickness and cross section shape (circular, square, and rectangular) on the column strength. The wraps had 0° angle orientation with respect to horizontal axis with the exception of one square column which was wrapped with the $\pm 15^\circ/0^\circ$ (angle-hoop) configuration. Their investigation on the fiber orientation was limited to one test and one angle-hoop configuration.

Pessiki et al. [8] performed experiments on small-scale square and circular plain concrete specimens under axial load. The FRP wrap were made of $0^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$ multidirectional GFRP, 0° unidirectional GFRP, and $(0^\circ$ unidirectional CFRP wraps. The compressive strength increased by 128% for small-scale circular specimens with one-ply $0^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$ GFRP jacket and 244% for circular specimens with two-ply 0° CFRP jackets. Additionally, as compared to unjacketed specimens, axial strains at peak stress have increased approximately seven times.

Parvin and Jamwal [9] studied the effect of wrap thickness and stacking sequence of plies with 0° and $\pm 45^\circ$ ply

angles in the jacket through nonlinear finite element analysis. In another study, Parvin and Jamwal [10] investigated the performance of axially loaded, small-scale, and FRP-wrapped concrete columns with various wrap angle configurations, wrap thicknesses, and concrete strengths through nonlinear finite element analysis. Three different wrap thicknesses, wrap ply angle configurations of 0° , $\pm 15^\circ$, and $0^\circ/\pm 15^\circ/0^\circ$ with respect to the circumferential direction, were considered.

Li et al. [11] conducted an experimental study on 27 concrete cylinders wrapped with six fiber orientations. It is found that the strength, ductility, and failure mode of FRP wrapped concrete cylinders depend on the fiber orientation and wrap thickness. Fibers oriented at a certain angle in between the hoop direction and axial direction may result in strength lower than fibers along hoop or axial direction.

According to previous researches on the subject; there are a number of issues that need to be addressed: (a) how is stress-strain behavior of concrete cylinders confined by CFRP composites? The answer is important in order to refine the existing design-oriented confinement models, (b) what are effects of fiber orientations and wrap thicknesses on strength and ductility of concrete cylinders confined with CFRP composites? , (d) how is mode of failure at $\pm 45^\circ$ wrap angle and what are the effects of $\pm 45^\circ$ wrap angle on shear cracks?, and (d) How do dilation characteristics of confined concrete perform with various wrap angle configurations?

The present study is an experimental investigation on concrete cylinders confined with CFRP composites under axial loading. For response to the above questions, a number of unreinforced concrete cylinders were prepared and wrapped with CFRP composites with different configurations of fiber orientations and various wrap thicknesses. Then an analytical modeling was performed on stress-strain behavior of CFRP-wrapped circular concrete cylinders. The experimental and analytical studies are discussed in the following sections.

3. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM

3.1. Specimen Layout

A total of 23 CFRP-wrapped and 7 unconfined control concrete cylinders with a diameter of 150 mm and a height of 300 mm were prepared and tested under uniaxial compression loading. The main experimental parameters were included wrap thickness and fiber orientation. Four different wrap thicknesses 0.9, 1.8, 2.7, and 3.6 mm (1, 2, 3, and 4 layers) and four fiber orientation of 0° , 90° , $+45^\circ$, and -45° with respect to the hoop direction were investigated. The test program and specimen properties are summarized in Table 1, where L is for when the fibers are aligned with the longitudinal axis of the cylinder (90°) and T corresponds to placing the fibers such that they are in the hoop direction or transverse to the longitudinal axis of the cylinder (0°). In addition, D and D' are for when fibers are aligned with the diagonal direction ($+45^\circ$) and the inversed diagonal direction ($+135^\circ$ which is the same as -45°). The fiber orientations are shown in Figure 1.

Table 1 Test program and specimen properties

Specimen	Number of layers	Fiber orientation	Number of specimen
P	-	Plain	7
T	1	0°	1
TT	2	$0^\circ/0^\circ$	2
TTT	3	$0^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ$	2
TTTT	4	$0^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ$	1
L	1	90°	1
LL	2	$90^\circ/90^\circ$	1
LLL	3	$90^\circ/90^\circ/90^\circ$	1
TL	2	$0^\circ/90^\circ$	2
LT	2	$90^\circ/0^\circ$	2
LLT	3	$90^\circ/90^\circ/0^\circ$	1
DD'	2	$\pm 45^\circ$	1
DD'DD'	4	$\pm 45^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$	1
DD'T	3	$\pm 45^\circ/0^\circ$	2
TDD'	3	$0^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$	1
LDD'	3	$90^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$	1
DD'TT	4	$\pm 45^\circ/0^\circ/0^\circ$	1
TDD'T	4	$0^\circ/\pm 45^\circ/0^\circ$	1
LTDD'	4	$90^\circ/0^\circ/\pm 45^\circ$	1

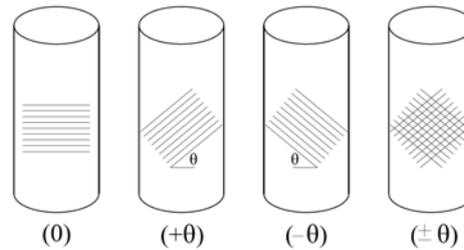


Figure 1 Fiber orientation in CFRP-wrapped cylinders [5]

3.2. Material Properties

Target compression strength of plain concrete at 28 days was 30 MPa. However, actual compression strength of plain specimens at the test day were measured 35 MPa up to 45 MPa. The quantities of components were used in the concrete mix are shown in Table 2. A unidirectional carbon fiber sheet was used to prepare the CFRP wrap. Mechanical properties of CFRP wraps have been recorded through tension tests on CFRP coupons by Sadeghian et al. [12]. The average test results in fiber and matrix direction are shown in Table 3.

Table 2 Concrete mix design

Component	Quantity (kg/m ³)
Cement	378
Water	193
Sand	640
Gravel	1133
W/C	0.51

Table 3 Mechanical properties of CFRP composites [12]

Fiber orientation	Ultimate strength (MPa)	Initial modulus (MPa)
Fiber direction	303	41000
Matrix direction	29	2400

3.3. Specimen Preparation

The concrete was produced with a similar mixture design before casting in standard cylindrical formworks. After curing in humid room for 28 days, the surface of specimens were cleaned and prepared for wrapping. In order to prevent anchorage rupture in CFRP-wrap, a lap splice equal to 75 mm was used in fiber direction. The carbon fiber sheet was cut and impregnated with epoxy resin by the hand lay-up technique. The epoxy resin consisted of two components, the main resin and the hardener. The mixing ratio of the components by weight was 100:15 and they were mixed for three minutes. The carbon fibers were configured in predefined orientations as shown in Table 1, and then were impregnated with the epoxy resin. Epoxy resin should be cured in laboratory temperature for a minimum of seven days.

3.4. Test Setup and Loading

In order to perform uniaxial compression testing on specimens, a hydraulic testing machine was used in the Amirkabir University of Technology (Strength of Material Laboratory). Bottom jaw of the machine is adjustable in the vertical direction and it is attached to an actuator, while the top jaw is fixed. The specimens were tested using a 3,000 KN capacity compression machine and the data were monitored using an automatic data acquisition system. The tests were continued up to failure under a monotonically increasing concentric load in a displacement control mode. The force and displacement data were obtained by data collecting system of the machine during the test and were stored for future reduction and analysis.

4. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

4.1. Overall Behavior

The performance of the cylinders under axial load was consistent. At the early stages of loading of the confined specimens, the noise related to the micro cracking of concrete core was evident, indicating the start of stress

transfer from the dilated concrete to the CFRP wrap. Prior to the failure, cracking noises were frequently heard. The failure was gradual, ending with a sudden and explosive noise. The failure of the wrap initiated away from the overlap region at mid-height of the specimen and progressed to the top and bottom of the specimen. The sudden and explosive nature of the failure indicates the release of extraordinary amount of energy as a result of the uniform confining stress provided by the wrap. Inspection of the broken samples showed good contact between the wrap and the concrete indicating that no debonding took place at any stage throughout the loading process, as is clearly demonstrated by the wrapped specimens in Figure 2.



Figure 2 Specimens at failure

4.2. Plain Specimens

The axial stress-strain curves for the plain specimens are presented in Figure 3. This figure shows that the unconfined concrete strength varies between 35 and 45 MPa and the corresponding strain of the unconfined concrete strength varies between strain of 0.2 and 0.25 percent. The average unconfined concrete strength of 40 MPa and corresponding strain of 0.22 percent was calculated.

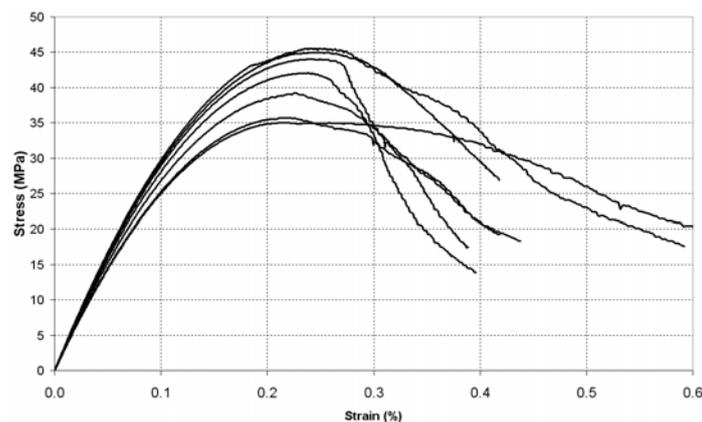


Figure 3 Stress-strain behavior of plain specimens

4.3. Transverse Orientation

Typical axial stress-strain curve of wrapped specimen with one layer of transverse orientation (T) along by the average axial stress-strain curve of plain specimens are presented in Figure 4. This figure shows that the confined concrete strength is increased from about 39 MPa to 79MPa and ultimate strain of confined concrete is increased from about 0.22% to 0.62%.

Axial stress-strain behavior of wrapped specimens with 1, 2, 3, and 4 CFRP wraps with transverse orientations (T, TT, TTT, and TTTT) are shown in Figure 5. This figure shows that the confined concrete strengths with two layers are 91.9 and 96.4 MPa; the ultimate strains are 0.96% and 0.86%, the confined concrete strengths with three layers are 124.9 and 125.7 MPa; the ultimate strains are 1.61% and 1.32%, and finally the confined

concrete strength with four layers is 143.3 MPa; with ultimate strain of 1.76%. For every specimen, a stress-strain behavior with the three zones similar to the first specimen can be defined.

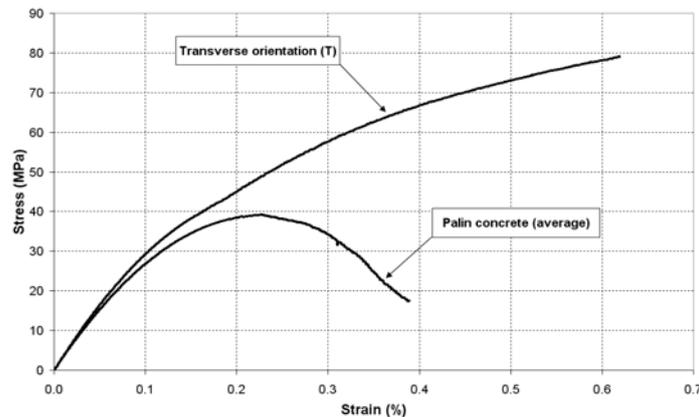


Figure 4 Behavior of one layer wrapped specimen in hoop direction

So the stress-strain behavior of the confined specimen can be considered in three zones. In the first zone, the behavior of confined concrete is mostly linear and similar to unconfined (plain) concrete. In second zone, lateral strain increases and the wrap is activated. So proportionate with the lateral strain, the wrap is stretched and a tension stress is produced in hoop direction. This action produces a confinement stress on concrete core. In third zone, because of large lateral strain, the wrap becomes fully activated and the confinement stress increases in proportion to the hoop stiffness of wrap. The first and third zones are approximately linear and the second zone as a transition zone is nonlinear.

4.4. Longitudinal Orientation

Axial stress-strain curves for wrapped specimens with 1, 2, and 3 layers of pure longitudinal orientations (L, LL, and LLL) along by the plain specimen are presented in Figure 6. This figure shows that the pure longitudinal orientations have not significantly enhanced the strength and ductility of the specimens under uniaxial compression. The effect of pure longitudinal orientation can be neglected, because the fibers have little lateral support and buckle under uniaxial compression.

Figure 7 shows results of wrapped specimens with combination of transverse and longitudinal orientations (two specimens with LT, two specimens with TL, and one specimen with LLT). It is shown that the behavior of specimens with combined fiber orientations are very similar to those with fibers placed in the transverse orientation. The strength, ductility, and stiffness of wrapped specimens with combination of transverse and longitudinal orientations are controlled primarily by the contribution of the fibers in the transverse orientation.

4.5. Angle Orientation

The behaviors of wrapped specimens with angle orientations DD' and DD'DD' are presented in Figure 8. This figure shows that the angle of orientation of fibers has a substantial influence on the stiffness of the specimens. The stress-strain curve of wrapped specimens with fibers in the transverse orientation is a bilinear behavior with a positive slope; however, when the angle of fibers is changed to $\pm 45^\circ$, the behavior is accompanied by a larger flat region prior to failure. This behavior can be very useful in cyclic loading and hysteretic damping against seismic loading. In the DD'DD' angle orientation with four layers, ultimate stress and strain are about 74.2 MPa and 2.22% , respectively, while yielding range is about 1.5%. In the DD' angle orientation with two layers, ultimate stress and strain are about 60.0 MPa and 0.74% , respectively, while yielding range with a premature failure is about 0.2%. So the angle orientations have a significant influence on enhancement of ductility and energy dissipation.

Figure 9 shows the stress-strain behavior of wrapped specimens with combination of angle and transverse orientations. Two specimens with TDD' and DD'T orientations along by DD' and TTT orientations are compared. It is shown that the overall behavior of TDD' and DD'T orientations is similar to pure transverse orientations, not to pure angle orientations. These two specimens have a bilinear behavior with a lower second

slope, and the failure is controlled by the transverse layer. The DD'T orientation on the average has a lower second slope than the TDD' orientations, because due to shear lag, the inner layers are activated sooner than the outer layers.

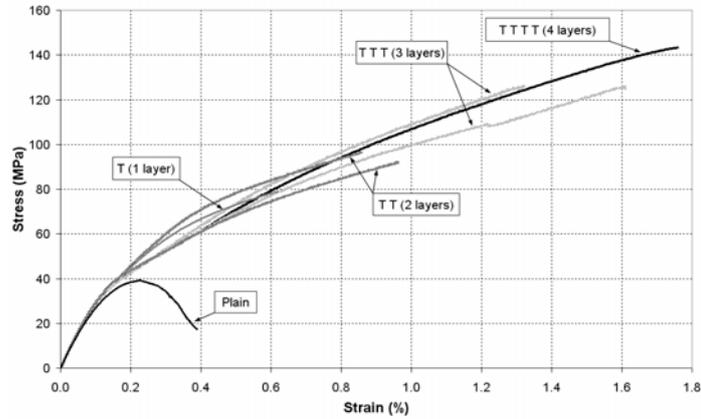


Figure 5 Behavior of wrapped specimens with hoop orientations

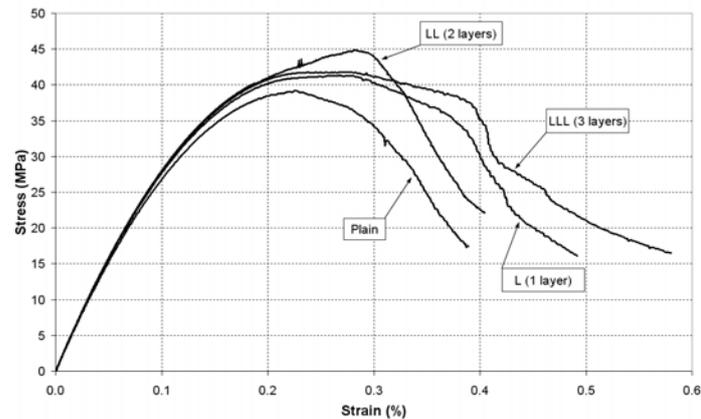


Figure 6 Behavior of specimens with longitudinal orientations

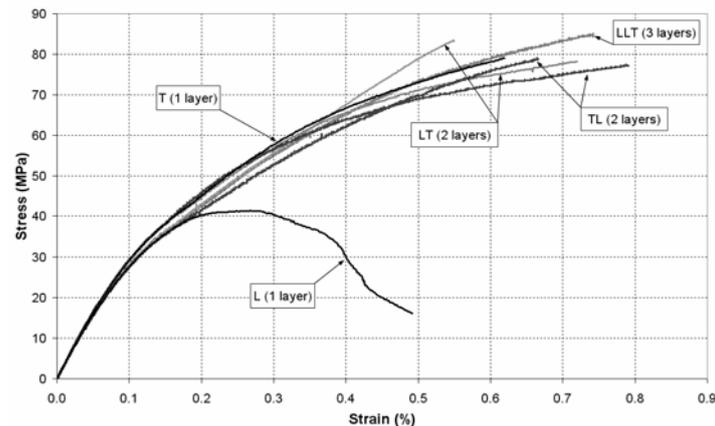


Figure 7 Combination of transverse and longitudinal orientations

The combination of angle and transverse orientation is studied in Figure 10. It is shown that LDD' orientations (with two specimens) have an elastic-perfect plastic similar to DD' orientation, so the longitudinal layers have not considerable effects on the stress-strain behavior. The ultimate strains of these specimens are about 1.35%. In comparison of DD' with these specimens, it can be concluded that DD' orientation has a premature failure, so its ultimate strains is predicted equal to about 1.35%.

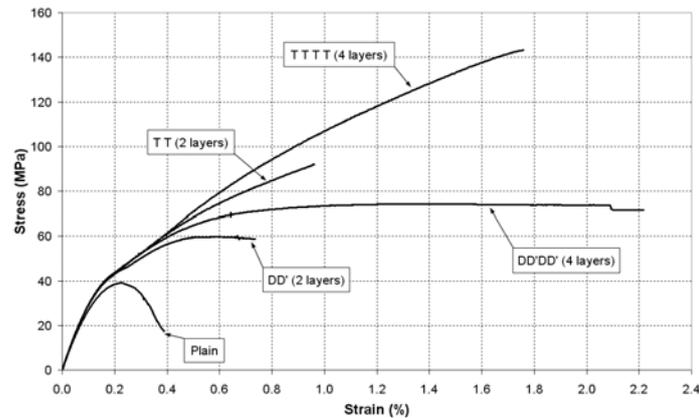


Figure 8 Behavior of wrapped specimens with angle orientation

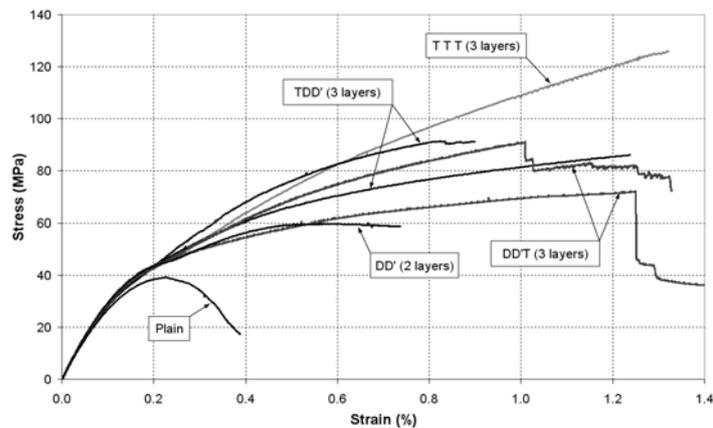


Figure 9 Combination of angle and transverse orientation

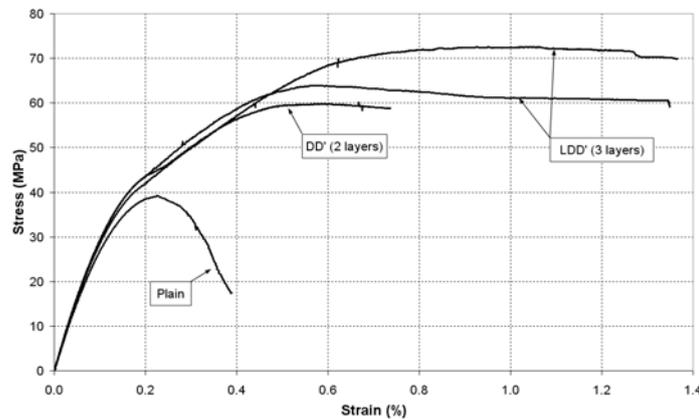


Figure 10 Combination of angle and longitudinal orientation

Figure 11 shows results of combination orientations in specimens of TDD'T, DD'TT, and LTDD'. The stress-strain curves of these specimens are bilinear and are controlled by behavior of hoop layers because of higher stiffness. When the hoop layers reach to ultimate strength and are broken, their hoop forces are transferred on the angle layers as impulsive forces. The angle layers can't resist the magnified forces, so the wrap suddenly is broken. As a result, the combination of hoop and angle orientation is not useful in these cases and the angle layers can't produce plastic deformations.

5. CONCLUSION

In an attempt to explain the behavior of concrete cylinders confined with high-strength carbon fiber reinforced

polymer (CFRP) composites, thirty small scale specimens (150×300 mm) were subjected to uniaxial compression up to failure and stress-strain behaviors were recorded. Various parameters such as wrap thickness and fiber orientation were considered. Different wrap thicknesses (1, 2, 3, and 4 layers), fiber orientation of 0°, 90°, ±45° and combinations of them were investigated. The enhancement of strength and ductility of CFRP confined concrete is significant. The observed stress-strain response of CFRP confined concrete can be divided in three distinct zones. The first zone is approximately linear and the second zone is nonlinear as a transition zone. The third zone depends on the wrap behavior. If the wrap has a linear behavior, slope of the third zone will be constant. If the wrap has a nonlinear behavior, the third zone will have a decreasing slope. The specimens wrapped with hoop orientation have a bilinear behavior with a nonlinear transition zone. When the angle of fibers is changed to ±45°, the behavior is accompanied by a larger flat region as a plastic deformation prior to failure. This behavior can be very useful in cyclic loading and hysteretic damping against seismic loading. The combination of hoop and angle orientation is not useful and the angle layers can't produce plastic deformations. At the end, an analytical model for ultimate stress and strain of confined concrete has been proposed.

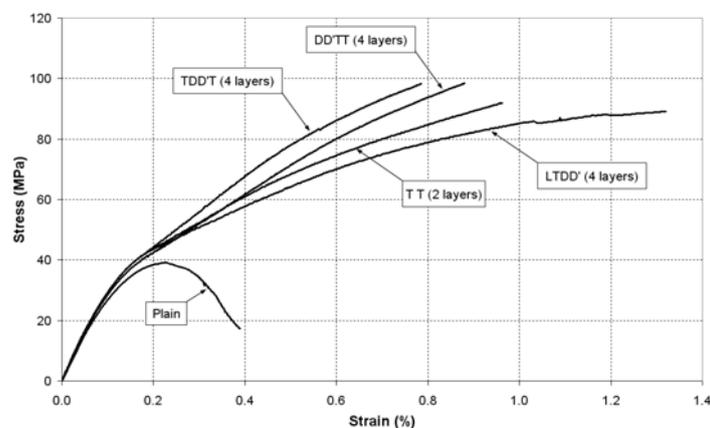


Figure 11 Specimens with combination orientation

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