FRACTURE CHARACTERIZATION OF REINFORCED CONCRETE BEAMS.

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Abstract: From an experimental study, the fracture failure of lightly reinforced beams has been presented highlighting the presence of strain softening due to the necking of steel after the maximum moment is sustained by the beam. The underreinforced beams exhibit stable crack growth or at best neutral equilibrium prior to the unstable softening mode of collapse. The concept of composite fracture energy for the reinforced concrete beam has been introduced and its use to predict critical moment has been suggested.