#### Pre-Cast Concrete Connections, Issues and Innovative Solutions

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#### What is Pre-cast Structure

- Precast concrete structure is constructed by connecting the different structural elements prepared in the controlled environments using advanced construction materials and techniques.
- This is faster construction method with enhanced quality control due to its dedicated and fully equipped pre-casting yard.

#### **Different Type of Connections in Pre-cast Structure**

- **1. Foundation to Column**
- 2. Column to Column
- 3. Column to Beam (Interior, Exterior, Corner)
- 4. Beam to Slab

## **Pre-cast Structure Failures**

#### (Earthquake)

1999 Kocaeli-Golcuk & Duzce-Bolu Turkey Earthquake

Precast constructions were majorly used for industrial facilities in turkey. Majority of these structures were near the epicenter of the earthquake. The lack of confinement in column and short column effect. The corbel and flexible diaphragms are the main reasons for the failure occurred. But at the same time there were also some finished structures that survived well (Anderson 2001)

"After earthquake temporary shelter in the form of tents have been used for the people in many locations of the city. Among them twenty prefabricated units were also used in the short term to provide better shelter and comfort compare to the tents. Also it is permanent and can be used for long term".



#### An earthquake of 6.7 Magnitude January 17, 1994 at California California State Northridge's precast parking structure.

- Faulty connection.
- The structure experienced displacements at each level that were far too large for the non-ductile columns to withstand.
- The parking garage did not meet code due to its lack on continuity and poor ductility. (Dames & Moore Inc. / Donovan 2009).







#### The 29th May 2012 Emilia Romagna Earthquake











### Pre-cast structure failures (Man Made Mistakes)

#### **Cross Sectional View of RB-35 with other framing members**

Credit: OSHA Report of Airside Building Collapsed Beams

- Insufficient embedment of reinforcement
- The ultimate moment capacity of beam RB-35, based upon the as-built condition, was incapable of handling the total ultimate applied moments



#### Progressive collapse of Ronan Point Apartment Tower (May 16, 1968)

- Constructed using the Larsen-Neilsen system, a system of factory-built, precast concrete components, originally intended for structures of no more than six stories.
- Precast panels used in the design were joined together <u>without a structural</u> <u>frame</u>.
- <u>No alternate load-paths</u> existed that allowed for redistribution of loads in case of a partial collapse



# Investigation of the November 13, 2013 collapse of precast walls at a garage construction site, Ft. Lauderdale, FL – OSHA Report 2014

The precast walls collapsed because the temporary pipe braces were subjected to high tensile forces, resulting in the failure of the foot plate of the brace supporting the top precast wall.



The crane released the double tee before it could be welded to the walls and to the adjoining tees

#### Investigation Of The February 14, 2011 Partial Collapse of a Precast Parking Structure Under Construction In San Antonio, TX

- Flawed construction of contractor to provide proper support for the precast column base plates due to a lack of grout underneath the base plates.
- Uneven displacement of the nuts caused the columns to tilt, resulting in the collapse.



**Connection Failures** 









#### Failure due to wet connection



# Failure due to support THE SAL SHARE דורדוו

#### Pittsburgh International Airport Parking Garage Precast Double-T Structural Defects

#### Shear failure cracks due to

- Improper and/or inadequate prestressing.
- Improper and/or inadequate bonding between pre-stressed reinforcing strands and concrete.
- Incorrect placement of the hanger and/or reinforcing bars relative to the beams' dapped ends.





#### **Construction Laborer Dies after Falling off Collapsed Precast Concrete Floor** Slab (Feb 2007)

- Number of steel columns including the ones in the collapsed zone were erected out of plumb. The out-of-plumb columns led to increased spacing between the columns resulting in reduced beam support for the slabs located in-between these columns.
- A 4th floor slab adjacent to the collapsed zone was pushed to a vertical position and wedged between the steel beams. (Photo courtesy of OSHA)
- The domino effect started by the failed slab on the 6th floor crashing through the five floors below and caused the collapse of five more slabs to the ground level.





Slab Collapse Failure

#### Investigation of The October 10, 2012 Parking Garage Collapse During Construction at Miami Dade College, Doral, FL6

- Poor grouting placed between the column and the footing.
- The increased load on the interior column exceeded the anchor bolts and shim plates capacity.
- When the interior column collapsed, a cascade effect was initiated that led to other columns, inverted tee beams, and double tees to collapse.
- Precast structural members were not adequately supported by welding and bracing (29 CFR 1926.704(a)). These deficiencies added to the structural instability.







#### **Improper Grouting**





#### Investigation of the November 2, 2013 collapse of concrete beams at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood Airport runway project

. M. I. W. R. J. and a set

The inadequate horizontal bracing at top of the members in the middle span and end region of the girder initiated the failure and led the sections to collapse also led the other members to over turn.

> Beam failure due to [ inadequate bracing at top







#### Parking Garage - in Florida - Collapse cause forensics - inadequate Shear walls (2012)

The shear wall design and installation (and ongoing attachment of shear wall precast elements during construction) was inadequate.



# Pre-Cast Connection an Overview

#### **Foundation – Column Connection**



http://oberbeton.ua/en/project-department



https://www.masterbuilder.co.in/basic-forces-transfermechanism-design-structural-precast-connections/



http://ascelibrary.org/doi/full/10.1061/(ASCE)ST.1943-541X.0000062



https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/partnerships/pr ecast\_bridge/phase1\_final\_report.cfm

#### Seismic performance and retrofit of precast concrete grouted sleeve connections

Andrea Belleri and Paolo Riva

PCI Journal | Winter 2012











The experimental program showed that grouted steel sleeves are suitable as column-to-foundation connections in seismic regions. The high ductility of the grouted steel sleeve connections is related to the confining effect of the corrugated steel sleeves on the grout. Furthermore, the presence of a highly confined grout prevents buckling of the longitudinal reinforcement.





#### Evaluation of Grout-Filled Mechanical Splices for Precast Concrete Construction

Peter O. Jansson, P.E. MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION MDOT

Structural Section Construction and Technology Division Report 07 TI-2094 Research Report R-1512

2008









Figure 3.1 Lenton Interlok specimens



Figure 3.4 Pouring grout in #11 NMB splices





NMB Sleeves with Grouting



#### Splice fracture of NMB Sleeves







#### **Tensile Failure of Sleeves with rebars**

#### **Column to Column Connection**





https://www.masterbuilder.co.in/basic-forces-transfer-mechanism-design-structural-precast-connections/

https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hfl/partnerships/precast\_bridge/hif13037/



#### Experimental investigation on static and cyclic behaviour of flanged unions for precast reinforced concrete columns

European Journal of Environmental and Civil Engineering, 2016 Maurizio Orlando\* and Lorenzo Ruggero Piscitelli http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/19648189.2016.1229226



Column to foundation and column to column connection



Proposed Connection details









(b)











#### Failure at the joint region





# Grouted sleeve connections used in precast reinforced concrete construction – Experimental investigation of a column-to-column joint

Nerio Tullini\*, Fabio Minghini Engineering Structures 127 (2016) 784-803



**Column to column connection using grouted sleeves** 



Grouted sleeve connection procedure



**Tensile behavior of Column to column connection**


crack pattern at the end of test in the zone where the rupture of the reinforcing bars occurred.







### Failure Under Bending



Failure Under Shear

# Experimental study and numerical simulation of precast segmental bridge columns with semi-rigid connections

Hsiao-Hui Hung<sup>a</sup>, Yu-Chi Sung<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Kuan-Chen Lin<sup>b</sup>, Chi-Rung Jiang<sup>a</sup>, Kuo-Chun Chang<sup>a,c</sup>

Engineering Structures 136 (2017) 12-25









Hysteresis behavior of different column connection



Failure nature monolithic connection



Failure nature Column Connection with shear key



Failure nature Column Connection with shear key

# **Beam to Column Connections**



Pre-cast beam to column connection using corbel (fib bulletin 27)

Ghani *et al.* (2013) examined the interior beam column joint with corbel mechanism under cyclic loading







#### Test Setup and Hysteretic Loop

The specimen of precast beam-column exterior joint with corbels was designed in accordance to BS8110, which have considered gravity loading (imposed and dead load) only. Therefore, the specimen studied in this paper experienced severe damage when subjected to quasi-static lateral cyclic loading as shown in experimental work.

#### Paratesh *et al.* (2014) developed a ductile moment resisting frame connection for precast frames in seismic region as follows



**Detailed configuration of different joints** 



Pre-cast joints with post tensioned system is alternate to the above mentioned system. In this technique precast beam units are connected with the columns using post tensioned tendons (Fib Bulletin 27).



(b) Approach using straight bottom beam bars

#### Precast beam to column connection mechanism as per fib

National Institute of Standards and Technology (US) developed this connection mechanism (Stone *et al.* 1995; Stanton *et al.* 1997).



#### **Precast Joints with Pre-stressing tendons**



**Precast Joints with Pre-stressing tendons with Corbel** 





Analytical study of Stone et al. (1995) work by Koshikawa et al. (2008)

Precast shell technique is a different mechanism compared to the above discussed joint mechanisms. It use pre-tensioned precast concrete beam shell units as formwork for beams (Park and Bull,1986; Lee,2004; Park *et al.*, 2008)



(a) Park & Bull (1986) Precast shell unit construction technique

		Reinforcement in Beams	Seated length	Steel Angle-	
Specimens	Top reinforcement (ratio,%)	Bottom reinforcement (ratio,%)	Stirrups	of U-beam shell	Strengthening for U-beam end
CP SP1 SP2 SP3 SP4 SP5	4-D32(1.23) 4-D32(1.23) 4-D32(1.23) 4-D32(1.23) 4-D32(1.23) 4-D32(1.23) 4-D35(1.49)	2-D25, 2-D29(0.89) 4-D32(1.66) 4-D32(1.66) 4-D32(1.66) 4-D32(1.66) 4-D32(1.66) 4-D35(1.99)	D13@160 (0.22) D13@120 (0.30) D13@120 (0.30) D13@160 (0.22) D13@120 (0.30) D13@120 (0.30)	50mm 50mm 50mm 65mm 50mm	0 0 0



Hysteretic behavior of joint with Precast shell unit technique (Park *et al.* 2008)

 Enhanced load carrying capacity with reduced stiffness and energy dissipation.
 The use of higher diameter bar and the reduced shear area due to the fixing of beam in column encourages the shear cracks. Hasan *et al.*(2005) investigated the cyclic performance of precast concrete beam-to-beam connection using conventional and welding technique and compared with specimen made monolithically.



➤There are four different configurations that have been employed to connect the middle beam with the column connection.

➢Increased lap splice length, welding, base plate with higher reinforcement percentage have been used as different configuration in the connection region.



Specimen Longitudinal steel			Top steel connection		Bottom	Bottom steel connection		
	Тор	Bottom	Туре	Length	Bars	Weld length	Weld plate anchorage	
MR1	$4\phi 14 \ (\rho \cong 0.015)$	2 <b>φ</b> 14	Continuos					
PO1	$4\phi 14$	$2\phi 14$	Lapped	$390 \text{ mm} (28\phi)$	$3\phi 10$	35 mm	$3 \times 2\phi 8 \ (L = 400 \text{ mm})$	
PM1	$4\phi 14$	$2\phi 14$	Welded		$3\phi 10$	60 mm	$3 \times 2\phi 8 \ (L = 400 \text{ mm})$	
PM2	$4\phi 14$	$2\phi 14$	Lapped	660 mm $(47\phi)$	$3\phi 10$	60 mm	$3 \times 2\phi 8 \ (L = 400 \text{ mm})$	
PM3	$4\phi 16 \ (\rho \cong 0.020)$	$2\phi 16$	Welded		$3\phi 16$	60 mm	$3 \times 2\phi 12 \ (L = 500 \text{ mm})$	
PM4	$4\phi 14$	$2\phi 14$	Lapped	660 mm (47 $\phi$ )	$3\phi 14$	60 mm	$3 \times 2\phi 10 \ (L = 400 \text{ mm})$	



The welding techniques reduces the anchorage problem and offers better resistance to force and successfully transferred the forces.

١.

II. The higher lap splice enabled specimen is also exhibits better performance than the conventional precast technique. Meteli et al. (2008) developed a beam to column "dry" joint for precast concrete elements and tested under cyclic loading. The joint system consists of a "Z" shaped steel plate with four upper and two lower bushes to connect the threaded bars to the column. The plate, which is embedded in the column, is equipped with two pockets.



#### Edilmatic system components for beam-column joints in pre-cast structures



) - Drift: 1.5% - 
$$\delta_x$$
:55.5 mm







Stable rotational behaviour up to 2.0% drift.

≻Limited dissipative capacity because of the early collapsed due to the brittle failure of the connection on the column side.

Sadik *et al* (2017) investigated the behavior of precast hybrid (emulative-welded) beamcolumn connections with welded components under cyclic loading. Figure shows the detailed mechanism of this emulative welding technique. Strength, stiffness and energy dissipation capacities of test specimens were investigated with respect to welding coefficient and unbonded length of rebar connected with the plate as the main test variables. However, the precast specimens with lesser welding coefficient showed gradual strength degradation up to 3.5% drift ratio. Also the damage indices are close to monolithic specimens.



Precast joint with emulative-welding technique.



(a) Emulative-welding technique. (b)







Ф10/90

3/30

#### Emulative-welding technique enabled specimen

Specimen	α	L <sub>c</sub> (mm)	L <sub>w</sub> (mm)	ρ <sub>w</sub> (%)	$s_h/d_b$	L <sub>u</sub> (mm)	C (%)	CE (%)
SP1	2.0	450	340	0.52	5.6	N.A.	0.31	0.49
SP2	1.5	350	250	0.52	5.6	N.A	0.19	0.35
SP3	1.2	300	200	0.52	5.6	N.A	0.196	0.37
SP1-R	2.0	450	340	0.52	5.6	5 d <sub>b</sub>	0.19	0.35
SP3-R	1.2	300	200	1.0	4.2	10 d <sub>b</sub>	0.196	0.34







% 1.40 % 1.75 % 2.20 % 2.75

96 3 50

0.25%

0.50%

(e)

% 1.40 % 1.75 % 2.20 % 2.75 % 3.50

6

0.25%
0.35%
0.50%
0.50%
0.75%
1.00%

0.25%

0.50%

(d)



The specimens with higher unbounded length showed an improved seismic behavior and the additional ties to prevent early buckling of longitudinal bars.

Thomas *et al.* (2013) proposed a new precast beam-column connection using pure dry cast method. Fig. 10 shows the pre-tension bolting connection. Pre-tensioning bolt, steel block and threaded bar are the main elements used in the concepts. An anchor bolt is embedded in the column has a provision for bolting.



Pure dry cast method; beam connection using pre-tension bolts

	Со	lumn		Beam	Connection	
Specimen	Dimension (mm)	Longitudinal Steel (mm)	Dimension (mm)	Longitudinal Steel (mm)	Embedded Nut with Anchor	
RC1	500×500	12-D25	400×650	10-D29	-	
PC1	500×500	12-D25	400×650	Ø40 threaded bars	2-ø45 (300 mm long)	
PC1-T	500×500	12-D25	400×650	Ø40 threaded bars & 3-Ø12.7 PT tendons	2-ø45 (300 mm long)	







Fig. 6 Beam moment-story drift ratio relationship for PC1



Test results of pure dry casting technique



Fig. 7 Beam moment-story drift ratio relationship for PC1-T

Brian et al. (2004) developed a friction damper for post-tensioned precast concrete beam-to-column joints. This dampers are placed at the connection region through which the energy dissipation during earthquake will take place



#### Pre-cast frame with proposed dampers and the detailed configuration





#### Hysteretic test results and conclusions

In terms of beam-column subassembly behavior:

- I. Dampers transfers the shear forces at the beam-to-column interfaces;
- II. Smaller depth beams with dampers can have the same resistance as larger depth beams without dampers;
- III. Dampers increases the energy dissipation;
- IV. Damper connection plates act to confine the concrete and significantly reduces the deterioration at the beam ends.

Haider*et al.*(2017) developed a hybrid precast concrete beam-to-column connections using encased steel section under cyclic loading. Figure shows the mechanism involved in this technique.



Precast beam-to-column connections using encased steel section





Precast beam-to-column connections using encased steel section external holding connection



Hysteretic behavior of Precast beam-to-column connections using encased steel section

### Cyclic Testing of Column to Foundation with Rebar Coupler – An Experimental Case Study

#### Detailed configuration of column with foundation



## **Properties of Coupler**

Length : 120 mm Diameter : Outer - 34 mm Inner – 26 mm Wall thickness : 4 mm

Two 20mm bar was connected using coupler with 120mm length & 4 bolts and tested under tension to evaluate its tensile strength.

The observed tensile strength : 382 Mpa Failure Mode : Reinforcement Slip In retrofitting, Threaded Coupler with 240mm length & 8 bolts was used.






## **Retrofitting Methodology**



# Column Removed from Foundation



# Column with extended Rebar



Column fixing with Foundation









Coupler fixed with the foundation rebar

Column and Foundation rebar connected

**Epoxy filling** 

Connected foundation and column with confinement

## Column Connected with Foundation



## **Concreting Methodology**

In order to address the bonding between old and fresh concrete EPOXY Coating was used To create proper contact between the top portion of column with bottom portion, Letter Box Shuttering used for concreting



**Old Concrete Surface** 



Epoxy Coated Concrete Surface ©





**Letter Box Shuttering** 

# **FRP Wrapping**







**Surface Treatment** 

Epoxy application & CFRP Wrapping

C

Strengthened Column

## **Test Results**







**Mono-Conventional specimens** 

**Cyclic Testing In Quasi Static Lab using Actuator** 









#### **Coupler + CFRP**

Coupler

## An effective rebar coupler developed @ CSIR-CBRI







#### **Neck Formation in Rebar**



Neck Formation in Rebar connected using Coupler

It can be used to connect any critical element at any critical location of RC frame.

Also it can be used to connect Old to Old and Old to New rebar connection







Rebar Coupler has been used in the plastic hinge region of the beam column joint and tested under cyclic loading till failure Post failure analysis



Hysteretic Loop of Coupler enabled Joint specimen

### **Ductile Composites for Precast Connections**



High Performance Fiber Reinforced Cementitious Composites (HPFRCC) become the alternative option for the replacement of conventional concrete with better strength and ductility.

These HPFRCC were prepared using higher volume fibers without coarse aggregates, which provides strain hardening property and considerable amount of tensile strength/strain to the composites.

The application of HPFRCC on structural components eliminates the required special transverse reinforcement with higher energy dissipation.

## **Types of Composites Employed**

Composites	Fiber	
	Steel	P.P
Conv.	-	-
SFRC	2%	-
ECC	-	3%
SIFCON	8%	-













# SIFCON Cube (Core sample from Beam)







#### SIFCON Cube before and after failure

### **Testing Procedure**

All specimens are tested under displacement control cyclic loading



Sinusoidal loading with 5mm increment

**Test setup** 

### **Energy Dissipation**



ECC

**SIFCON** 

Thanks

Dr. K.R.S