

PERFORMANCE OF CONTINUOUS AND SEGMENTED POST-TENSIONED  
CONCRETE FILLED FIBER TUBES

By

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To the Faculty of Washington State University:

The members of the Committee appointed to examine the dissertation/thesis  
of AARON JOHN BOOKER find it satisfactory and recommend that it be accepted.

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Chair

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## Abstract

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This research investigated the performance of continuous and segmented post-tensioned concrete-filled fiber tubes as columns. Four post-tensioned specimens were compared against a typical monolithic RC specimen with 8 in. diameters and approximate column heights of 60 in. The four post-tensioned specimens used fiber reinforced polymer tubes as confining reinforcement, shear reinforcement, and construction formwork. The specimens were subjected to increasing levels of cyclic lateral displacements. Specimens were compared based on performance, damage, and energy damping. The specimens were also compared to one analytical model to predict performance and a finite element analysis using ABAQUS/standard to predict performance.

The specimens utilizing fiber reinforced polymer tubes had four configurations. Two configurations tested the specimens with no additional energy dissipation devices in a single 60

in. segment, while a second specimen tested a segmental column consisting of four 15 in. segments totaling 60 in. Additionally two specimens consisting of four 15 in. segments tested additional energy dissipation devices. Rubber sheeting was placed between the interfaces of one specimen to allow the hysteretic displacement of the rubber to dissipate energy and lengthen the period. In the final specimen steel angles were affixed to both the supporting base and the column to plastically deform during testing in order to dissipate energy.

Failure of the monolithic RC specimen was typical of the construction type. Significant spalling of concrete with formation of a plastic hinge occurred prior to failure of the specimen. Energy dissipation of the monolithic RC specimen was the greatest out of all tested specimens. For the four specimens utilizing fiber reinforced polymers failure through damage did not occur. All specimens completed the lateral displacement cycles without significant damage. Force displacement characteristics of the rubber sheet specimen was significantly lower than that of the remaining post-tensioned specimens which all exhibited similar force displacement characteristics. However, in all post-tensioned specimens a rigid rotation about the column base occurred which caused a permanent elongation in the post-tensioning bar. This permanent elongation had significant impact on the performance of the column in subsequent displacement cycles.

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## DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to my parents.

## **CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Background**

Large seismic events have often changed modern reinforced concrete design. Today it is often common to carefully detail and design for a plastic hinge in areas of high moments. These plastic hinges dissipate energy through permanent deformation and damage to the concrete structure in carefully controlled areas. While these structures will often satisfy life-safety requirements, these structures often require extensive repairs or complete reconstruction to be returned to service after a major earthquake.

Prior to the 1971 San Fernando earthquake many bridges and building columns were constructed with inadequate transverse reinforcement. Jackets made of reinforced concrete, steel, or fiber reinforced polymers (FRP) are often used to retrofit seismically inadequate structures to provide additional shear transverse reinforcement and additional confinement. These add additional confinement to the core concrete, improving performance of the plastic hinge and increase the column ductility capacity.

Utilizing post-tensioning allows for several advantages over a normal reinforced concrete approach. Post-tensioning allows for a much quicker construction time, which can save significant amounts of time and money while allowing for a safer and more environmentally friendly construction. Post-tensioning also allows for a rocking mechanism to develop during a seismic event. The entire column will rigidly rotate about the base and/or the connection with the superstructure. After an event the post-tensioned column will re-center and undergo little permanent deformation, if any, when compared to typical monolithic reinforced concrete columns. Little damage occurs to the concrete itself, allowing for a system to be returned to service after a major earthquake quickly. The disadvantage of a post-tensioned column is that it



does not allow for significant energy dissipation. Hence, adding external energy dissipation devices to post-tensioned columns may represent a promising construction system.

This thesis investigates the performance of FRP composite columns in a post-tensioned configuration. This system involving FRP tubes filled with concrete and post-tensioned together into a column system offers several initial advantages. As a pre-cast system, construction time and costs can be significantly reduced while taking advantage of increased quality control. FRP reinforcement acting as the transverse reinforcement provides for high shear strength as well as a continuous high level of confinement. Furthermore, the post tensioning system allows for the development of a rocking mechanism during strong earthquakes which induce a large amount of lateral displacement, reducing permanent damage to the column system during and after an earthquake.

## **1.2 Research Objectives**

Objectives of this research project were to evaluate the performance of the post-tensioned FRP confined system against that of a typical monolithic reinforced concrete system. Specific objectives for this research are as follows:

- 1) Evaluate the performance characteristics of segmented post-tensioned concrete-filled fiber reinforced polymer tubes against that of a typical monolithic reinforced concrete column.
- 2) Compare the performance of columns with different segment configurations and aspect ratios.
- 3) Compare two methods to dissipate energy from the segmented systems that would require either no repairs, or repairs of non-critical elements. These methods are the use of rubber

sheeting between segments, and sacrificial steel attached to the column which will permanently yield with sufficiently large displacements.

- 4) Determine the feasibility of the segmented FRP system for use in modern construction.

## **CHAPTER 2:LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Modern Requirements**

The advantages of modern composites have proven themselves in numerous industries. Much research has been done on the uses of fiber reinforced polymers (FRP) in the construction industry. This research has primarily focused on cyclic performance of concrete filled FRP tubes (CFFT).

With recent major earthquakes of the past few decades building code requirements in high seismic areas have increased drastically. A much greater requirement for shear reinforcement as well as confinement has led to FRP being used to retrofit existing structures (ACI 440, 2006; Seible et al, 1997). Recent research has also focused on FRP systems in new construction.

### **2.2 FRP Advantage**

Older columns have previously demonstrated many weaknesses in events such as the 1971 San Fernando, 1989 Loma Prieta , and 1994 Northridge earthquakes. Modern concrete codes have overcome design deficiencies through heavily reinforced concrete elements and time consuming construction detailing. While FRP has been successfully utilized to retrofit existing columns, it is also a viable alternative for new construction. The advantages in an FRP jacket is

the shear strength provided, excellent confinement of the core concrete, and an advantage in construction speed due to the reduction of reinforcing steel amount.

### 2.3 Confinement

FRP utilized as an exterior reinforcement provides for significant confinement of the core concrete. While in a typical column the core concrete would be confined by stirrups and cross-ties, the exterior continuous confinement of the FRP allows a greater amount of concrete to be confined with greater effectiveness. There are several current models for predicting the stress-strain relationship of confined concrete in both circular and non-circular cross sections (Mander et. al, 1988; Restrepo and De Vito, 1996; Mirmiran et al, 1998; ACI 400, 2006; Campione and Miraglia, 2003; Lam and Teng 2003).

The approach by Mander was used in this thesis to determine the stress-strain behavior of the confined concrete. This approach determines the confined strength through determining the effective lateral confining stress and the unconfined concrete compressive strength as in equation

1.

$$f_{cc} = f_{co} \left( -1.254 + 2.254 \sqrt{1 + \frac{7.94 f_l}{f_{co}}} - 2 \frac{f_l}{f_{co}} \right) \quad (\text{Equation 1})$$

Where

$f_{cc}$  = Compressive strength of confined concrete

$f_{co}$  = Compressive strength of unconfined concrete

$f_l$  = effective lateral confining stress on the concrete

$$f_l = \frac{1}{2} k_e \rho_s f_{yh}$$

$$k_e = 1 \text{ for circular sections}$$

$$f_{yh} = \text{yield strength of confining reinforcement}$$

$$\rho_s = \frac{t_{frp}}{d}$$

$$t_{frp} = \text{thickness of confining reinforcement}$$

$$d = \text{diameter of confining reinforcement}$$

## 2.4 Shear Reinforcement

The utilization of FRP as a shear reinforcement is very similar to steel as a shear reinforcement in reinforced concrete. As with steel, the calculation of shear capacity is based on the material strengths and size. Differing from steel are two additional factors presented by ACI 440 (2006). A degradation of the concrete contribution to the shear strength was observed before the FRP reached ultimate stress. This degradation occurred due to losses in the aggregate interlock mechanism. This necessitates a limiting strain of 0.4% (Seible et al, 1995) in the FRP composite. However, research by Ozbakkaloglu and Saatcioglu (2005) showed transverse fiber strains in excess of 1.0% before failure in columns with high axial compression. The higher values shown by Ozbakkaloglu and Saatcioglu were only seen for circular and square columns with well-rounded corners. Columns with sharp corners showed considerably lower maximum strains at the time of fiber rupture.

## **2.5 Complete CFFT's**

Tests by Shao and Mirmiran (2005) utilized two differing types of FRP tubes in addition to mild steel reinforcement. The mild steel was in both an under-reinforced and over-reinforced configuration. The CFFT's were tested in a three point bending configuration. The over-reinforced CFFT sections showed lower deformations, generally linear behavior, and little energy dissipation. Under-reinforced sections showed nonlinear elasto-plastic behavior, larger ultimate deflections and an increase in energy dissipation.

## **2.6 Plastic Hinge Confinement**

One of the key benefits of FRP applied to the exterior of columns is the confinement of the plastic hinge area. This allows for a much greater ductility of the column and ultimate capacity. In testing by Zhu et al (2006) CFFT's showed a distinct increase in ductility over a control RC column. While the RC column showed significant load drops during loading due to spalling of the concrete, the CFFT columns did not show any concrete spalling or significant sources of damage after ultimate displacements were attained. The CFFT columns also achieved a lower permanent deflection following the ultimate displacements.

## **2.7 Energy Dissipation of CFFT's**

Testing by Zhu et al (2006) showed that CFFT columns with internal reinforcement did not differ significantly in energy dissipation from a control RC column. Precast CFFT columns with post-tensioning showed significantly less energy dissipation due to the lack of bonded reinforcement in the section. The post-tensioned columns did exhibit favorable characteristics in terms of residual displacements being reduced significantly.

## 2.8 Segmented Columns

In order to mitigate damage to columns during an earthquake the approach of using segmented columns has begun to be analyzed. Mander (1997) presented a damage avoidance design in which columns are designed to rock on their bases to prevent damage. Because of this inherent ability the columns suffer little damage during a seismic event, but due to little energy dissipation undergo significantly larger displacements when compared to conventional columns.

Ou et al (2006) noted that for segmented columns there are two distinct stages of the loading. While a segmented column is subjected to a lateral load, a bending moment occurs throughout the column. This lateral load adds a tension and compression component to opposite sides of the column cross section, in addition to the existing compression load from axial sources. As the lateral load increases, the compressive stress on one side of the column will decrease, eventually reaching zero. Before the compressive force reaches zero, the column is in the pre-decompression stage. At this point the column segments are in full contact with each other, and the joints have not opened up.

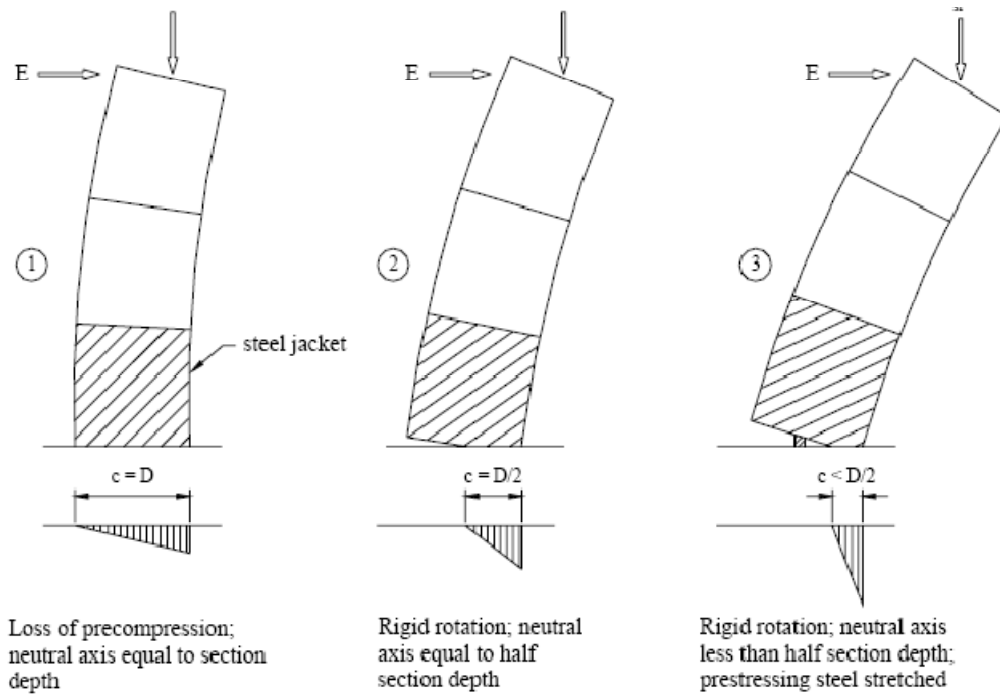
As the lateral load increases and the tensile forces rise, the compressive stresses will drop to zero. When this occurs, the joint between the segments will begin to open up due to the lack of tensile resistance of the joint. This stage is the post-decompression stage. Further increases in the lateral load will cause the gap at the joint to open wider. This gap will occur at any joint between segments, as long as the net stress in either edge become tensile stresses. Increases in the gap result in the increase of tensile force that will be resisted by the post-tensioning strand or any steel reinforcement present across the joint. Any energy dissipation will be based off of

elongation of the tendon, impact on the compressive side, and from non-linear deformation in the concrete.

Chou and Chen (2005) utilized a steel energy-dissipating device attached at the joint between the lowest segment and base of the column. Prior to the energy dissipation device failing at a 4% drift, the specimen with the device showed hysteretic energy dissipation approximately 50% higher than the specimen without. The energy dissipation device used by Chou and Chen failed in compression due to buckling, but would be pulled straight again in tension when the cycle reversed to provide for energy dissipation. However, while pulled in tension the device would not attribute energy dissipation to the column. Both energy dissipation devices on either side of the column did fail due to the compression buckling.

Hewes and Priestley (2002) described a procedure to predict the response of precast segmented columns undergoing a lateral loading. This method develops a moment-curvature response of a column which is in turn used to determine the force-displacement response of the column. The method isolates the response into three distinct phases (Figure 1). During the first phase, the entire cross section at the bottom interface is still in compression and the precompression provided by either a dead load or prestressing force is acting over the entire section. As the lateral load increases, the strain profile at the interface will reach zero at one edge and a crack will begin to form at the beginning of the second stage. This crack forms as there is no other tensile reinforcement across the interface with the exception of the primary post-tensioning bar. This crack will continue to expand until the area of zero strain reaches the middle of the column and the location of the post-tensioning bar at the end of the second stage. As the crack progresses beyond the post-tensioning bar into the third stage the post-tensioning bar will

be forced to elongate with the crack causing an increase in the post-tensioning force. These stages are represented in Figure 1. If the post-tensioning bar is elongated sufficiently to cause the stress in the post-tensioning material to go beyond yield the bar will be permanently elongated. This can cause a reduction in post-tensioning force in the bar as the lateral load on the column is removed.



**Figure 1: Segmented Column at key stages of response (after Hewes and Priestley 2002)**



## **CHAPTER 3: EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Four post-tensioned segmented concrete columns were constructed and subjected to cyclic loading. The segments consisted of concrete filled fiber reinforced polymer tubes. One monolithic reinforced concrete column was additionally tested as a reference to the current design procedures and codes. This section details the specimens, construction, testing methods and measurements.

### **3.2 Monolithic Column**

Specimen RC was designed as a typical circular reinforced concrete column with a diameter of 8 in. Longitudinal reinforcement in the form of six No. 3 Grade 60 bars were provided. Shear and confining reinforcement was provided by a No. 2 Grade 40 spiral at a pitch of four inches. These represent a longitudinal reinforcement ratio of 1.31% and a transverse volumetric reinforcement ratio of 0.31%. Concrete cover of 0.5 in. was maintained throughout the length of the column. A 10 in. reinforced concrete cube was placed atop the column to act as a load stub through which the testing equipment would be attached. Vertical reinforcement from the column was continued into the load block to provide adequate shear capacity. The column height was 60 in. The loading pattern was applied halfway up the loading block at 5 in. giving a total height above the top of the footing for the load application of 65 in.

### **3.3 FRP Columns**

The four FRP specimens utilized circular fiberglass reinforced polymer tubes. The tube acted as shear and confining reinforcement as well as a stay-in-place casting form. The FRP tube

had a nominal thickness of 0.125 in. and interior diameter of 8.0 in. The FRP specimens did not possess any steel or other reinforcement in addition to the FRP tube. A 2 in. polyvinyl chloride (PVC) duct to allow for the post-tensioning bar was placed in the center of the tube prior to casting. All FRP tube segments were filled with concrete with the post tensioning ducts in place.

Two loading stubs were created for the FRP specimens. A 10 in. concrete cube identical to the loading stub present at the top of the monolithic RC specimen was created with an addition of a post-tensioning duct in the center. This loading stub was used for specimens FRP-1, FRP-S and FRP-T. An additional loading stub with a height of only 6 inches was created to be used for specimen FRP-R in order to account for height differences and length of the post-tensioning bar. This loading stub would allow the FRP specimens to be easily connected to the loading apparatus. All loading stubs were reinforced to resist shear loads applied by the testing equipment to the specimens. This 4 in. difference in the dimensions of the stubs resulted in a slightly lower lever arm of 63 in. for specimen FRP-R.

### **3.3.1 Specimen FRP-1 and FRP-S**

Specimen FRP-1 consisted of a single concrete filled FRP tube 60 in. in length. As with all FRP specimens, this specimen was placed directly on top of the foundation. The loading stub was then being placed on top of the FRP tube. The column assembly was post-tensioned together after being placed in the testing frame.

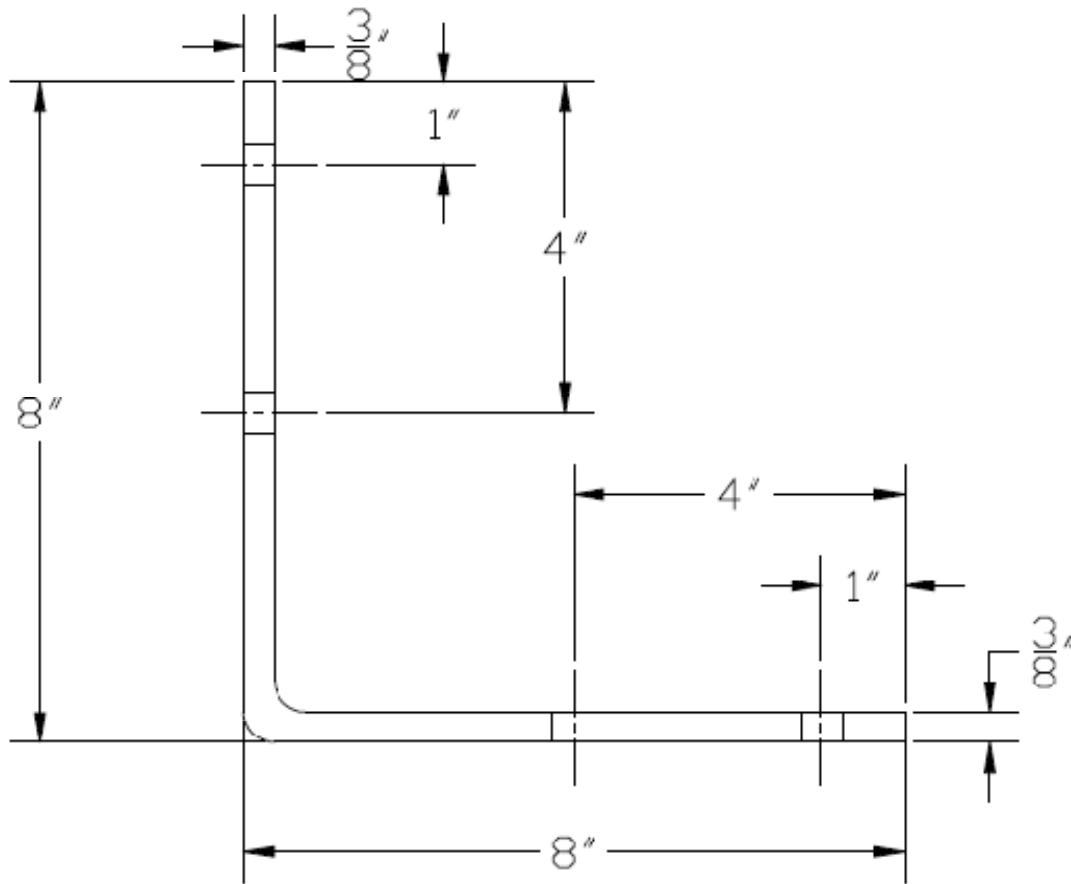
Specimen FRP-S utilized four 15 in. segments of concrete filled FRP tube. These segments were stacked together with the 10 in. loading stub and post-tensioned in the same manner as FRP-1.

### **3.3.2 Specimen FRP-R**

Like specimen FRP-S, specimen FRP-R consisted of four 15 in. concrete filled FRP tube segments stacked together with the 6 in. loading stub and the post-tensioning bar. Sheets of rubber were placed at the interface between the footing and first segment, as well as the first and second segments. The purpose of the rubber sheets was to provide for energy dissipation from the hysteretic deformation of the rubber. Four 9 in. square sheets each having 0.5 in. thickness were placed at each of these locations for a total thickness of 2 in. A central circular hole was created in each of the sheets to allow the post-tensioning bar to pass through.

### **3.3.3 Specimen FRP-T**

Specimen FRP-T consisted of four 15 in. concrete-filled FRP tubes and a 10 in. loading stub in the same configuration as specimen FRP-S. Two steel angles were anchored to both the top face of the footing and the first segment of the column in the plane of the load. Like the rubber sheets from specimen FRP-R, the steel angles were provided as a source of energy dissipation that would not damage the column otherwise. The steel angles were created from 0.375 in. thick stock material with a yield strength of 36 ksi. The angles were 1.25 in. in width and had equal length legs of 8 in. Two holes were placed in each leg to allow attachment to the footing and column segment at one inch and five inches from the end of each leg so moment could be transmitted by both angles simultaneously. A drawing of the steel angles can be seen in Figure 2. Attachment to the footing and column segments was provided by 0.375 in. threaded rod and nuts anchored into the concrete with the Hilti HIT-RE 500 epoxy system.



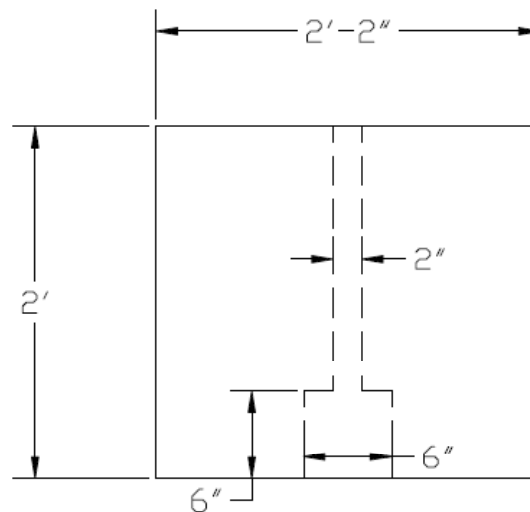
**Figure 2: Steel Angle**

### **3.4 Footings**

All specimens were either constructed monolithically with, or post-tensioned to, a heavily reinforced concrete footing. The same footing dimensions and reinforcement design was utilized for both the reference specimen and the four FRP segmented test specimens. Footings were 26 in. long, 18 in. wide and 24 in. deep. Footing reinforcement was provided through two No. 6 longitudinal bars in the bottom and four No. 5 longitudinal bars in the top, four No. 3 vertical stirrups and four No. 3 horizontal stirrups. Two No. 3 bent bars were placed partially embedded

into the top of the footings to allow for easy lifting and transport by crane or forklift. With the exception of the exposed bars for transport, a concrete cover of 0.5 in. was used.

For the monolithic RC specimen the column reinforcement was anchored into the footing with a 90 degree hook at the level of the lower reinforcement. For FRP specimens a duct was placed in the center of the column to allow for the post-tensioning bar to be placed through the footing. The duct was a PVC pipe with an interior diameter of 2 in. that extended from the top to 6 inches above the bottom face of the footing. A rectangular recess between the bottom face of the footing and the lower end of the duct was created in the concrete to allow the end anchorage of the post-tensioning system to be placed and still allow the foundation to sit level and flush with the floor. A drawing of the footing can be seen in Figure 3. Footings were attached to the laboratory strong floor with two steel bars placed over the footing and anchored to the strong floor with four bolts in total.



**Figure 3: Footing**

### 3.5 Specimen Summary

In total the five specimens are summarized below in Table 1.

**Table 1: Specimen Summary**

Name	Joints	Height to Load	Energy Dissipation	Longitudinal Reinforcement	Horizontal Reinforcement	Segment Height
RC	Monolithic	65 in	-	6 No. 3	#2 spiral	-
FRP-1	Dry	65 in	-	PT Bar	FRP Tube	60 in
FRP-S	Dry	65 in	-	PT Bar	FRP Tube	15 in
FRP-R	Dry	63 in	Rubber	PT Bar	FRP Tube	15 in
FRP-T	Dry	65 in	Steel Angles	PT Bar	FRP Tube	15 in

### 3.6 Material Properties

#### 3.6.1 Concrete

Concrete for the column, FRP tubes, and loading blocks were provided by a pre-mix operator. Testing resulted in a compressive strength of 2 ksi at the time of testing. This compressive strength was lower than anticipated. Analytical models were completed using the tested value of 2 ksi.

#### 3.6.2 FRP Tube

The FRP tube was supplied by Amalga Composites. Amalga Composites clear fiberglass tubing was selected with a diameter of 8 in. and wall thickness of 0.125 in. The tubes were delivered in ten foot lengths which were cut to size. The manufacturing process involved wrapping fibers around the tube at 45° in both directions. The material properties of the FRP tubes are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2: FRP Tube Material Properties**

<b>Material Properties</b>	
Flexural Modulus Longitudinal	1,300,000 psi
Flexural Modulus Circumferential	3,600,000 psi
Tensile Strength Longitudinal	16,000 psi
Tensile Strength Circumferential	40,000 psi
Compressive Strength Longitudinal	27,000 psi
Compressive Strength Circumferential	37,000 psi
Shear Modulus	800,000 psi
Shear Strength	8,000 psi
Poisson's Ratio	0.35

### **3.6.3 Sheet Rubber**

The sheet rubber used in specimen FRP-R was provided by WARCO/Biltrite. Style 10 commercial grade neoprene was used. A rubber with a durometer hardness of 40 was selected. Ultimate tensile strength of approximately 800 psi at 350% ultimate elongation can be achieved with this material.

### **3.6.4 Post-Tensioning Bar**

The post-tensioning system used was DYWIDAG bar post-tensioning. A 1.25 in. diameter hot-rolled threaded bar in a nine foot length was used for each FRP specimen. DYWIDAG anchor plates and nuts were used at either end for anchoring inside of the footing recess and top of the loading block. The bars possessed an ultimate strength of 150 ksi giving

and ultimate load of 187.5 kips. Ultimate strain that can be reached is 5050 micro strain. In all FRP configurations a post-tensioning force after initial losses of 30% of the ultimate capacity was targeted at a strain of 1550 micro strain. The 30% post-tensioning was selected in an attempt to match with the theoretical stiffness of the monolithic RC column. The post-tensioning jack along with anchorage plate and nuts can be seen in Figure 4.



**Figure 4: Post-Tensioning Jack and Anchorage**

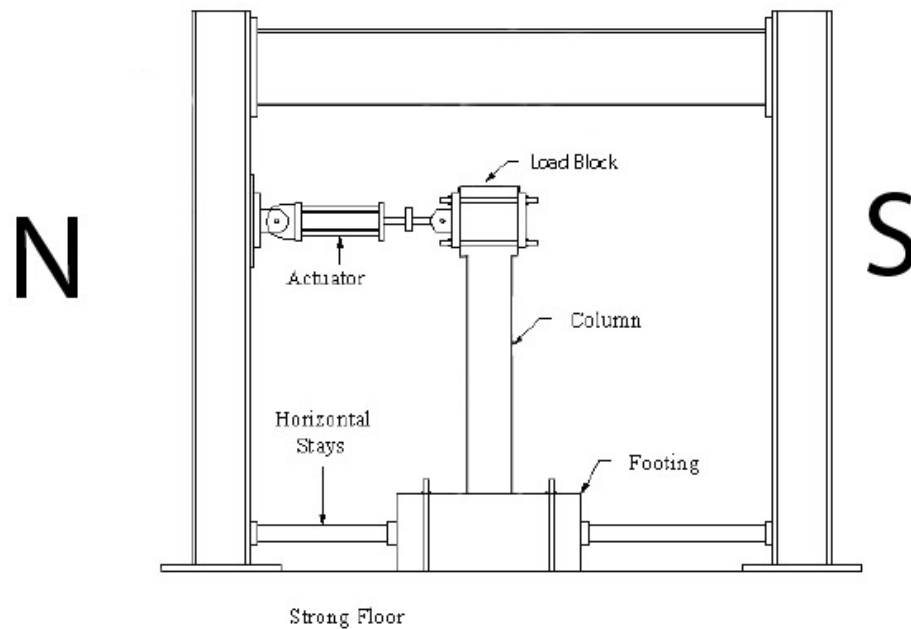


### **3.7 Testing Equipment**

All columns were subjected to cyclic loading through the use of MTS 11kip hydraulic actuator. A MTS 793 computer-based control system was used to control the displacement response of the actuator. A 25 kip load cell was used in line with the actuator to determine load magnitude on the column. Data acquisition was done with a second computer using a Labview based acquisition system taking two readings per second. This system received feedback from the MTS controller on ram position and load cell force, as well as information from independent string potentiometers and strain gages. The entire test setup can be seen in Figure 5 and Figure 6.



**Figure 5: Test Setup**



**Figure 6: Test Setup**

### **3.7.1 FRP Strain Gages**

Strain gages were attached to the FRP tubes to measure the strain in the FRP during testing. Strain gages with a maximum range of strain being  $\pm 3\%$  were placed on the FRP tubes in either a vertical or horizontal orientation. The primary function of the horizontally oriented strain gages was to measure the hoop stresses developed as the FRP confined the concrete.

For specimen FRP-1 strain gages were located two inches from the bottom of the tube on both the east and west side of the tube in a horizontal position, and on the north side in a vertical position. At 18 in. from the bottom of the tube three additional strain gages were located. Two vertically oriented strain gages on the north and south sides, and one horizontally oriented on the east side of the column.

For specimens FRP-S, FRP-R, and FRP-T strain gages were located on both the first and second segments. For the first segment at two inches from the bottom of the segment two oriented vertically on the north and south sides, and one horizontally on the west side. Two inches from the top of the first segment, or thirteen inches from the bottom, there were three additional strain gages. Again, two oriented vertically on the north and south sides with one horizontally oriented on the west side. On the second segment two inches from the bottom was again the same pattern with two vertical strain gages north and south, with an additional horizontal strain gage on the west side.

### **3.7.2 Post-Tensioning Bar Strain Gages**

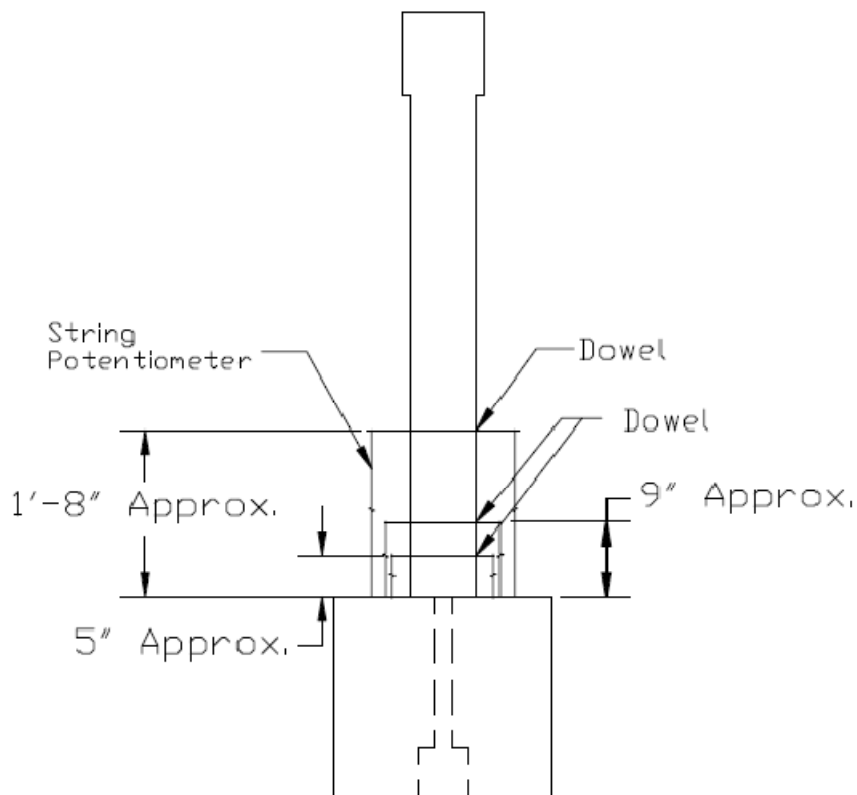
Strain gages were placed on the post-tensioning bars to measure the strain in the bars both during the post-tensioning sequence and during testing. Strain gages were placed near both the top and bottom anchorages in areas less likely to come in direct contact with the post-tensioning duct. Such contact and damage to the wires was a source of failure for several strain gages throughout testing.

### **3.7.3 String Potentiometers**

String potentiometers were placed on the top face of the footing in order to measure the rotation of the column cross section at certain intervals. Dowels were glued to the columns at heights of approximately 5 in., 9 in. and 21 in. String potentiometers were attached to the dowels to measure the vertical displacement of the column at these sections. These displacements were used to calculate the rotation at each section with Equation 2 as follows:

$$Rotation = \frac{Displacement1 - Displacement2}{Separation} \quad (\text{Equation 2})$$

For equation 2 above, *Displacement1* is the vertical displacement at one end of the dowel and *Displacement2* the vertical displacement at the opposite end of the dowel. Separation was the distance between the two ends of the dowel for which the vertical displacements were measured. String potentiometers were not used with specimen FRP-R as the rubber expanded outward during the post-tensioning phase and did not allow the string potentiometers to be positioned properly. As layouts from specimen to specimen varied in exact dimensions, an approximate drawing is given in Figure 7.

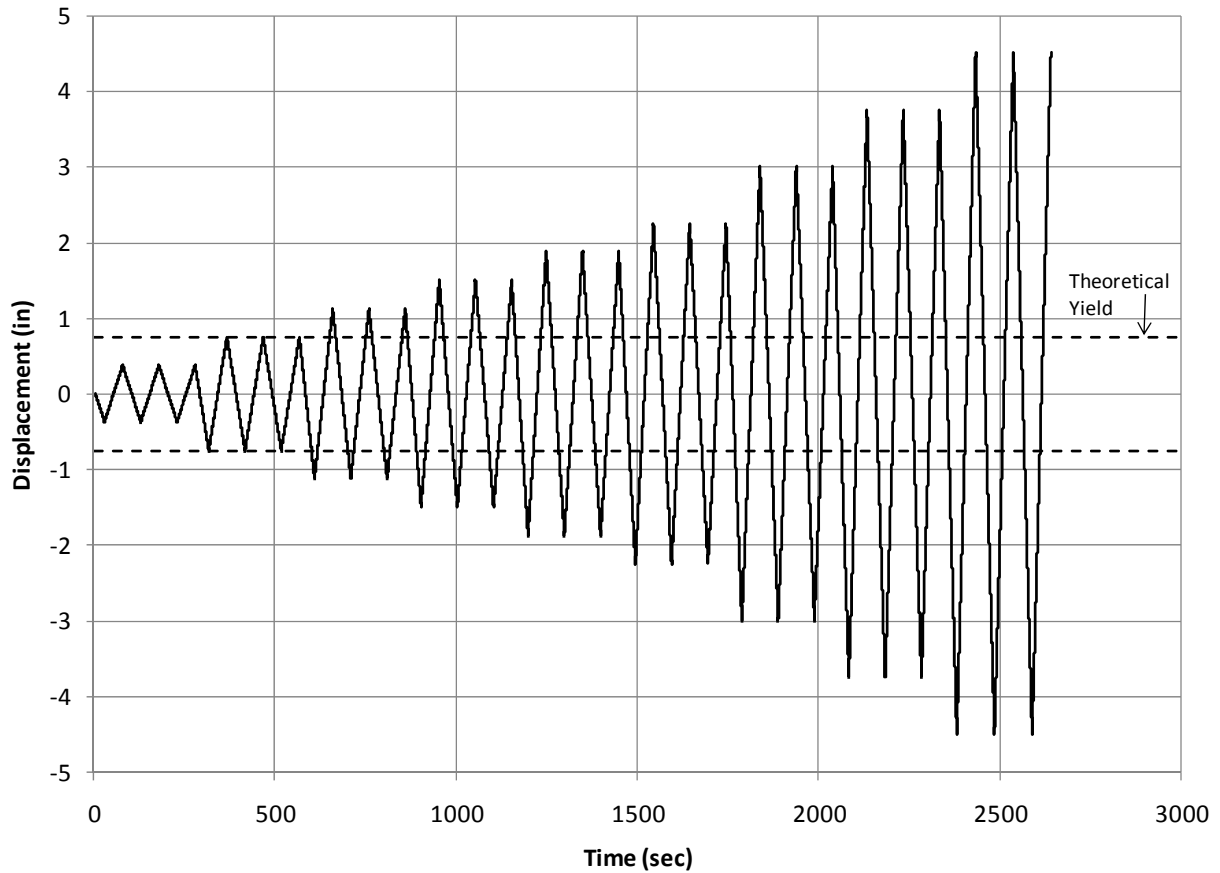


**Figure 7: String Potentiometer Layout**

String potentiometers were also utilized to determine the average curvature at each section measured. This was accomplished by taking the rotation as determined above and dividing by the height about which the rotation was measured.

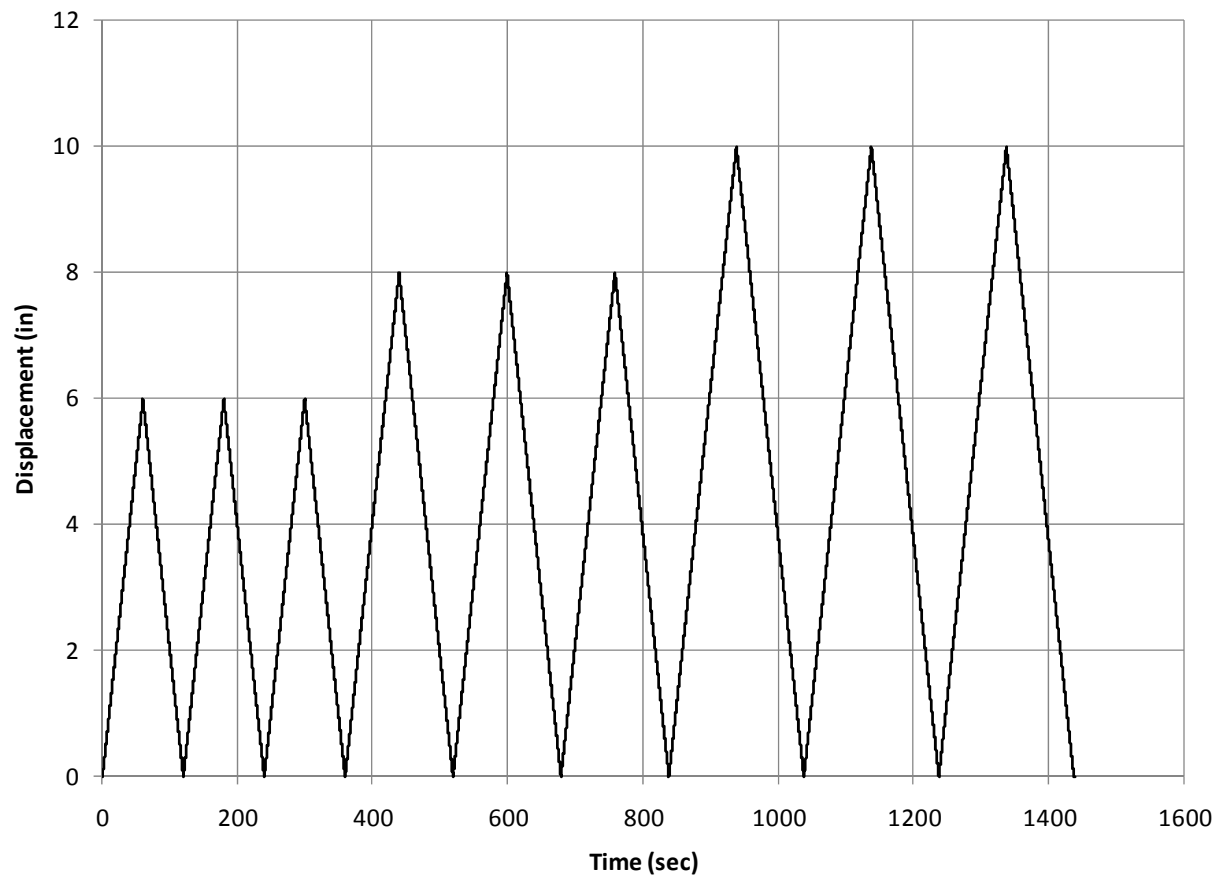
### **3.8 Loading Pattern**

Two different cyclic loading patterns were used in testing the columns. Both patterns were displacement controlled, with displacements based on the theoretical first yield of the monolithic RC specimen. This first theoretical yield was obtained by a moment-curvature analysis of the cross section in specimen RC which was determined to be approximately 0.75 in. Displacement levels of  $\pm 0.5$ ,  $\pm 1$ ,  $\pm 1.5$ ,  $\pm 2$ ,  $\pm 2.5$ ,  $\pm 4$ ,  $\pm 5$ , and  $\pm 6$  multiplied by the theoretical yield displacement were used for the first displacement pattern. This reverse cyclic pattern allowed for displacements up to  $\pm 4.5$  inches in either direction, near the  $\pm 5$  inch capacity of the actuator. This displacement pattern is shown in Figure 8. After this first displacement pattern was completed, the entire column assembly was moved in the load frame through the use of jacks moving the footing after the footing was disconnected from the strong floor. The loading rate for the initial displacement pattern varied to maintain constant time between cycles from 0.1875 in/min to 2.25 in/min.



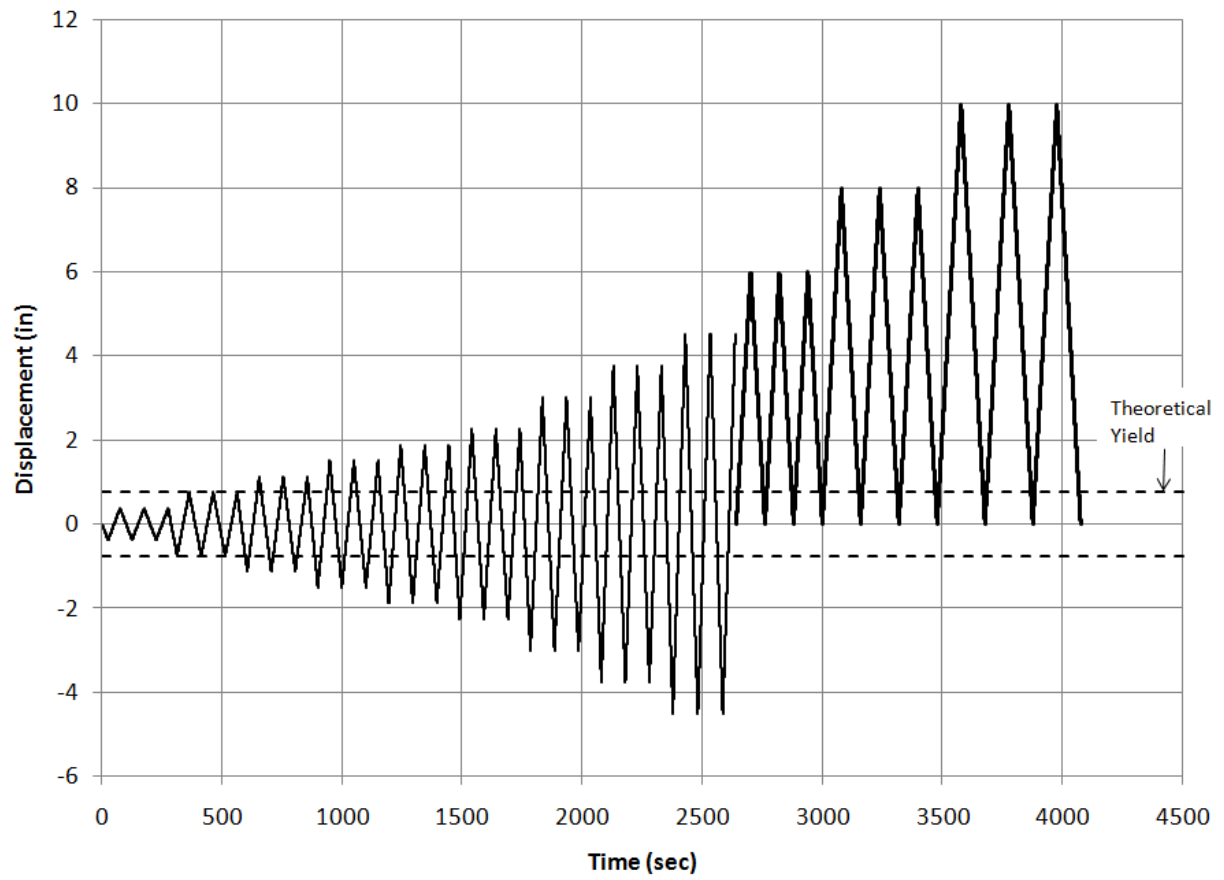
**Figure 8: Initial Displacement-based Load Protocol**

The second displacement pattern consisted of half cycles and allowed for the column to be pulled to a certain displacement and back to the zero position (Figure 9). This displacement pattern allowed for larger displacements to be realized by the testing system. Displacement magnitudes followed the same method as the first displacement pattern, starting at +6 in. followed by +8 in. and +10 in. Specimen FRP-1 was an exception to this second loading pattern with only the +10 in. displacement set completed but not the +6 in. or +8 in. displacement sets. The loading rate for the second displacement pattern was 0.1 in/sec. The complete load-displacement pattern can be seen in Figure 10.



**Figure 9: Second Displacement-based Load Protocol**





**Figure 10: Complete Displacement-based Loading Protocol**

## **CHAPTER 4: RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

In this section the results of the five column tests are summarized. Information present in this section includes load-displacement measurements, energy dissipation, equivalent viscous damping, modes of failure, strains in the post-tensioning bar, and strains in the FRP, and rotation of the sections.

### **4.2 Specimen RC**

Specimen RC was constructed as a reference column. Specimen RC utilized six No. 3 bars s longitudinal reinforcement with a smooth No. 2 stirrup at a pitch of four inches.

Initial cycles showed minor horizontal cracking at locations of the spiral steel reinforcement. At the end of the third 4.5 in. cycle spalling of the cover concrete began approximately 6 in. up from the base of the column. Following the 6 in. displacement cycle, significant spalling exposed both the spiral steel and longitudinal steel present in the column. Longitudinal reinforcement began to buckle during the 8 in. displacement cycle with additional concrete spalling up to a height of 12 in. above the base of the column. Rebar buckling can be seen in Figure 11 which was taken after testing. After the 10 in. displacement cycles, spalling extended past 16 in. from the column base, horizontal cracking present to 40 in from the column base, with significant buckling of the longitudinal reinforcement and permanent drift of the column. A photograph of the column at the completion of the 10 in. displacement cycle is shown in figure 12.

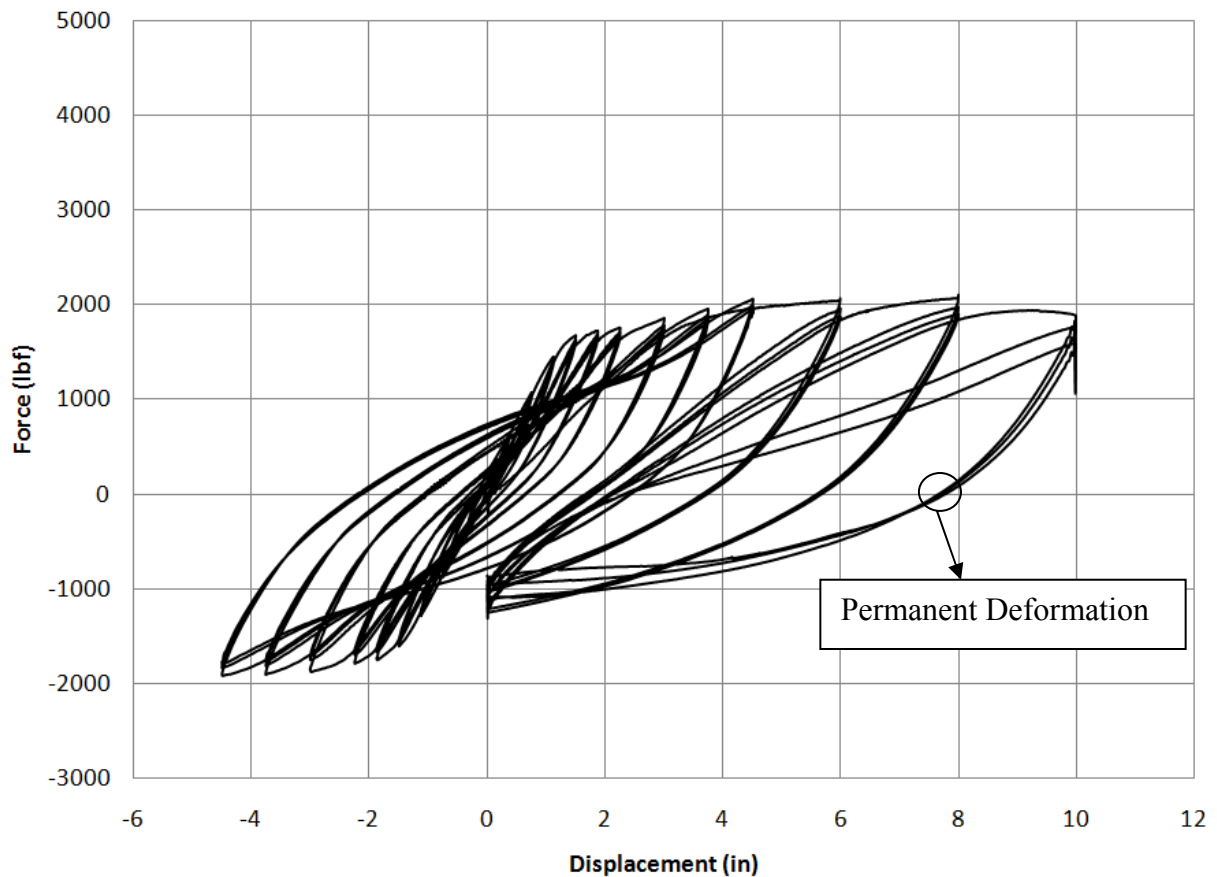


**Figure 11: Specimen RC Longitudinal Rebar Buckling After Testing**



**Figure 12: Specimen RC at 10 in. Displacement**

Load-displacement hysteresis curves for specimen RC are shown in Figure 13. No bar ruptures or otherwise sudden failures occurred, resulting in curves with no breaks or large jumps in the data. The result of the separate loading patterns due to actuator capacity can be seen in the return and start points of the 6 in., 8 in., and 10 in. cycles. After the 1.5 in. displacement cycle the column would possess permanent deformation. This permanent deformation can be clearly seen in the larger displacement cycles, with the 10 in. displacement cycle having a permanent deformation of approximately 7.5 in.



**Figure 13: Specimen RC Load-Displacement Hysteresis Curves**

Specimen RC reached peak strength at the 6 in. displacement level. Significant loss of concrete cover caused buckling of the primary reinforcement and slight degradation of capacity at additional displacement cycles.

#### **4.3 Specimen FRP-1**

Specimen FRP-1 consisted of a single 60 in. long concrete-filled FRP tube. This was post-tensioned to the column base and loading stub as described in Chapter 3. Throughout the test no significant visual damage was apparent. The FRP tube of FRP-1 did not extend along the entire length as a result of the casting process. This left a 0.25 in. extension of concrete extending out of the bottom of the column segment shown clearly in Figure 15. The result of this extension was that during testing the FRP tube did not come in contact with the base during the test procedures. This resulted in very insubstantial damage to the FRP for this specimen.

The column as a whole developed a rocking mechanism, wherein the bottom interface between the column and the footing would separate along the north side during a push and the south side during a pull by the actuator. This would cause a couple to form at the interface consisting of the post-tensioning bar in tension, and the concrete to concrete interface acting as the compression element. An overall view of the column base during testing is shown in Figure 14 which shows the south side of the column lifting off of the base. A close-up view of the column-base interface in which the gap is apparent and significant enough to view the post-tensioning duct and bar is shown in Figure 15.



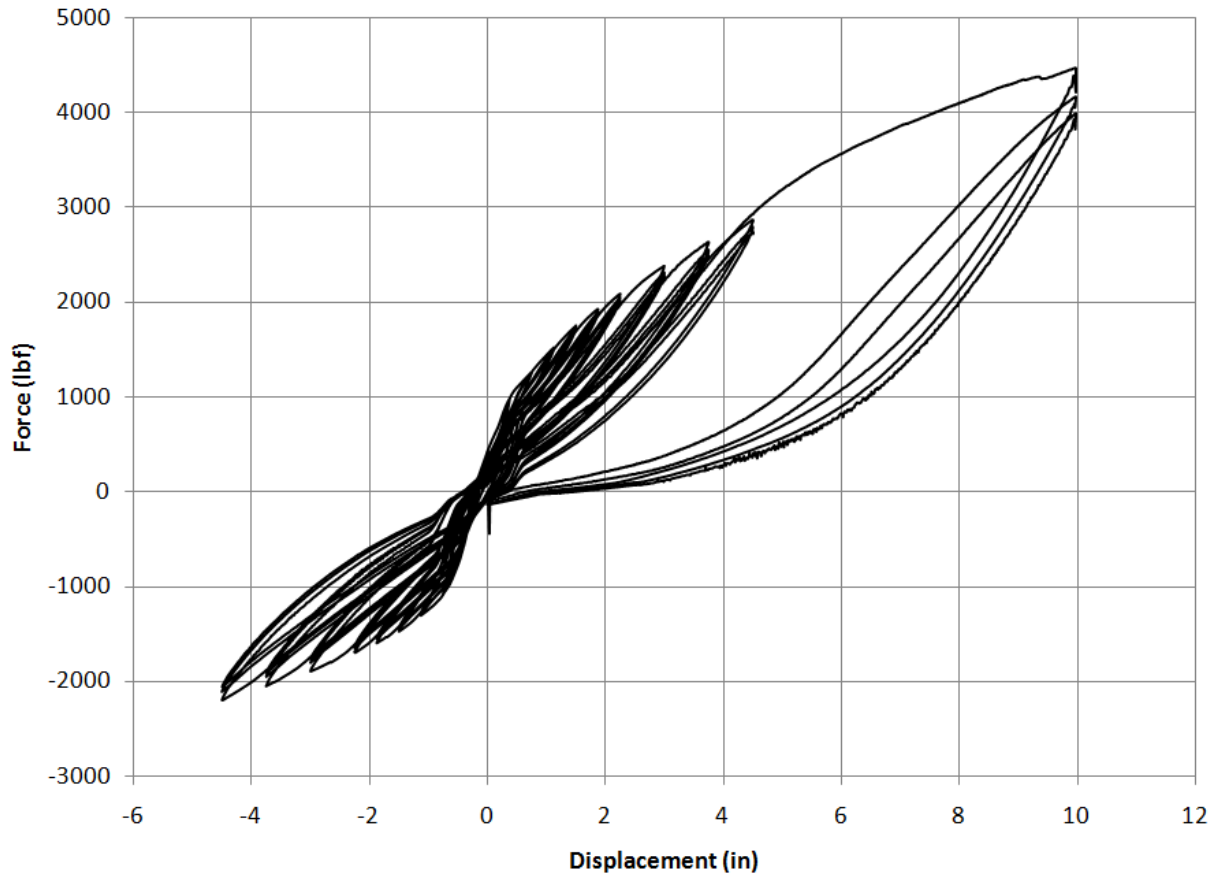
**Figure 14: Specimen FRP-1 Column Base During Pull**





**Figure 15: Specimen FRP-1 Column Rocking Mechanism**

Load-displacement hysteresis curves are shown for specimen FRP-1 in Figure 16. Note the lack of displacement cycles for 6 in. and 8 in. which is discussed in Chapter 3. The initial displacement cycle for any displacement level would show considerably more energy dissipation than the subsequent cycles at the same level. This is indicated well with the travel and return cycles for the 10 in. displacement cycle. Approximately 1.0 in. of residual displacement was present in the column after testing.



**Figure 16: Specimen FRP-1 Load-displacement Hysteresis Curves**

No significant failure of elements in specimen FRP-1 was encountered through testing. The column as a system continued to function throughout all displacement levels.

#### **4.4 Specimen FRP-S**

Specimen FRP-S was constructed of four 15 in. FRP segments. Segments were post-tensioned together along with the base and loading block as described in chapter 3 using the same procedure and post-tensioning forces as specimen FRP-1. Specimen FRP-S developed a similar rocking mechanism as specimen FRP-1. Gaps opened at two locations; the interface between the base and first segment, and the interface between the first and second segments.



FRP damage occurred where the FRP tube was bearing on the concrete base during push and pull cycles of the load pattern. The rocking mechanism and the gaps developed can be seen in Figure 17 for the gap between the base and first segment and Figure 18 for the gap between the first and second segments. The overall column during testing can be seen in Figure 19. No substantial gap was seen in the interface between segments two and three during the test, or at any other interface.



**Figure 17: Specimen FRP-S Rocking Gap Between Base & Segment 1**



**Figure 18: Specimen FRP-S Rocking Gap Between Segments 1 & 2**



**Figure 19: Specimen FRP-S Setup**

Contact between the FRP tube of the first segment and the base occurred during the test. This resulted in damage to the FRP tube at the location the tube was bearing on the concrete. Minor crushing damage also occurred between segments one and two to the FRP, but this was of a significantly lower magnitude than the crushing occurring between the base and first segment. Damage to the FRP is shown in Figure 20. Permanent damage to the concrete in the bearing area

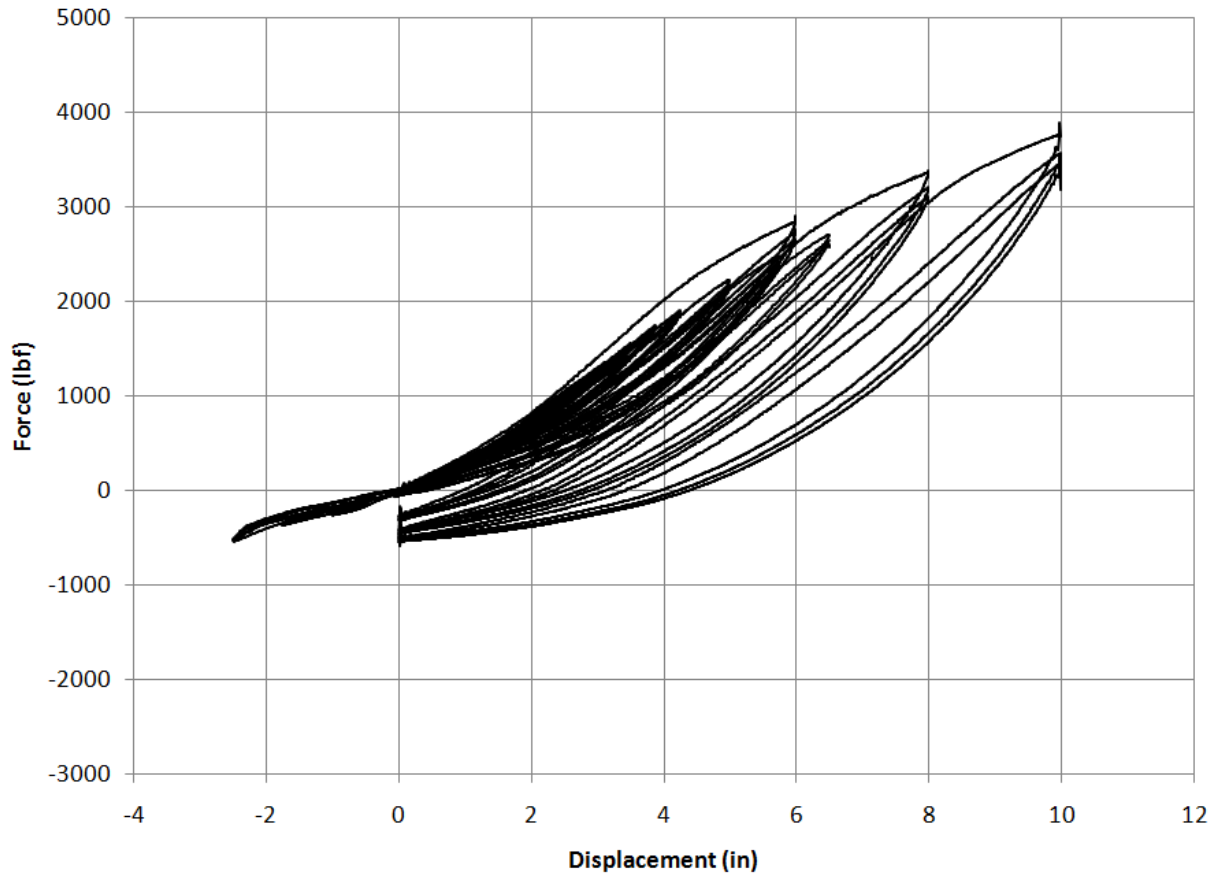
confined by the FRP was also sustained. This resulted in a permanent deformation in the concrete which in turn led to the FRP crushing behavior.



**Figure 20: Specimen FRP-S Damage to FRP**

Load-Displacement hysteresis curves for specimen FRP-S are shown in Figure 21. It should be noted that during the post-tensioning procedure the column developed a natural lean to the south of approximately two inches. This was due to the top and bottom surfaces of some segments not being parallel with each other. In order to test the specimen, the entire column was first pulled to a zero displacement position after post-tensioning which caused initial forces to develop. To correct for this, the data set was adjusted by two inches for the initial displacement pattern. Specimen FRP-S showed similar behavior to specimen FRP-1.





**Figure 21: Specimen FRP-S Load-Displacement Hysteresis Curves**

No significant failure of elements in specimen FRP-S was observed during testing. Localized crushing of the concrete and FRP at the bearing surfaces between the base and first segment were not substantial enough to cause damage which impacted the performance. Specimen FRP-S showed permanent deformation of approximately 4 in. which is primarily a result of the loss in post-tensioning force.

#### **4.5 Specimen FRP-R**

Specimen FRP-R consisted of four 15 in. high segments identical to specimen FRP-S with the addition of rubber pads placed between the base to first segment interface, and the first to second segment interface. Four pads were used at each location for a total thickness of 2 in.

The added height of the rubber pads necessitated the use of a shorter loading stub than in the other FRP specimens to account for the short length of post-tensioning bar supplied. FRP-R was post-tensioned using the same procedure and forces as previous specimens. During the post-tensioning procedure the rubber exhibited significant deformation and the first and second column segments also moved out of alignment from each other. Photographs from before and after the post tensioning sequence are shown in Figure 22 and Figure 23.



**Figure 22: Specimen FRP-R Before Post-Tensioning**



**Figure 23: Specimen FRP-R After Post-Tensioning**

During the test, displacement of the column was attained through rotation about the rubber pads. The rubber pads were easily compressible which allowed for rotation about the two interfaces equipped with the pads without opening of any concrete to concrete interfaces or significant changes of the forces in the post-tensioning bar. Specimen FRP-R under displacement is shown in Figure 24. Rotation at the two interfaces equipped with the rubber pads can be clearly seen with the most rotation originating from the base to first segment interface.

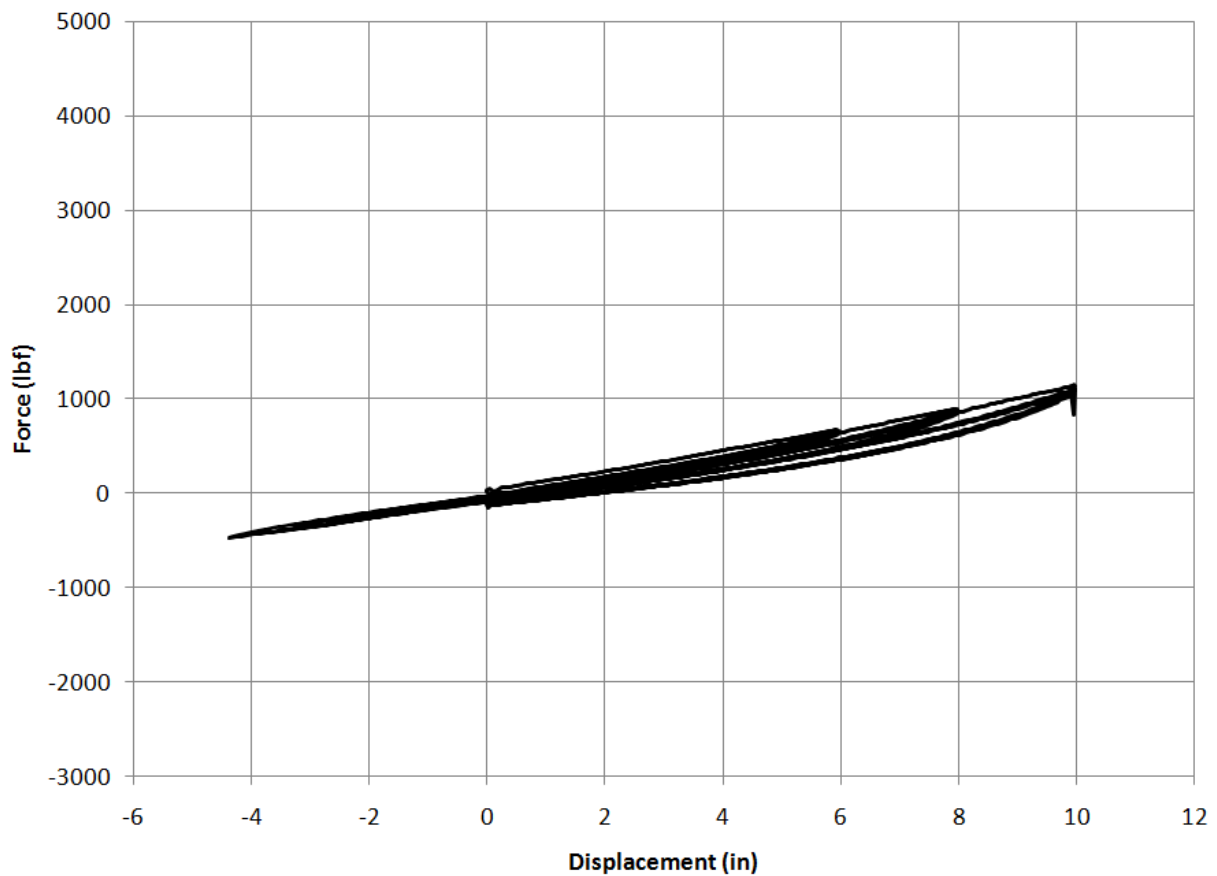


**Figure 24: Specimen FRP-R Under Displacement**

The rubber pads allowed for displacement of the column under low levels of force. The load-displacement hysteresis curves are shown in Figure 25. The specimen exhibited very little energy dissipation at only the higher displacement, and no visible damage during testing was observed. Some minor damage to the rubber pads was observed after testing. This damage is



suspected to have occurred during the post-tensioning sequence as the rubber expanded outward due to the increasing post-tensioning force and the friction with the concrete. Damage observed is also consistent with the extreme deflections seen in the rubber after post-tensioning as in Figure 23 above.



**Figure 25: Specimen FRP-R Load-Displacement Hysteresis Curves**

As there was no noticeable damage to the FRP-R specimen, the only limiting factor in this test was the capacity of the hydraulic actuator. No column failure or element failure was encountered throughout testing.

#### **4.6 Specimen FRP-T**

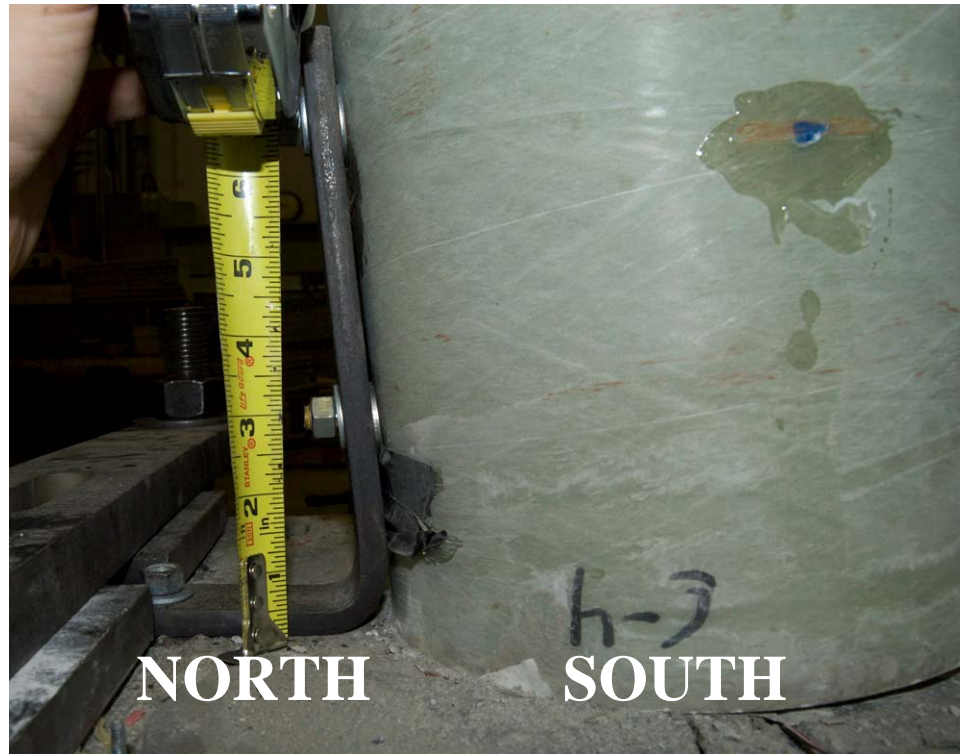
Specimen FRP-T was identical to specimen FRP-S with the addition of two A36 steel bent plates formed into angles attached to the base and first segment of the column. The angles after testing with permanent deformation can be seen in Figure 26.



**Figure 26: Specimen FRP-T Steel Angles After Testing**

During testing the column developed similar behavior to specimen FRP-S. Gap openings were observed between the base and first segment, as well as between the first and second segments. In addition to the gap openings, limited deformations in the steel angles occurred. The deformation occurred in two primary areas; at the bend in the angle, and at the location of the first attachment to the base. The angle would open and the angle of the bend increase when the column was pulled away from the angle, and close when pulled toward an angle. This is

demonstrated in Figure 27 and Figure 28 where the column was pulled to the north, causing the north angle to close and the south angle to open.

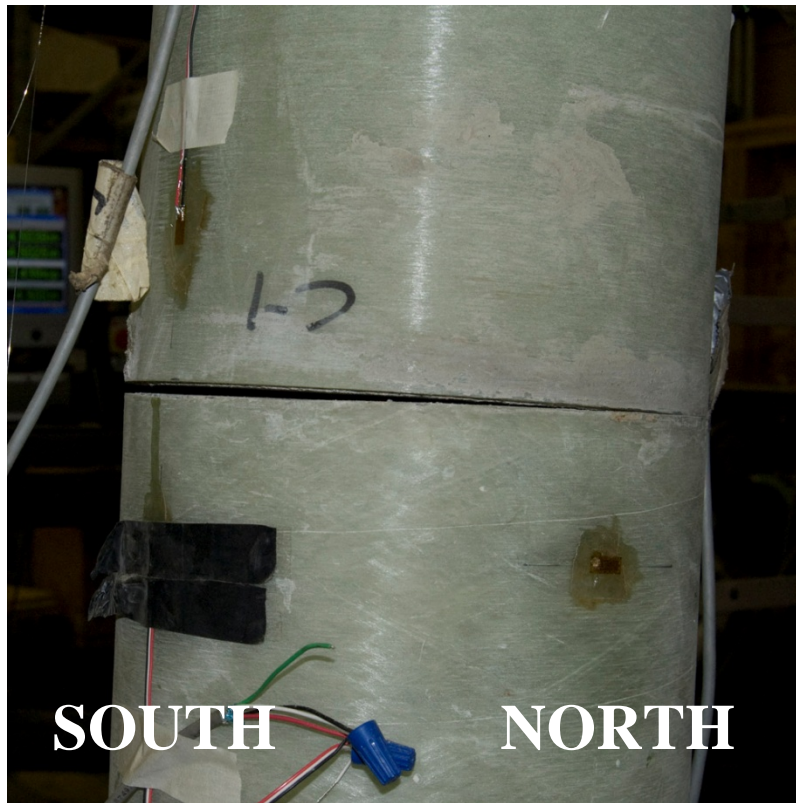


**Figure 27: Specimen FRP-T North Angle Closing**



**Figure 28: Specimen FRP-T South Angle Opening**

In addition, both segment gap openings observed in specimen FRP-S occurred in this specimen as well. Opening between the first and second segments can be seen in Figure 29. Damage to the FRP also occurred where the FRP was bearing on the base. This can be seen in Figure 28 above.



**Figure 29: Specimen FRP-T First-Second Segment Gap Opening**

Load-displacement hysteresis curves for specimen FRP-T are shown in Figure 30. Curves are similar to specimens FRP-1 and FRP-S. Permanent deformation of the column was approximately 2 in.



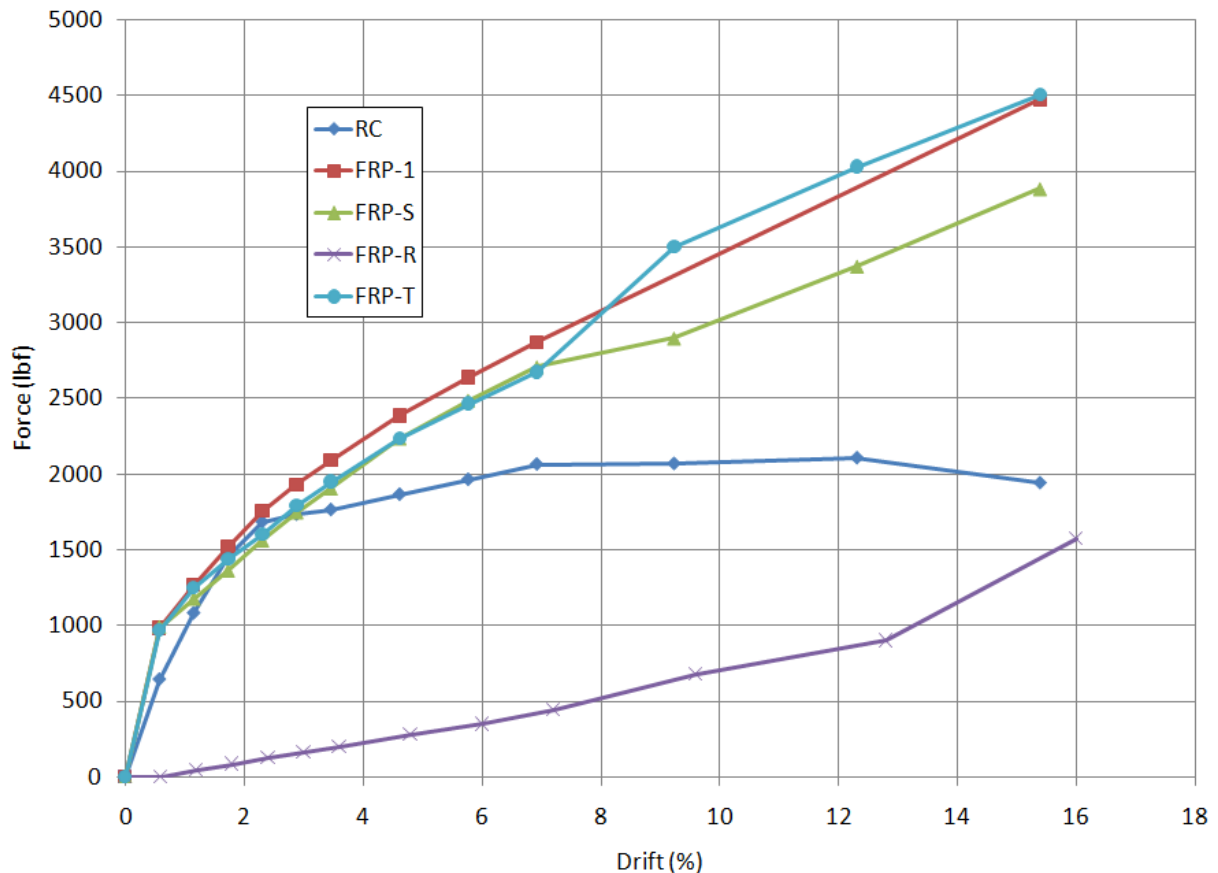
**Figure 30: Specimen FRP-T Load-Displacement Hysteresis Curves**

Specimen FRP-T performed similarly to specimens FRP-S and FRP-1 through testing. While some elements such as the bearing concrete and FRP at the bearing area were damaged by crushing, no significant failure of any elements in the column occurred and testing was limited only by hydraulic actuator capacity.

#### **4.7 Backbone Curves**

The peak load at the first cycle for each displacement level was compared to the drift in the different columns. A graph of drift against the peak load for each cycle is presented in Figure 31. Specimens RC, FRP-1, FRP-S, and FRP-T possess similar initial stiffness. Specimen RC begins to fail at a load of 2 kips whereas specimens FRP-1, FRP-S and FRP-T continue in a near

linear fashion. Specimen FRP-R deforms linear-elastically as the deformation was due to compression of the rubber until a drift ratio of approximately 13%. Beyond that drift ratio there was a significant increase in the stiffness of specimen FRP-R possibly due to stiffening of the rubber.



**Figure 31: Drift vs. Load**

A chart showing the drift against secant stiffness is presented in Figure 32. A chart showing the normalized secant stiffness is shown in Figure 33. This was determined by the ratio of current secant stiffness to the secant stiffness of the first displacement level cycle.



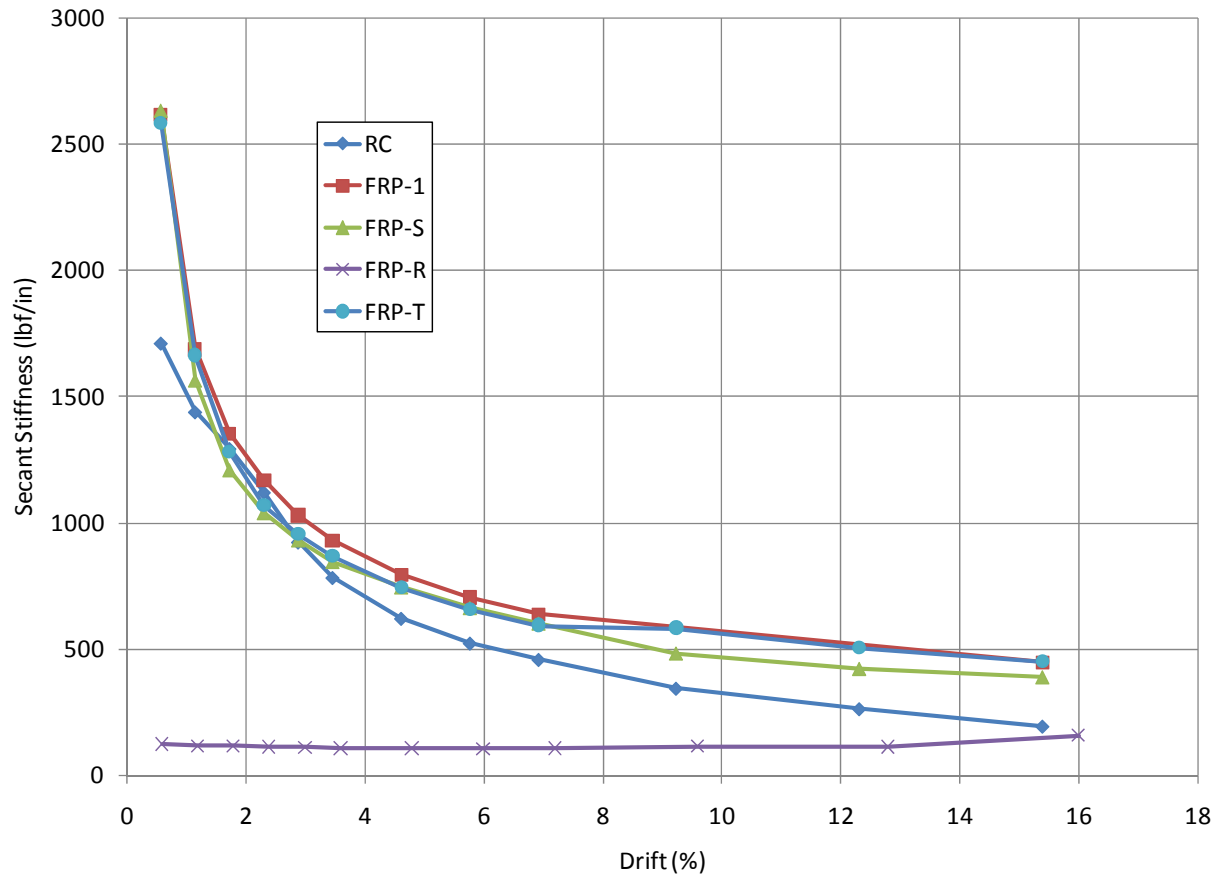
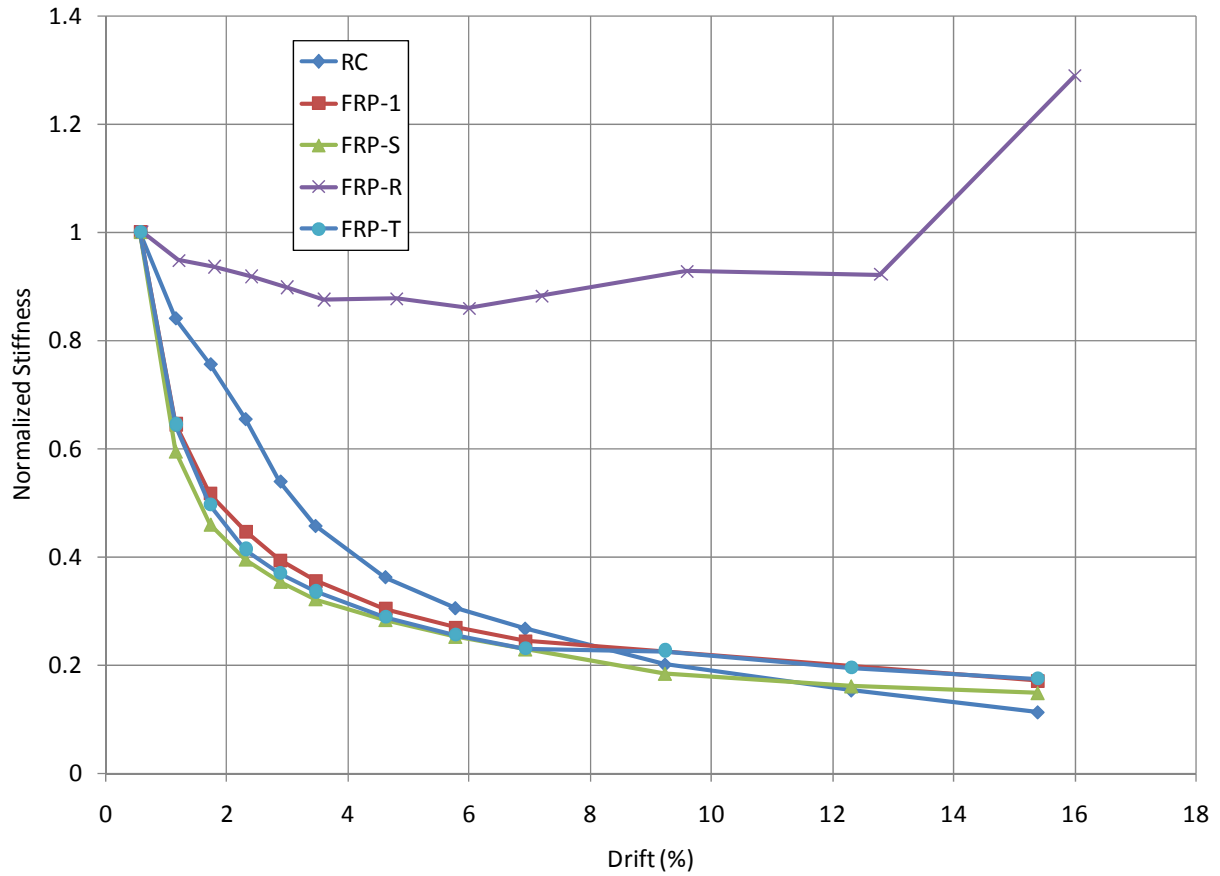


Figure 32: Drift vs. Secant Stiffness



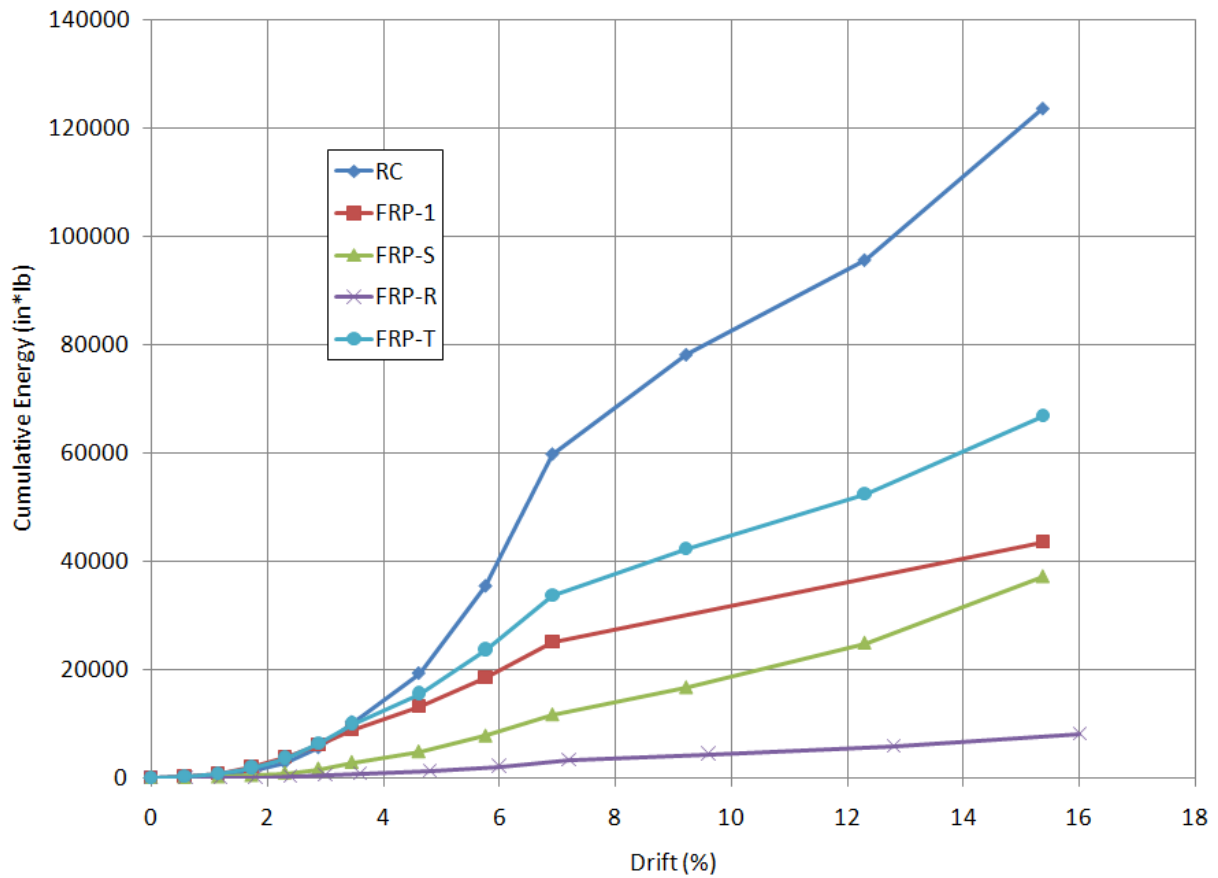


**Figure 33: Normalized Secant Stiffness**

#### 4.8 Energy Dissipation

All specimens showed energy dissipation through permanent deformation of the components. Specimen RC showed the most due to steel yielding and concrete damage resulting in a significant permanent deformation at the end of testing. Specimen FRP-R showed the least amount of energy dissipation, but was the least damaged at the end of testing due to the specimen performing elastically and all deformations were due to rubber deformation.

The energy dissipated during each cycle for each column was calculated by calculating the area enclosed by the hysteresis curves. The cumulative energy for all columns is presented against drift in Figure 34.



**Figure 34: Drift vs. Cumulative Energy**

Specimen RC dissipated the most energy, but suffered significant damage and permanent deformation. Specimens FRP-1, FRP-S, and FRP-T dissipated moderate amounts of energy and suffered little damage. Specimen FRP-R dissipated little energy, but suffered no observable damage during testing. The amount of energy dissipated in each cycle of the loading patterns depended on two factors; the displacement level, and which cycle for the given displacement level whether it be the first, second, or third. As most FRP specimens saw a significant drop in

the energy dissipated at subsequent cycles after the first cycle for a given displacement, the energy dissipated in the first cycle for each displacement level is presented in Figure 35. It should be noted that the higher energy levels for specimen FRP-1 are primarily a result of the lack of intermediate displacement levels as discussed in chapter 3.

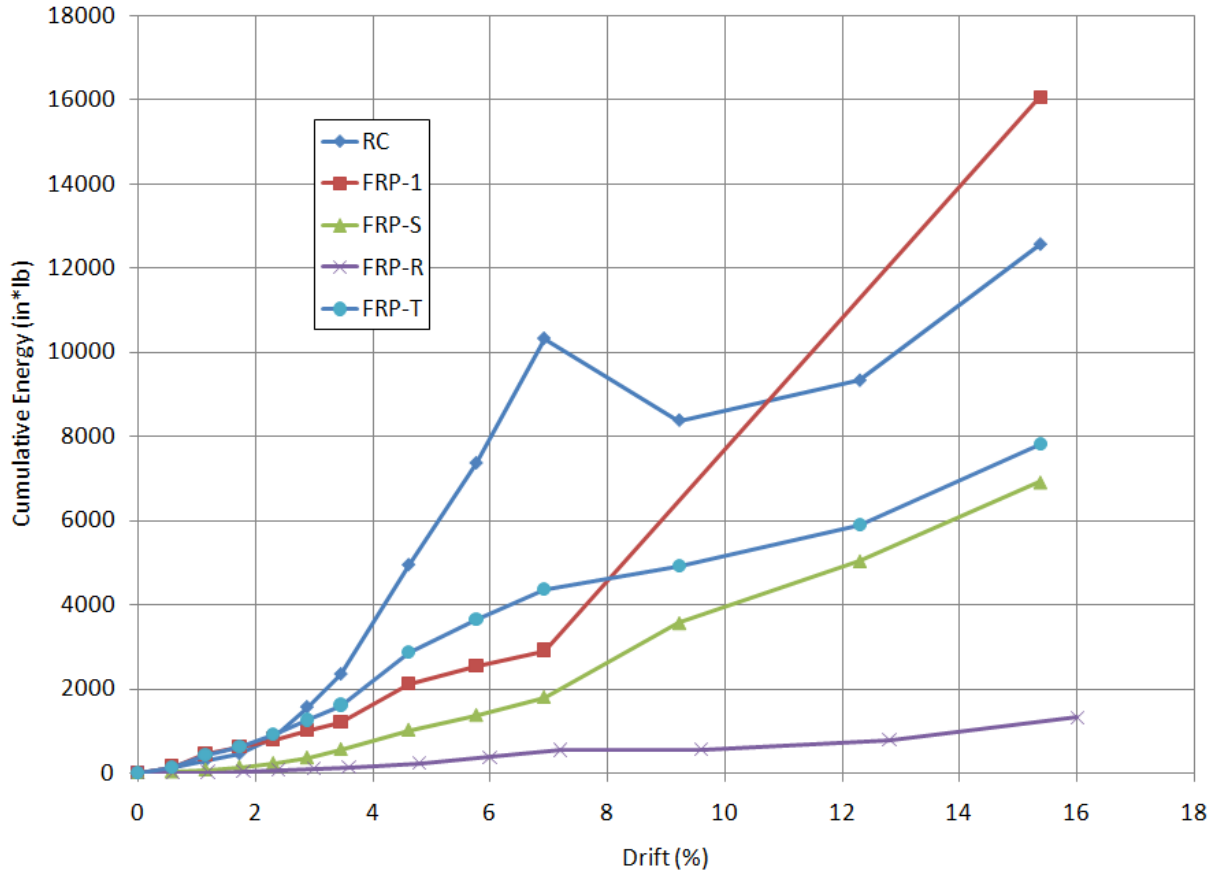


Figure 35: Drift vs. Energy in First Cycle

The equivalent viscous damping is shown in Figure 36. This was calculated by equation 3.

$$\zeta_{eq} = \frac{A_h}{2\pi V_m \Delta_m} \quad (\text{Equation 3})$$

Where  $A_h$  represents the area under one load-displacement hysteresis loop,  $V_m$  is the peak force, and  $\Delta_m$  is the peak displacement during the specific cycle. A higher amount of viscous

energy dissipation indicates a larger amount of energy dissipated through the load displacement cycle.

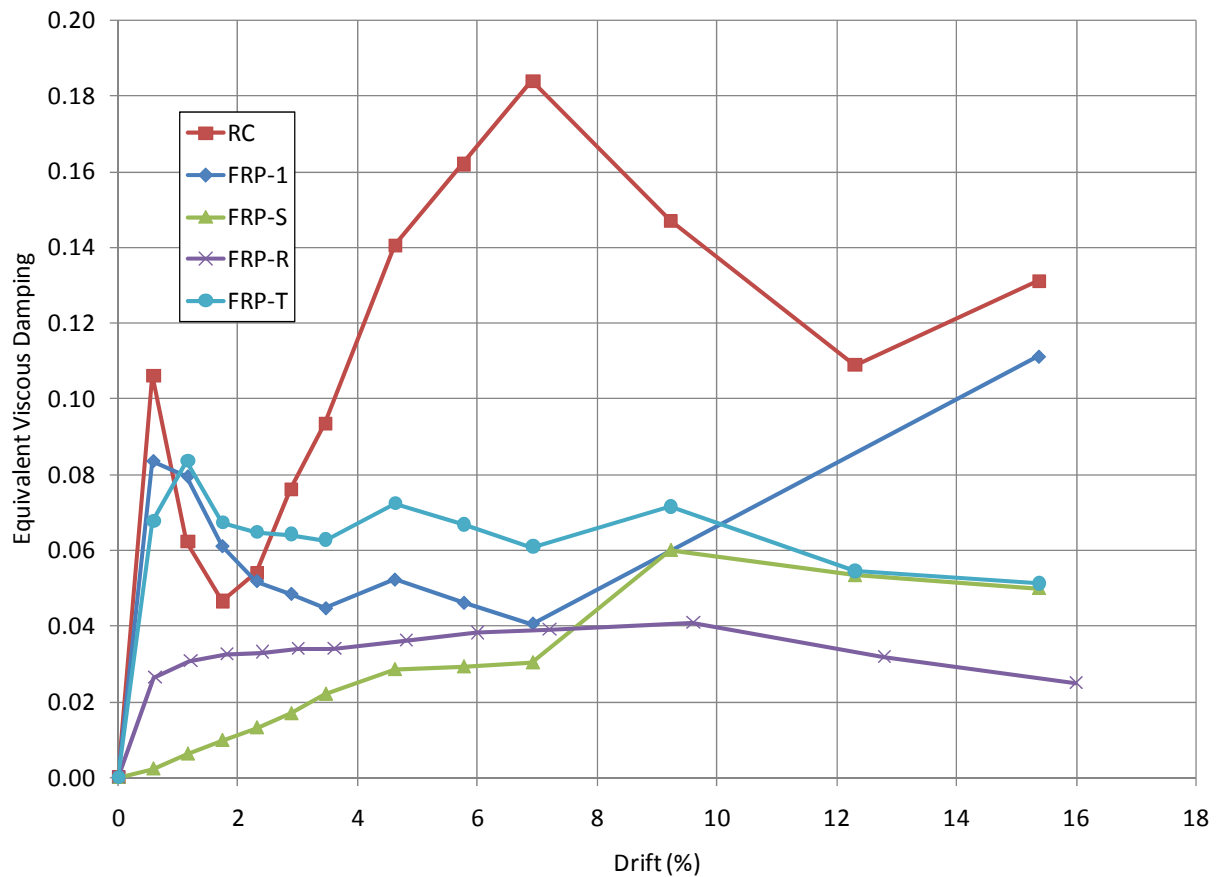
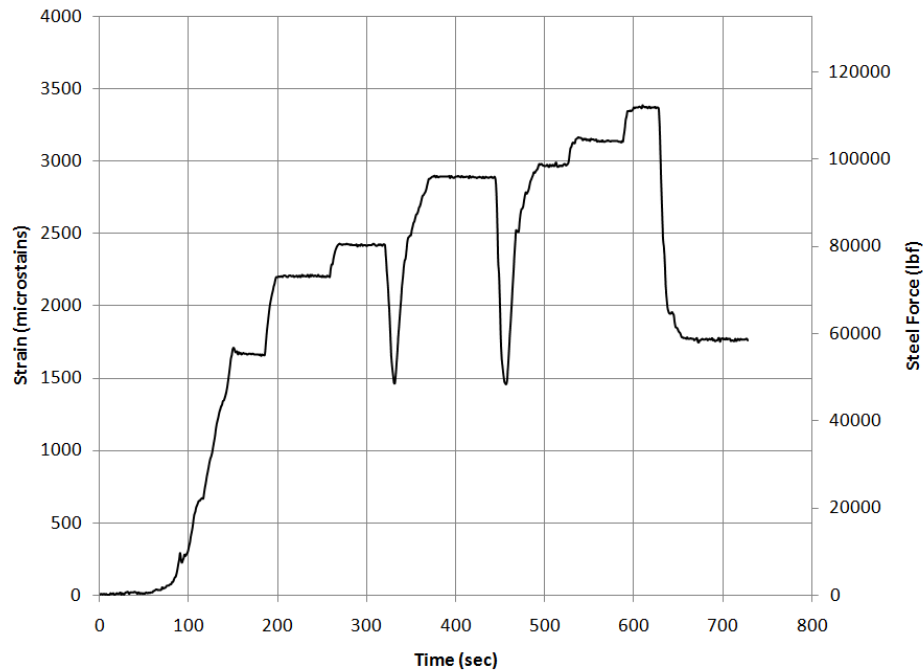


Figure 36: Drift vs. Equivalent Viscous Damping

#### 4.9 Post-Tensioning Bar Strain

Post-tensioning bars were equipped with strain gages to monitor stress in the bars throughout both the post-tensioning procedure and testing. The post-tensioning procedure showed bars suffered from significant immediate losses. The source of these losses is suspected to be slippage in the anchorage plate and nut system. A graph showing the post-tensioning sequence of specimen FRP-T is shown in Figure 37. The initial two drops are a result of the operator dropping releasing the force on the hydraulic ram used for post-tensioning after

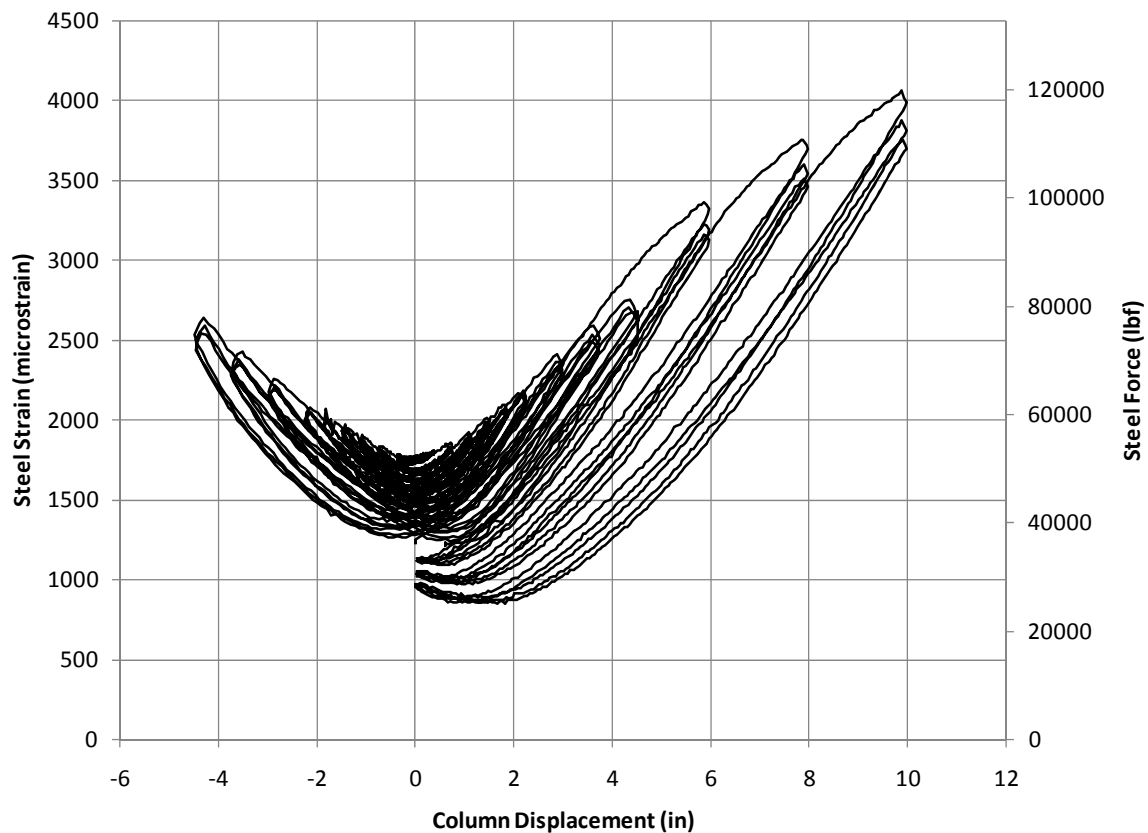
tightening the nut onto the anchorage plate. For the first two releases, the initial losses were great and caused the post-tensioning strain to drop below the target value of 1550 micro strain. The third attempt was successful for this specimen in attaining an appropriate amount of post-tensioning force. Initial losses in the release of the hydraulic ram after tightening the top nut to anchor plate were near 50%.



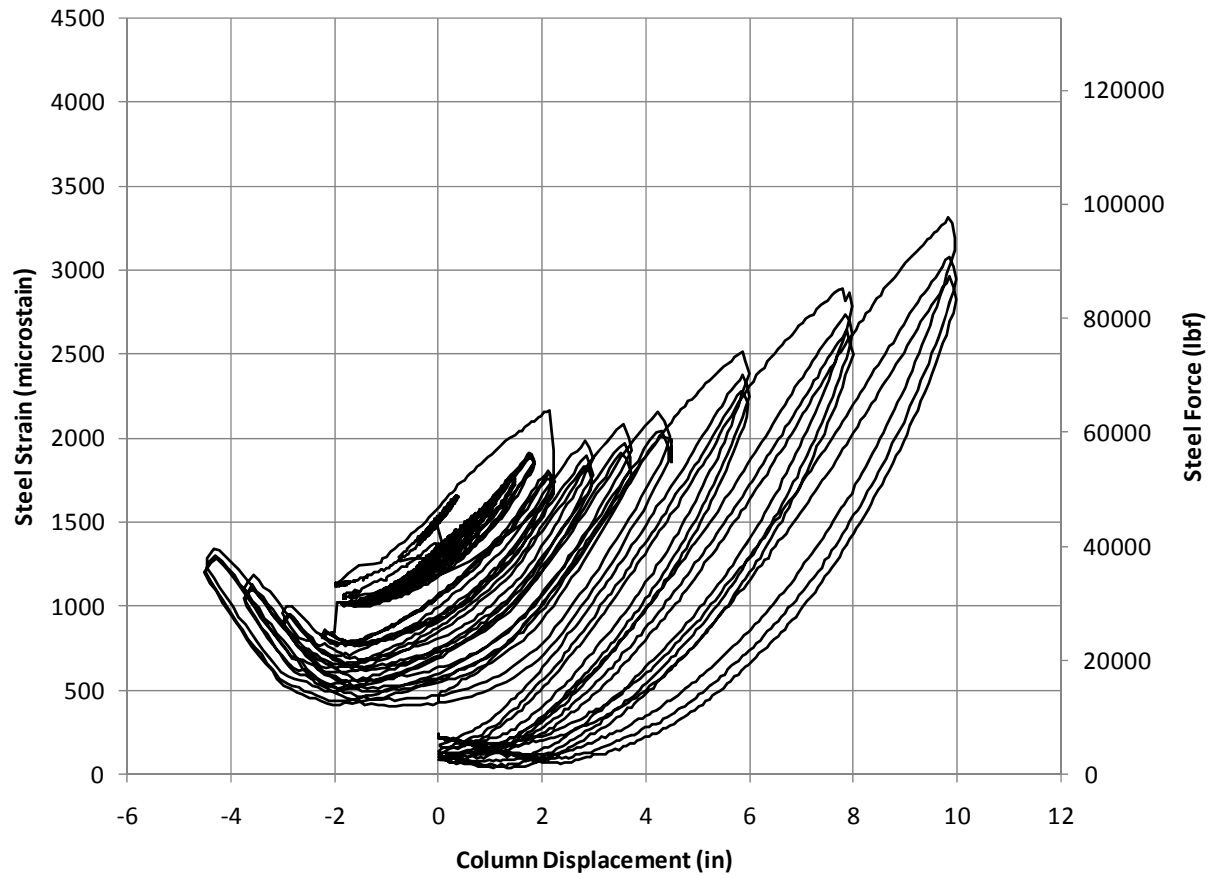
**Figure 37: Post-tensioning Sequence**

During of the FRP-1, FRP-S, and FRP-T specimens significant gaps opened between the interfaces between base and first segment, and segments themselves. This led to an elongation in the post-tensioning bar which in turn led to a higher strain and force in the bar. With a maximum capacity of 187.5 kips the post-tensioning forces achieved in specimen FRP-T were approximately 65% of capacity, a significant increase from the 30% initial post-tensioning force. After the peak displacement for a cycle and return back to origin, the strain in the post-tensioning bar reduced. This reduction was due to permanent elongation in the post-tensioning bar. As the

bar elongated it was subjected to higher levels of stress and strain until it exceeded the elastic limit. After exceeding the elastic limit for the steel the post-tensioning bar began to behave plastically, and as the bar was unloaded by the load-displacement cycle reversing there was permanent elongation present in the bar. Subsequent cycles at the same displacement level would lead to additional reduction in the steel strain, but to a lesser magnitude. This is demonstrated in Figure 38 for specimen FRP-T and Figure 39 for specimen FRP-S. After testing was completed, the final strain and therefore post-tensioning force reduced by a significant amount.

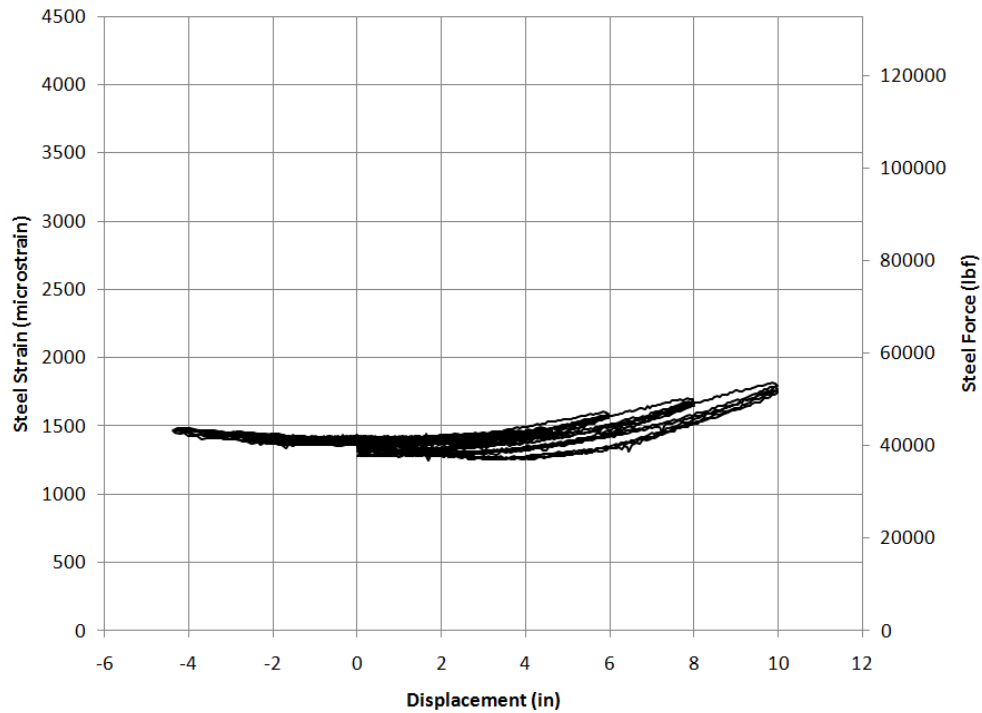


**Figure 38: Specimen FRP-T Displacement vs. Steel Strain**



**Figure 39: Specimen FRP-S Displacement vs. Steel Strain**

Specimen FRP-R showed little change in post-tensioning force when compared to the other FRP specimens. This is a result of the addition of the rubber, which deflected and caused the rotation instead of a gap opening. Because of the rubber deflecting, the post-tensioning bar underwent little elongation and therefore little change in strain. The post-tensioning bar strain is plotted against displacement in Figure 40. Little permanent loss in the post-tensioning force occurred for this specimen.

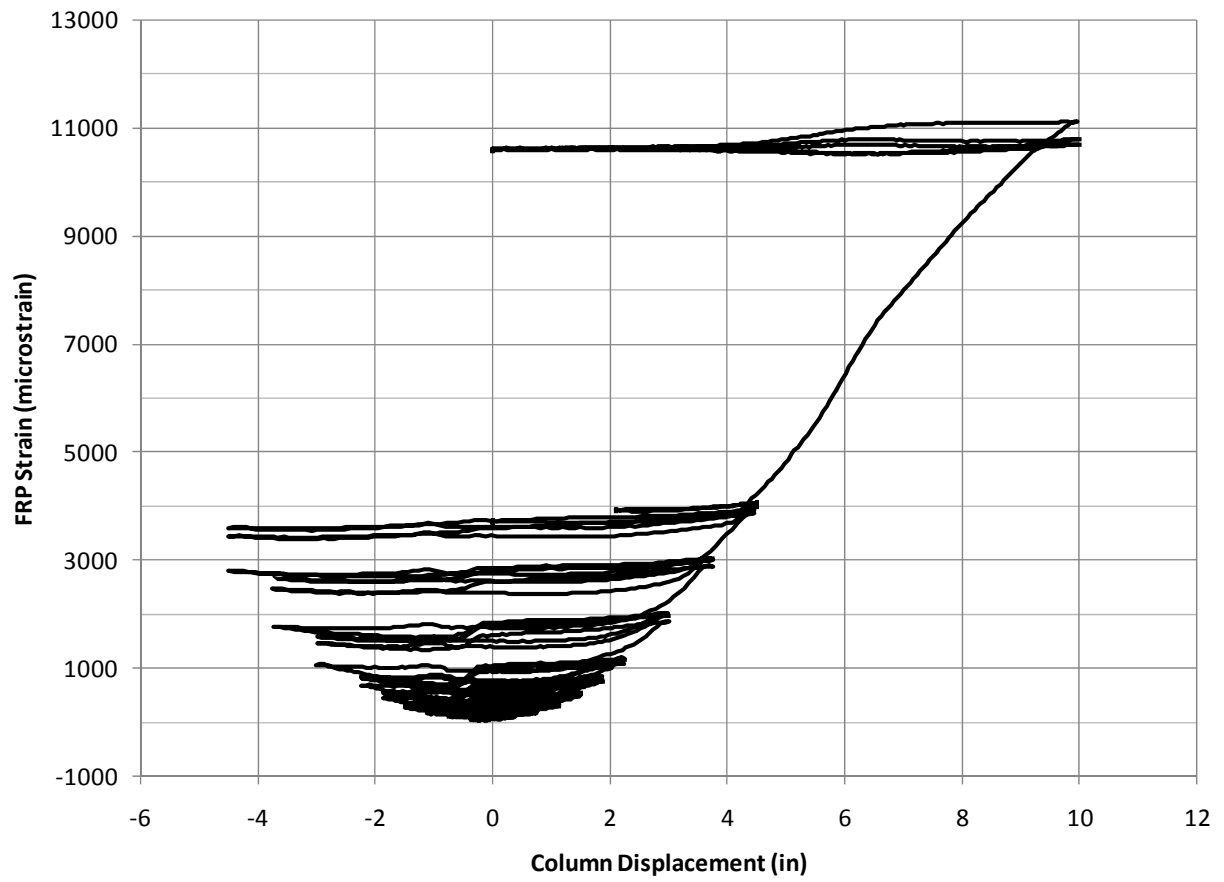


**Figure 40: Specimen FRP-R Displacement vs. Steel Strain**

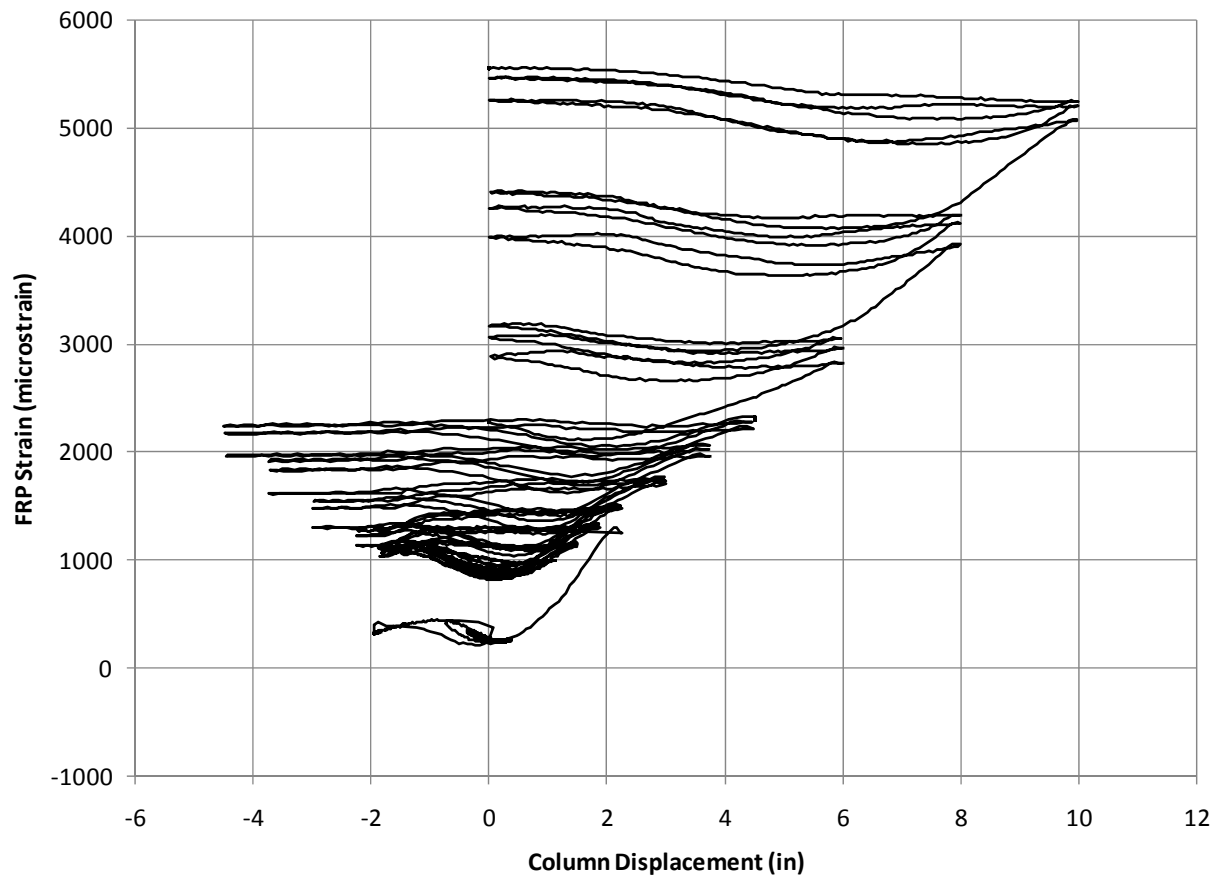
#### **4.10 FRP Strain**

Strain in the FRP was measured on the external surface of the FRP at several points throughout testing. Strains measured were both longitudinal and circumferential. Circumferential strains for Specimens FRP-1, FRP-S, FRP-R, and FRP-T are shown in Figures 41, 42, 43, and 44 respectively. This circumferential strain was measured at a point two inches above the bottom of the column. Specimen FRP-R did not see significant increase in the post-tensioning force as the remainder of the FRP specimens did. This caused the circumferential strain to remain relatively constant throughout the test, much like the strain in the post-tensioning bar for specimen FRP-R. The circumferential strain increases throughout testing and does not return to the original amount after each cycle. This is possibly due to microcracking of the concrete confined within the FRP tubes.

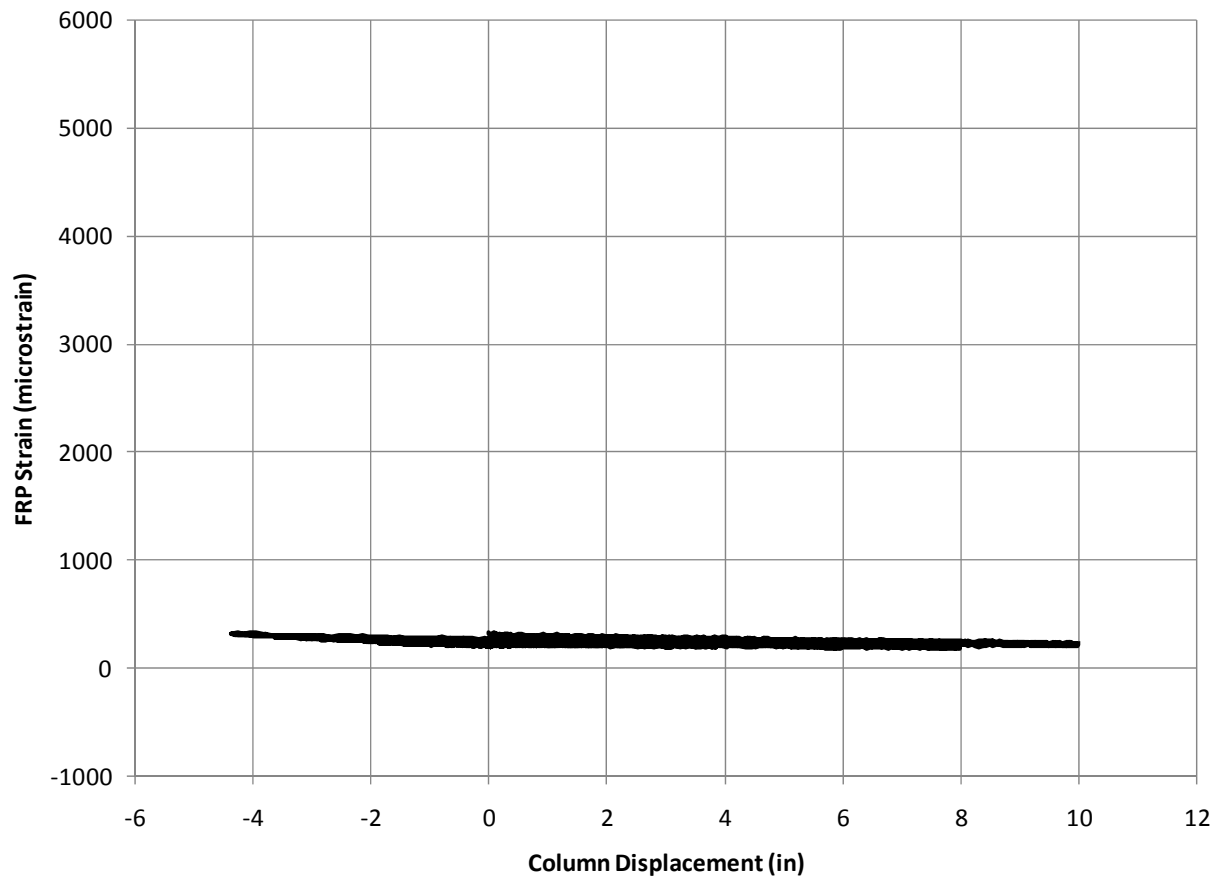




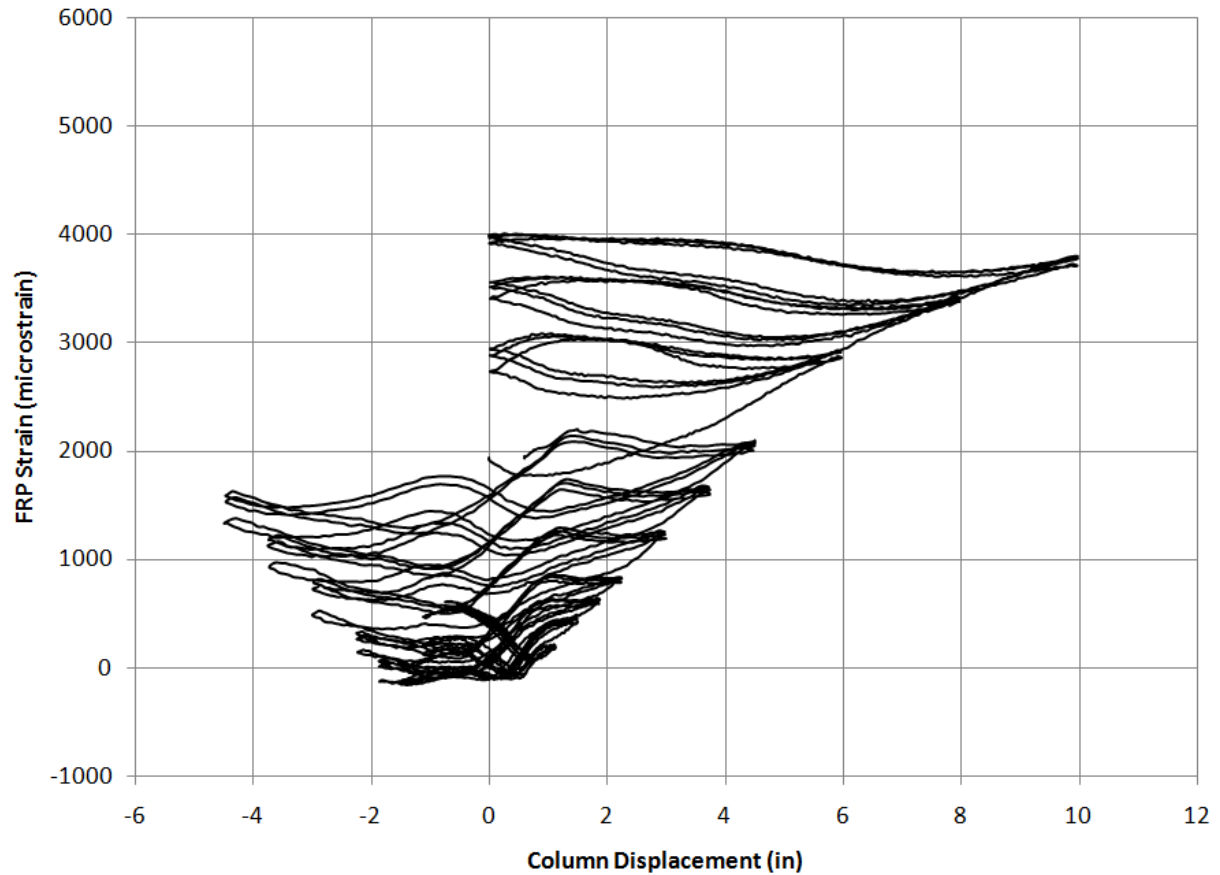
**Figure 41: Specimen FRP-1 Circumferential Strain**



**Figure 42: Specimen FRP-S Circumferential Strain**

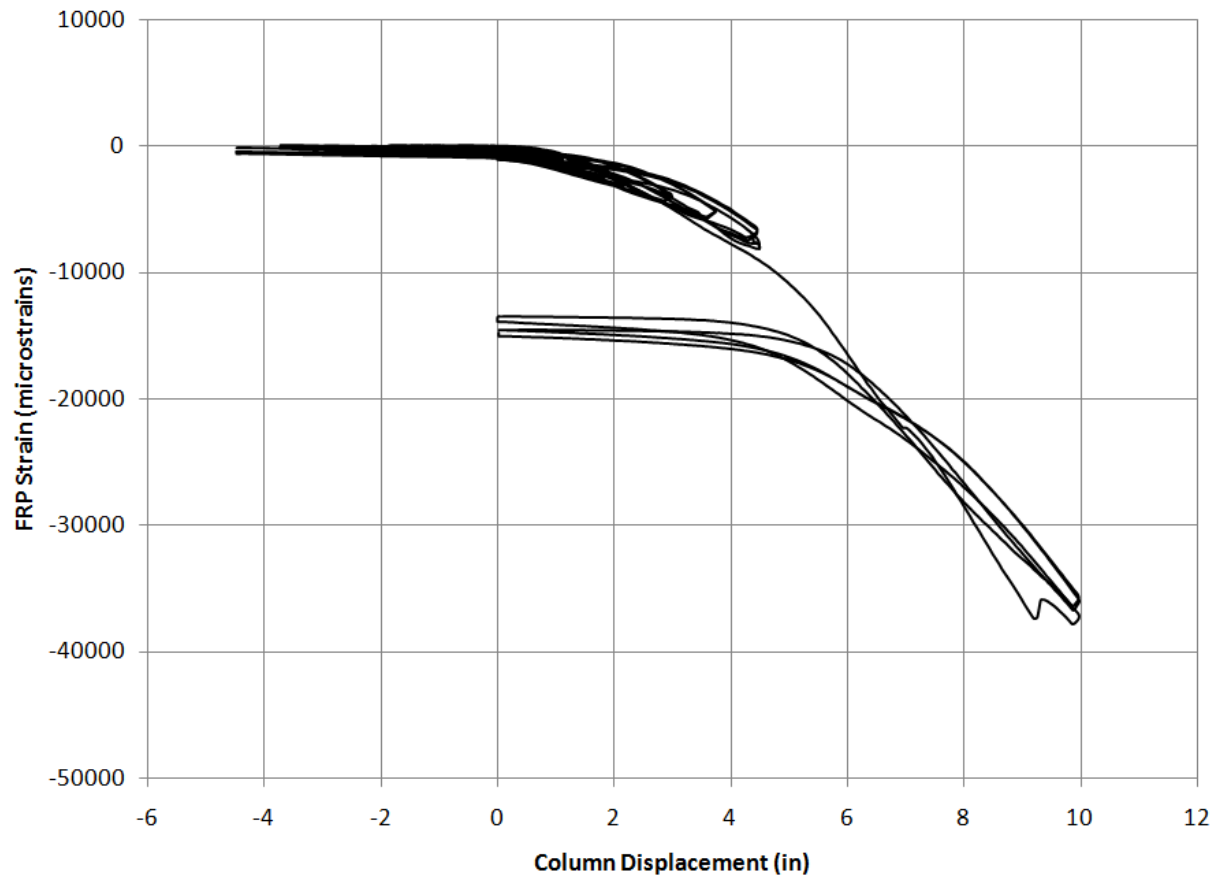


**Figure 43: Specimen FRP-R Circumferential Strain**

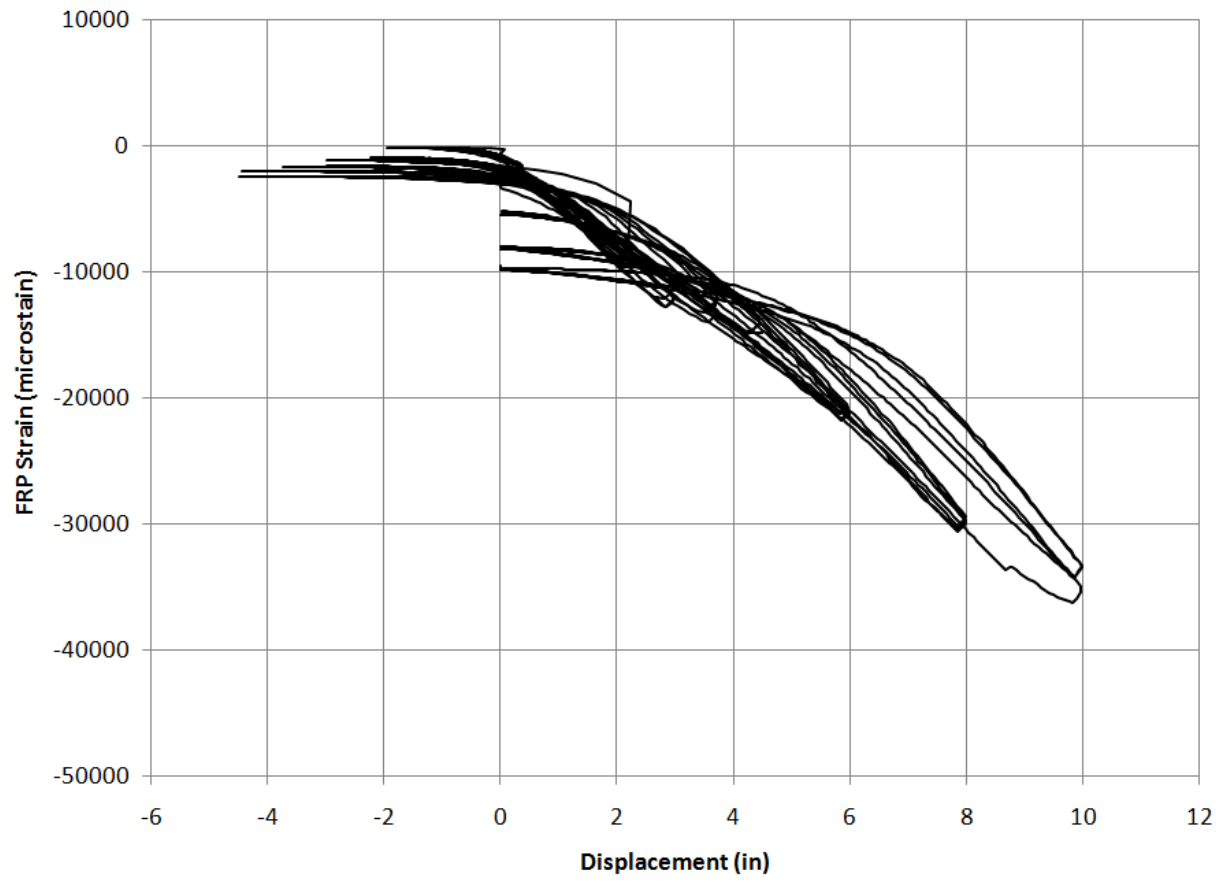


**Figure 44: Specimen FRP-T Circumferential Strain**

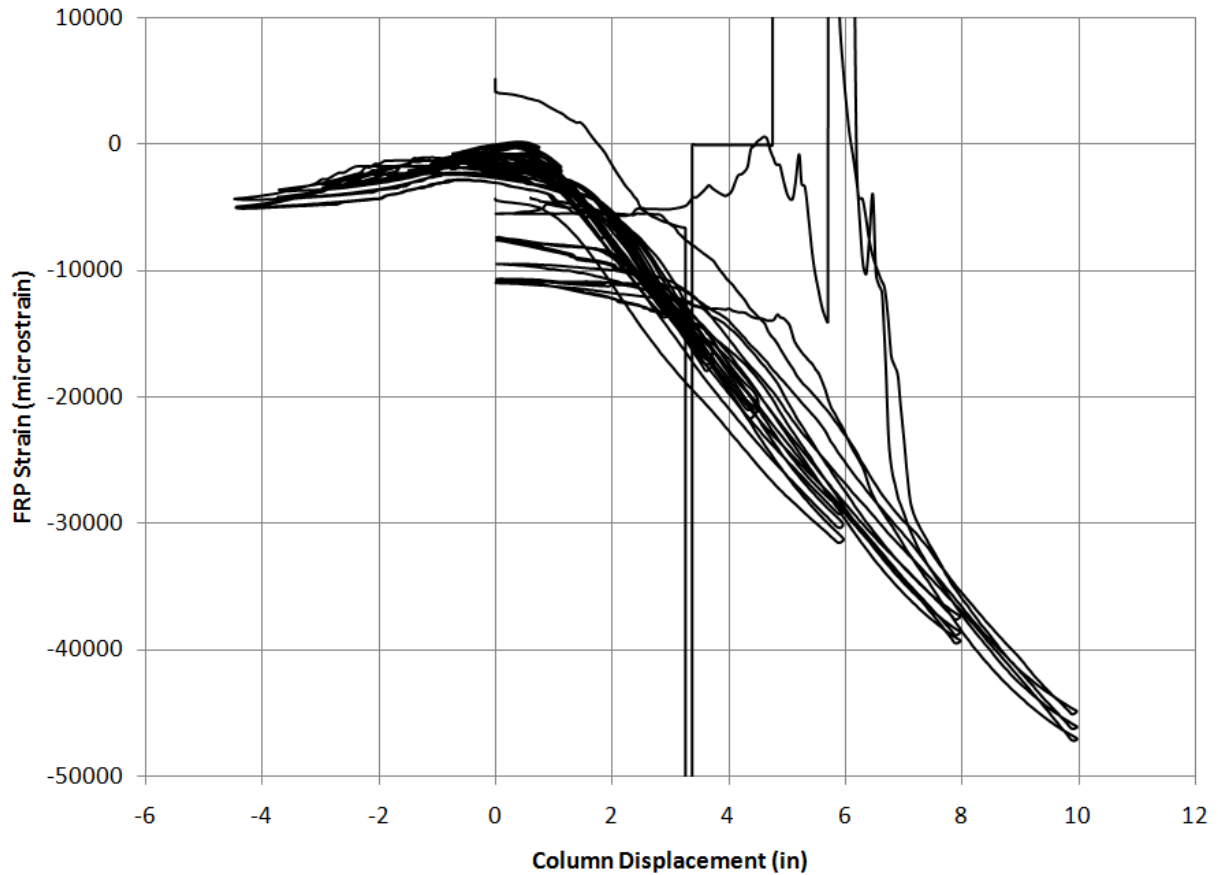
The longitudinal strain was also measured through the testing. The longitudinal strain measured two inches from the bottom of the column on the north (pull) side of specimens FRP-1, FRP-S, and FRP-T are shown in Figures 45, 46, and 47 respectively. It should be noted that specimen FRP-T had intermittent failure of the strain gage leading to discontinuities in the data. The negative strain values indicate a compression stress on the material. This is consistent with the rocking mechanism that developed, as the column rocked up on the edge a stress concentration would occur due to the FRP and concrete directly bearing on the foundation.



**Figure 45: Specimen FRP-1 Longitudinal Strain**



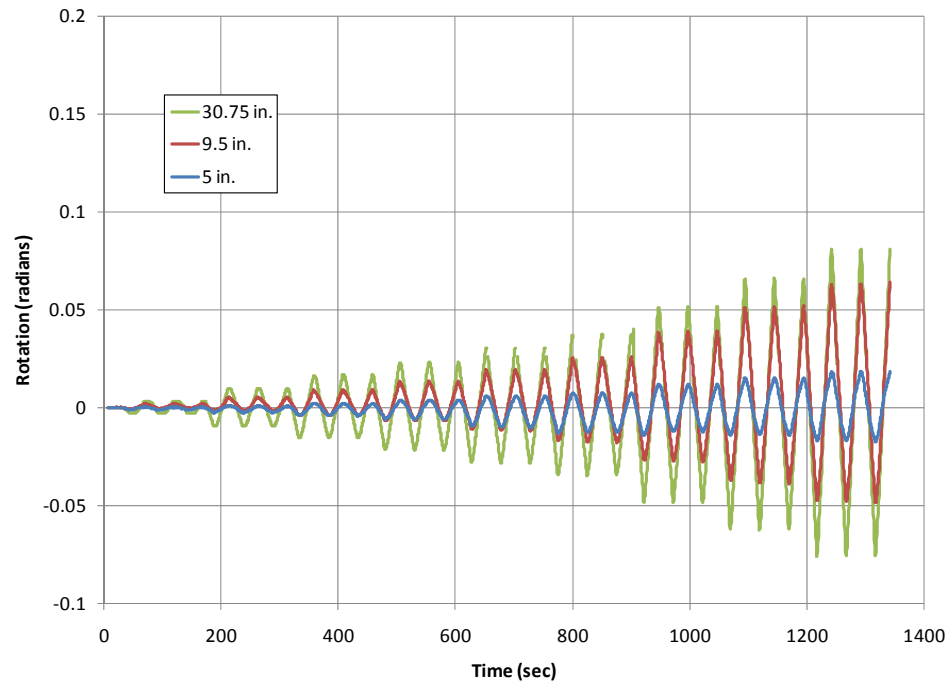
**Figure 46: Specimen FRP-S Longitudinal Strain**



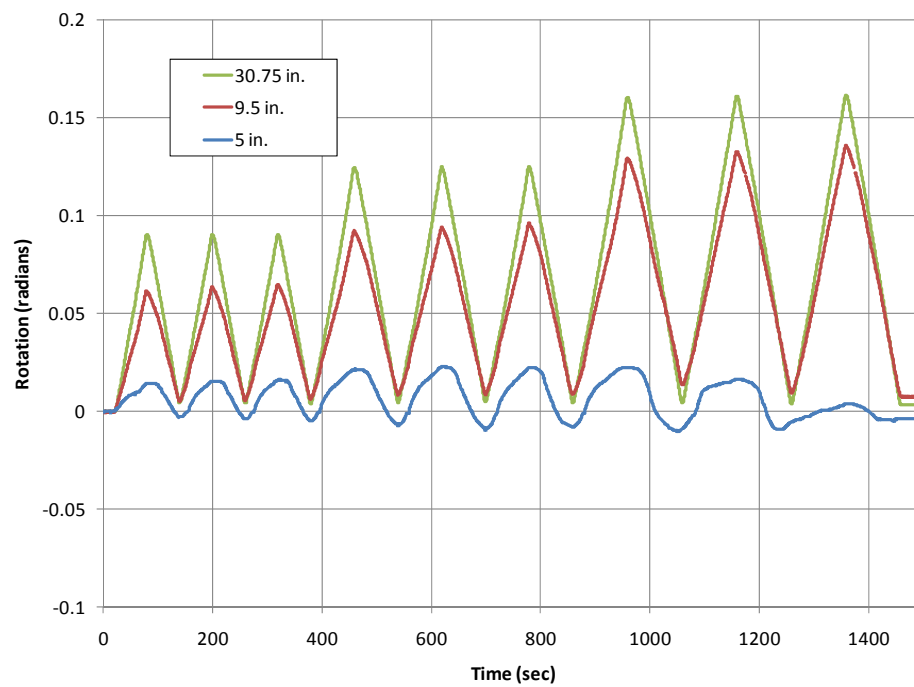
**Figure 47: Specimen FRP-T Longitudinal Strain**

#### **4.11 Rotations**

Rotation of the columns through each of the load protocols was determined through the use of string potentiometers as discussed in chapter 3. Rotation was measured at three sections for each of the column. Figures 48 and 49 show the rotation at the measured sections for the monolithic RC specimen for first and second displacement-based loading patterns, respectively. In testing a plastic hinge formed between the 5 in. and 9.5 in. sections. This resulted in the rotation at these two sections differing significantly, while the rotation between the 9.5 in. and 30.75 in. section were very similar due to the column rotating about the plastic hinge.



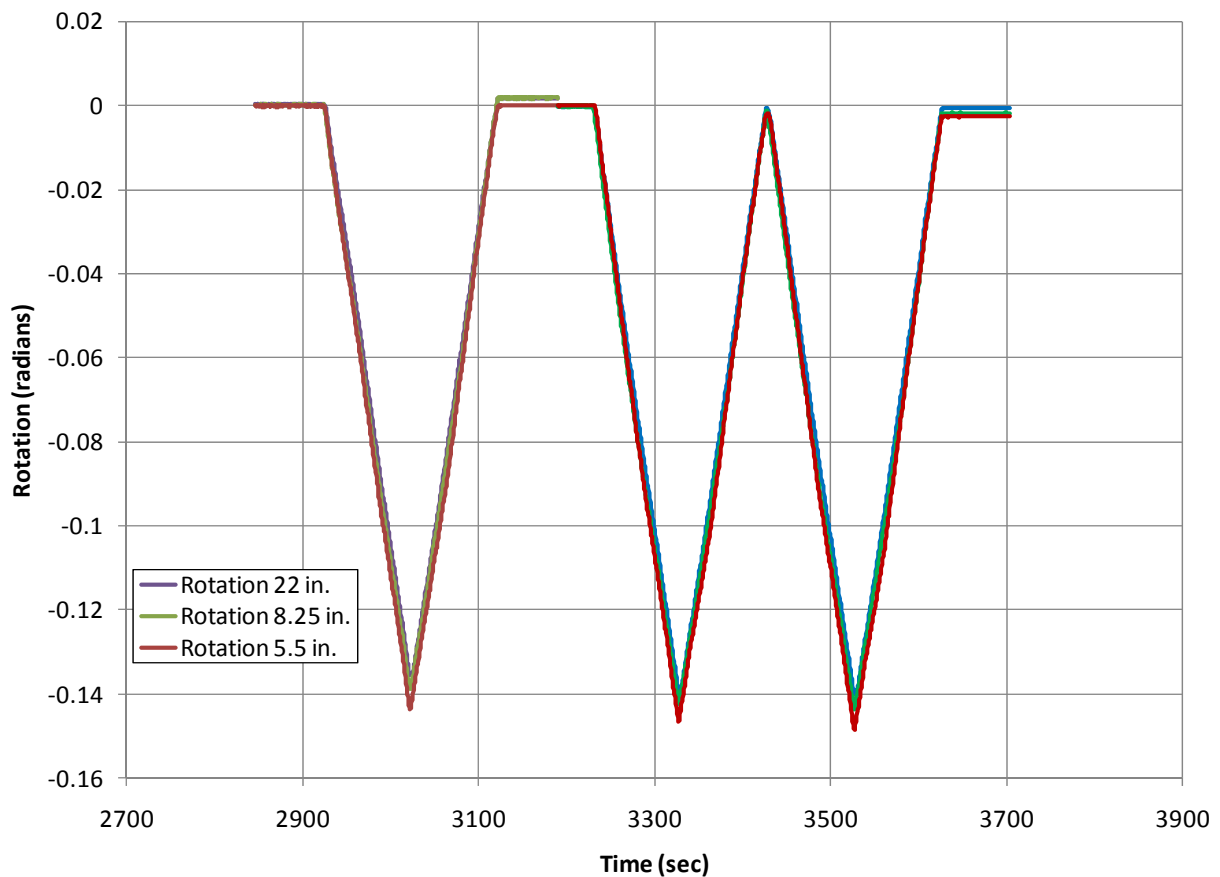
**Figure 48: Specimen RC Section Rotation for First Load Protocol**



**Figure 49: Specimen RC Section Rotation for Second Load Protocol**

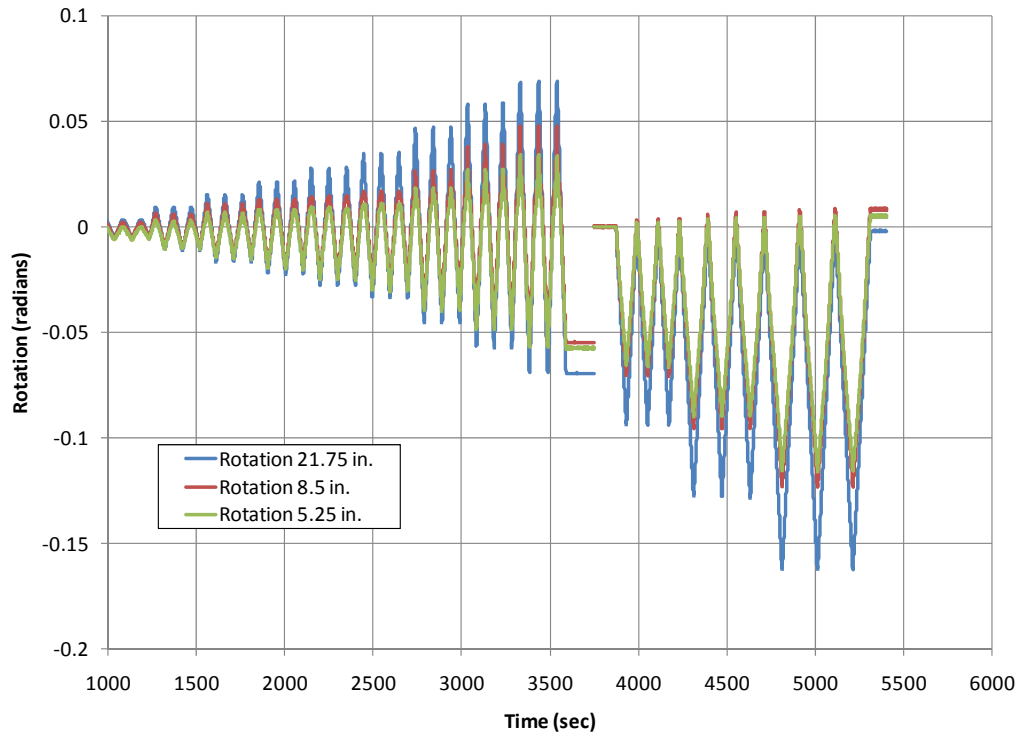


Rotations for specimen FRP-1 were not gathered for the initial load protocol due to operator error. Rotations at the given sections were recorded for the second load protocol (10 in. displacement only) and are presented in Figure 50. The rotations at the sections are very consistent with each other as the column segment as a whole rotated about the base during the displacement patterns.

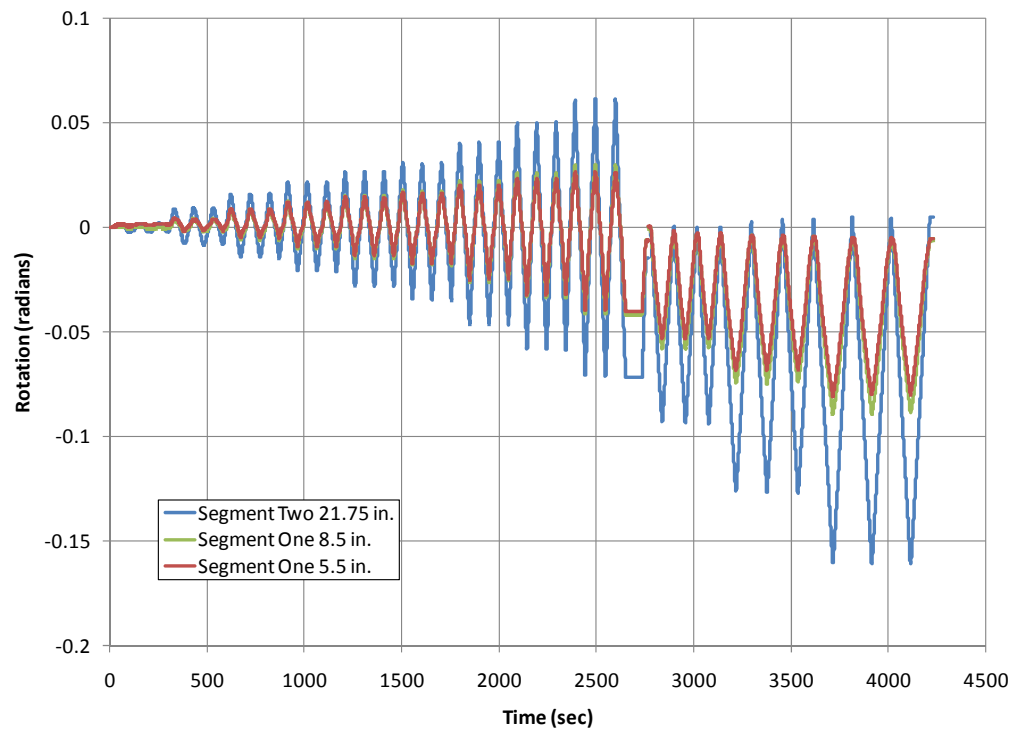


**Figure 50: Specimen FRP-1 Section Rotations for Second Load Protocol**

The rotations for specimens FRP-S and FRP-T showed similar behavior to specimen FRP-1. The individual FRP segments rotated about each other, and consecutive rotation measurements within a single FRP segment showed little differences from each other. The rotation for specimens FRP-S and FRP-T are shown in Figures 51 and 52, respectively.



**Figure 51: Specimen FRP-S Section Rotation**



**Figure 52: Specimen FRP-T Section Rotation**

## 4.12 Curvature

Curvature was measured for the monolithic RC specimen and FRP specimens FRP-S and FRP-T at the first peak displacement for each displacement level. At three points along the column the curvature was calculated, and these points correspond to the points at which the rotations were measured. Curvature for the monolithic RC specimen is shown in Figure 53. Curvature for specimens FRP-S and FRP-T are shown in Figure 54 and Figure 55, respectively.

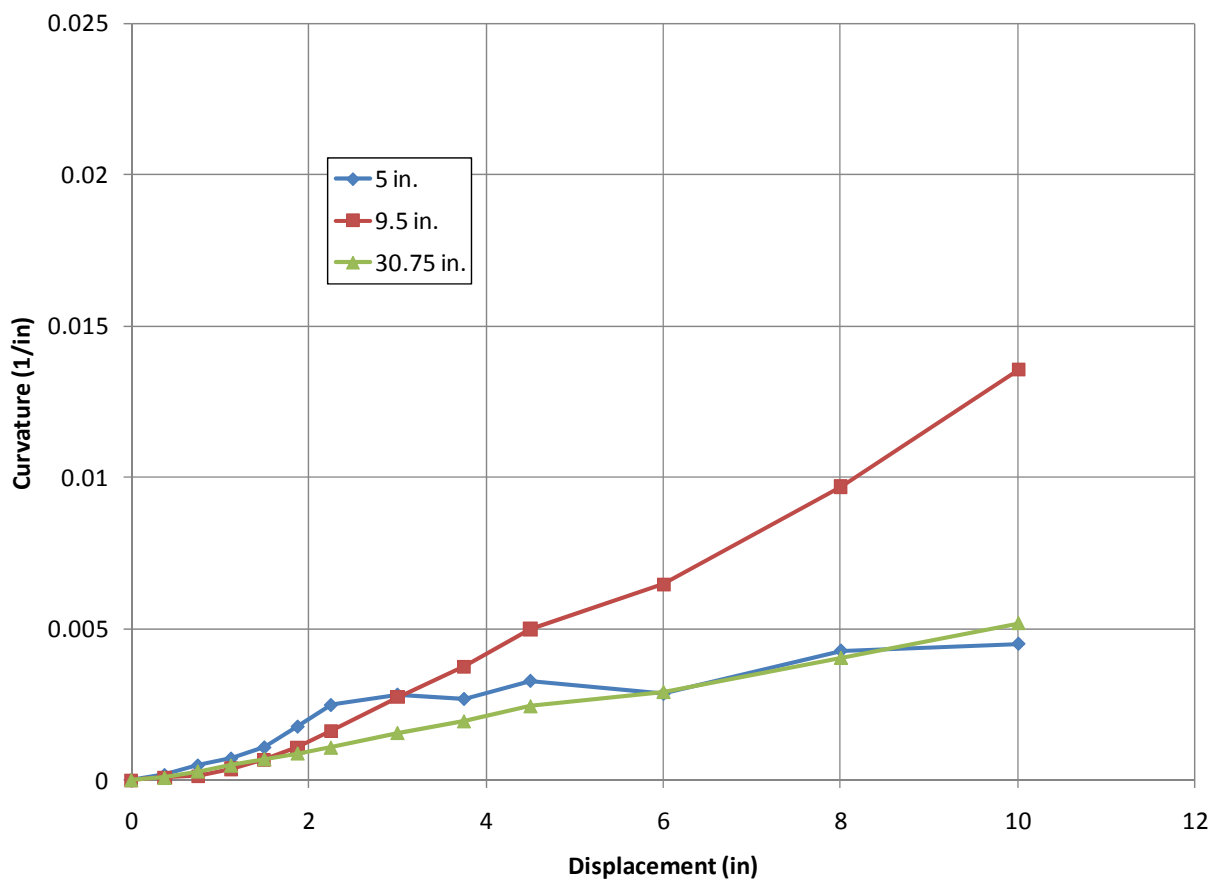


Figure 53: Specimen RC Curvature

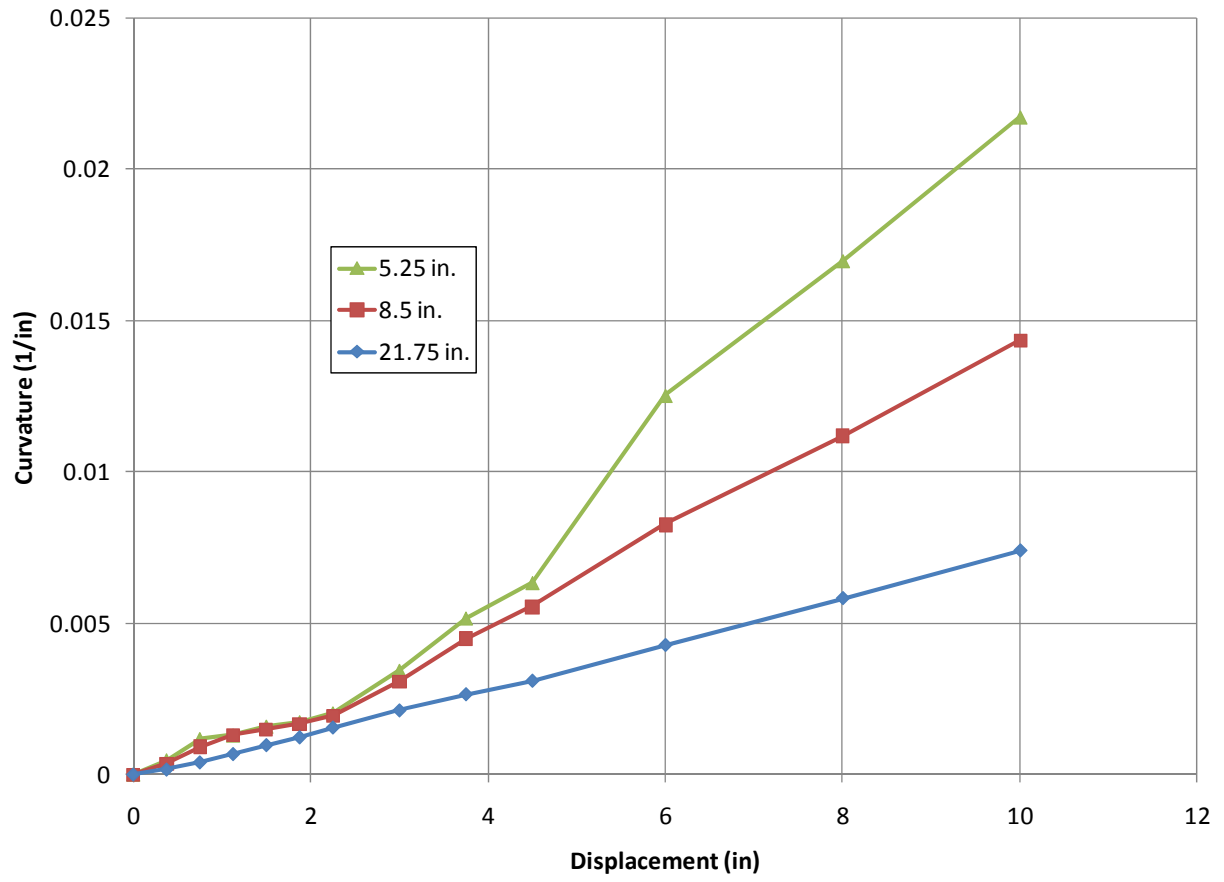


Figure 54: Specimen FRP-S Curvature

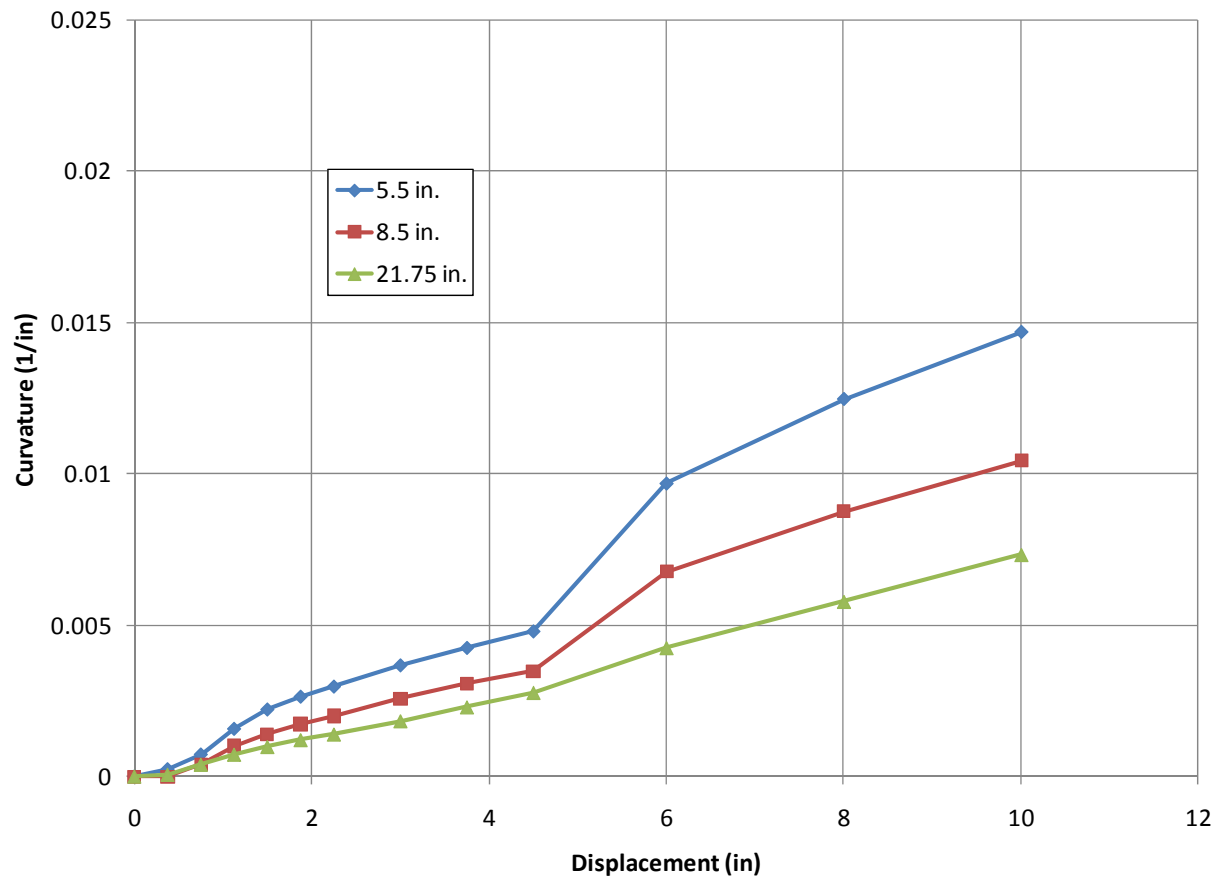


Figure 55: Specimen FRP-T Curvature

## **CHAPTER 5: ANALYSIS OF TEST RESULTS**

### **5.1 Moment Curvature Analysis**

This chapter evaluates the performance of the test specimens against simplified theoretical performance models. An XTRACT moment-curvature analysis was utilized for the monolithic RC specimen. Theoretical load-displacement performance of the FRP specimens was completed using the procedure outlined by Hewes and Priestley (2002).

### **5.2 Monolithic RC Performance**

XTRACT was used to determine the curvature and moment at the points of initial yield and ultimate capacity of the cross section. Data input into the program was all relevant as-built dimensions and material properties. These values for moment and curvature were used to calculate the load-displacement predicted performance of specimen RC. The results of this analysis along with the actual test results can be seen in Figure 56. The monolithic RC specimen shows similar initial stiffness up to the point of first yield. In the plastic region the column exhibits significantly larger ductility than predicted.

To determine the force-displacement characteristics several key pieces of information were taken from the XTRACT analysis. The XTRACT analysis can be seen in Appendix A.  $\Phi_y$  was taken as the curvature at yield, and  $\Phi_n$  as the ultimate curvature. Moments at yield and at the ultimate moment were also taken and divided by the height of the column of 65 in. to obtain lateral forces at yield and at ultimate capacity to match with the displacements. The displacement at yield  $\Delta_y$  was calculated by simple elastic beam theory from the effective EI value given by the XTRACT analysis. In order to predict the displacement  $\Delta_{ult}$  at the ultimate capacity the rotation about the plastic hinge is determined. This is completed with the following equations where  $L$  is

the column length,  $d_b$  the longitudinal bar diameter,  $f_y$  the longitudinal steel yield stress,  $l_p$  the plastic hinge length, and  $\Delta_p$  the plastic displacement.

$$\Delta_y = \frac{\Phi_y L^2}{3} \quad (\text{Equation 4})$$

$$l_p = 0.08 * L + 0.15 * d_b * f_y \quad (\text{Equation 5})$$

$$\Delta_p = (\Phi_n - \Phi_y) * l_p * (L - 0.5 * l_p) \quad (\text{Equation 6})$$

$$\Delta_{ult} = \Delta_y + \Delta_p \quad (\text{Equation 7})$$

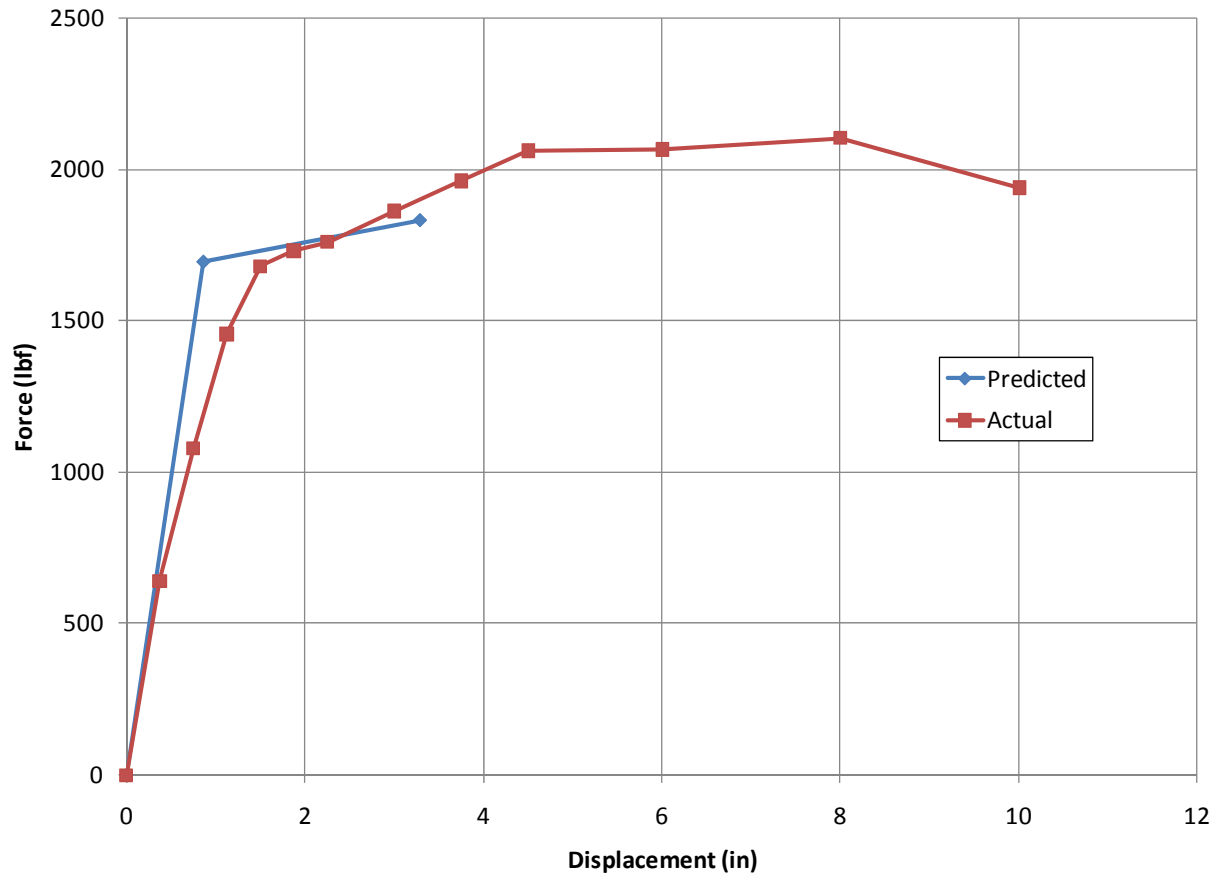


Figure 56: Specimen RC Load-Displacement Analysis

### 5.3 FRP Specimen Performance

The predicted load-displacement performance of the FRP specimens was done using the procedure developed by Hewes and Priestley (2002). A moment-curvature analysis of the segmented system was first completed. This moment curvature analysis was used to calculate the load-displacement performance at three key stages by the method developed by Hewes and Priestley; loss of pre-compression, rigid rotation with no increase in tendon force, and rigid rotation with increase in tension force leading to ultimate capacity. The results of this simple analysis are presented along with the actual response of specimen FRP-1 in Figure 57. This



analysis only predicted the response for a specimen consisting of only one segment interface at the bottom of the column.

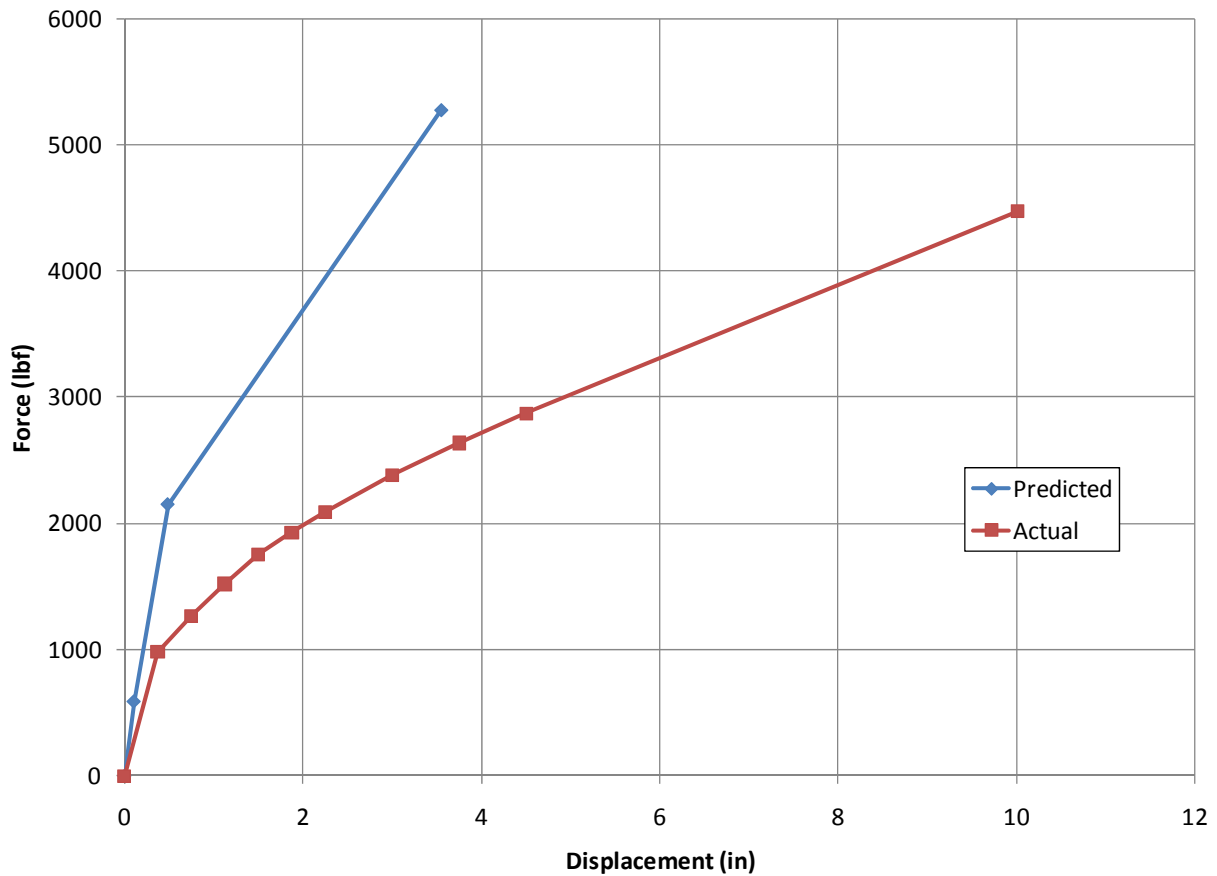


Figure 57: Specimen FRP-1 Load-Displacement Analysis

## 5.4 Interpretation of Analysis

Key difference can be noted in both of the analyses. Both columns displayed greater ductility than predicted. This can be attributed to inaccuracies in the models for predicting the performance near failure. The moment-curvature analysis performed for the FRP specimens is highly subject to user input for determining the performance near the point of failure.

Both of the analyses did not account for the cyclic nature of the test and the relevant interim damage to the specimens. For the monolithic RC specimen, the cyclic characteristics of the test caused some stiffness degradation prior to the initial yielding. In the FRP specimen, the cyclic test procedure caused loss of post-tension force in the system for subsequent cycles. This loss in post-tensioning caused the force-displacement response to become less stiff after each cycle where loss in post-tensioning occurred, making the force required for a given displacement less, and reducing some of the overall damage to the column. Specimen FRP-S lost 80% of the initial post-tensioning force once the entire test procedure was completed and the column returned to a zero displacement condition. Taking into account of this loss in post-tensioning and the cyclic nature of the test could result in a more accurate analysis for future work.

## **CHAPTER 6: FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

A finite element analysis using ABAQUS/Standard was performed in order to predict the performance of specimens FRP-1 and FRP-S. Specimens FRP-1 and FRP-S were compared to the force-displacement analysis method discussed in Chapter 5 and with testing results.

### **6.2 Model Setup**

Specimen FRP-1 was modeled as a circular column 66 in. in height and 8 in. in diameter. This model consisted of four separate part instances. The concrete portion consisted of two different material models. For the 60 in. of the column representing the actual column, an elastic-plastic concrete was defined using Mander's confined concrete model (Mander, 1988) discussed in Chapter 2. For purposes of loading the column and post-tensioning a loading stub was created by extending circular portion of the column by 6 in. out the top. This load stub had an elastic material definition similar to that of steel ( $E=29000\text{ksi}$ ). This would allow the forces from embedding the post-tensioning wire to be distributed without causing premature failure in the model. The column was meshed with a 0.5 in element size and using C3D8R elements which are three-dimensional brick elements consisting of 8 nodes with reduced integration. Material properties are included in the portion of the input file found in Appendix B.

An elastic material model was used in defining the FRP tube around the concrete. This tube extended 60 in. high for the FRP-1 model to match the single segment column. The FRP was also modeled with C3D8R elements with a 0.5 in. element size and a thickness of 0.25 in. The foundation was modeled with C3D8R elements on which the column sat, with an analytical rigid material definition. This ensured that failure in the base material would not dictate model performance.

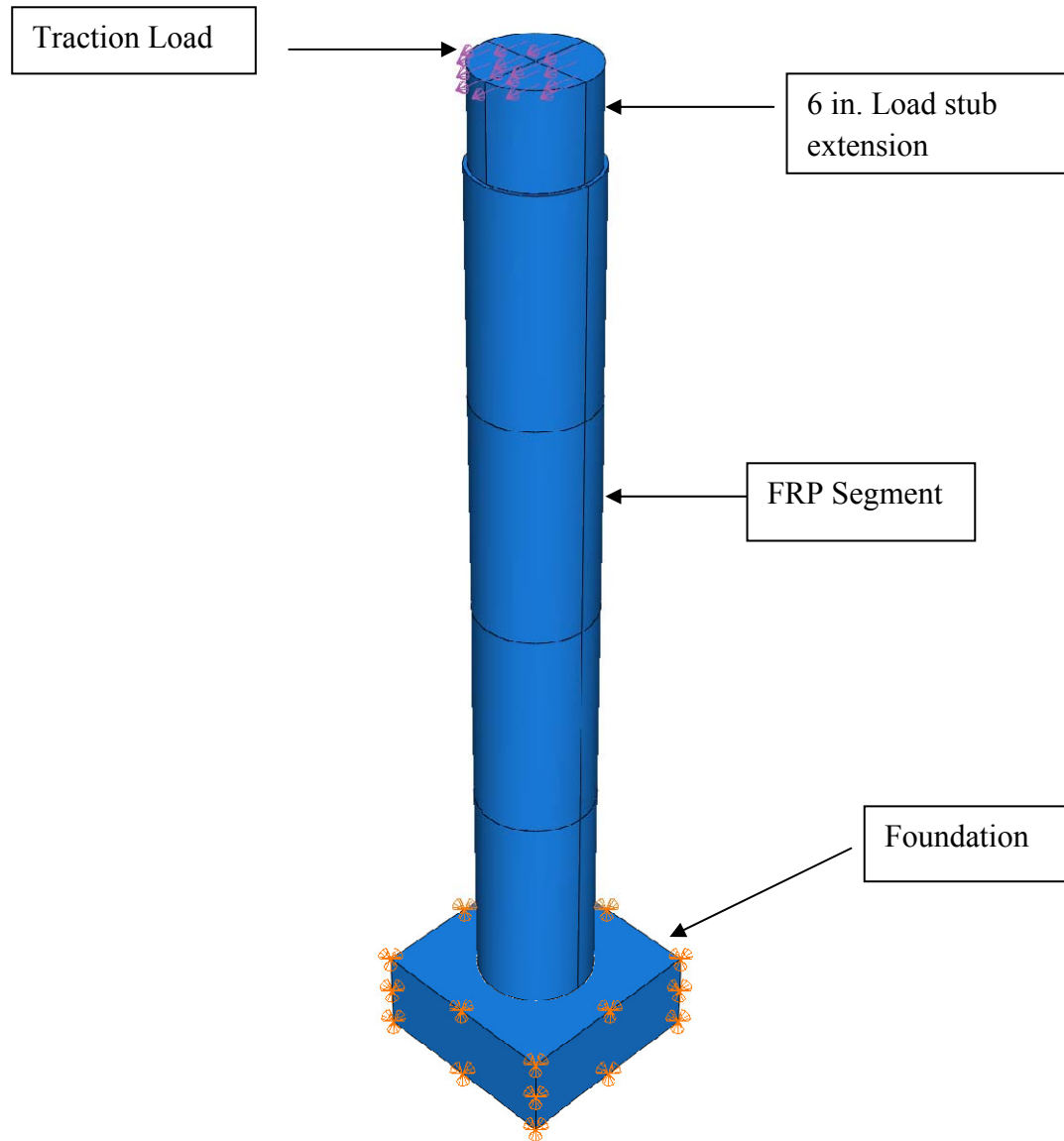
To post-tension the column system together and to the base, the post-tensioning bar was modeled as a T3D2 three dimensional two node truss model with elements 1 in. long. The bar was given an elastic-plastic material definition in line with the specification for 150ksi post-tensioning bars.

The interactions between differing elements in this model were assumed to play a large role in the performance. Interactions between the FRP and column, column and base, and FRP and base were all defined with interaction properties. These interactions composed of tangential friction and a hard contact for interaction normal to the surface. As the interior surface of the FRP was very smooth, a friction coefficient of 0.1 was assigned to any FRP-concrete interface. Concrete-concrete interfaces were given a friction coefficient of 0.5. For interface properties normal to the surface an augmented Lagrange hard contact formulation was adopted to allow for the materials to separate from each other in tension but not penetrate through each other in compression. Interaction properties can be found in the portion of the ABAQUS input file found in Appendix B.

In order to simulate the post-tensioning, the bar with the truss model formulation was embedded at the ends into both the base and the 6 in. loading stub on the top of the column to model the anchorages. The embedment was carried out in materials that behaved solely elastically so as to not prematurely fail the model. To simulate the post-tensioning force an initial stressed state was placed on the model in the second step of the model at a level of 45 ksi which equals a 30% post-tension. Post-tensioning and embedment properties can also be found in the portion of the ABAQUS input file found in Appendix B.

The ABAQUS model consisted of three steps. The first step initialized the model, and developed contact. The second step applied a post-tensioning by an initial stress state on the truss elements modeling the post-tensioning bar. The third step was the main analysis which applied the monotonic lateral load on the model.

The load on the model was applied as a surface traction on the top of the column. This was spread over the top of the 6 in. load stub to eliminate any localized forces which could impair the model. Loading consisted of a monotonic push in a single direction until model failure. This load was increment in ABAQUS until the column failed. In all tests the applied load was not reach as it was an objective of the analysis to determine the maximum applied force. Boundary conditions consisted of fixing the foundation in all directions for both post-tensioning and loading steps, and fixing the top of the 6 in. extension on the column during the post-tensioning step only. Displacement of the column was measured at a node at the top of the 6 in. extension during the analysis. The location of the load and boundary conditions of the base can be seen in Figure 58.

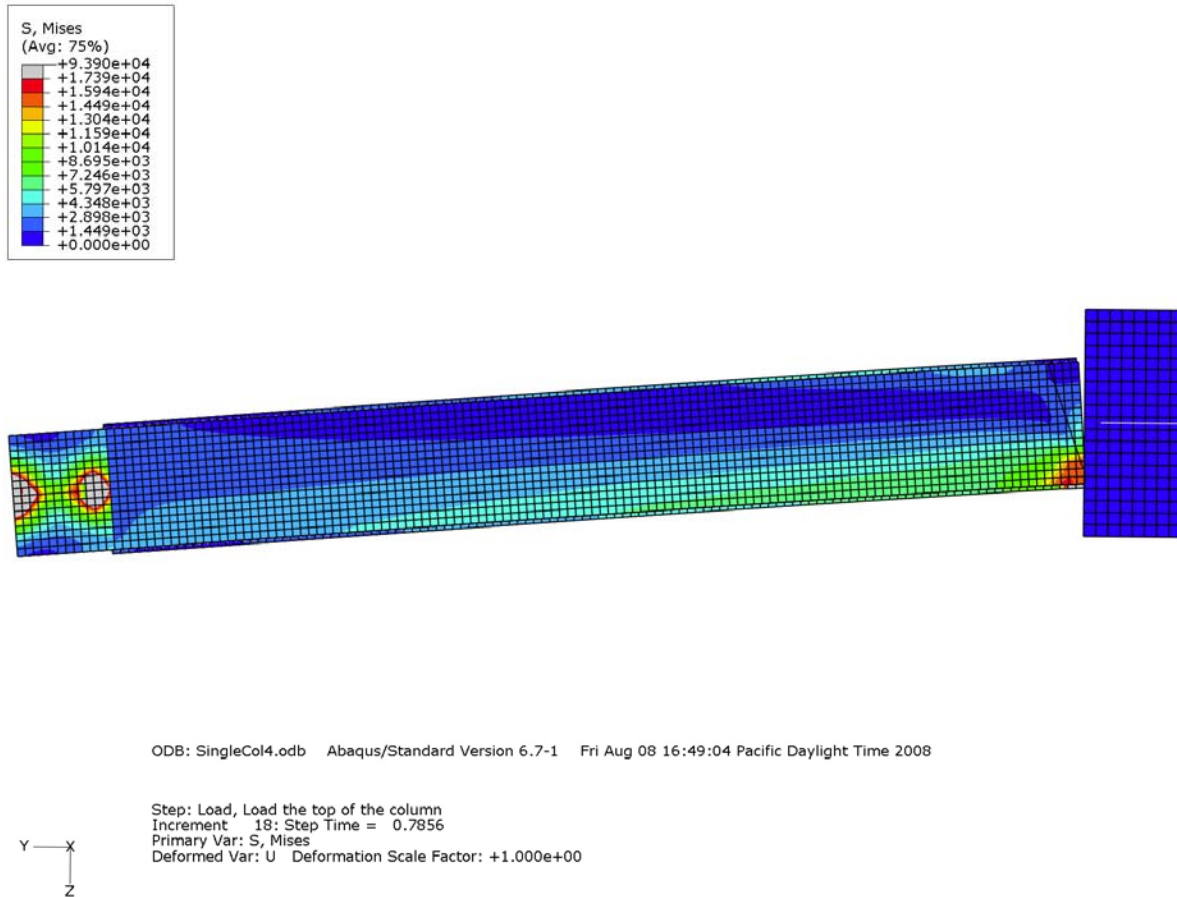


**Figure 58: ABAQUS Model**

Specimen FRP-S was modeled in a very similar manner. The column and FRP parts were divided into 15 in. segments, with the top column segment still possessing a 6 in. loading stub. Interactions were defined between the new column segments with the same properties as the interactions in modeling specimen FRP-1. Total column height, loading, fixity, material properties, bar embedment, and all other aspects of the model were unchanged.

### 6.3 Model Results

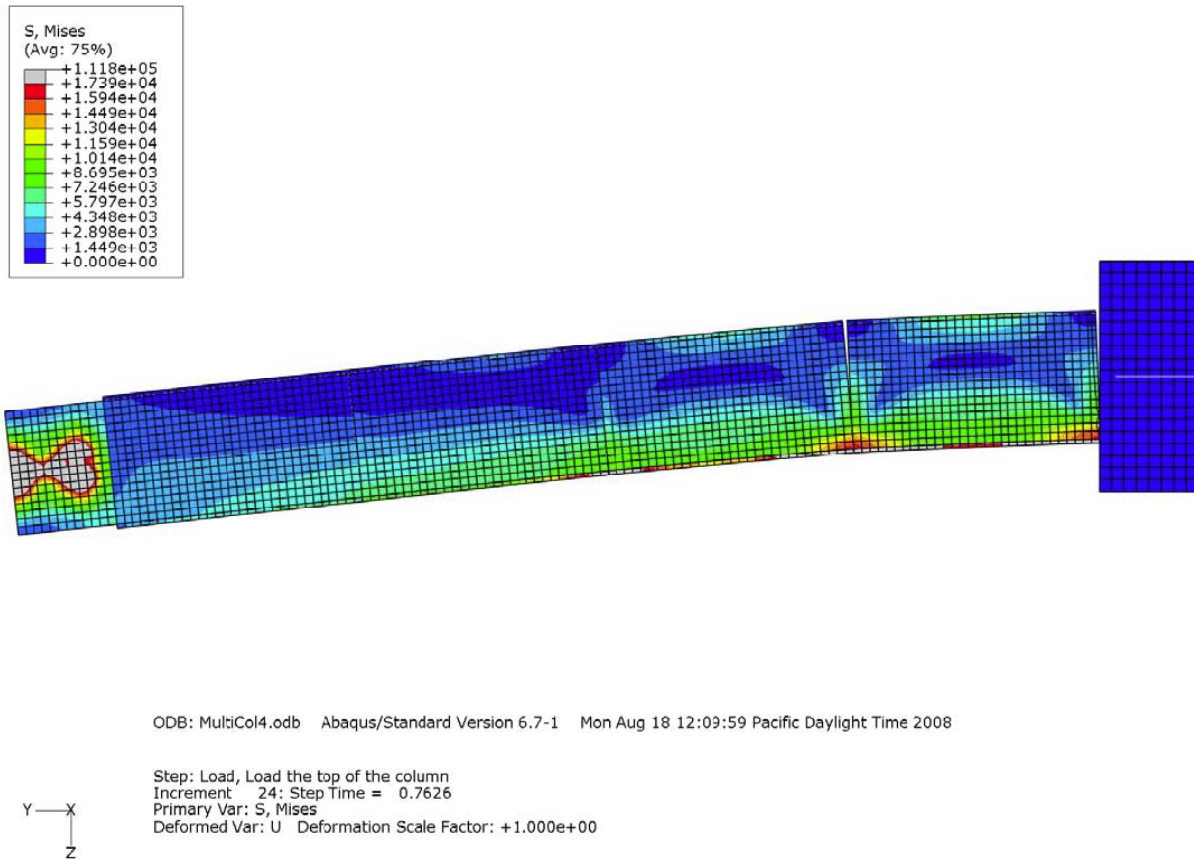
Upon completion of the analysis it was shown that the column developed a pronounced rocking mechanism as suspected. This rocking mechanism developed is the same observed during testing of the specimens. Stress concentrations existed in portions of the concrete in direct compression with the base or other segments. The FRP tube slipped against the column concrete causing the FRP tube to move upwards in relation to the column. The Mises stresses and rocking mechanism can be seen in Figure 59. The countour scale is from 0 to 17,390 psi which is the maximum confined compressive strength of the concrete. The stress concentrations in the 6 in. loading stub are a result of the post-tensioning bar embedment. These stress concentrations are not present in the base as an analytical rigid formulation was used.



**Figure 59: FEA Model FRP-1 Mises Stresses**

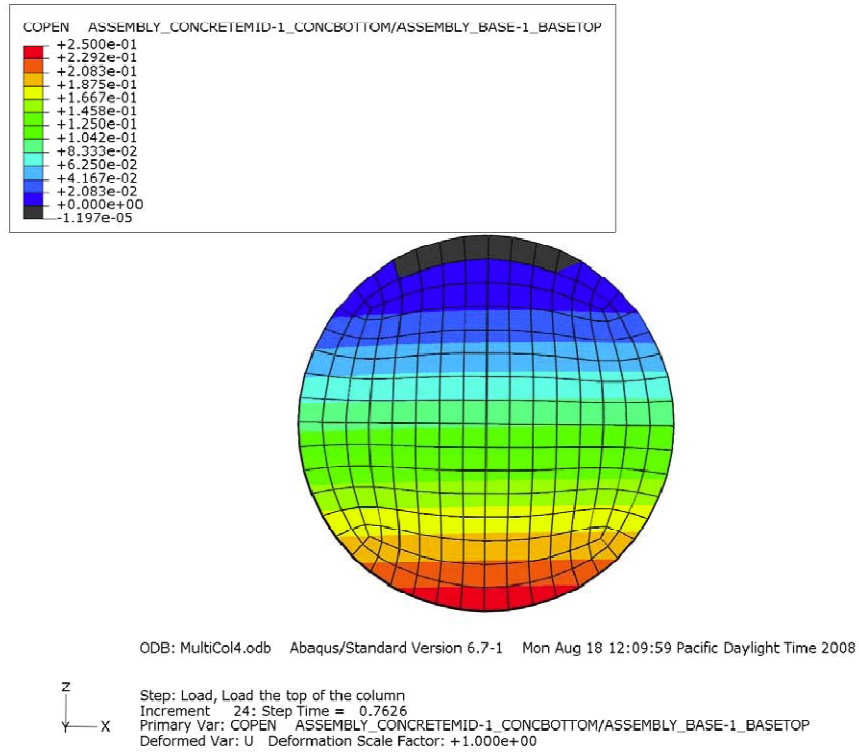
Figure 60 shows the model for specimen FRP-S at the failure load. The rocking mechanism developed at two interfaces. Stress concentrations are similar to those seen in the model for specimen FRP-1. Like the rocking mechanism in the model for specimen FRP-1, the model for FRP-S showed the same rocking mechanism that was observed in testing.



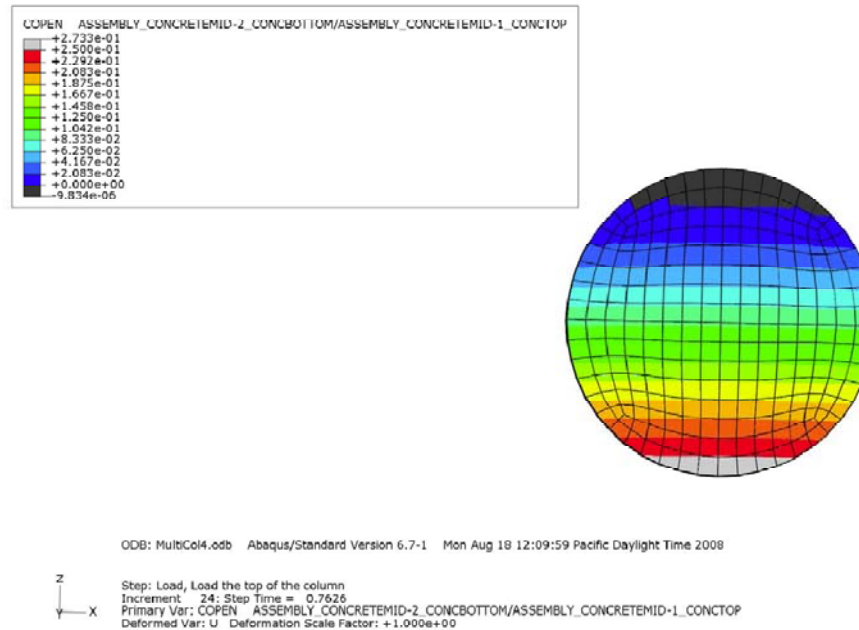


**Figure 60: FEA Model FRP-S Mises Stresses**

Figure 61 shows the distance of separation between the base and first segment, and Figure 62 shows the distance of separation between the first and second segments. This can also be thought of as the gap opening between the segments at the maximum load. Portions in black at the top (positive Z direction) of the images are those in contact, while the remainder of the scale goes to a 0.25 in. separation. These gap openings are less in magnitude than those observed during testing, but the distribution is in line with that observed during testing. The areas in contact are the sources of the concentrations in compressive stresses present in the concrete sections.



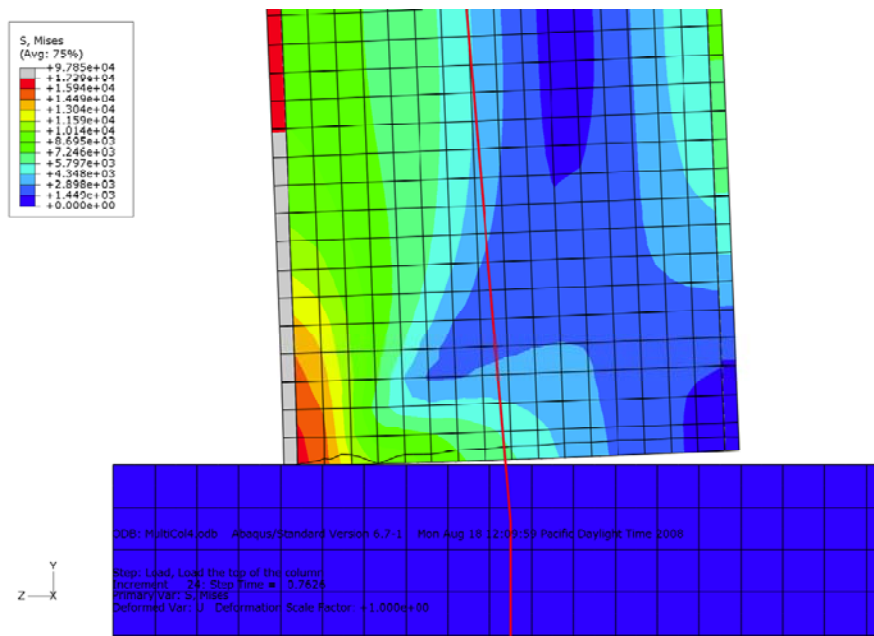
**Figure 61: FEA Model FRP-S Separation Distance Base and 1<sup>st</sup> segment**



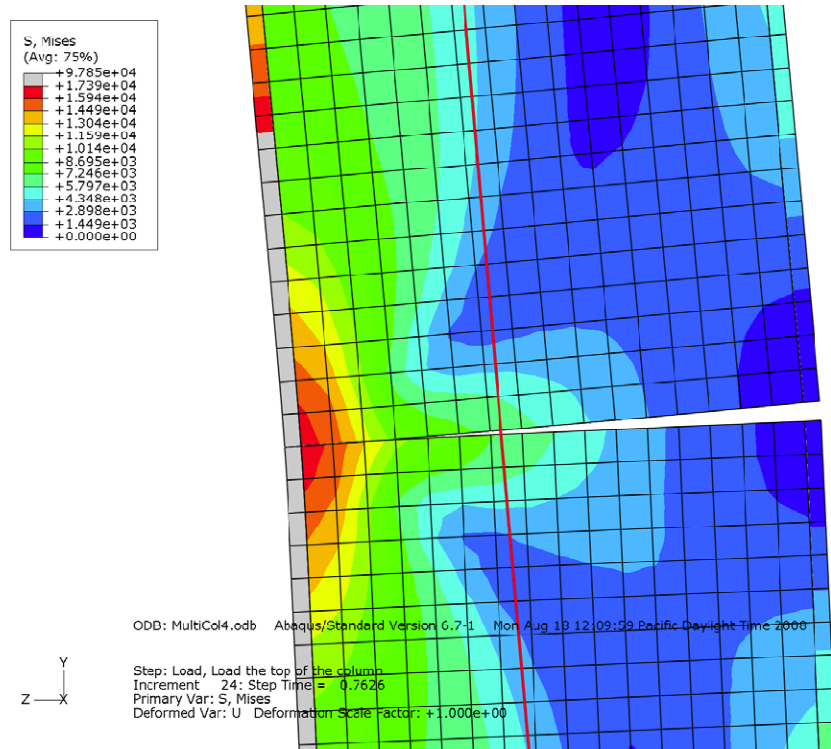
**Figure 62: FEA Model FRP-S Separation Distance 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> segments**

Mises stresses of the model for specimen FRP-S are shown in Figures 63 and 64 for the base-1<sup>st</sup> segment interface and the interface between the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> segments, respectively. These are cuts through the center of the column. The post-tensioning bar can be seen in the center of the segment and foundation. The vertical portion in the first image is the portion which was embedded into the base. The post-tensioning wire was not embedded or bound intermittently through the model. This resulted in a shift of the bar of approximately 1 in. from the center of the segments which is shown in the image of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> segments below. This shift was more than the shift allowed in the tested specimens due to the size of the post-tensioning duct and diameter of the post-tensioning bar.

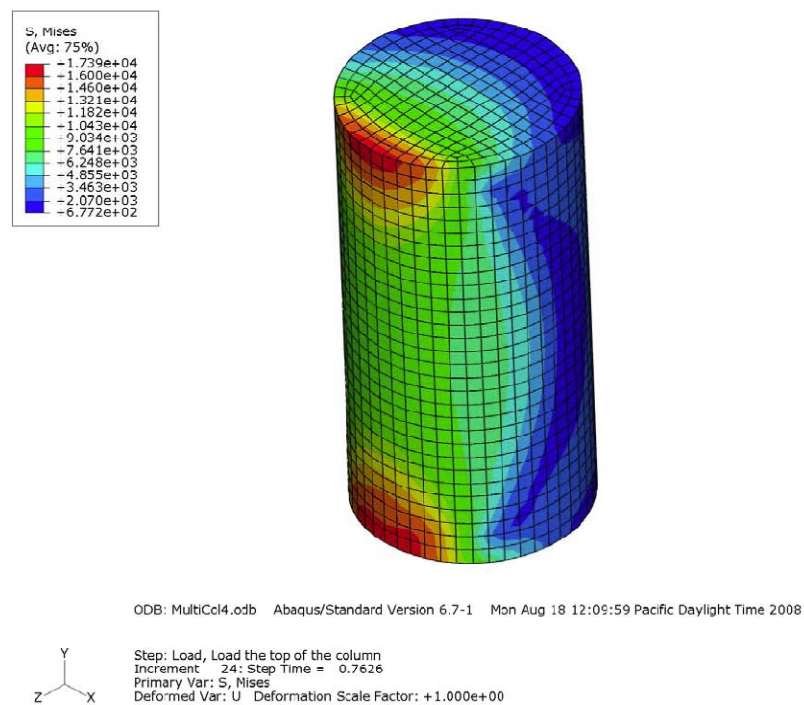
An image showing the 1<sup>st</sup> concrete segment is shown in Figure 65. The stress concentration at the points of contact can clearly be seen. As with other mises stress plots, the scale is from 0 to the maximum confined compressive strength of the concrete.



**Figure 63: FEA Model FRP-S Mises Stresses**



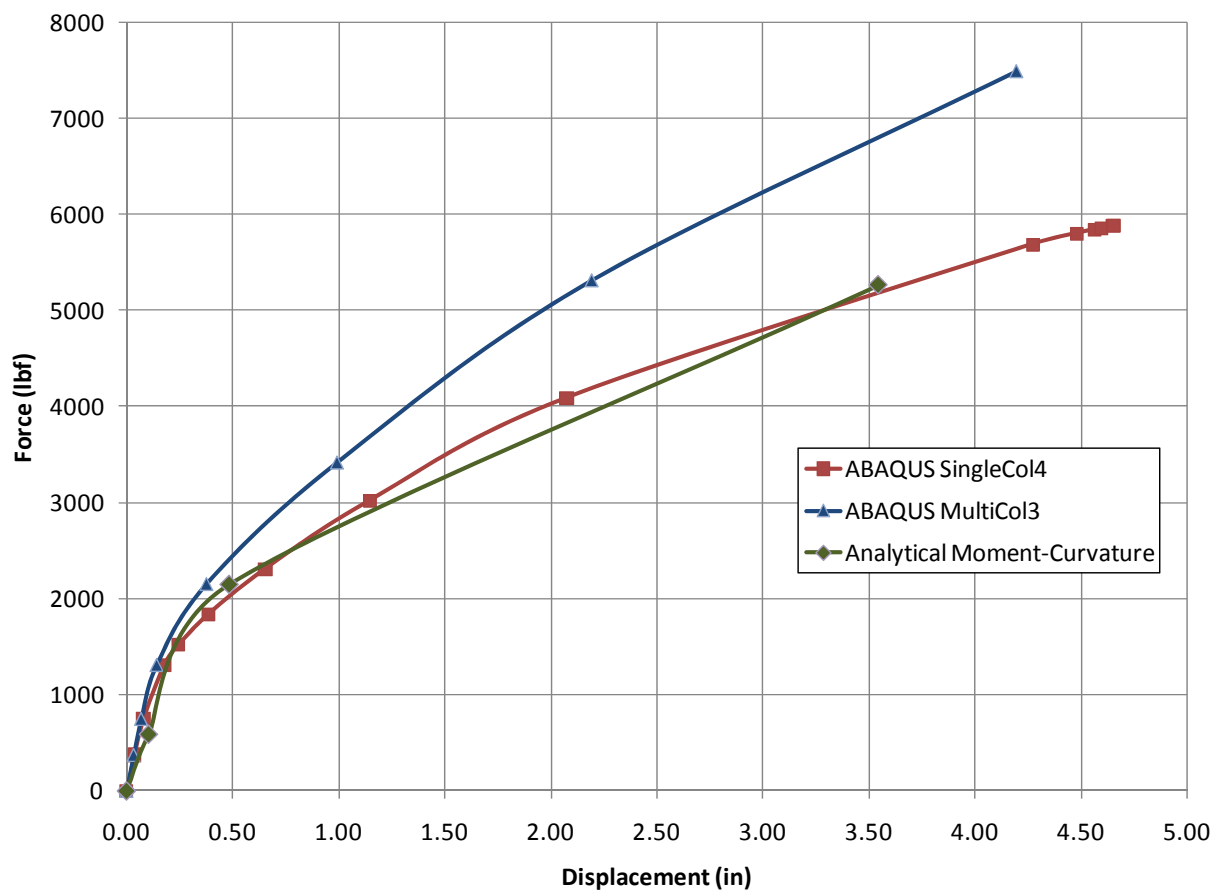
**Figure 64: FEA Model FRP-S Mises Stresses**



**Figure 65: FEA Model FRP-S 1st segment Mises Stresses**

## 6.4 Model comparison

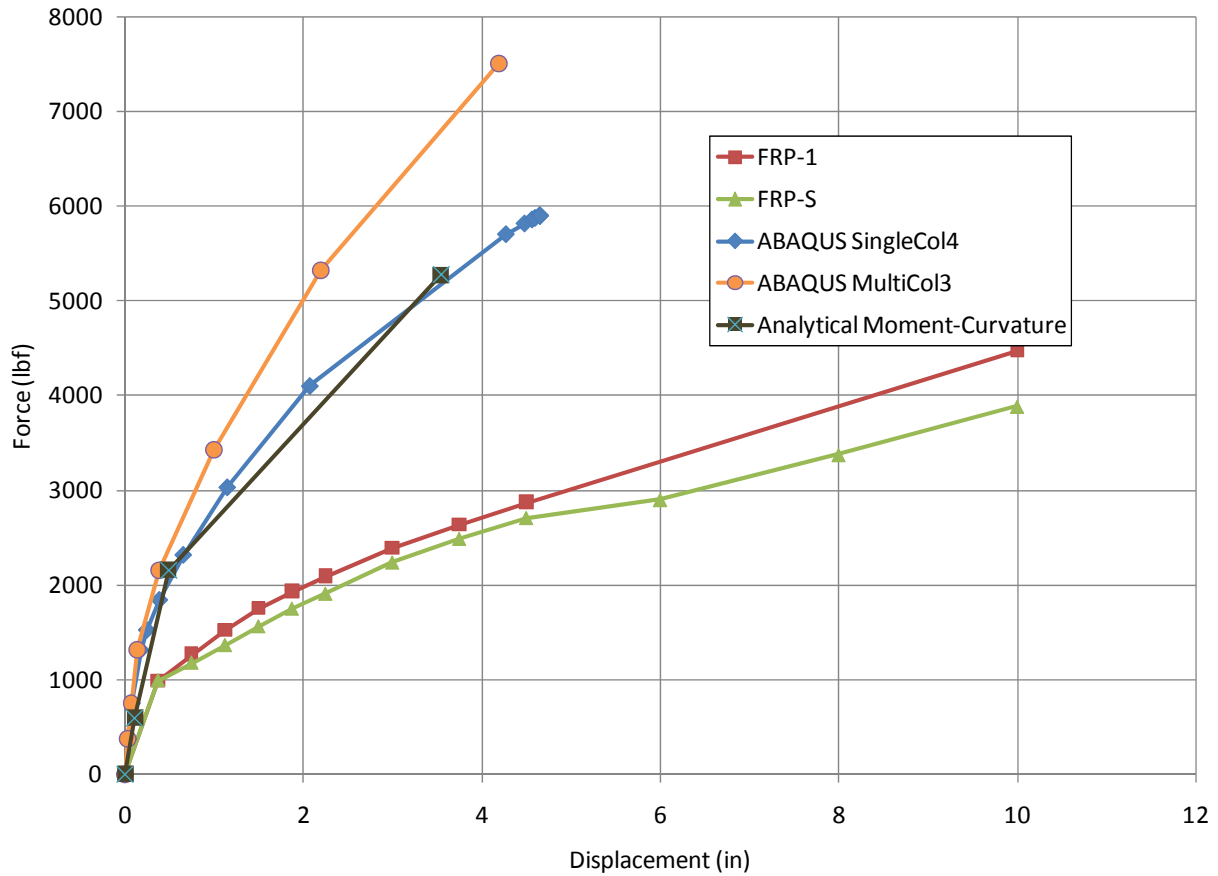
The finite element analysis predicted the force-displacement response very similarly to the analytical method discussed in Chapter 5. Using ABAQUS it was shown that the segmented system would behave in a slightly stiffer manner than that of the system with a single segment. The predicted force-displacement responses for the two ABAQUS models and the analytical model are shown in Figure 66.



**Figure 66: FEA Model Comparison**

Like the analytical model before, the finite element analysis did not accurately predict the true specimen performance. Theoretical models predicted a much stiffer column response than was observed. Likewise, the FEA model predicted the segmented system being stiffer, while it

was the non-segmented system which was stiffer in testing. The analytical, FEA, and actual testing results can be seen in Figure 67.



**Figure 67: FEA Model Comparison**

The differences between the ABAQUS FEA model and the tested specimens are the result of assumptions made during the modeling process. Key assumptions which are believed to cause the differences are:

- 1) Lack of cyclic loading.
- 2) Lack of a concrete model which takes into account damage.

- 3) Allowing the post-tensioning bar to drift through the specimens outside of the bounds of the post-tensioning duct.
- 4) Inaccurate FRP material model.
- 5) Analytical rigid base assumption could concentrate stresses in lower segments and FRP jacket.

## **CHAPTER 7: CONCLUSIONS**

### **7.1 Summary**

The objective of this research was to conduct analysis on the performance of post-tensioned concrete-filled fiber tubes. One monolithic reinforced concrete specimen was compared against four post-tensioned segmented specimens. The force-displacement performance, energy dissipation, equivalent viscous damping, and damage were compared for the systems. Two methods of analysis including a simple model and finite element model were used to model the performance of the segmented column.

### **7.2 Conclusions**

#### *Performance of post-tensioned system compared to typical reinforced concrete system-*

The performance of the monolithic reinforced concrete specimen was as expected. A plastic hinge was formed, which dissipated significant amounts of energy when compared to the post-tensioned system. This plastic hinge also caused significant damage to the column. Significantly larger deformations were possible with the post-tensioned systems. The only source of damage was permanent elongation of the post-tensioning bar and minor crushing of the concrete in the compression region where segments were bearing against one another and the footing. This elongation resulted in a decrease in the post-tensioning force which in turn led to diminishing performance when subjected to lateral loading. Prior to yielding of the reinforced concrete column, performance between the systems were very similar. After yielding of the reinforced concrete column, the post-tensioned systems continued to resist larger loads with no significant sources of damage.

#### *Performance of differing segment configurations-*



The use of multiple segments for the column system yielded only a slight decrease in the capacity of the column to resist lateral loads. Benefits were achieved in the construction of the column however in the ability for the column to be assembled. During testing the columns with multiple segments underwent rigid body rotation about multiple interfaces. This rotation was achieved at all segments that were subjected to the required moment to induce the gap opening between interfaces.

#### *Post-tensioned energy dissipation-*

The two systems utilized to increase the energy dissipation, rubber pads and steel angles, performed very differently from each other. The rubber pads eliminated all visual signs of damage to the column system, and did not allow for the permanent elongation of the post-tensioning bar as seen in all other segmented systems. The disadvantage to this system was the very poor force-displacement performance of the system with rubber pads.

The system with steel angles attached to the bottom of the column performed similarly to the segmented system, and showed greater performance in terms of force-displacement at higher levels of displacement. These sacrificial steel angles also allowed for greater energy dissipation than any of the other post-tensioned systems.

#### *Feasibility-*

When compared to the current method of reinforced concrete design the system of post-tensioning segments together has several advantages and disadvantages. As a pre-cast system construction time on site is greatly improved over existing methods. There is no waiting period to apply full load, only the time it takes to assemble and post-tension. The confinement provided

by the FRP is significant, and can confine a greater amount of concrete given a limiting column diameter. During events with large lateral loadings, the segmented system suffers from considerably less damage than the reinforced concrete system. This can allow a segmented system to return to service much faster. The post-tensioning in the segmented system also causes the column to effectively re-center itself after an event, while the reinforced concrete system suffered from significant permanent displacements.

The energy dissipation from the segmented systems was significantly lower than that of the reinforced concrete system. In order to attain energy dissipation near that of current systems, specific energy dissipation members and devices would be required in the design. For this research project those took the form of rubber pads and steel angles. While the steel angles performed well, the rubber pads allowed excessive displacement under low lateral loads. The issue with the loss of post-tensioning after an event is also one that must be addressed. This loss in post-tensioning will reduce the performance of the system as a whole. However, if the initial post-tensioning force is kept low so as to keep the forces during testing within the yield limit a loss in post-tensioning should not occur due to permanent elongation of the bar.

#### *Recommendations for future studies –*

For future studies the deficiencies in the analytical and finite element models for the behavior of the FRP specimens can be addressed by accounting for assumptions and shortcomings in the models. By taking into account the cyclic nature of the test and the associated damage both to the concrete and permanent elongation of the post-tensioning bar a better estimation of the performance can be achieved.

While specimen FRP-R with the rubber sheeting at the interfaces was quite appealing in the lack of major damage to the concrete, FRP, and post-tensioning bar, the performance in terms of force-displacement was lackluster. By combining dedicated energy dissipation devices that also can stiffen the response of the column such as the steel angles in specimen FRP-T to allow for damage to be concentrated within replaceable components in easily accessible areas. With this external energy dissipation system the post-tensioned column system would perform well during an earthquake and can easily be returned to service afterwards while also giving the benefits of a precast system to reduce construction time and costs.

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## **Appendix A – XTRACT Analysis Results**

# XTRACT Analysis Report - Educational

For use only in an academic or research setting.

Section Name: Section1  
Loading Name: MC1  
Analysis Type: Moment Curvature

Washington State University  
Washington State University - Civil & En  
11/5/2008  
8inround  
8inround  
Page \_\_ of \_\_

## Section Details:

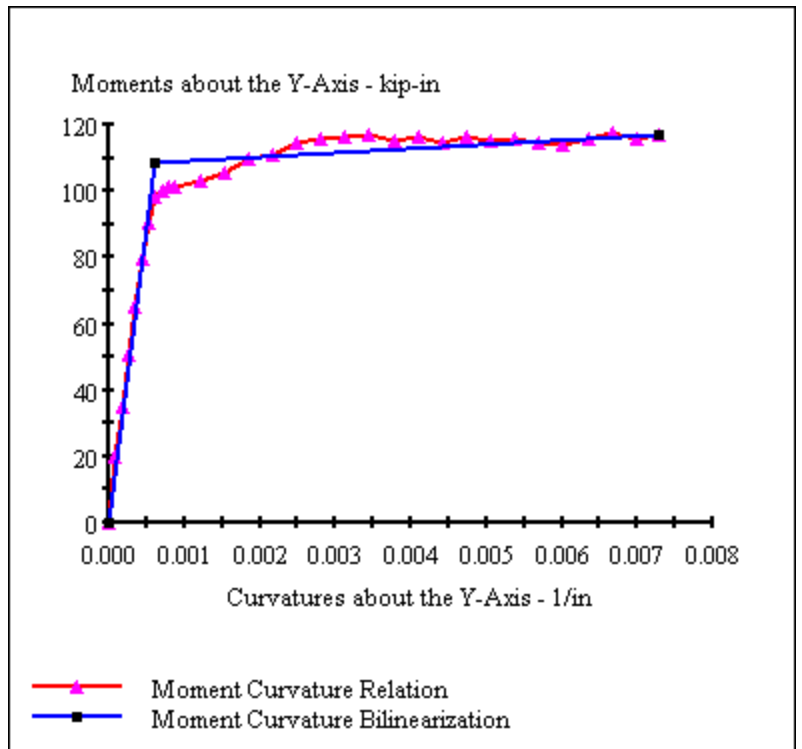
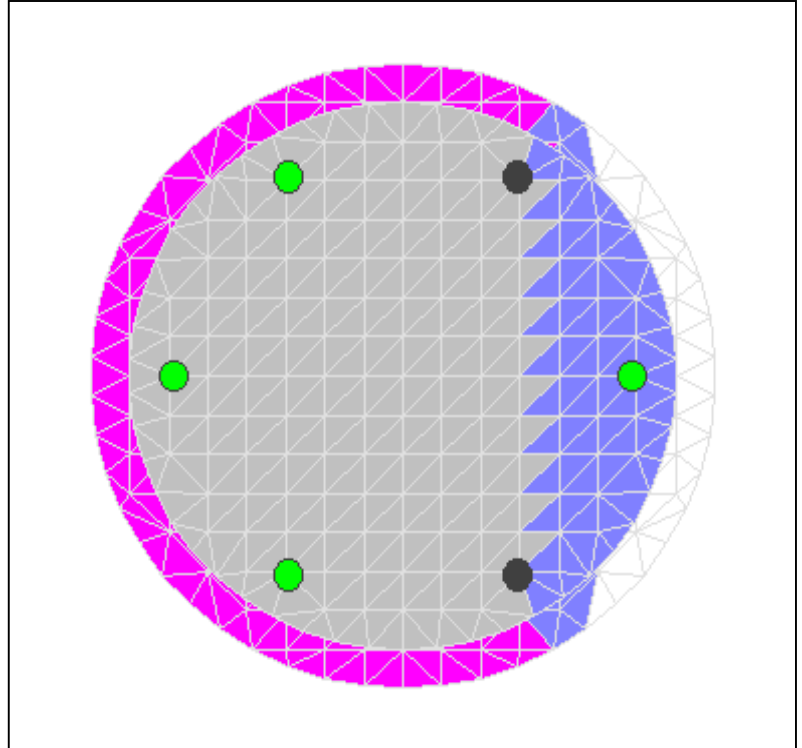
X Centroid: -9.32E-17 in  
Y Centroid: -2.67E-17 in  
Section Area: 88.49 in<sup>2</sup>

## Loading Details:

Constant Load - P: .3000 kips  
Constant Load - Myy: -.1000 kip-in  
Incrementing Loads: Myy Only  
Number of Points: 30  
Analysis Strategy: Displacement Control

## Analysis Results:

Failing Material: Confined1  
Failure Strain: 12.00E-3 Compression  
Curvature at Initial Load: .1135E-6 1/in  
Curvature at First Yield: .4423E-3 1/in  
Ultimate Curvature: 7.283E-3 1/in  
Moment at First Yield: 80.03 kip-in  
Ultimate Moment: 117.3 kip-in  
Centroid Strain at Yield: .7698E-3 Ten  
Centroid Strain at Ultimate: 12.22E-3 Ten  
N.A. at First Yield: 1.741 in  
N.A. at Ultimate: 1.678 in  
Energy per Length: .7881 kips  
Effective Yield Curvature: .6015E-3 1/in  
Effective Yield Moment: 108.8 kip-in  
Over Strength Factor: 1.078  
EI Effective: 180.8E+3 kip-in<sup>2</sup>  
Yield EI Effective: 1266 kip-in<sup>2</sup>  
Bilinear Harding Slope: .7004 %  
Curvature Ductility: 12.11



## **Appendix B - ABAQUS Input file**

Note: This is the portion of the ABAQUS input file containing material definitions, boundary conditions, loads, field outputs, interaction properties, embedments, post-tensioning, and the steps. This file does not contain the geometric definitions.

```
*Surface, type=ELEMENT, name=ColTopSurf
_ColTopSurf_S2, S2
**-----USER DEFINED EMBEDMENT-----
** Constraint: PS-Wire-Embed
*Embedded Element, host elset=TopSteelSet
WireTopEnd
** Constraint: Ps-Wire-Base-Embed
*Embedded Element, host elset=BaseSet
WireBottomEnd
**-----
** Constraint: FRP1-Conc1
*Tie, name=FRP1-Conc1, adjust=yes
ConcreteMid-1.Conc-Side, FRP-1.FRP-Inside
** Constraint: FRP2-Conc2
*Tie, name=FRP2-Conc2, adjust=yes
ConcreteMid-2.Conc-Side, FRP-2.FRP-Inside
** Constraint: FRP3-Conc3
*Tie, name=FRP3-Conc3, adjust=yes
ConcreteMid-3.Conc-Side, FRP-3.FRP-Inside
** Constraint: FRP4-ConcTop
*Tie, name=FRP4-ConcTop, adjust=yes
ConcreteTop-1.Conc-Side, FRP-4.FRP-Inside
*End Assembly
**
** MATERIALS
**
*Material, name=Concrete
** Concrete
*Elastic
  4e+06, 0.15
*Plastic
  6100., 0.
  13010., 0.0036
  16710., 0.009
  17390., 0.017
  14060., 0.06
  1000., 0.062
*Material, name=ConcreteElastic
** Concrete
*Elastic
  4e+06, 0.15
*Material, name=FRP
```



```

*Elastic
  4.35e+06, 0.2
*Material, name=PSteel
*Elastic
  2.9e+07, 0.3
*Plastic
117500., 0.
157500., 0.025
150000., 0.075
  2000., 0.077
*Material, name=TopSteel
** Material for the top of the column
*Elastic
  2.9e+08, 0.3
**
** INTERACTION PROPERTIES
**
*Surface Interaction, name=Conc-Base
1.,
*Friction, slip tolerance=0.005
  0.5,
*Surface Behavior, augmented Lagrange
*Surface Interaction, name=FRP-Base
1.,
*Friction, slip tolerance=0.005
  0.1,
*Surface Behavior, augmented Lagrange
*Surface Interaction, name=FRP-FRP
1.,
*Friction, slip tolerance=0.005
  0.1,
*Surface Behavior, augmented Lagrange
**
** BOUNDARY CONDITIONS
**
** Name: FixColumn Type: Displacement/Rotation
*Boundary
RxnSet, 1, 1
RxnSet, 2, 2
RxnSet, 3, 3
** Name: FixedBase Type: Displacement/Rotation
*Boundary
BaseSet, 1, 1
BaseSet, 2, 2
BaseSet, 3, 3
**
** INTERACTIONS
**
** Interaction: Conc1-Base
*Contact Pair, interaction=Conc-Base
ConcreteMid-1.ConcBottom, Base-1.BaseTop
** Interaction: Conc1-Conc2

```

```

*Contact Pair, interaction=Conc-Base
ConcreteMid-2.ConcBottom, ConcreteMid-1.ConcTop
** Interaction: Conc2-Conc3
*Contact Pair, interaction=Conc-Base
ConcreteMid-3.ConcBottom, ConcreteMid-2.ConcTop
** Interaction: Conc3-ConcTop
*Contact Pair, interaction=Conc-Base
ConcreteTop-1.ConcBottom, ConcreteMid-3.ConcTop
** Interaction: FRP1-Base
*Contact Pair, interaction=FRP-Base
FRP-1.FRPBottom, Base-1.BaseTop
** Interaction: FRP1-FRP2
*Contact Pair, interaction=FRP-FRP
FRP-2.FRPBottom, FRP-1.FRPTop
** Interaction: FRP2-FRP3
*Contact Pair, interaction=FRP-FRP
FRP-3.FRPBottom, FRP-2.FRPTop
** Interaction: FRP3-FRP4
*Contact Pair, interaction=FRP-FRP
FRP-4.FRPBottom, FRP-3.FRPTop
** -----
--
**
**-----POST TENSION INITIAL STRESS-----
--
*Initial Conditions, Type=Stress
WireSet, 45000
**
**
** STEP: PostTensionStep
**
*Step, name=PostTensionStep, nlgeom=YES
*Static, Stabilize
1., 1., 1e-05, 1.
**
** OUTPUT REQUESTS
**
*Restart, write, frequency=0
*Monitor, dof=3, node=DriftNode, frequency=1
*Output, field, frequency=0
*Output, history, frequency=0
*End Step
** -----
--
**
** STEP: Load
**
*Step, name=Load, nlgeom=YES, inc=1000
Load the top of the column
*Static
0.05, 1., 1e-05, 1.
**

```

```

** BOUNDARY CONDITIONS
**
** Name: FixColumn Type: Displacement/Rotation
*Boundary, op=NEW
** Name: FixedBase Type: Displacement/Rotation
*Boundary, op=NEW
BaseSet, 1, 1
BaseSet, 2, 2
BaseSet, 3, 3
**
** LOADS
**
** Name: Push Type: Surface traction
*Dload
ColTopSurf, TRSHR, 225., 0., 0., 1.
**
** OUTPUT REQUESTS
**
*Restart, write, frequency=0
**
** FIELD OUTPUT: F-Output-1
**
*Output, field
*Node Output
CF, RF, U
*Element Output, directions=YES
E, EE, MISESMAX, PE, PEEQ, PEEQT, S
*Contact Output
CDISP, CSTRESS
*Output, history, frequency=0
*End Step

```