

**DAMAGE INTENSITY CLASS FOR REINFORCED CONCRETE  
BEAM-COLUMN JOINT SUBJECTED TO LATERAL CYCLIC  
LOADING**

**REVENTHERAN A/L GANASAN**

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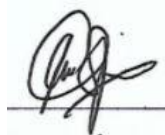
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Matric No: **17020558/1 / KHA160043**  
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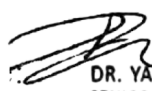
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SENIOR LECTURER  
DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING  
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING  
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA  
50603 KUALA LUMPUR

# **DAMAGE INTENSITY CLASS FOR REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAM-COLUMN JOINT SUBJECTED TO LATERAL CYCLIC LOADING**

## **ABSTRACT**

The 2015 moderate earthquake that occurred in Ranau, Sabah, Malaysia had damaged more than 60 numbers of non-seismic designed reinforced concrete (RC) buildings from minor to severe damages. These damages were caused by lack of shear links confinement and insufficient anchorage length, particularly on the RC beam-column joint (BCJ) of the buildings. Apart from high-rise buildings, almost all of the existing buildings in Malaysia are non-seismically designed, thus the seismic performance of the buildings in resisting future earthquakes are of concern by the government/public, building owners and local researchers after the destructive earthquake in Ranau. Therefore, an appropriate assessment method is needed to predict the damage level of the existing and new RC structures, thus it may increase the preparedness level for future earthquakes. The damage intensity (DI) class is one of the useful structural assessment methods in evaluating the damage level of the structure based on its structural design under certain loadings. However, the currently available DI class from the literature are limited to vertical static loading only. Thus, there is a need to develop a DI class for lateral cyclic loading as simulating the earthquake loading. Hence, this thesis aims to develop an ANN chart model of DI class for RC beam-column joints, with and without seismic consideration based on lateral cyclic loading and to compare this with the existing DI chart for static load from the Acoustic Emission (AE) method. In phase 1, a total of 7 specimens were designed, prepared and tested to investigate the effects of shear links and anchorage length towards the structural performance and cracking behaviour of RC BCJ under lateral cyclic loading. The AE monitoring was carried out simultaneously during the lateral cyclic loading test to assess the AE signal such as AE hits, AE amplitude, rise time, counts and duration during the crack formation in every drift ratio (DR) level. In phase 2,

the specimens design parameters, lateral cyclic loading results and the subsequent AE signals were used as the input parameters for the development of the ANN crack width prediction models and DI class. The observation shows that the additional shear link provision has shown a significant effect on the strength up to 55% compared to the application of anchorage length, hence became the main factor in reducing crack width. In the AE analysis, the higher numbers of shear link provision had indicated that the development of the crack within the specimen is slower compared to other specimens and it does not fail at the maximum DR level. From the ANN results, the Support-Vector Machine (SVM) – dot with root mean square error (RMSE) index performance crack width prediction model has shown the lowest error between the experimental and predicted data up to 5% thus being selected among other prediction models. The DI class has been developed in associated to damage index and response index for every specimen. Naïve Bayes (NB) Kernel classifier model was selected as it shows the highest accuracy and precision up to 98% which is compatible with the experimental results compared to deep learning (DL) and SVM classification model.

**Keywords:** RC beam-column joint; Acoustic emission; Lateral cyclic loading; Shear link aspect; Anchorage length aspect; ANN prediction models

# **KELAS INTENSITI KEROSAKAN UNTUK SAMBUNGAN RASUK-TIANG KONKRIT BERTETULANG YANG DIKENAKAN PEMBEBANAN BERKITAR SISI**

## **ABSTRAK**

Gempa bumi sederhana pada tahun 2015 yang berlaku di Ranau, Sabah, Malaysia telah menjejaskan lebih daripada 60 buah bangunan struktur konkrit bertetulang (RC) bukan-seismik dari kerosakan kecil hingga teruk. Kerosakan ini disebabkan kekurangan bilangan ruang pautan ricih dan panjang penambat yang tidak mencukupi terutama pada sambungan rasuk-tiang (BCJ) RC bangunan. Selain bangunan bertingkat tinggi, hampir semua struktur yang sedia ada di Malaysia adalah reka bentuk yang tidak seismik, oleh itu prestasi seismik pada bangunan-bangunan ini untuk mengelakkan daripada bencana gempa bumi pada masa depan telah menjadi perhatian kerajaan/orang awam, pemilik bangunan dan penyelidik tempatan sejak gempa bumi yang berlaku di Ranau. Oleh itu, kaedah penilaian yang sesuai diperlukan untuk meramalkan tahap kerosakan struktur RC yang sedia-ada dan baru, sehingga dapat meningkatkan tahap kesiapsiagaan untuk gempa pada masa depan. Kelas intensiti kerosakan (DI) adalah salah satu kaedah penilaian struktur yang berguna dalam menilai tahap kerosakan struktur berdasarkan reka bentuk strukturnya mengikut beban tertentu. Walau bagaimanapun, kelas DI yang tersedia mengikut kajian literatur hanya terhad kepada pembebanan statik menegak sahaja. Justeru, terdapat keperluan untuk membangunkan kelas DI untuk pembebanan berkisar sisi sebagai mensimulasikan beban gempa bumi. Oleh itu, tujuan tesis ini adalah untuk membangunkan model carta ANN bagi kelas DI untuk sambungan rasuk-tiang RC, dengan dan tanpa pertimbangan seismik berdasarkan pembebanan berkisar sisi, dan membandingkannya dengan carta DI yang sedia ada untuk beban statik dari Kaedah Pelepasan Akustik (AE). Pada fasa 1, sebanyak 7 spesimen telah direka, disiapkan, dan diuji untuk menyiasat kesan pautan ricih dan panjang penambat terhadap prestasi struktur dan keadaan retakan RC BCJ di bawah pembebanan berkisar sisi. Pemantauan AE

dilakukan secara serentak semasa ujian pembebanan berkisar sisi untuk menilai isyarat AE seperti hit AE, amplitud AE, waktu kenaikan, kiraan dan tempoh semasa pembentukan retak di setiap peringkat nisbah drift (DR). Pada fasa 2, parameter reka bentuk spesimen, hasil pembebanan berkisar sisi dan isyarat AE berikutnya digunakan sebagai parameter input untuk pembangunan model ramalan lebar retak ANN dan kelas DI. Pemerhatian menunjukkan bahawa penambahan pautan ricih telah menunjukkan pengaruh yang signifikan terhadap kekuatan sehingga 55% dibandingkan dengan penggunaan panjang penambat, oleh itu ianya menjadi faktor utama dalam pengurangan lebar retakan. Dalam analisis AE, jumlah penyediaan hubungan ricih yang lebih tinggi telah menunjukkan bahawa pembangunan retakan dalam spesimen lebih lambat dibandingkan dengan spesimen lain malah tidak gagal pada tahap DR maksimum. Dari hasil ANN, model lebar retak 'Support-Vector Machine (SVM) - dot with root mean square error (RMSE)' menunjukkan ralat terendah antara data eksperimen dan ramalan sehingga 5%, maka dipilih antara ramalan model lain. Model DI telah dikembangkan bersama dengan indeks tenaga dan indeks kekuatan untuk setiap spesimen. Kelas DI telah dibangunkan mengikut skala indeks kerosakan dan indeks tindak balas untuk setiap spesimen. Model pengelasan Kernel Naïve Bayes (NB) dipilih kerana menunjukkan ketepatan yang tertinggi sehingga mencapai 98%, justeru, sama dengan analisis kerosakan dari hasil eksperimen dibandingkan dengan model klasifikasi 'Deep Learning' (DL) dan SVM.

Kata kunci: RC sambungan rasuk-tiang; Pelepasan akustik; Pembebanan berkisar sisi; Aspek pautan ricih; Aspek panjang penambat; Model ramalan ANN

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Abstract .....	iii
Abstrak .....	v
Acknowledgements .....	vii
Table of Contents .....	viii
List of Figures .....	xii
List of Tables.....	xvii
List of Symbols and Abbreviations.....	xviii
List of Appendices .....	xx
<b>CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Background of the study.....	1
1.2 Problem statement .....	5
1.3 Research objectives .....	6
1.4 Scope of the research.....	7
1.5 Research significance .....	8
1.6 Thesis overview.....	8
<b>CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW .....</b>	<b>10</b>
2.1 Introduction .....	10
2.2 Seismic activities prone areas surrounding East Malaysia.....	10
2.2.1 Building structure damages due to local earthquake.....	13
2.3 Reinforced concrete (RC) beam-column joint in moment resisting frame system.....	16
2.3.1 Joint mechanism.....	18
2.3.2 Structural behaviour of RC beam-column joint under seismic actions.....	20



2.3.2.1	Cyclic loading effect on reinforced bar .....	25
2.3.2.2	Bond between concrete and reinforcing bars .....	26
2.3.3	RC Beam-Column Joint Design Criteria .....	28
2.3.3.1	Application of shear reinforcement .....	28
2.3.3.2	Application of beam anchorage length.....	29
2.4	Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) .....	31
2.4.1	Acoustic emission (AE) technique.....	32
2.4.1.1	Historical review of AE.....	34
2.4.1.2	Principle and application of AE on RC structures .....	35
2.4.1.3	AE instrumentation.....	38
2.4.1.4	AE analysis technique .....	41
2.4.1.4.1	List of selected parameter-based analysis technique.....	42
2.4.1.4.2	Damage Intensity (DI) based on AE method .....	45
2.5	Artificial Neural Network (ANN) .....	49
2.5.1	Application of ANNs on RC structures .....	49
2.5.2	Application of Deep learning (DL), Support Vector Machine (SVM) and Naïve Bayes Kernel (NB) in engineering practice.....	50
2.6	Summary .....	56
<b>CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....</b>		<b>57</b>
3.1	Introduction .....	57
3.2	Design of RC Beam-Column Joint.....	59
3.3	Material Properties of Concrete and Steel Reinforcement for RC Beam - Column Joint Specimen.....	64

3.3.1	Compressive Strength of Concrete.....	64
3.3.2	Tensile Strength of Concrete.....	65
3.3.3	Tensile strength of steel reinforcement .....	66
3.4	Specimen Preparation .....	67
3.4.1	Preparation of Formwork and Steel Reinforcement BCJ.....	67
3.4.2	Concrete mix design and casting.....	69
3.4.3	Curing of the Specimens .....	70
3.5	Laboratory Testing .....	70
3.5.1	Set up for lateral cyclic load test.....	70
3.5.2	Loading Pattern .....	72
3.5.3	Setting Up for the AE Instrument .....	73
3.5.4	Setting up the AE monitoring software.....	75
3.6	Data Analysis and Interpretation .....	76
3.7	Development of ANN Model .....	77
3.7.1	Framework model of DL and SVM (Regression model for crack width) .....	78
3.7.2	Framework model of DL, SVM and NB (Classification model for DI) ...	84
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION .....</b>		<b>88</b>
4.1	Introduction .....	88
4.2	Mechanical properties of concrete and reinforcement bar .....	88
4.2.1	Compressive strength of concrete .....	88
4.2.2	Properties of reinforcing bars.....	89
4.3	Hysteretic curve of specimens.....	90

4.3.1	Energy dissipation of BCJ specimens .....	93
4.4	Crack formation in specimens .....	95
4.5	Analysis of selected AE parameters .....	103
4.5.1	AE hits analysis .....	103
4.5.2	AE amplitude analysis.....	107
4.5.3	RA-AF analysis .....	110
4.6	Analysis and performance of ANN crack width model .....	114
4.6.1	ANN crack width prediction model selection.....	114
4.6.2	Data splitting ratio analysis in SVM – dot model.....	116
4.6.3	Analysis on input parameters selection for SVM – dot model .....	119
4.6.4	Analysis on performance indexes (regression) supported in SVM – dot model.....	122
4.7	Damage Intensity (DI) class analysis .....	125
4.7.1	DI class analysis based on current AE technique.....	125
4.7.2	ANN DI class chart model selection.....	128
4.7.3	Validation of DI classification model with additional experimental result .....	136
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....</b>		<b>141</b>
5.1	Conclusion.....	141
5.2	Recommendations .....	146
<b>REFERENCES.....</b>		<b>147</b>

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.1	: RC beam-column joint damage caused by Ranau earthquake.....	2
Figure 1.2	: Damages of RC beam-column joints in (a) 1999 Izmit, Turkey earthquakes (Scawthorn & Johnson, 2000), (b) 1999 Chi-Chi, Taiwan earthquakes (Tsai et al., 2000) and (c) 1994 Northridge, CA earthquakes (Mitchell et al., 1995).....	4
Figure 1.3	: Damage to the new moment-frame RC beam-column joint after Adapazari earthquake (Sezen et al., 2003).....	5
Figure 2.1	: Modified map of Ranau, Sabah (Malaysia) (USGS, 2015).....	12
Figure 2.2	: Severe damage inflicted on beam-column joints.....	15
Figure 2.3	: Types of beam-column joint (a) Interior joint, (b) Exterior joint, (c) Corner joint (Uma & Jain, 2006).....	16
Figure 2.4	: Classification of typical beam-column joints (Costa et al., 2011).....	17
Figure 2.5	: The type of failure mode in joint core: (a) Beam hinging failure, (b) Column hinging failure, (c) Spalling of concrete cover, (d) Slippage of the reinforcing bars, (e) Joint shear failure (Meinheit & Jirsa, 1981).....	19
Figure 2.6	: (a) and (b): Two problems caused by the pull-push forces on joints for internal joints (Murty et al., 2003).....	21
Figure 2.7	: The cyclic behaviour of interior beam-column joint (Park & Paulay, 1975).....	23
Figure 2.8	: The cyclic behaviour of exterior beam-column joint (Park & Paulay, 1975).....	24
Figure 2.9	: The stress-strain relationship of reinforcing bars under cyclic loading (Pillai & Menon, 2009).....	26
Figure 2.10	: The bond mechanism, cyclic loading on RC beam-column joint (J. Lee et al., 2012).....	27
Figure 2.11	: Hook in exterior joint (Lee & Yu, 2009).....	30

Figure 2.12	: The layout of AE phenomena (Rescalvo et al., 2018).....	34
Figure 2.13	: The acoustic emission and its components (Svečko et al., 2013).....	39
Figure 2.14	: Preamplifiers.....	40
Figure 2.15	: The parameters reflecting of an AE waveform (Zaki et al., 2015).....	41
Figure 2.16	: Cracks classification by AE indexes (a) Signal characteristic of different crack types and (b) Mode of crack classification (Li et al., 2018).....	44
Figure 2.17	: Example of intensity analysis chart (Golaski et al., 2002).....	47
Figure 2.18	: Intensity signal analysis at 50% of ultimate load (Shahidan et al., 2013).....	48
Figure 2.19	: Feed-forward multi-layer neural network ensemble (Li et al., 2008).....	50
Figure 3.1	: Research methodology flowchart.....	58
Figure 3.2	: Detailing of RC beam-column joints; a) British Standard (BCJ 1), b) Eurocode 8 applied in the joint area (BCJ 2), c) BCJ 3 designed as BCJ 2 without anchorage hook/ U-shaped, d) BCJ 4 designed as BCJ 2 with 500 mm anchorage length, e) BCJ 5 designed as BCJ 2 with 750 mm anchorage length, f) BCJ 6 designed as BCJ 2 with the increased number of shear links and g) BCJ 7 designed as BCJ 2 with 50 mm spacing links at the joint area .....	62
Figure 3.3	: Concrete cube specimens .....	65
Figure 3.4	: Concrete compression testing machine.....	65
Figure 3.5	: Splitting Tensile Test devices.....	66
Figure 3.6	: INSTRON universal testing machine 1000 kN equipment used for steel tensile strength test.....	67
Figure 3.7	: Conventional formwork produced for place and casting the RC beam-column joint .....	68
Figure 3.8	: Erected steel reinforcement cage of beam-column joint.....	68

Figure 3.9	: Fresh concrete being poured and vibrated in the formwork .....	69
Figure 3.10	: Curing of RC beam-column joint specimens .....	70
Figure 3.11	: Transportation process of the specimens for laboratory testing.....	71
Figure 3.12	: Set up for laboratory testing.....	72
Figure 3.13	: Lateral cyclic loading history for RC beam-column joint specimen (Rautenberg et al., 2013).....	73
Figure 3.14	: AE instrument- Cables that connect the AE sensors, preamplifier and CPU of the computer.....	74
Figure 3.15	: The schematic diagram of the setting up and the location of AE sensors.....	74
Figure 3.16	: The crack that propagates under various drift ratio (DR) level.....	77
Figure 3.17	: The basic ANN layer with interconnected nodes (West, 2019).....	79
Figure 3.18	: The framework of the DL model (Serrano, 2017) .....	80
Figure 3.19	: The SVM framework (Dot products in kernel function).....	82
Figure 3.20	: The framework model applied for all four types of prediction model from Rapidminer machine learning .....	83
Figure 3.21	: Framework for DL, SVM and NB (Kernel) classification model from RapidMiner machine learning.....	86
Figure 4.1	: Load-drift hysteretic relationships of test specimens.....	92
Figure 4.2	: The cumulative energy dissipation for the specimens a) Difference in the shear links aspect and b) Difference in the anchorage length until the drift ratio of 3.00% .....	95
Figure 4.3	: Distribution of crack width in every DR level a) additional number in shear links and b) different anchorage length .....	103
Figure 4.4	: AE Hits distribution in every DR level with the respective specimens a) with different shear link detailing and b) with different anchorage	

length .....	104
Figure 4.5 : Distribution of AE amplitudes in every DR level a) <50 dB, b) 50-59 dB, c) 60-69 dB, d) 70-79 dB, e) 80-89 dB and f) 90-99 dB.....	109
Figure 4.6 : RA-AF relationship for (a) BCJ 1 (b) BCJ 2 (c) BCJ 3, (d) BCJ 4, (e) BCJ 5, (f) BCJ 6 and (g) BCJ 7.....	113
Figure 4.7 : The distribution of predicted crack width for a) DL Max-out prediction model b) DL Rectifier prediction model c) SVM Dot prediction model and d) SVM Neural prediction model.....	115
Figure 4.8 : The distribution of predicted results according to every split ratio a) 70:30, b) 75:25 and c) 80:20.....	118
Figure 4.9 : The distribution of predicted results dependent on inputs vector a) 7 inputs vector, b) 9 inputs vector and c) 11 inputs vector .....	120
Figure 4.10 : The distribution of predicted crack width for a) Absolute error (AE) b) Prediction average (AE) and c) Root mean square error (RMSE).....	123
Figure 4.11 : DI class analysis according to the current AE method for all specimen at selected DR level .....	127
Figure 4.12 : Damage Index and Response Index relationship analysis according Deep Learning (DL) model for all specimen at selected DR level.....	129
Figure 4.13 : Damage Index and Response Index relationship analysis according Support-Vector Machine (SVM) model for all specimen at selected DR level.....	132
Figure 4.14 : Damage Index and Response Index relationship analysis according Naive Bayes Kernel (NB Kernel) model for all specimen at selected DR level .....	133
Figure 4.15 : Improvement of Damage Intensity (DI) Class using Naive Bayes Kernel Classification Model for lateral cyclic loading .....	136

Figure 4.16 : Distribution of crack width in every DR level for additional RC BCJ.....	138
Figure 4.17 : AE Hits distribution in every DR level with the respective additional RC BCJ specimens.....	139
Figure 4.18 : DI chart for additional RC BCJ in selected DR levels .....	140





## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	: Recent local earthquakes in Sabah since 2015 (MMD, 2015).....	13
Table 2.2	: Details of all five site locations.....	14
Table 2.3	: The AE parameters and its applications (Zaki et al., 2015).....	43
Table 2.4	: Significance of intensity levels/classes (Golaski et al., 2002; Shahidan et al., 2013).....	47
Table 3.1	: Detailing for the RC beam-column joints specimens.....	61
Table 3.2	: Tensile strength of concrete specimens.....	66
Table 3.3	: Design mix proportion for 30 N/mm <sup>2</sup> concrete.....	69
Table 3.4	: List of data opted as potential input parameters for modelling purpose.....	78
Table 4.1	: The average tensile strength of the reinforcing bars.....	89
Table 4.2	: Crack patterns and damage of respective specimens.....	100
Table 4.3	: Detailed on four types of prediction models.....	114
Table 4.4	: Inputs variable vector (7, 9 and 11 inputs).....	120
Table 4.5	: Types of performance index (regression) used for SVM – dot model.....	123
Table 4.6	: Inputs vector for selected 3 classification models.....	128
Table 4.7	: Improvement and recommendation of DI based on CLASS for NB Kernel chart for lateral cyclic loading .....	134
Table 4.8	: Result from dataset in RapidMiner machine learning .....	135
Table 4.9	: Detailing for the additional RC beam-column joints specimens.....	137

## LIST OF SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

A.E	:	Absolute error
ACI	:	American Concrete Institute
AE	:	Acoustic emission
AF	:	Counts / Duration
AL	:	Anchorage length at joint
ANN	:	Artificial Neural Network
$A_s$	:	Reinforcement area
ASTM	:	American society for testing and materials
BCJ	:	Beam-column joint
BS	:	British Standard
$C_c$	:	Concrete compression strength
$C_t$	:	Concrete tensile strength
CW	:	Crack width
DCM	:	Ductility class medium
DI	:	Damage intensity
DL	:	Deep learning
DOE	:	Department of Environment's Design Method
$DR/\Delta_y$	:	Drift ratio
EC	:	Eurocode
$H$	:	Column height
HDT	:	hit definition time
$HI$	:	Historical Index
HLT	:	hit lockout time
JMGM	:	Department of Minerals and Geoscience Malaysia
$l_x$	:	Lateral movement

MMD	: Malaysian Meteorological Department
$M_w$	: Magnitude
NB	: Naive Bayes
NDT	: Non-destructive test
$OL_B$	: Additional shear links spacing at beam
$OL_C$	: Additional shear links spacing at column
P.A	: Prediction average
PDT	: peak definition time
$Q_{\max(+ve)}$	: Maximum positive load carrying capacity
$Q_{\max(-ve)}$	: Maximum negative load carrying capacity
RA	: Rise time / Amplitude
RC	: Reinforced concrete
RMSE	: Root mean square error
SHM	: Structural health monitoring
$S_r$	: Severity Index
$SSL_B$	: Shear span for additional shear links at beam
$SSL_C$	: Shear span for additional shear links at column
SVM	: Support vector machine
$T_t$	: Tensile bar strength
USGS	: United States Geological Survey

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1 : List of publication .....	173
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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Nowadays, a large part of the civil engineering structures deals with the structures that characterise and have contributed to society. The most important aspects in the design of civil engineering structures are the strength and stability of the constructions. Reinforced concrete (RC) structure fulfils these two criteria and occupies a leading position. RC structure has not only played an irreplaceable role in the last century but also continues to do so in modern constructions (Jones, 1913 : Moussard et al., 2018). RC structure refers to a versatile and strong durable building composite material that can form into a variety of shapes and sizes. The versatility and utility are achieved by combining the best features of concrete and reinforcement bar and thus increasing the tensile strength of the RC structure, as concrete is weak in tension. Hence, in civil constructions, a simple RC structure uses steel bar to provide support in tension areas while concrete provides support in compression areas. However, sudden damage or collapse of RC structures within a very short period (in seconds) happens usually due to unexpected additional loading from earthquake impact (Coburn et al., 1992 : Raghunandan & Liel, 2013). For high-rise buildings, most of the tremors can be deposited at the weakest link of RC members, particularly at the RC beam-column joints that are highly vulnerable to earthquakes. The load-carrying capacity of the columns will be seriously affected if the RC beam-column joints are severely damaged due to an earthquake event.

The past earthquake tremors such as the earthquake at Gujarat in 2001 (Agarwal et al., 2002), the earthquake in Indonesia in 2004 (Ghobarah et al., 2006 : Saatcioglu et al., 2006), earthquake in Japan in 2011 (Abdelnaby & Elnashai, 2014 : Wang et al., 2016) and also the earthquake at Nepal in 2015 (Shakya & Kawan, 2016 : Sharma et al., 2016) across the globe had affirmed that the RC beam-column joints significantly affected the

failure behaviour of framed RC structures (Sharma & Bansal, 2019). Generally, RC beam-column joints are among the most critical regions in the moment-resisting reinforced concrete framed structures, as they may suffer serious damages during an earthquake (Mangalathu & Jeon, 2018). They are responsible for resisting lateral loads such as earthquakes, which impact the overall structure integrity (Ganesan et al., 2007). Under strong seismic activities, RC beam-column joints whose function is to maintain the structural integrity of structural systems may experience large deformation. This will significantly reduce their lateral and gravity load-carrying capacity thus leading to partial damage or global collapse of the structure (Uma & Jain, 2006).

Malaysia, assumed to be earthquake-free previously, was impacted with a 5.9 Mw moderate Ranau earthquake at Ranau in 2015. Severe damages were found in existing/old buildings (e.g. in Figure 1.1) which were traditionally designed to resist gravity loads (British Standard) including self-weight, superimposed dead load and strong wind within the elastic range (Alih & Vafaei, 2019).



Figure 1.1: RC beam-column joint damage caused by Ranau earthquake

In these existing buildings, the concrete frames are lightly reinforced, and the RC beam-column joints are insufficiently detailed to resist earthquake forces. This may cause

severe joint damage and collapse under reversed lateral displacements of moderate earthquakes. When an earthquake tremor occurs, the RC beam-column joints will be subjected to a large shear force that may cause a sudden decrease in their capacity to sustain loads. The damage in the RC beam-column joints will eventually contribute to the collapse of the building as the seismic demand cannot be dissipated effectively as shown in Figure 1.2 and Figure 1.3. The same situation also occurred in the Chi-Chi earthquake, Taiwan where the catastrophic failure of the structure was caused by the failure of the RC beam-column joint (Tsai et al., 2000). The seriously damaged RC beam-column joint caused the misalignment of the attached beam and column member, thus affecting the distribution of loading and promoting the collapse of the building. In order to improve the seismic performance, modern codes for the design of RC structures specify construction details to avoid high lateral displacement in the joint region. In seismic design, a plastic hinge is accepted to be formed in beam rather than in column to achieve a strong column-weak beam behaviour of RC frame. In addition to the damage in RC beam-column joint, the unpredictable and uncontrollable nature of crack formation in reinforced concrete structures may seriously affect the stability and strength of the structure and thus has been a subject of many studies in recent years (Allam et al., 2012 : Elshafey et al., 2013 : Oh & Kang, 1987 : Wollrab et al., 1996). These types of cracks initiate as narrow and elongated cracks, with openings less than 0.5 mm, often not even visible to the naked eye (Hull, 1999 : Shah, 1990 : Souza, 2019). Although design codes impose limitations on crack widths based on empirical formulae, there is often uncertainty associated with determining the crack width propagation due to cyclic/seismic loads (ACI., 2001 : Institution., 1985 : Normalisation, 2004). Because of the low tensile strength of concrete, cracks are formed under repeated loads. Excessive crack width can reduce the structure's service life by allowing corrosive factors such as high humidity, repetitive moisture penetration, vapour, salt water spray and chemical gasses to penetrate the

structure and reach the reinforcement (Allam et al., 2012 : Shinmura & Saouma, 1997). One of the recommended assessment methods is using a damage intensity (DI) class chart to evaluate the performance of the structure based on the design and loading, however, uncertainty arises as the current damage intensity (DI) class chart developed by Shahiron with associates was only focused on vertical static loading, hence there is a need to have a DI class chart for lateral cyclic loading as simulating earthquake loading. Another parameter that involves a part of the DI class chart is cracking width as it is an important tool that influences DI assessment evaluation. The current study shows that an ANN model is yet to be developed for crack prediction and damage classification concerning RC beam-column joint subjected to lateral cyclic loading (Shahidan et al., 2013 : Xu et al., 2017). Therefore, a reliable approach is needed for engineering practice to develop a DI chart model and a crack width prediction model for RC beam-column joint insight including the set of improved structural assessments under cyclic loading recommendation.

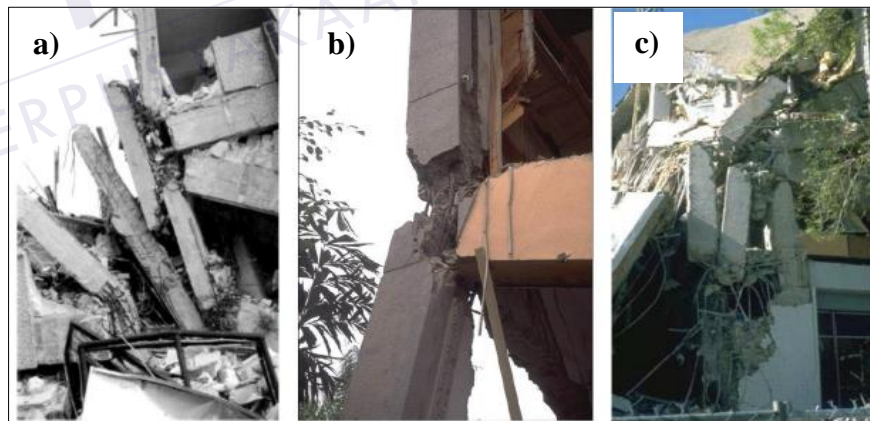


Figure 1.2: Damages of RC beam-column joints in (a) 1999 Izmit, Turkey earthquakes (Scawthorn & Johnson, 2000), (b) 1999 Chi-Chi, Taiwan earthquakes (Tsai et al., 2000) and (c) 1994 Northridge, CA earthquakes (Mitchell et al., 1995)



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## LIST OF APPENDICES

### List of publication

- 1) Ganasan, R., Tan, C. G., Ibrahim, Z., Nazri, F. M., Wong, Y. H. (2020). A Case Study on Structural Failure of Reinforced Concrete Beam-Column Joint After the First Significant Earthquake Impact in Malaysia. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INTEGRATED ENGINEERING* VOL. 12 NO. 8, 288–302 (Scopus-indexed)
- 2) Ganasan, R., Tan, C. G., Ibrahim, Z., Bunnori, N. M., Nazri, F. M., Nayaka, R. R. (2020). Crack assessment of RC beam-column joints subjected to cyclic lateral loading using Acoustic Emission (AE): The influence of shear links aspect. *Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering*. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjce-2019-0578> (In Press – ISI-indexed)
- 3) Ganasan, R., Tan, C. G., Ibrahim, Z., Nazri, F. M., Sherif, M. M., & El-Shafie, A. (2021). Development of Crack Width Prediction Models for RC Beam-Column Joint Subjected to Lateral Cyclic Loading Using Machine Learning. *Applied Sciences*, 11(16), 7700 (ISI-indexed)

