

# Advanced Composites in Engineering Structures

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# Lecture VI: Strengthening of existing RC structures with FRP Composites

# Outline

1. Introduction
2. Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?
3. Repairing/strengthening problematic
4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques
5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

# Section 1

## Introduction

# 1. Introduction

## □ Types of structural materials to built structures

- Reinforced concrete
- Masonry
- Steel
- Timber
- Earth
- Glass
- Mixed
- ...



However: Over the time these structures faced different types of "challenges"!!!

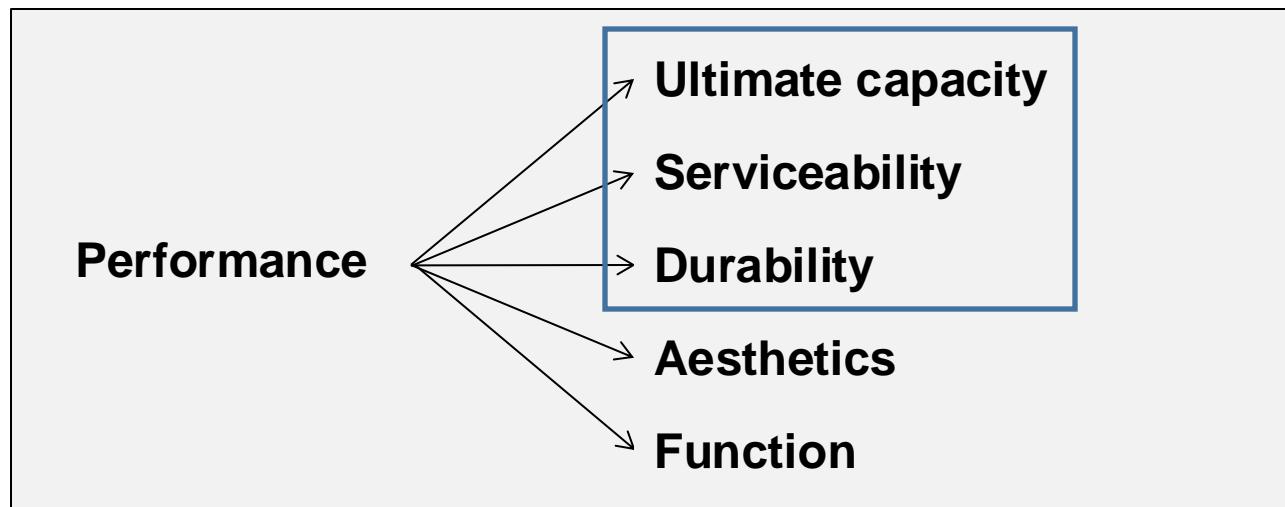
Source:

1. <https://portosecreto.co/hoite-sao-joao-circulacao-ponte-luis-i/>
2. <https://www.romapravoce.com/pantheon-de-roma/>
3. <https://hypebeast.com/2016/8/the-zhangjiajie-glass-bridge-in-china-open>
4. <https://eartharchitecture.org/?cat=78>
5. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eljyjg\\_41Yw&ab\\_channel=RodaRodaNaEuropa](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eljyjg_41Yw&ab_channel=RodaRodaNaEuropa)
6. <https://westernwoodstructures.com/timber-bridges/>

# 1. Introduction

## □ Definitions

- **Maintenance**: to **KEEP** the structure performance at original level.
- **Repair**: to **UPGRADE** the structure performance to its original level.
- **Upgrading/Strengthening**: to **INCREASE** the structure performance.



## Section 2

**Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?**

## 2. Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?

### Three main groups of reasons

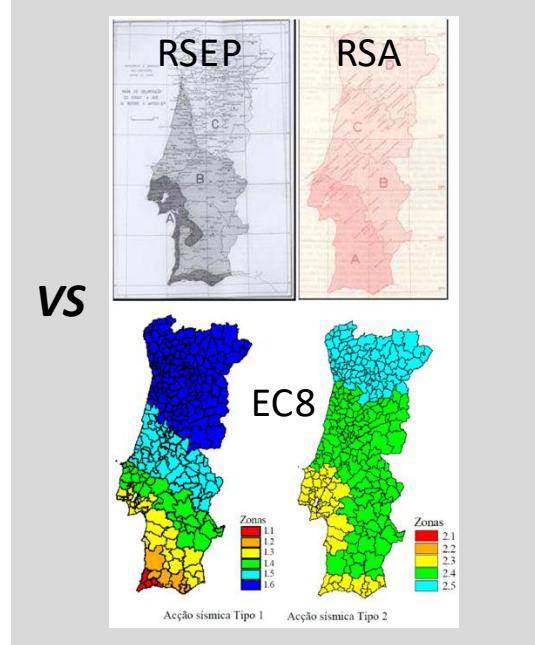
#### I. To eliminate structural problems or distresses which result from:

- unusual loading or exposure conditions;
- inadequate design;
- or poor construction practices.

Distresses may be caused by **overloads, fire, flood, foundation settlement, deterioration resulting from abrasion, fatigue effects, chemical attack, weathering, inadequate maintenance**, etc.

#### II. To be conform to current codes and standards.

#### III. To allow the feasibility of changing the use of a structure to accommodate a different use from the present one.

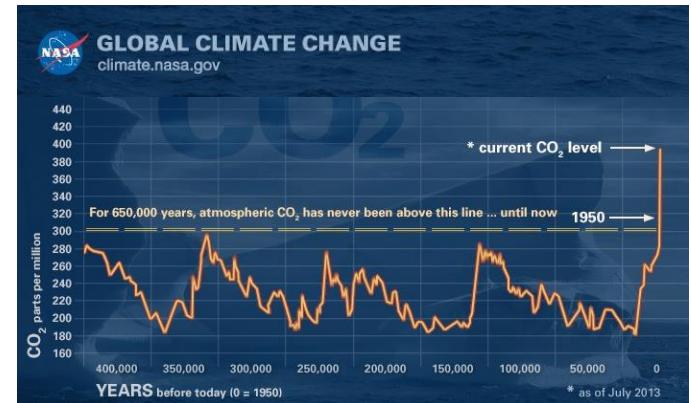


## 2. Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?

### Increased need of rehabilitation

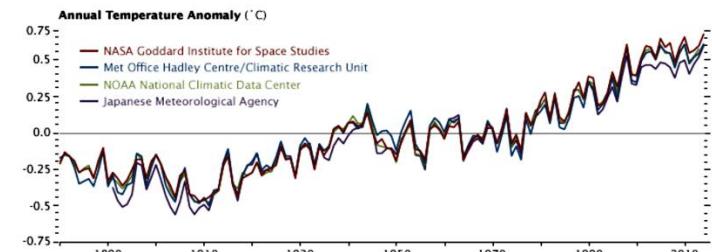
#### Increase in atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels

- Increased Carbonation
- Increased Corrosion Rates



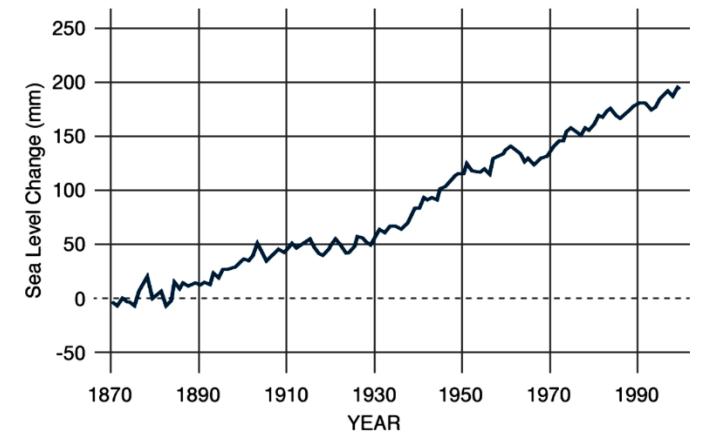
#### Increase in temperature by over 5 °C

- Increased Shrinkage
- Porous Microstructure and High Permeability
- Increased Corrosion Rates



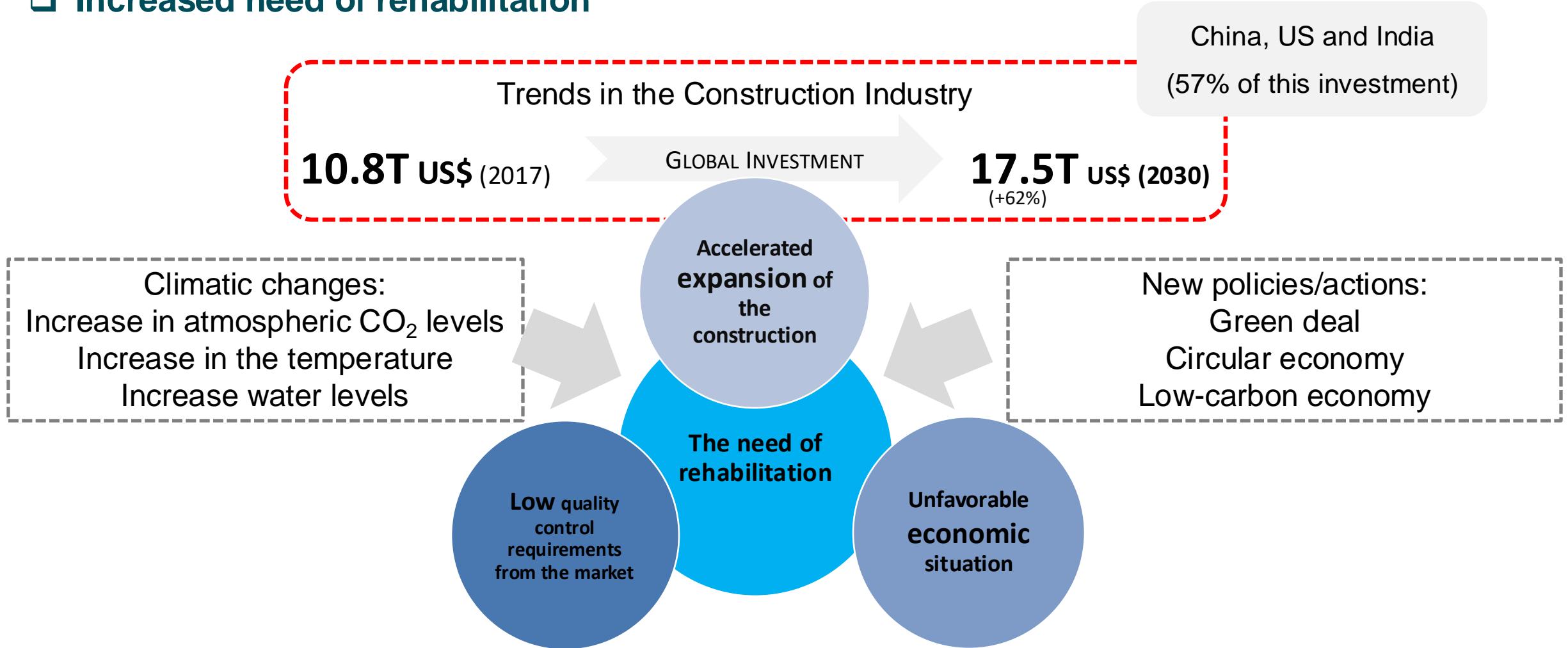
#### Increased Water Levels

- Increased Saturation
- Greater Scour



## 2. Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?

### Increased need of rehabilitation



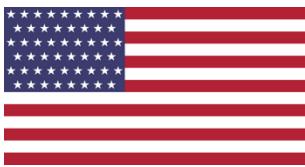
## 2. Why do structures need repairing/strengthening?

### Increased need of rehabilitation



In **2019**, total investment in construction in the EU27 amounted to €1,324 billion, which represented 9.5% of GDP. **The investments in rehabilitation and maintenance activities represented 28% (€371 billion)** of this total investment.

*Source: European Construction Industry Federation*



Based on the analysis of the U.S. Department of Transportation's **2019** National Bridge Inventory (NBI) database, nearly 231,000 U.S. bridges need major repair work or should be replaced (**46,000 are “structurally deficient” and in poor condition**). That figure represents 37% of all U.S. bridges. More than 46,000 of those bridges are “structurally deficient” and in poor condition. The ARTBA estimates a cost nearly **\$164 billion**.

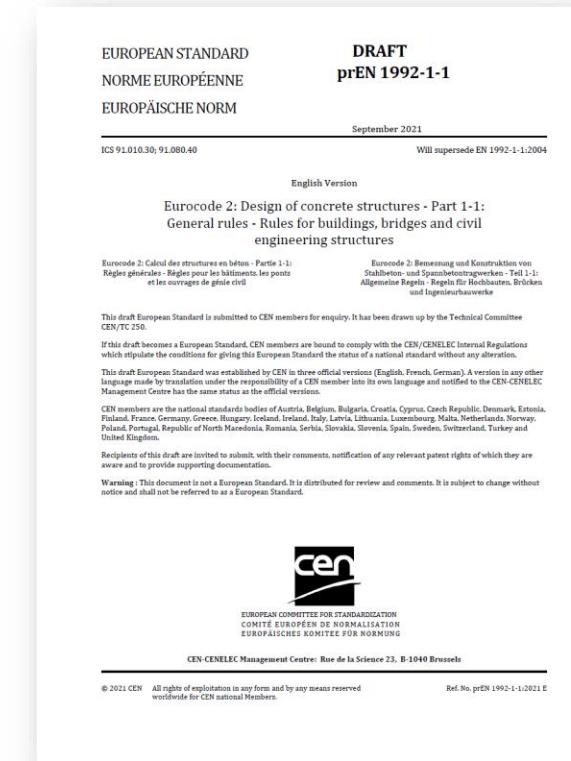
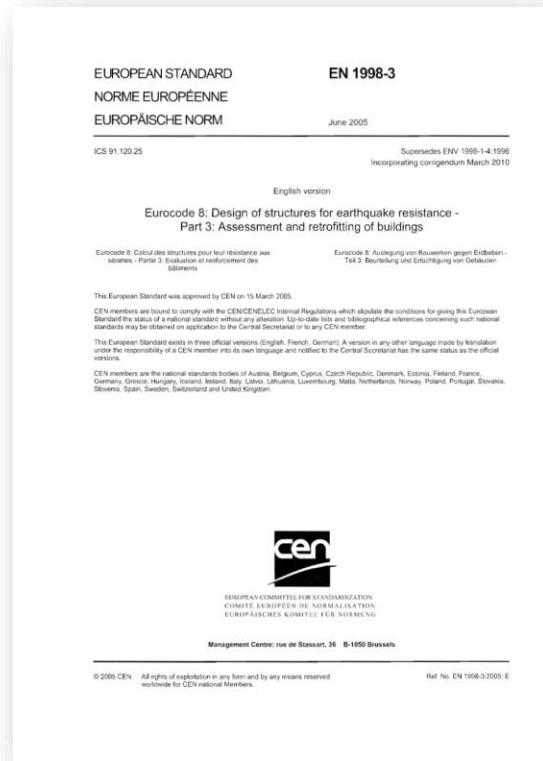
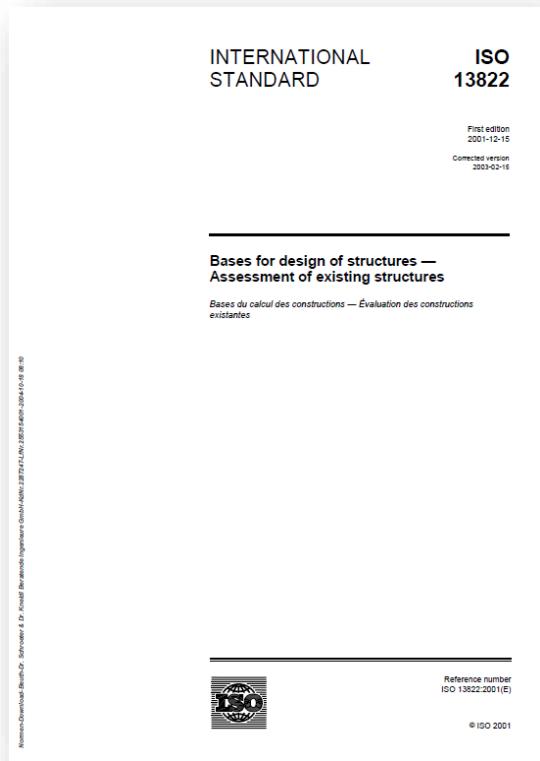
*Source: American Road & Transportation Builders Association (ARTBA)*

# Section 3

## Repairing/strengthening problematic

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Assessment of existing structures



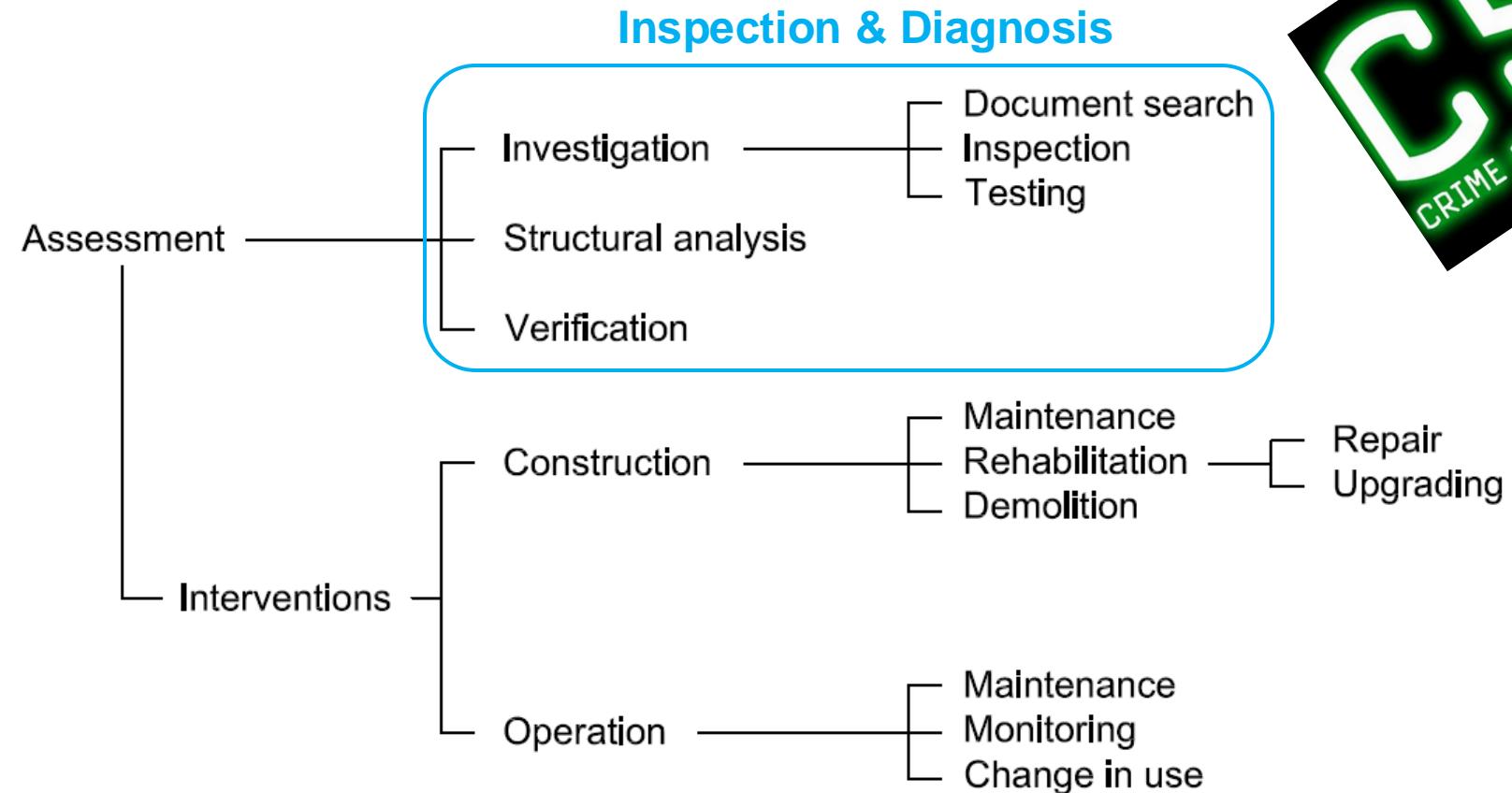
ISO 13822:2010

EN 1998-3: 2005

prEN 1992-1-1

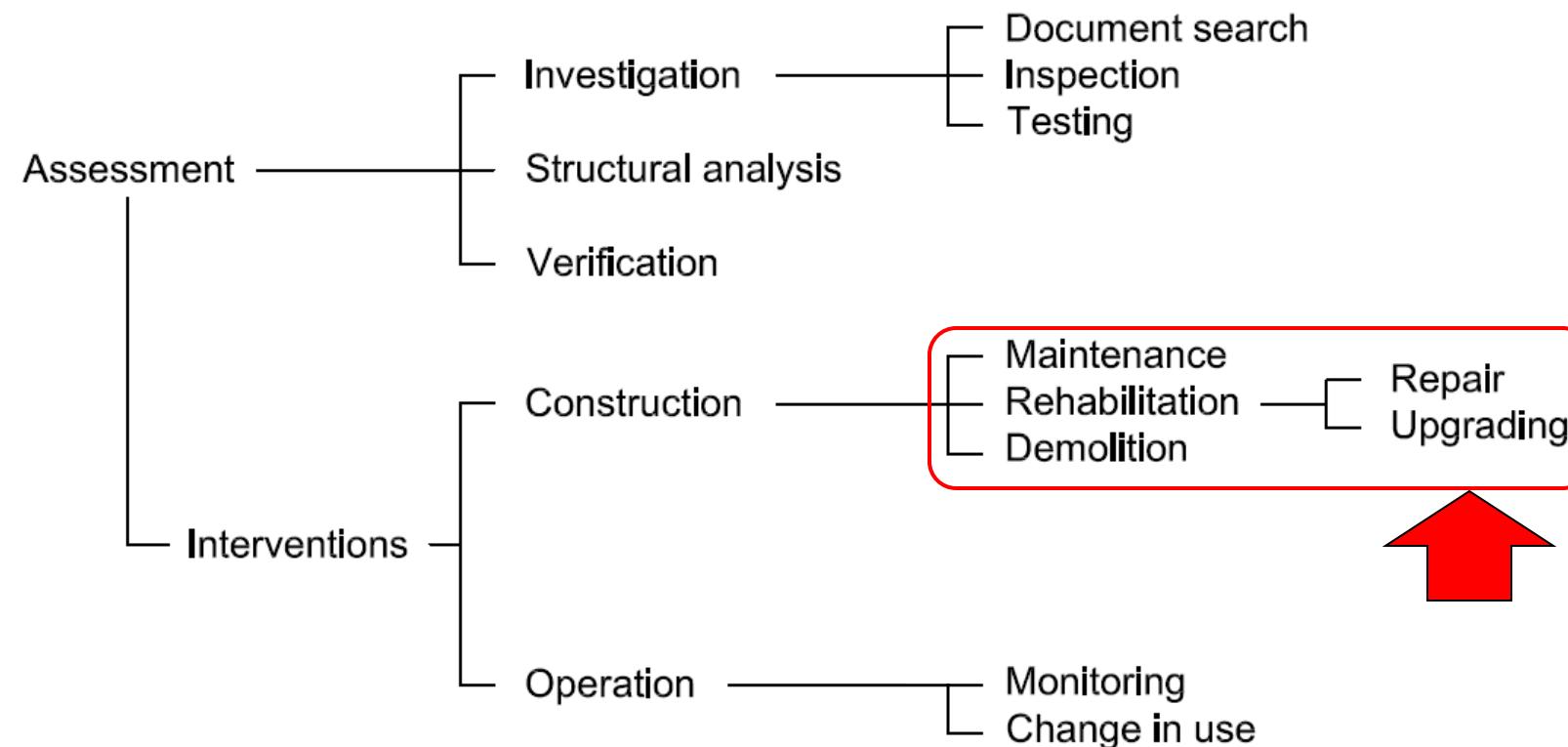
### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### Assessment of existing structures - Protocol



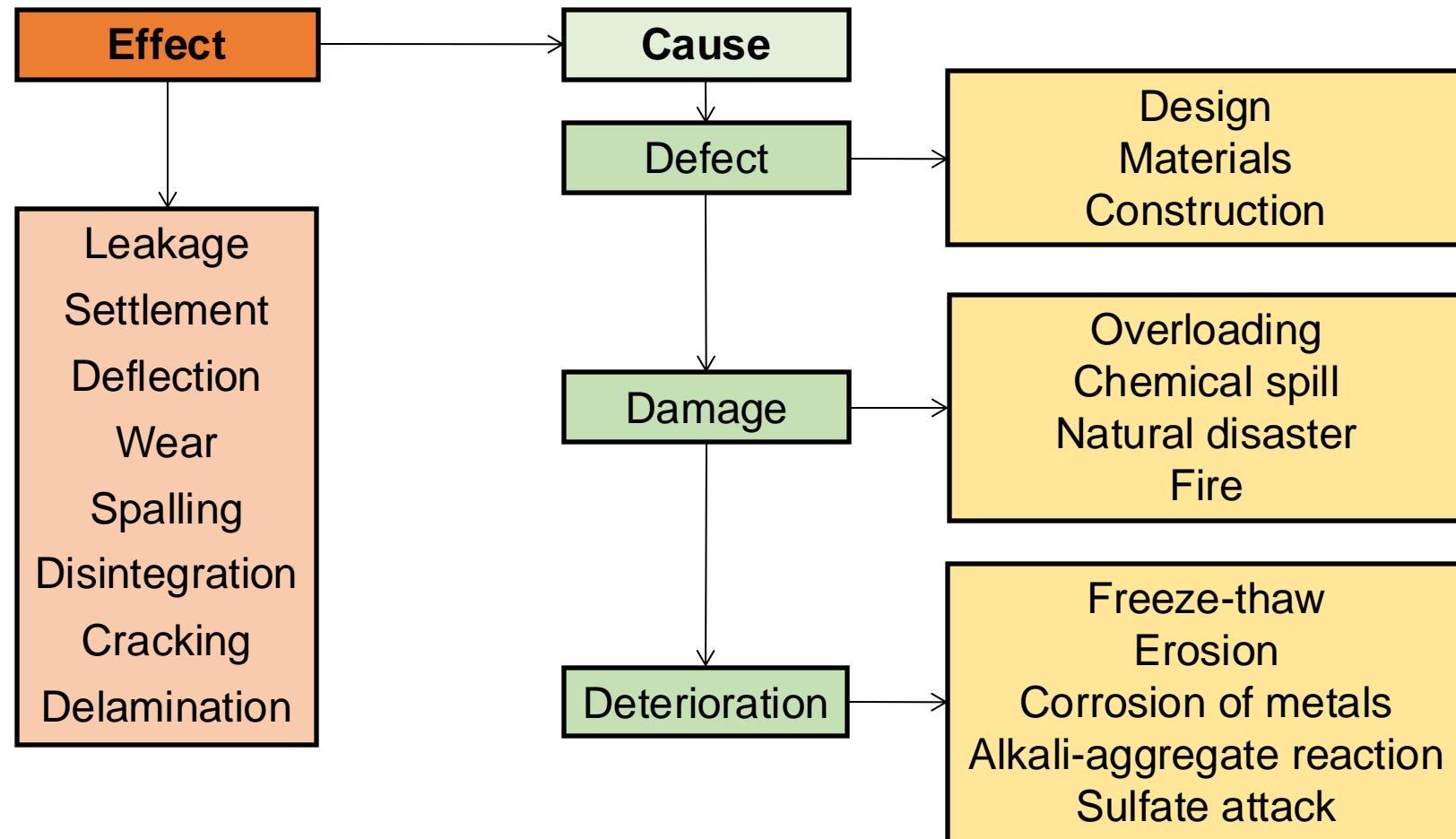
### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Intervention - Construction



### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

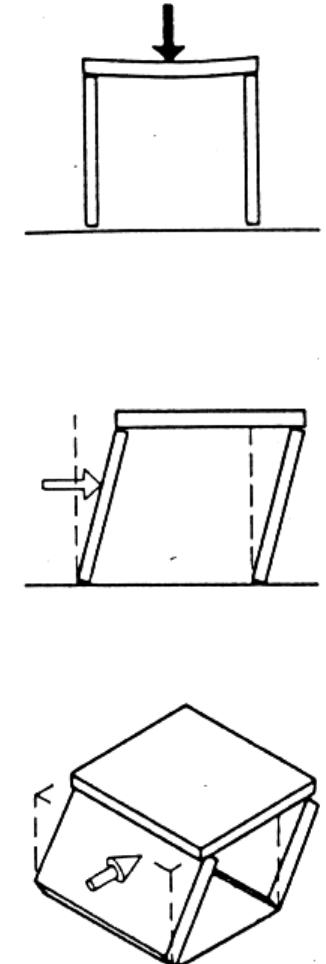
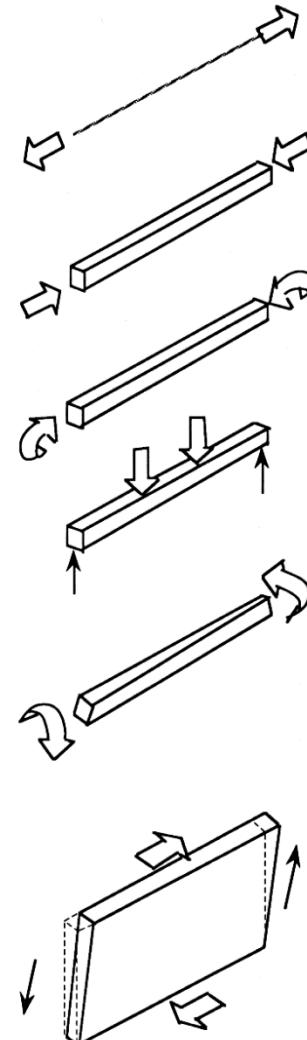
#### □ Effects vs. causes



### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### Targets

- Tensile capacity
- Compressive capacity
- Flexural capacity
- Torsional capacity
- Shear capacity
- Member stability (buckling)
- Ductility
- Stiffness



### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### Repairing vs. strengthening

##### REPAIRING (causes):

- Defects
- Deterioration
- Damage

##### STRENGTHENING (causes):

- Change in use
- Construction and/or design defects
- Code changes
- Seismic action

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Strategies

- **Passive** or **active** design?
- Using the **existing** structural elements or **addition of new ones**?
- **Total** (strength, stiffness, stability and ductility) or **selective**?

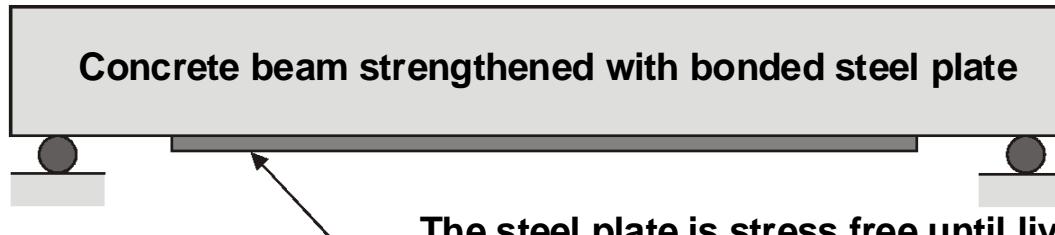


### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Passive vs. active techniques

Depends on how loads act on the additional components used to strengthen or stabilize the structure

**Passive**

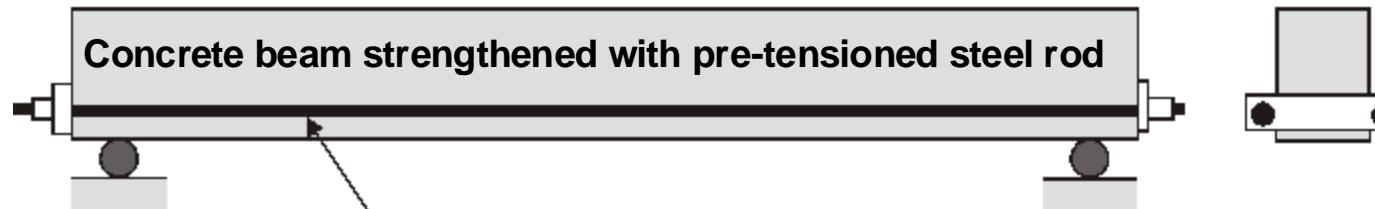


**Concrete beam strengthened with bonded steel plate**

The steel plate is stress free until live loads are introduced. As the beam deflects, the steel plate will begin to share the tension loads.

Additional loads are required to engage the strengthening system

**Active**



**Concrete beam strengthened with pre-tensioned steel rod**

Stressed tendon immediately allows the beam to carry loads

Immediate stress reduction and engagement of system

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### Passive vs. active techniques

- **Active systems** require either **prestressing** the repaired elements or temporarily **removing loads** from the existent elements, or a combination of both.
- **Passive systems** are suitable when live load changes are anticipated (e.g. upgrading a bridge to sustain heavier loads may require only a passive system).



***Luiz I bridge – Oporto city***

**GRID 1997/1998**

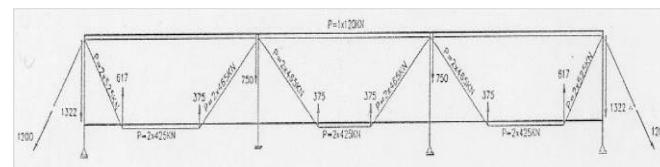
- Replacement of the upper deck platform by a metallic railway platform
- **Strengthening** of the upper deck girders
- **Strengthening** of structural elements of the arch and metallic piers



***Bridge over the Soure river***

**A2P 2005**

- **External prestressing**
- Strengthening of the footings using micro-piles



### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### Using the existing structural elements or addition of new ones

- RC walls
- Seismic bracing systems
- Buckling restrained braces
- **Dampers**
- ...

**London Millennium Footbridge**



**Type:** Suspension bridge

**Total length:** 325 m

**Width:** 4 m

**Engineering design:** Arup

**Architect:** Norman Foster

**Opened:** 2000, Jun-10

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Using the existing structural elements or addition of new ones

- RC walls
- Seismic bracing systems
- Buckling restrained braces
- **Dampers**
- ...

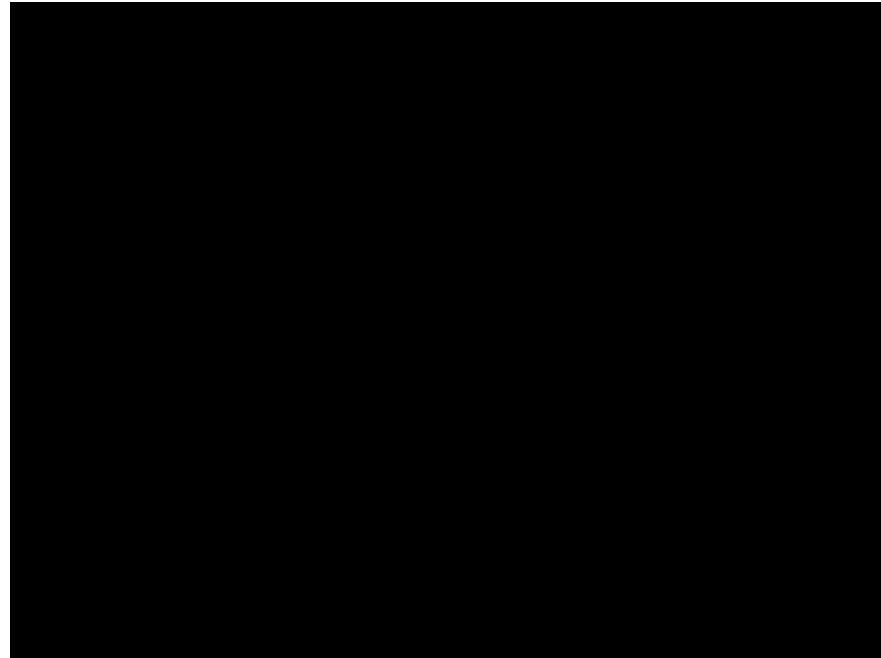


London Millennium Footbridge

- Resonance problems
- The natural sway motion of people walking caused sideways oscillations in the bridge
- The vibrational modes **had not been anticipated by the designers**

Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAXVa\\_XWZ8&ab\\_channel=mdepablo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eAXVa_XWZ8&ab_channel=mdepablo)



Source:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium\\_Bridge,\\_London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Bridge,_London)

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

#### □ Using the existing structural elements or addition of new ones

- RC walls
- Seismic bracing systems
- Buckling restrained braces
- **Dampers**
- ...

#### London Millennium Footbridge

##### Mitigation

- Making the bridge stiffer (to move its resonant frequency out of the excitation range) was not feasible as it would greatly change its appearance.
- The resonance was controlled by retrofitting **37 viscous fluid dampers** to dissipate energy: 17 chevron dampers + 4 vertical to ground dampers + 16 pier damper
- **52 tuned mass dampers**

Chevron dampers



Vertical to ground dampers



Pier dampers



Moving end of pier damper



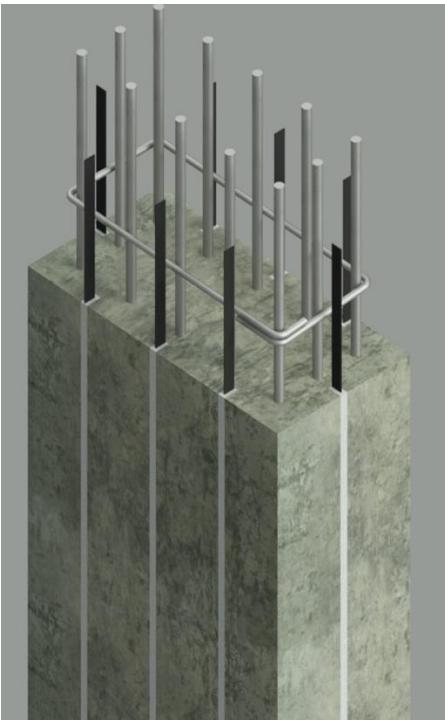
Tuned mass damper



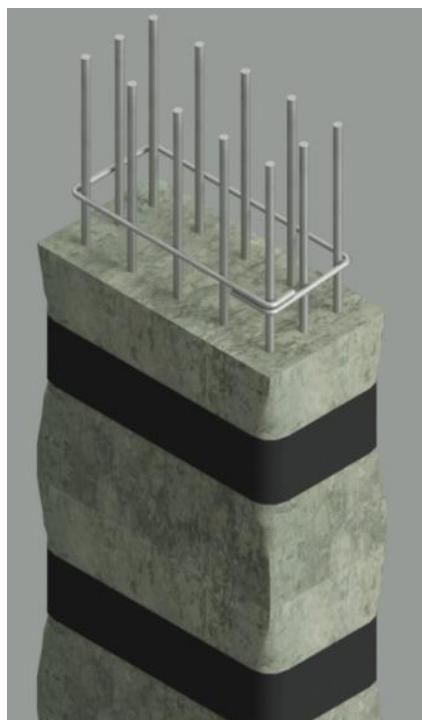
Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium\\_Bridge,\\_London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Millennium_Bridge,_London)

### 3. Repairing/strengthening problematic

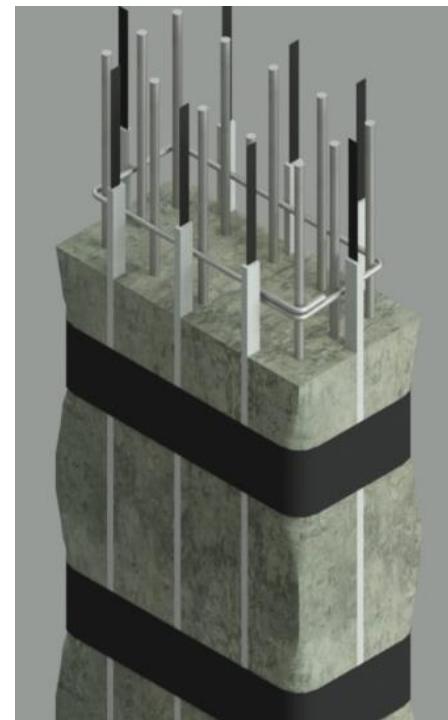
#### Total vs. selective technique



**Flexural strengthening**



**Shear + ductility strengthening**



**Flexural + shear + ductility strengthening**

# Section 4

## Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Traditional techniques

- **Enlargements with concrete (total or partial)**
- **Composite solutions (e.g. adding steel plates)**
- **External prestressing**
- **Span shortening**

### Innovative techniques

- **Enlargements with new cementitious materials**
- **Composite solutions with FRP**
- **External prestressing with FRP**

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Traditional techniques: **ADVANTAGES**

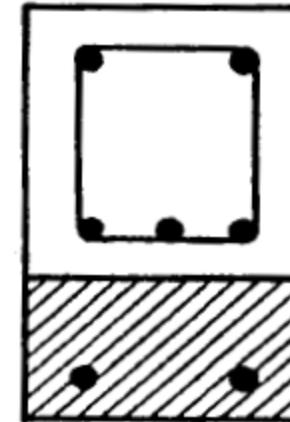
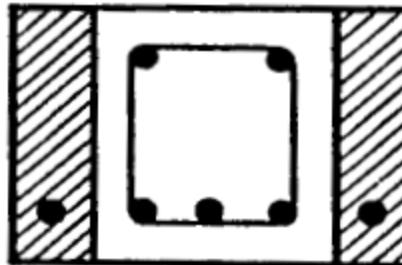
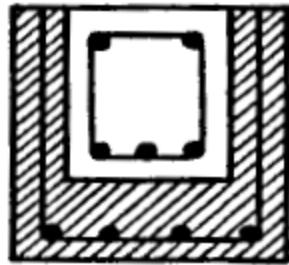
- Use of materials **well-known**
- In general, **qualified workers are not required!**
- **Simple techniques and well-known**
- In many cases the **existing codes can be used**
- **Reduced initial cost**

### Traditional techniques: **DISADVANTAGES**

- **Very intrusive** with effective reduction of useful spaces
- **Large amount of labor**
- **Complicated logistics** during the strengthening phase
- **Limited durability**

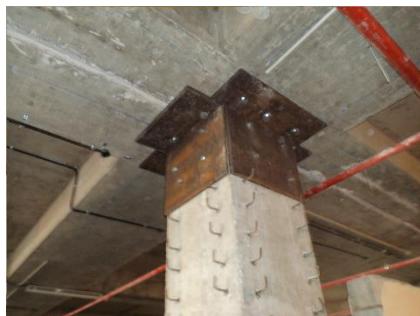
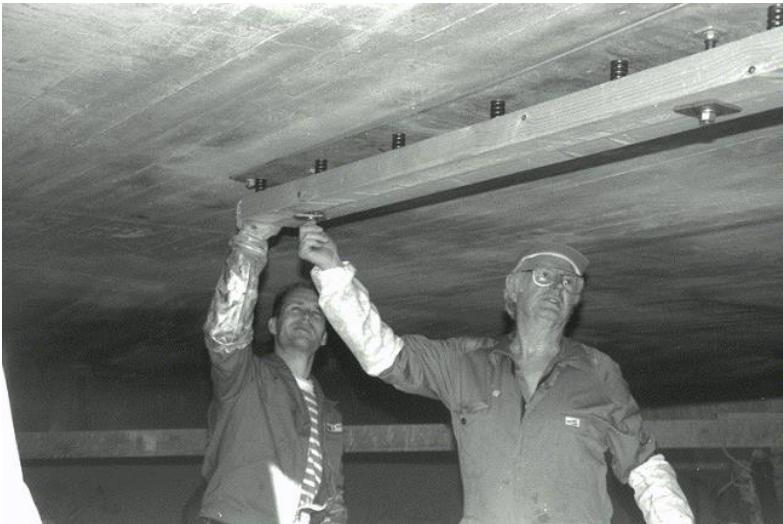
## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### □ Traditional techniques – Enlargements



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### □ Traditional techniques – Composites



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

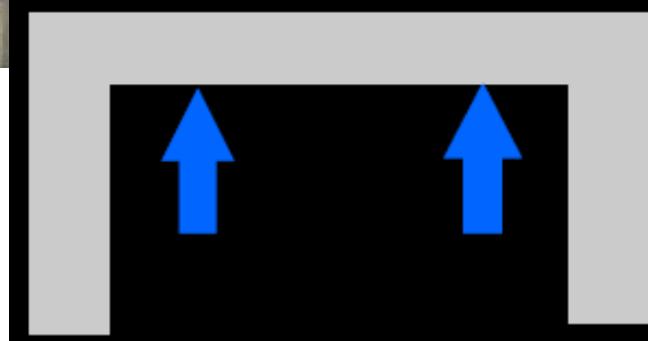
### Traditional techniques – Post-tensioning



*Eiffel Bridge, Viana do Castelo*

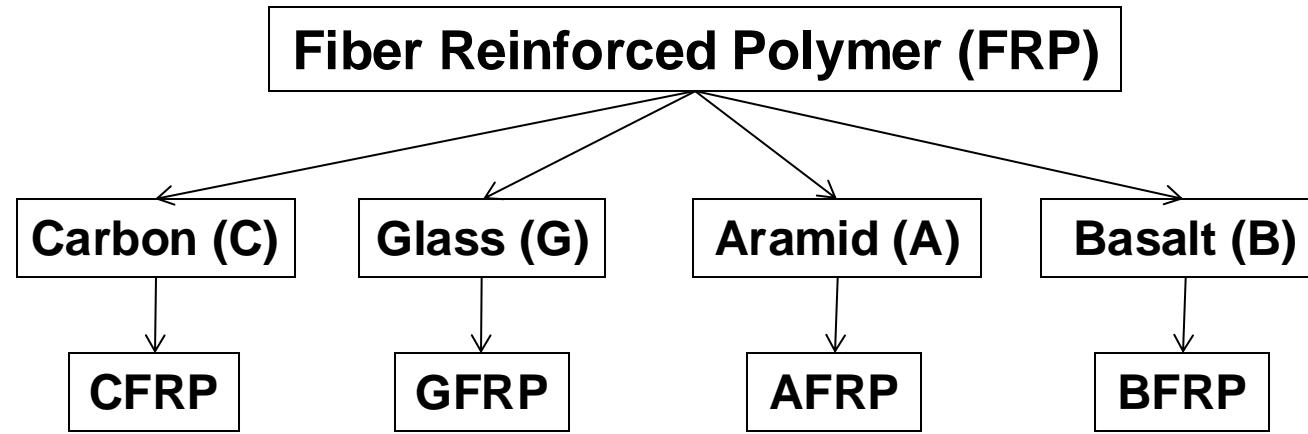
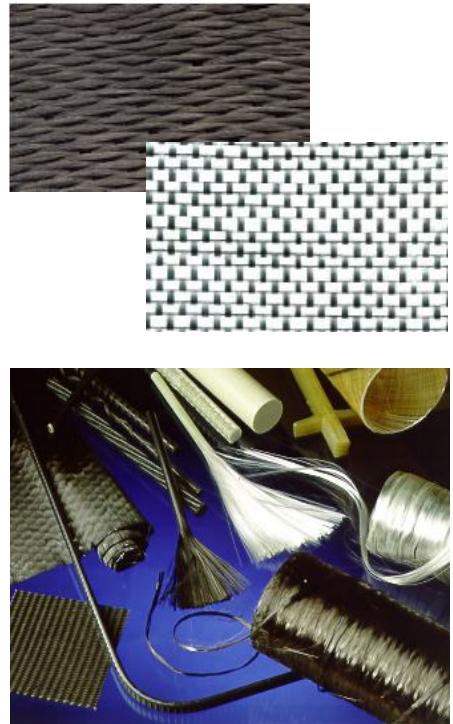
## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### □ Traditional techniques – Span shortening



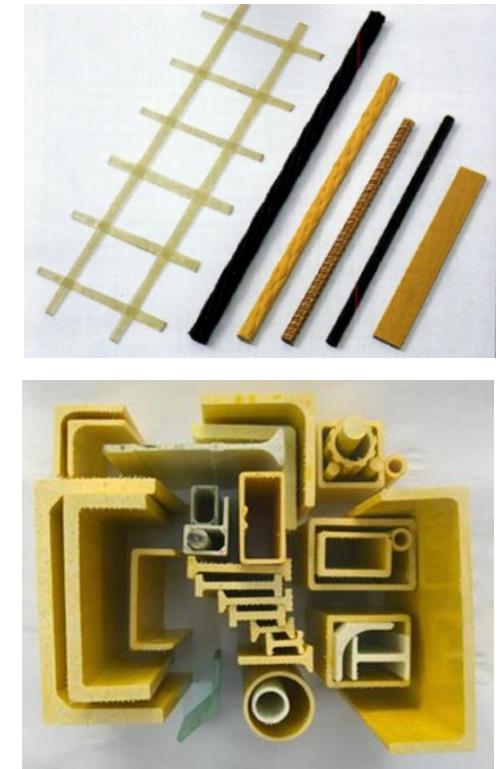
## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### □ FRP composites



**Sheet/Fabrics**  
- Uni-directional  
- Multi-directional  
- Dry sheet  
- Pre-pregnated  
- Strands

**Bars**  
- Plate  
- Rod  
- Grid  
- “Any” section



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Innovative techniques



**Flexural strengthening**



**Confinement**



**Shear strengthening**



**Confinement/Punching**

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

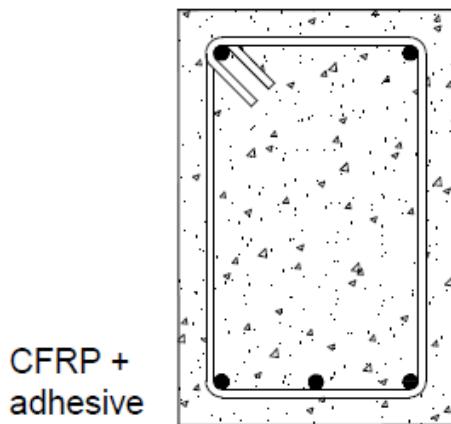
### Innovative techniques

- EBR (*Externally Bonded Reinforcement*)
- NSM (*Near Surface Mounted*)
- MF-FRP (*Mechanically Fastened FRP*)
- MF-EBR (*Mechanically Fastened and Externally Bonded Reinforcement*)

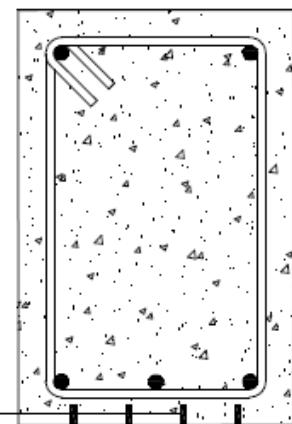
Active or passive systems



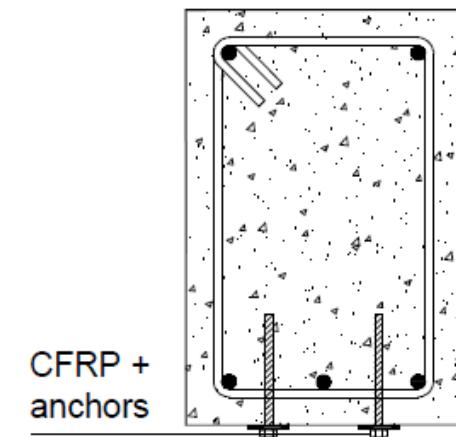
*EBR*



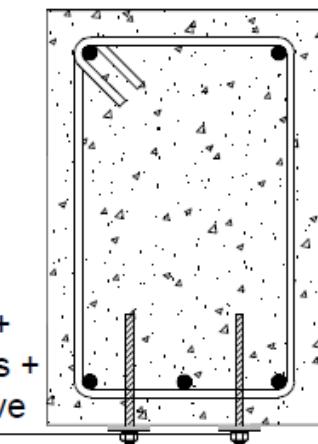
*NSM*



*MF-FRP*



*MF-EBR*



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

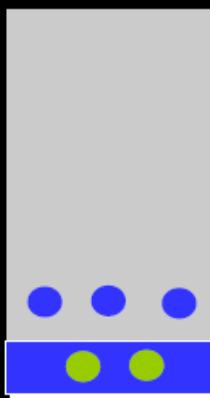
### □ Bonded plate vs. enlargement vs. FRP sheet

Simply supported beam; 35% upgrade in live load



Bonded Steel Plate

3/16 inch bolted plate  
110 Kg dead load  
Placed by lift truck



Member Enlargement

2 #8 rebar, 4 in. grout  
1110 Kg dead load  
Formed and cured



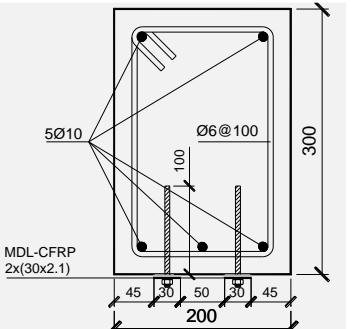
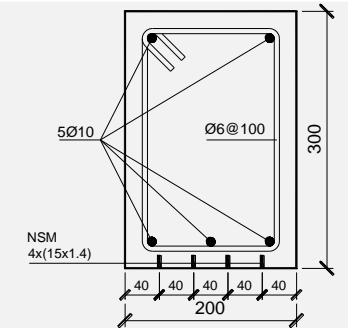
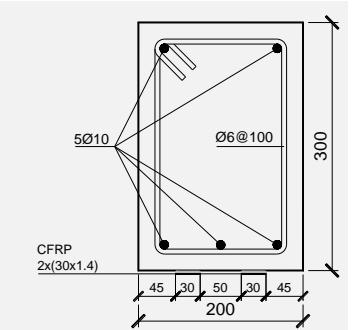
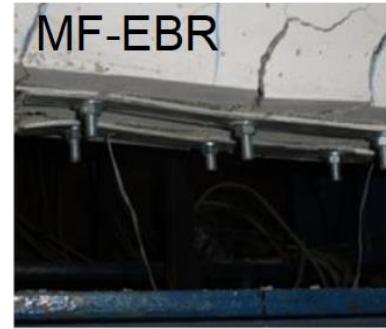
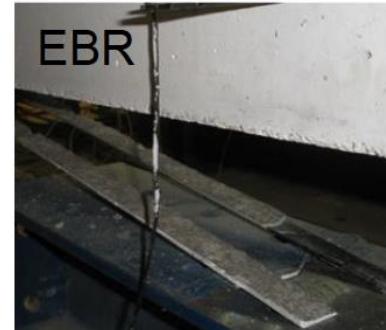
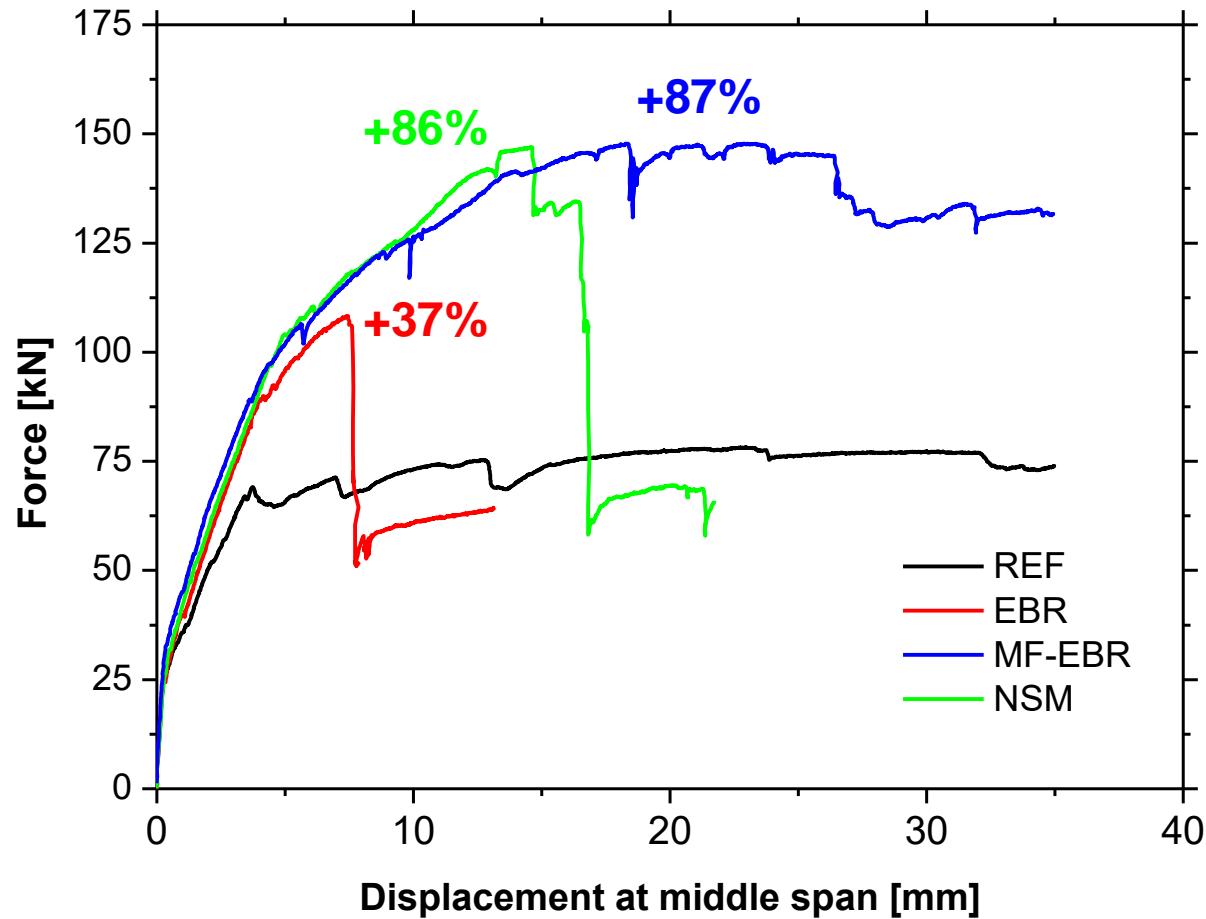
FRP Sheet

1 layer resin bonded  
2.7 Kg dead load  
Placed by hand

(Saleh Alsayed, Yousef Al-Salloum, and Tarek Almusallam)

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### □ Innovative techniques: EBR vs. NSM vs. MF-FRP



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Externally applied or near surface mounted FRP



Guide for Strengthening of  
Concrete Structures

Guide to good practice  
Task Group 8.1

May 2022

<https://doi.org/10.35789/fib.BULL.0103.Ch07>

### 7. Externally applied or near surface mounted FRP

- 7.1 Foreword
- 7.2 Basics
- 7.3 Design
- 7.4 Stakeholders' roles and qualifications
- 7.5 Execution
- 7.6 Quality control
- 7.7 Monitoring and maintenance
- 7.8 Case study 1
- 7.9 Case study 2

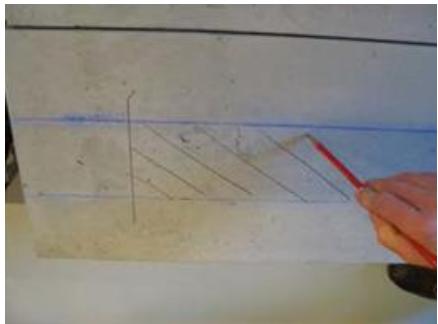
Burtscher, Cabral Fonseca, Correia, Costa, Dourado, Ramoa Correia,  
Kotynia, Schmidt, **Sena Cruz\***, Vorwagner

\* Corresponding Author

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

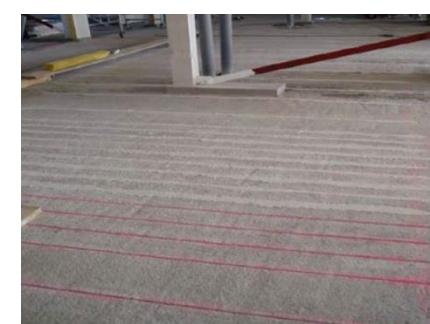
### ☐ Externally bonded reinforcement – [Main steps \(fib bulletin 103\)](#)

*Courtesy of S&P Company*



## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Near-surface mounted technique – [Main steps \(fib bulletin 103\)](#)



*Courtesy of S&P Company*

## 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

### Near-surface mounted technique vs. Externally bonded reinforcement

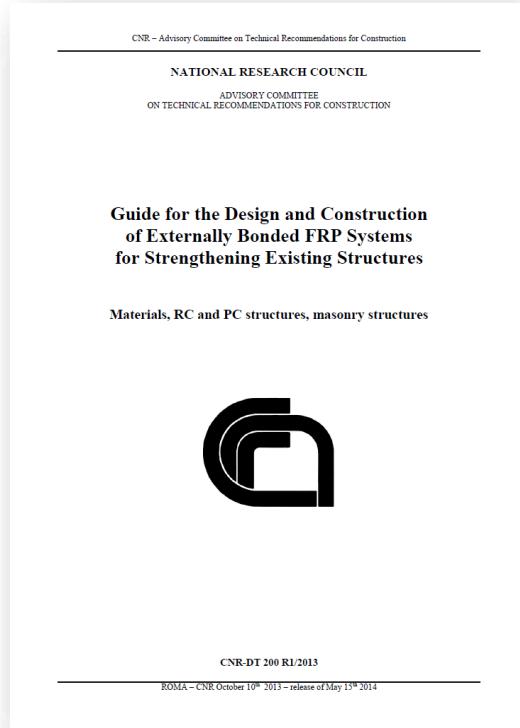
- Reduction of amount of site installation work
- Less prone to premature debonding
- Smaller visual impact
- Greater protection of the FRP against external aggression agents
- FRP failure can be achieved
- Easier to anchor into adjacent members to prevent debonding failures



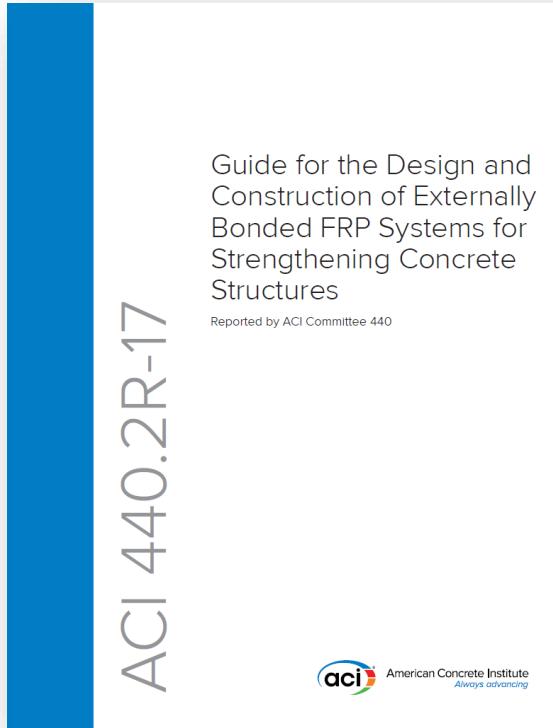
# 4. Traditional vs. innovative materials / strengthening techniques

## □ Existing codes/guidelines

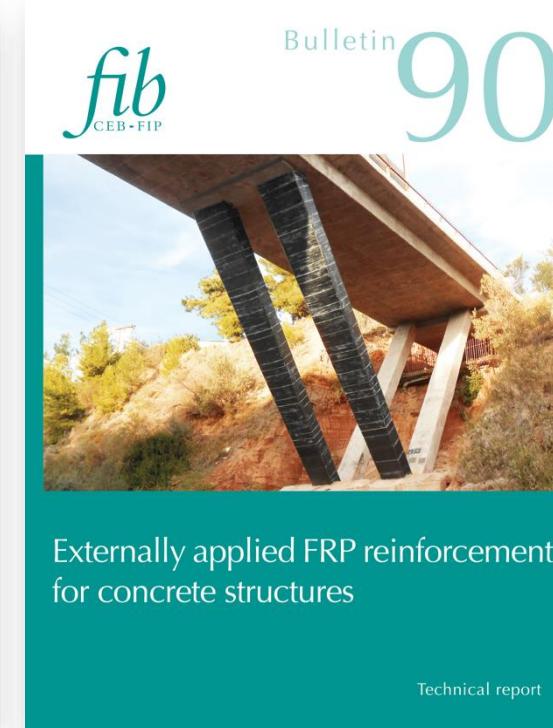
2004, 2013



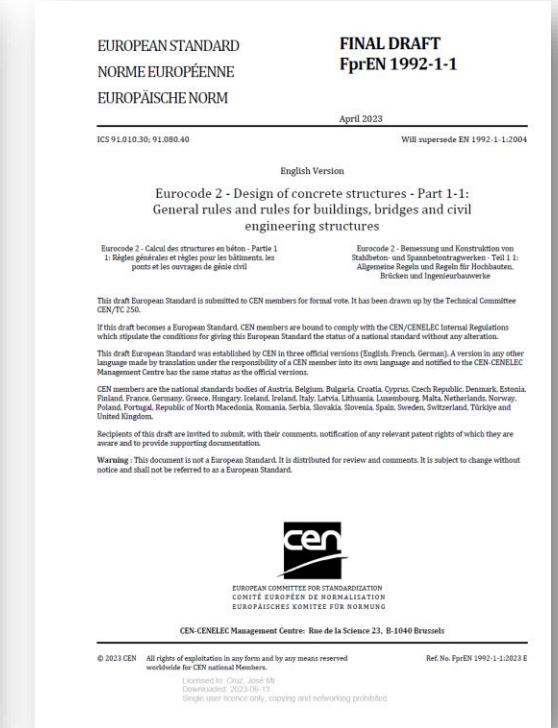
2002, 2008, 2017



2001, 2019



2024



CNR-DT 200 R1

ACI 440.2R-17

fib Bulletin 90

EC2 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation

# **Section 5**

## **Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials**

## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

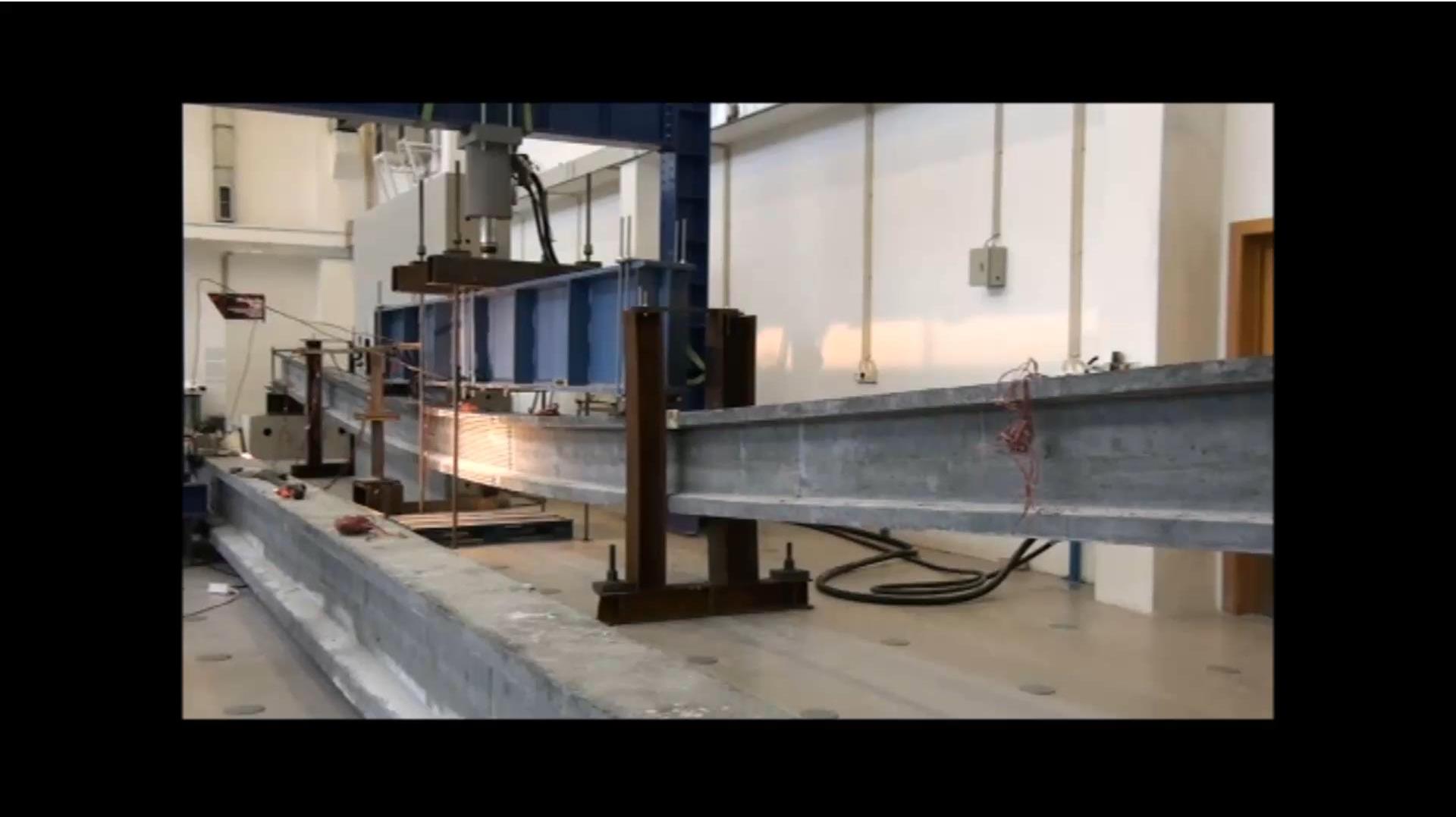
### Introduction

- Considerable research has been developed in the field of **strengthening of RC** with use of the **EBR technique** with **FRP materials**.
- The use of **prestressing** offers several advantages clearly identified by the literature.
- The use of **prestressed FRP** on the strengthening of RC structures **combines** the benefits of the **EBR technique** with the advantages associated with **external prestressing**.



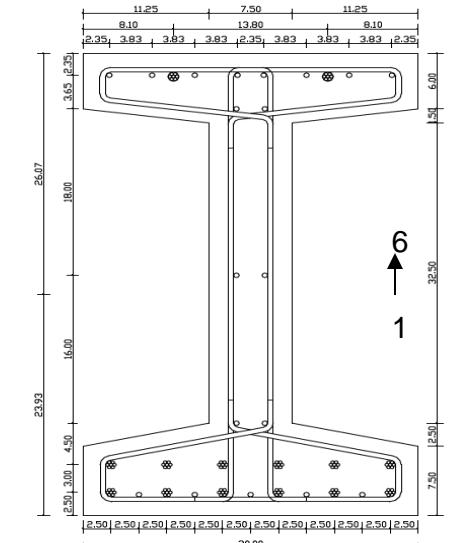
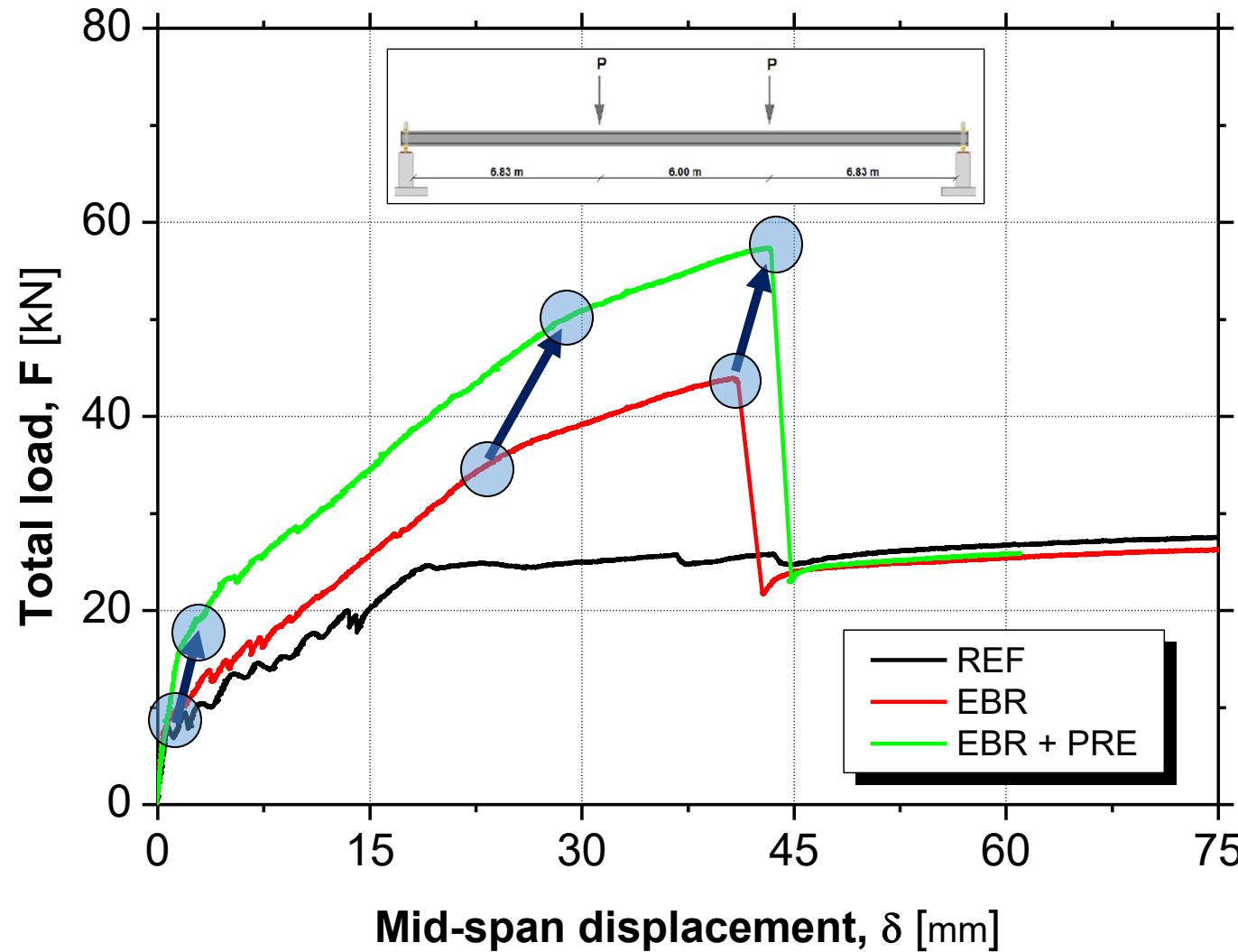
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Benefits of pre-stressing



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Benefits of pre-stressing



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Benefits of pre-stressing

- Deflection reduction and acting against dead loads
- Crack widths reduction
- Delay in the onset of cracking
- Strain relief within the internal steel reinforcement
- Higher fatigue failure resistance
- Delay in yielding of the internal steel reinforcements
- More efficient use of concrete and FRP
- Reduction of premature debonding failure
- Increase in ultimate load-bearing capacity
- Increase in shear capacity



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

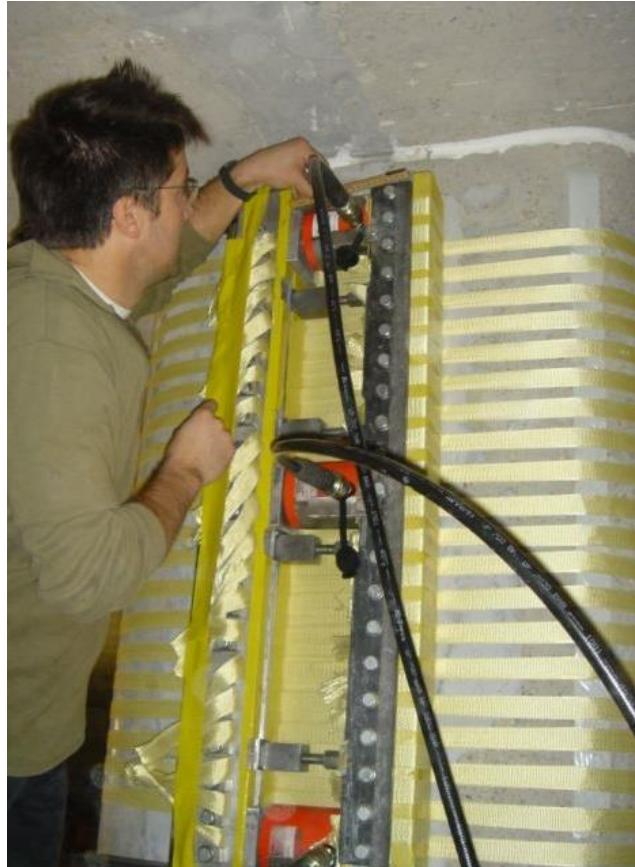
### Flexural strengthening



*S&P Clever Reinforcement*

## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

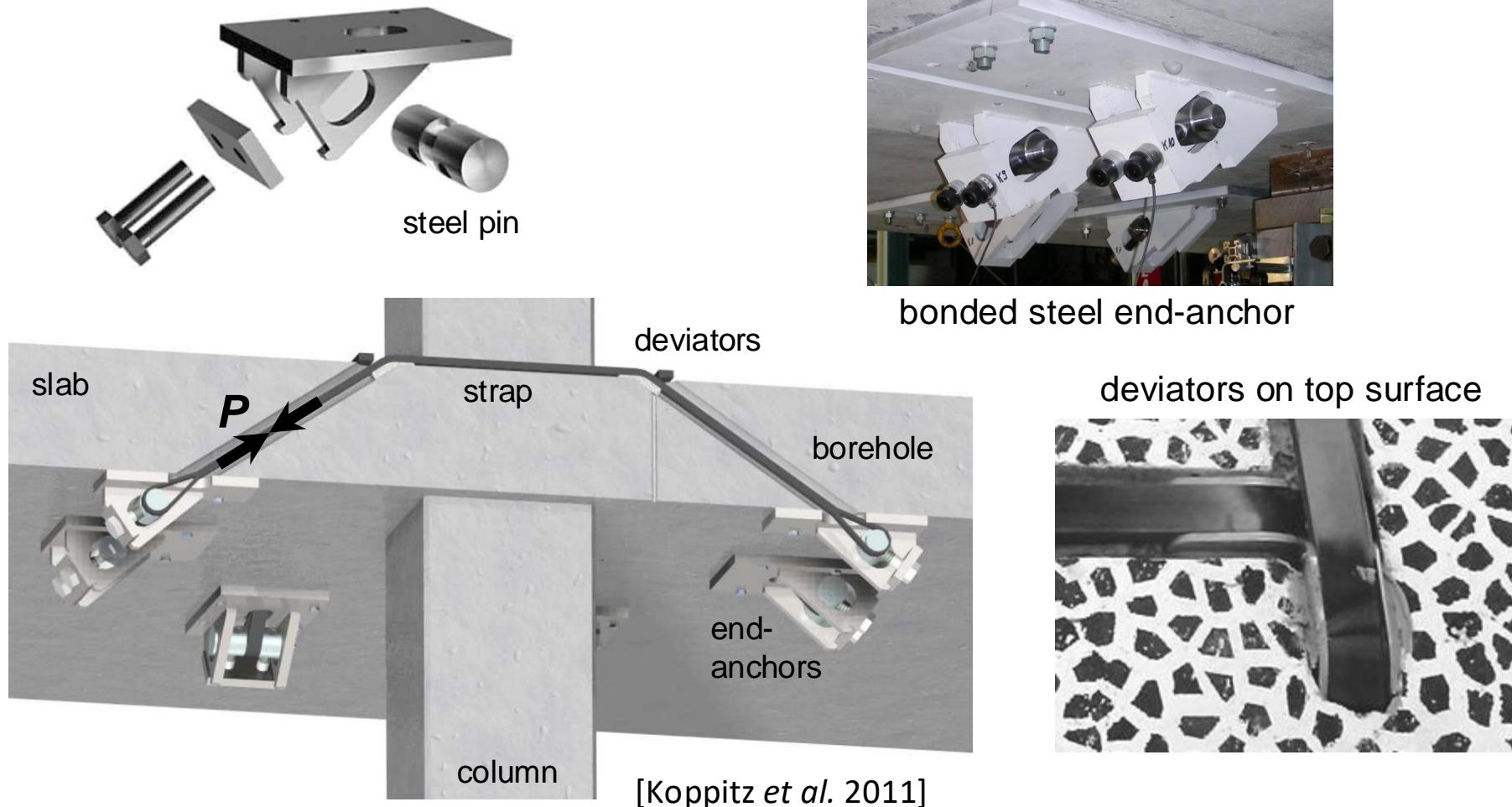
### Confinement



*S&P Clever Reinforcement*

## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Punching strengthening



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Prestressing system from S&P

Clamp unit



Guides



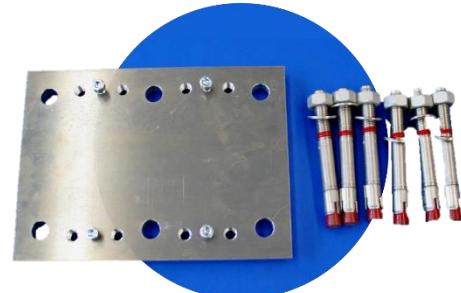
Frame



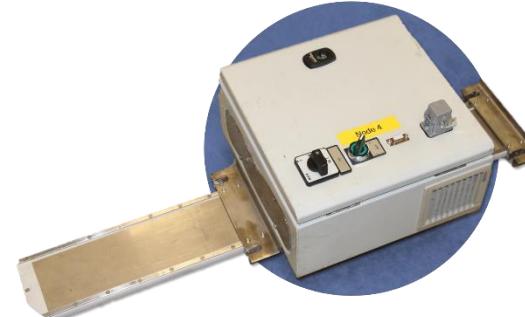
Hydraulic cylinder



Steel plate anchors (MA)



Heating device (GA)

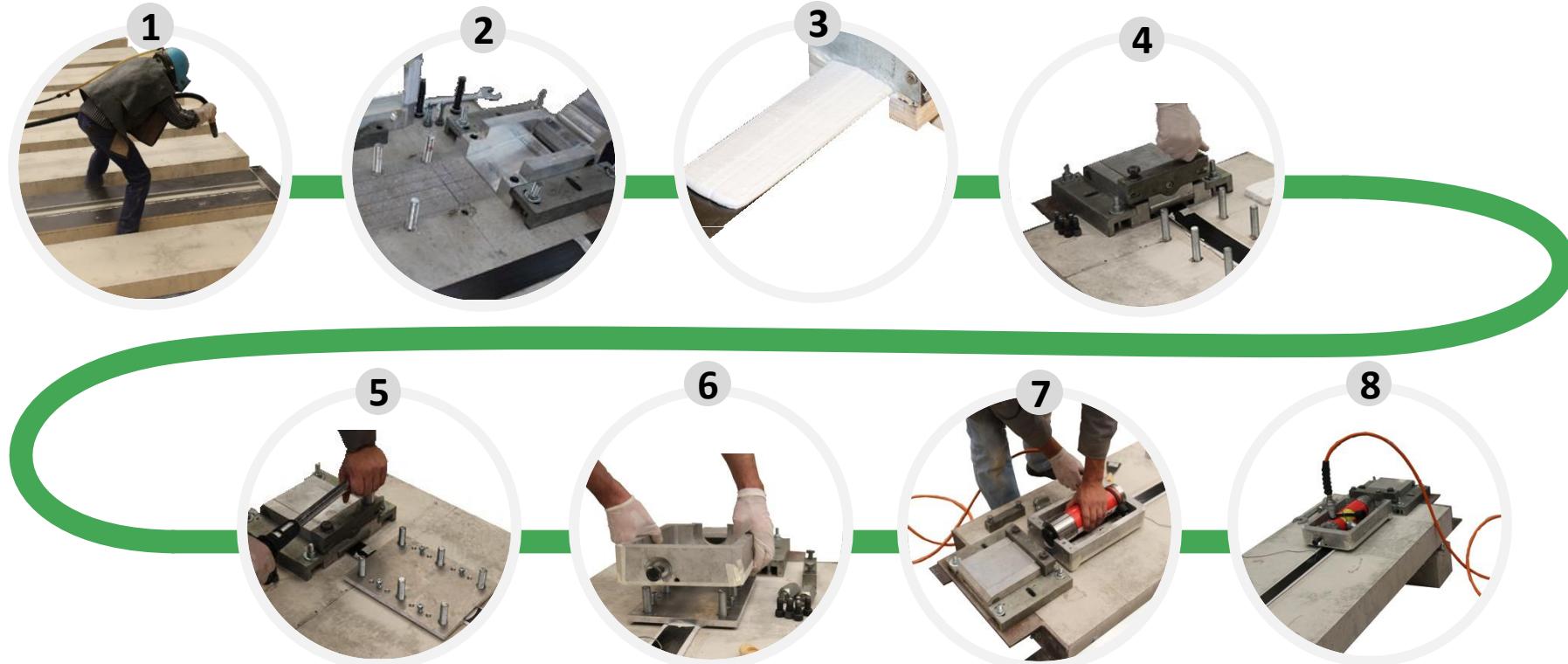


Hydraulic pump



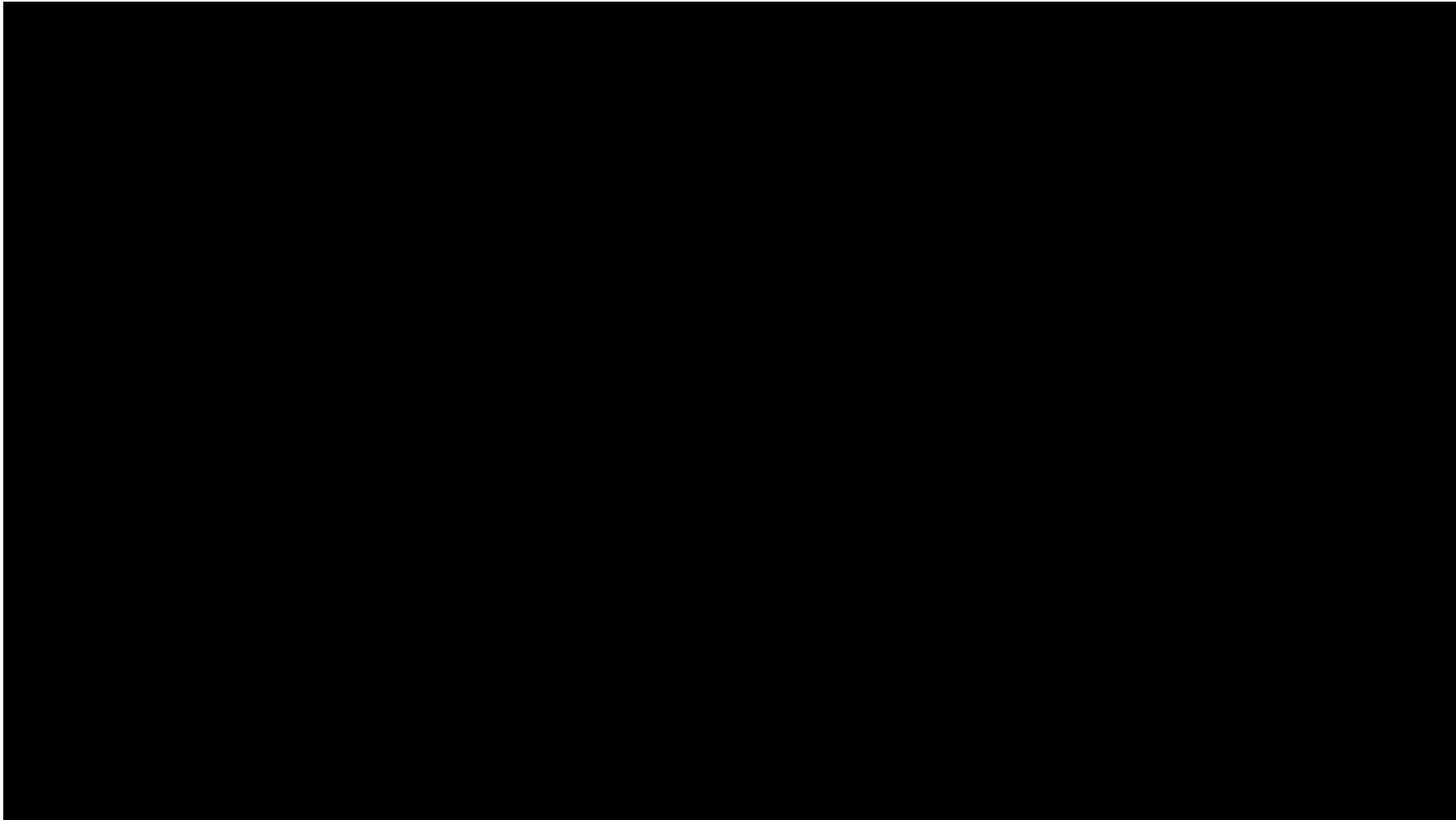
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Mechanical Anchorage (MA)



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Prestressing system from S&P – Mechanical Anchorage (MA)

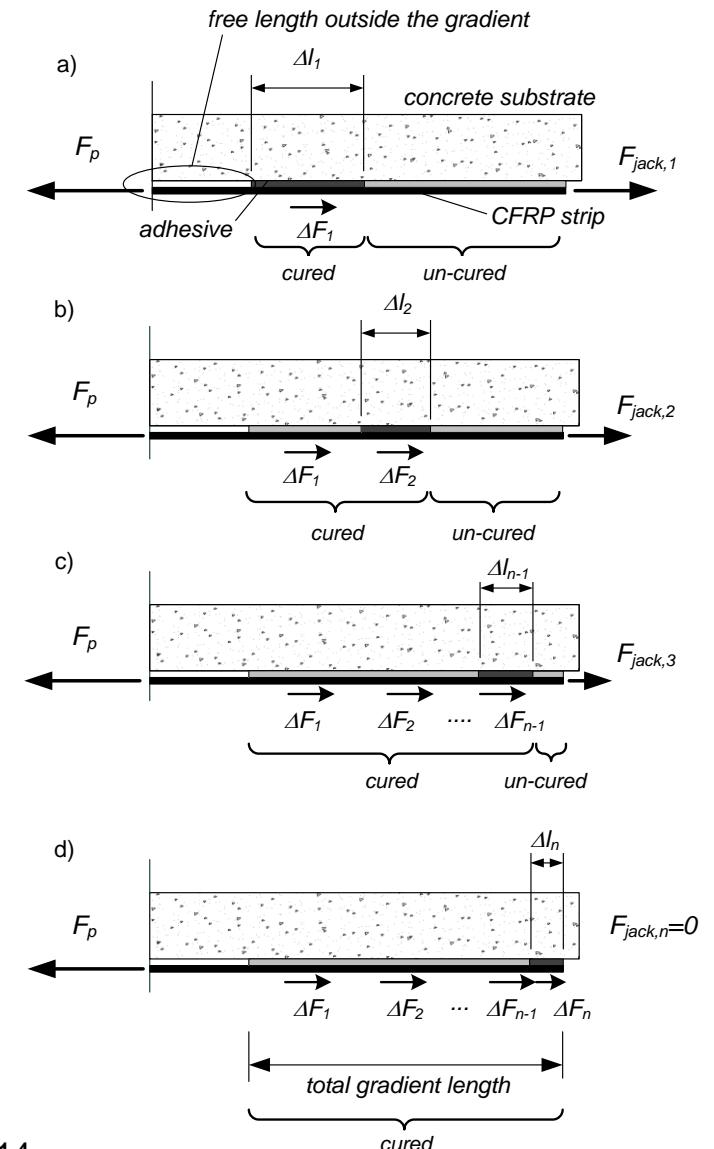
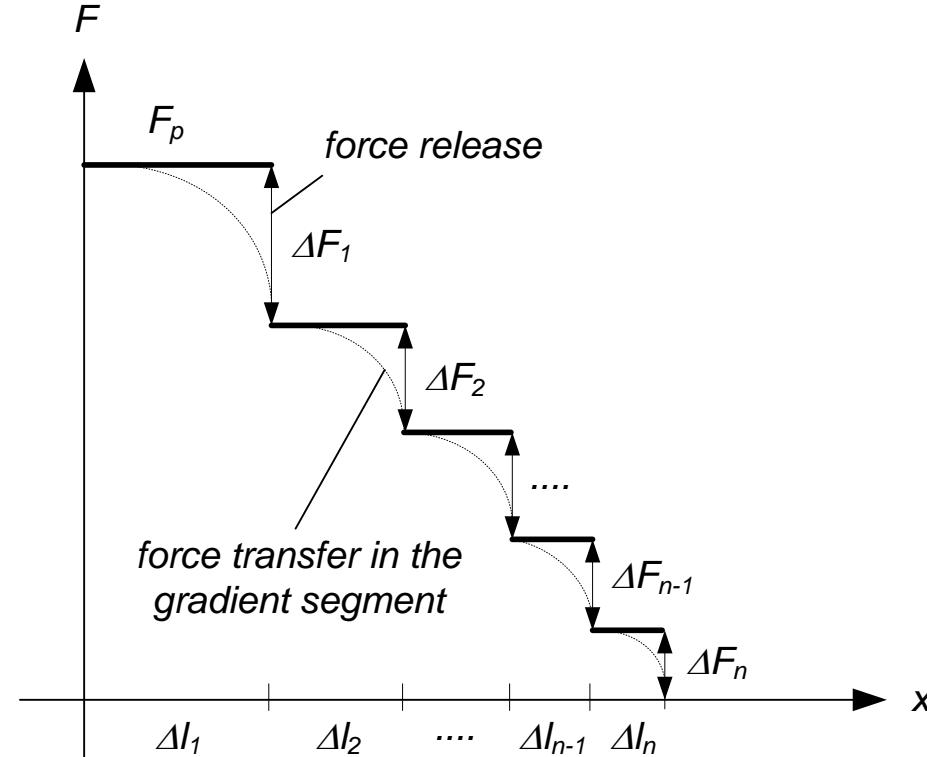


*Courtesy of S&P Clever Reinforcement*

## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

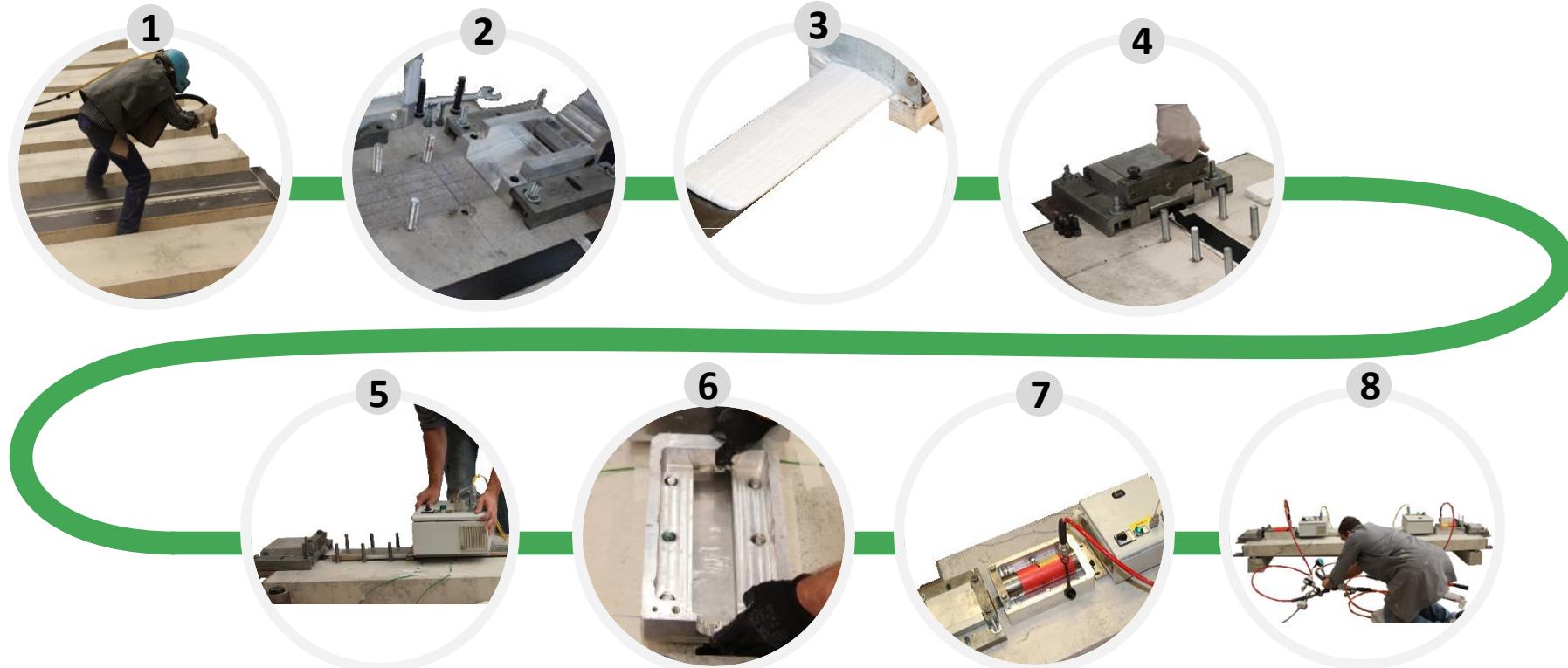
### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)

- **Non-mechanical** anchorage technique
- Based on the **epoxy's ability to cure faster under high temperatures**
- **Gradual releasing of the prestressing force over several sectors at the strip end**



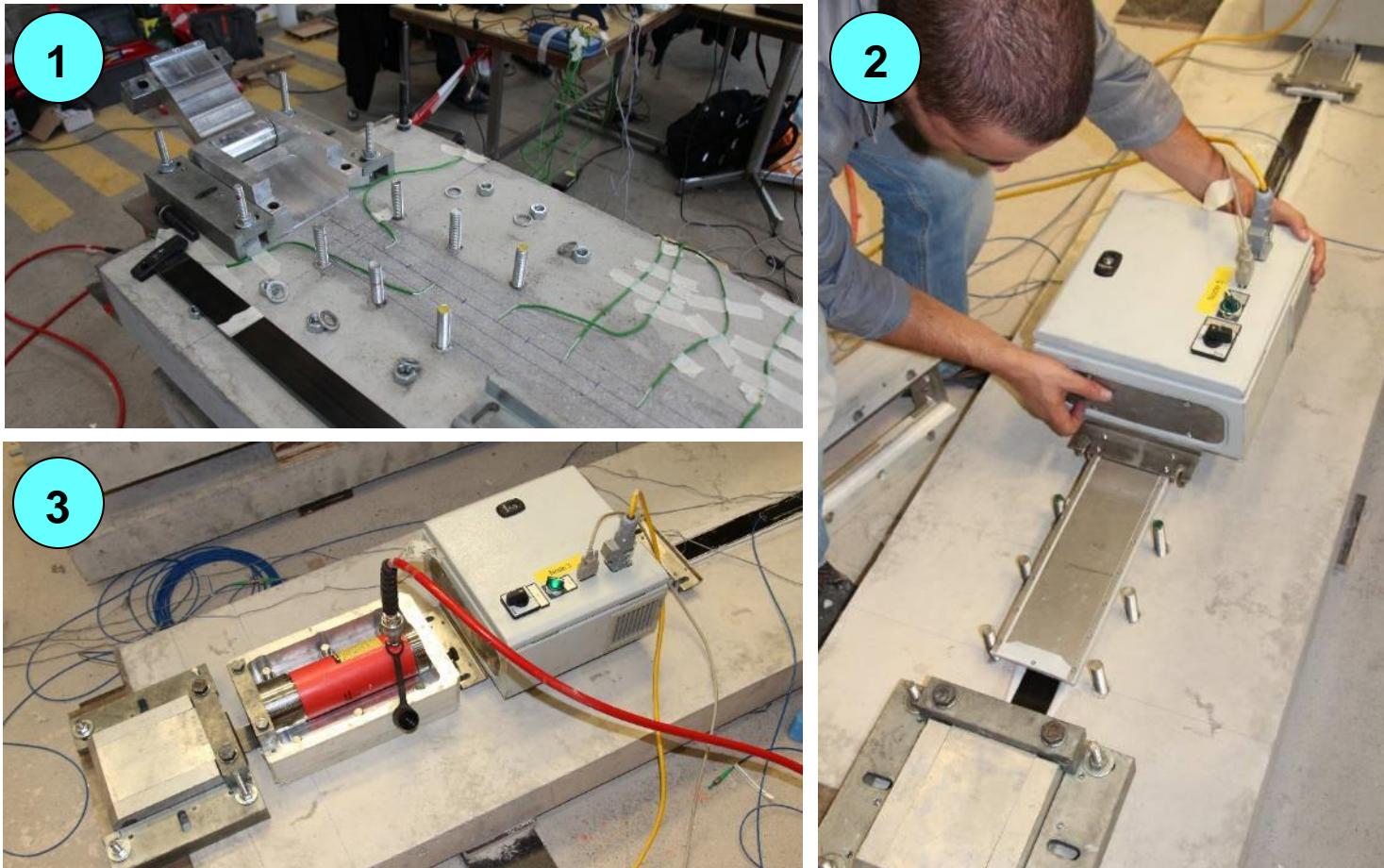
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)



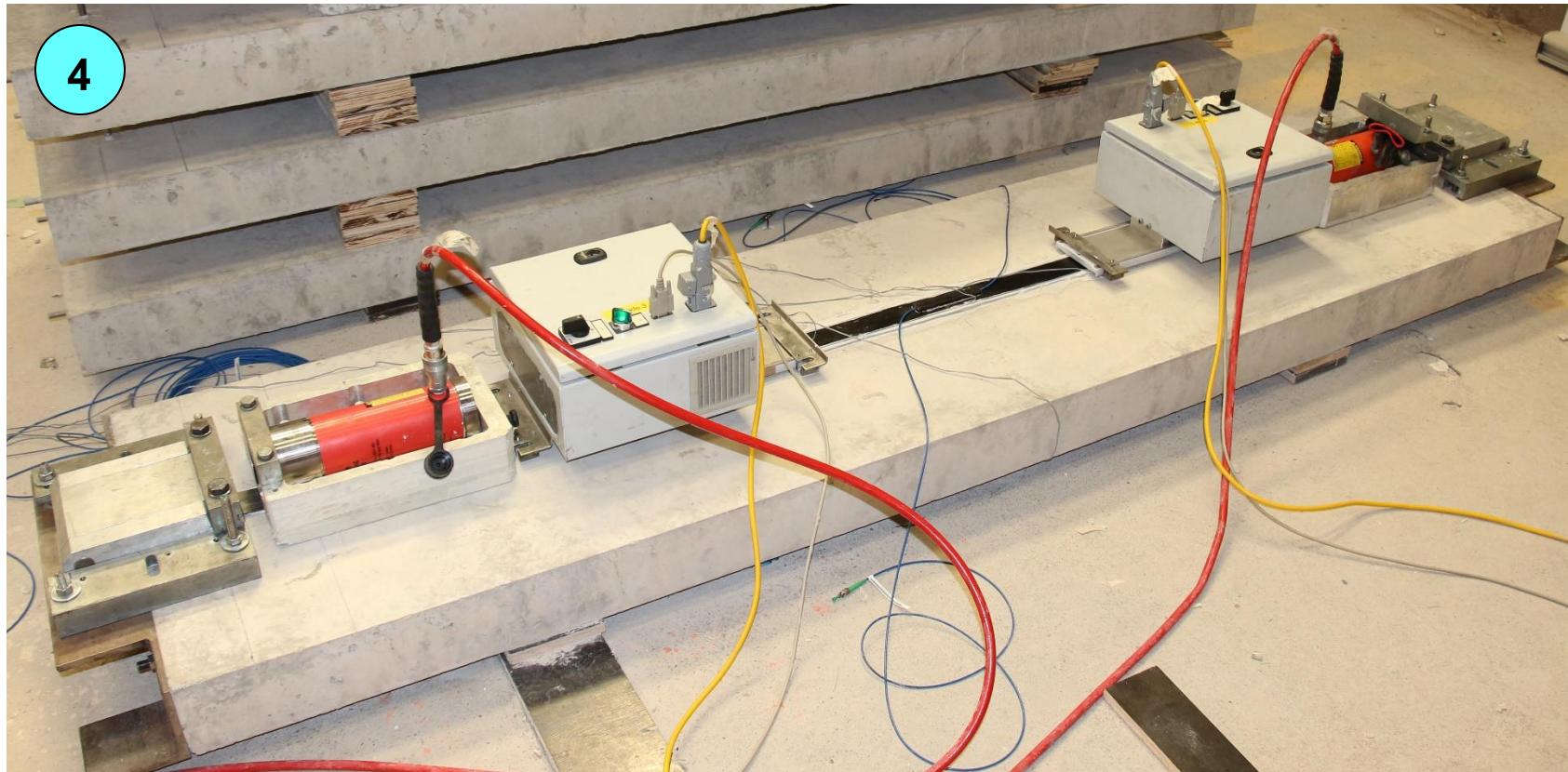
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)



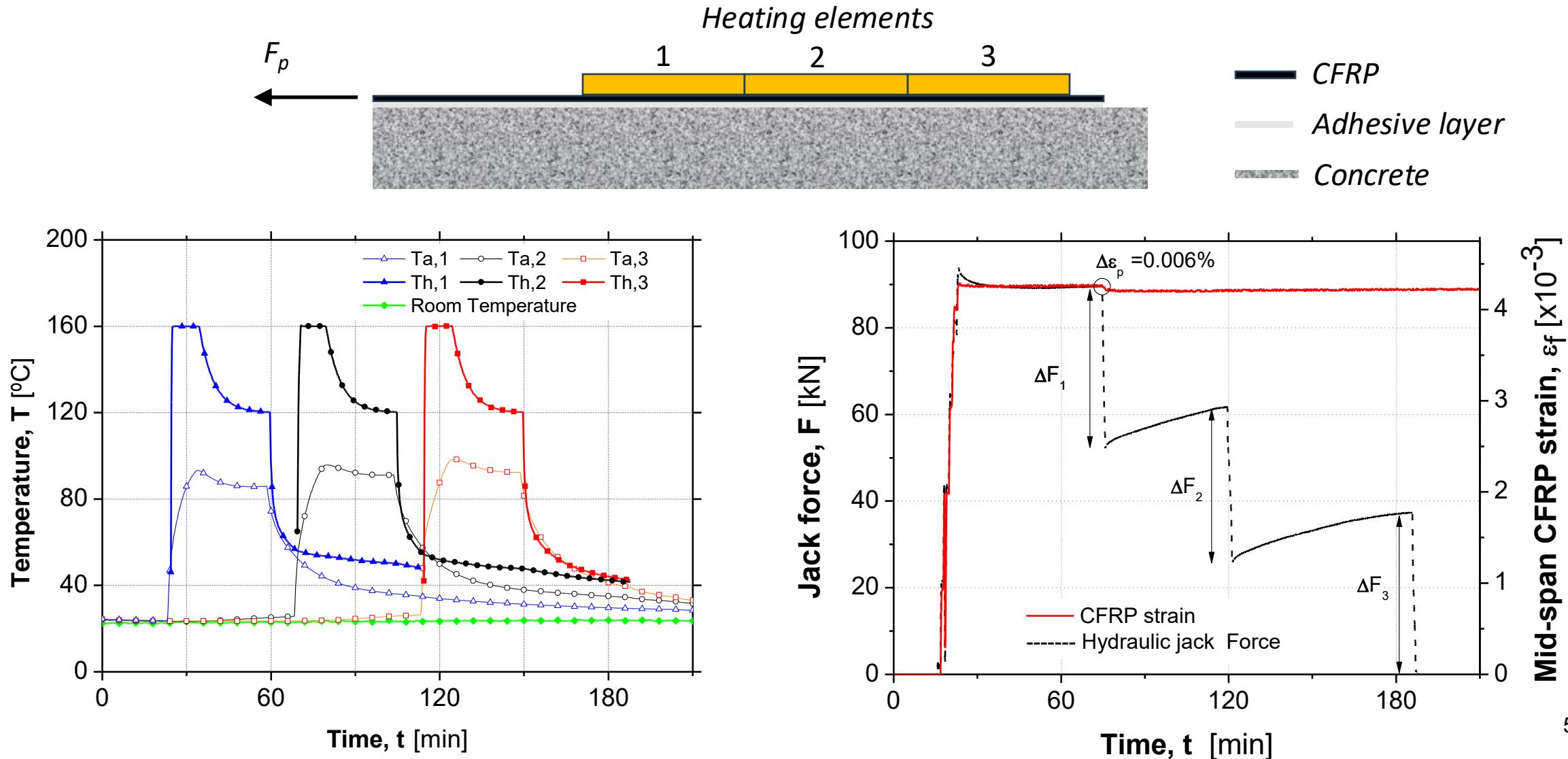
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

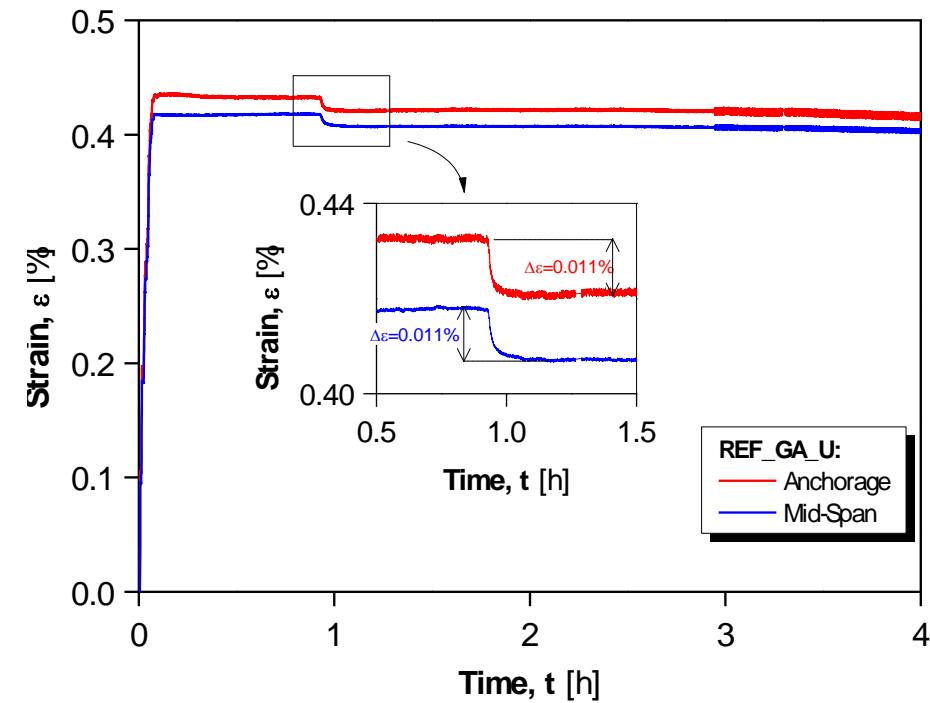
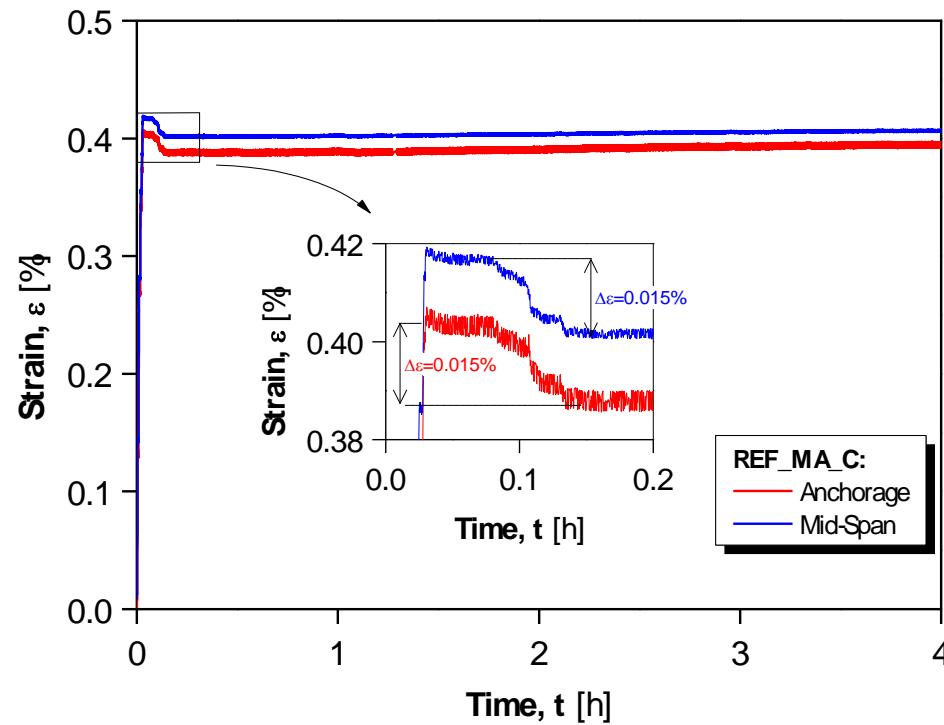
### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

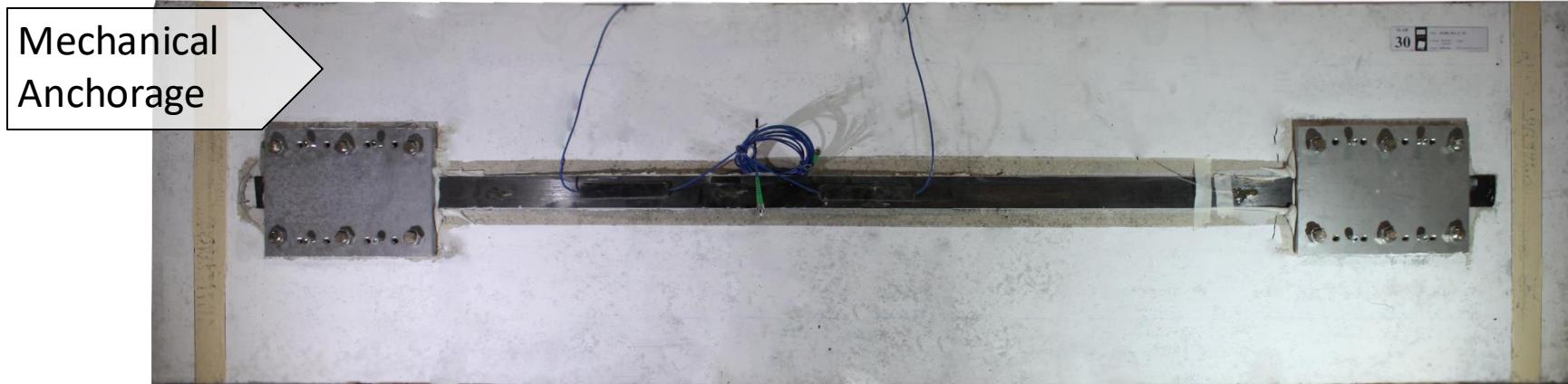
### □ Prestressing system from S&P – Gradient Anchorage (GA)

Typical short-term losses



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

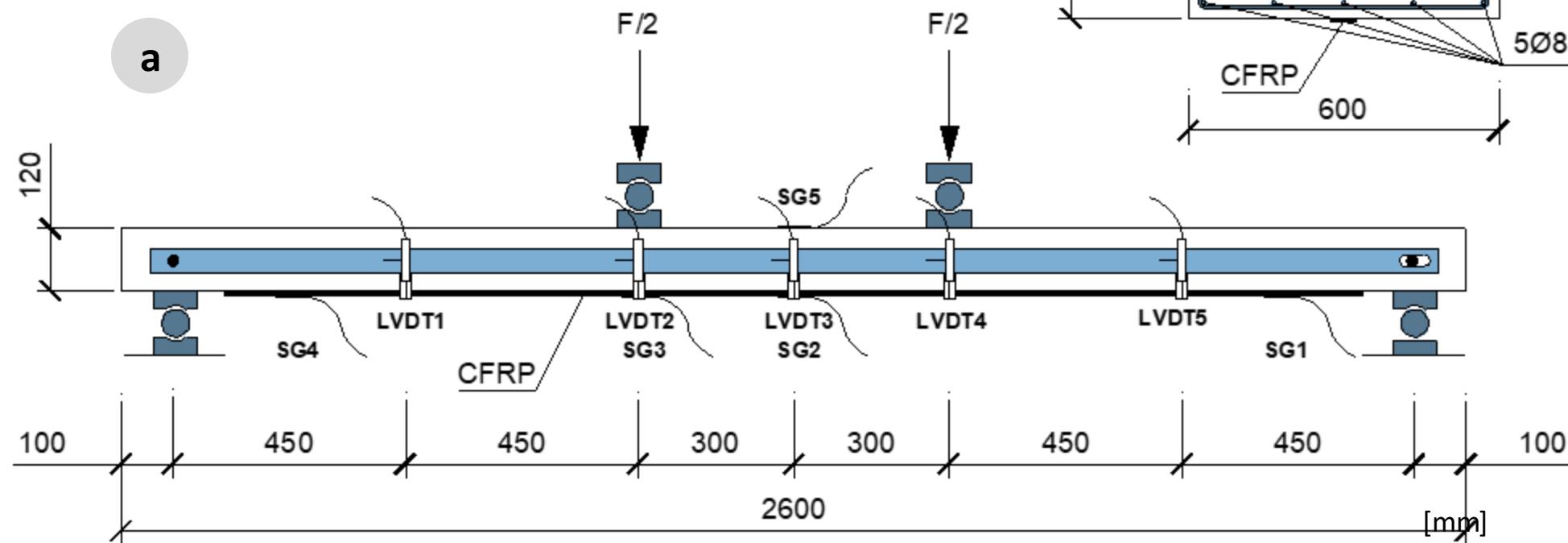
### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

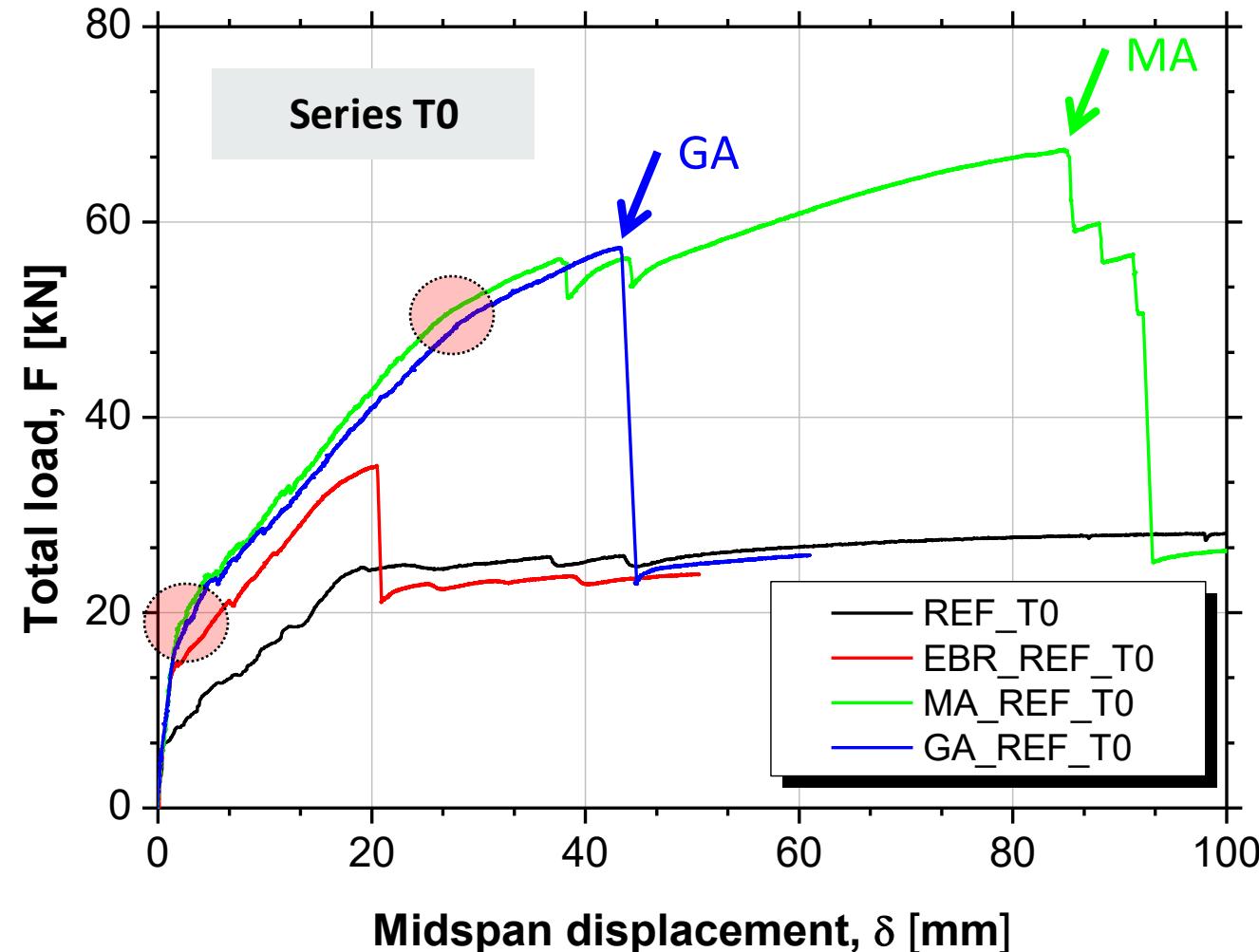
### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage

- **Displacement Control:** 1.2 mm/min
- **Deflections:** 5 LVDTs
- **CFRP & Steel & concrete strains:** Strain gauges
- **Cracking:** Handle microscope, DIC



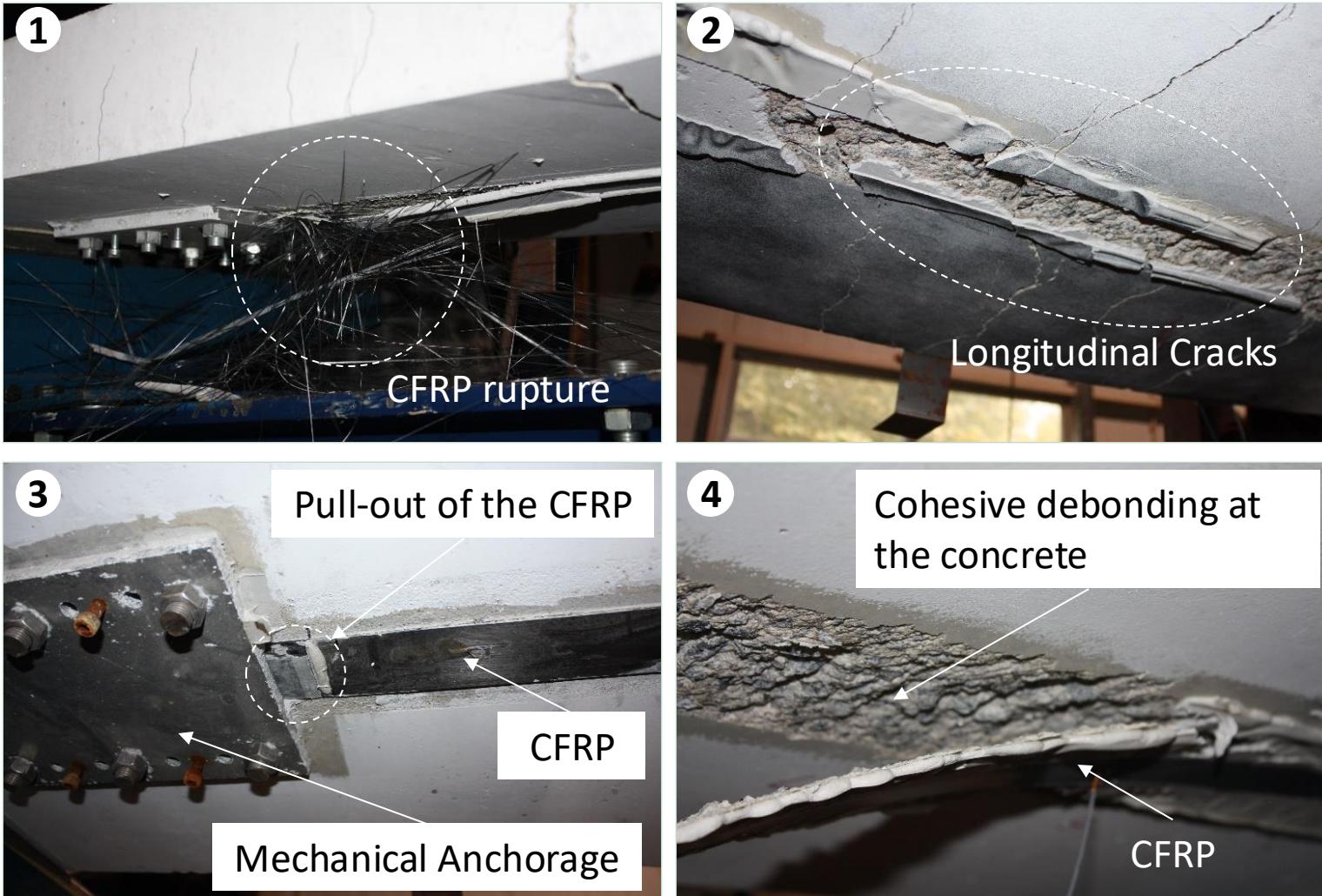
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### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



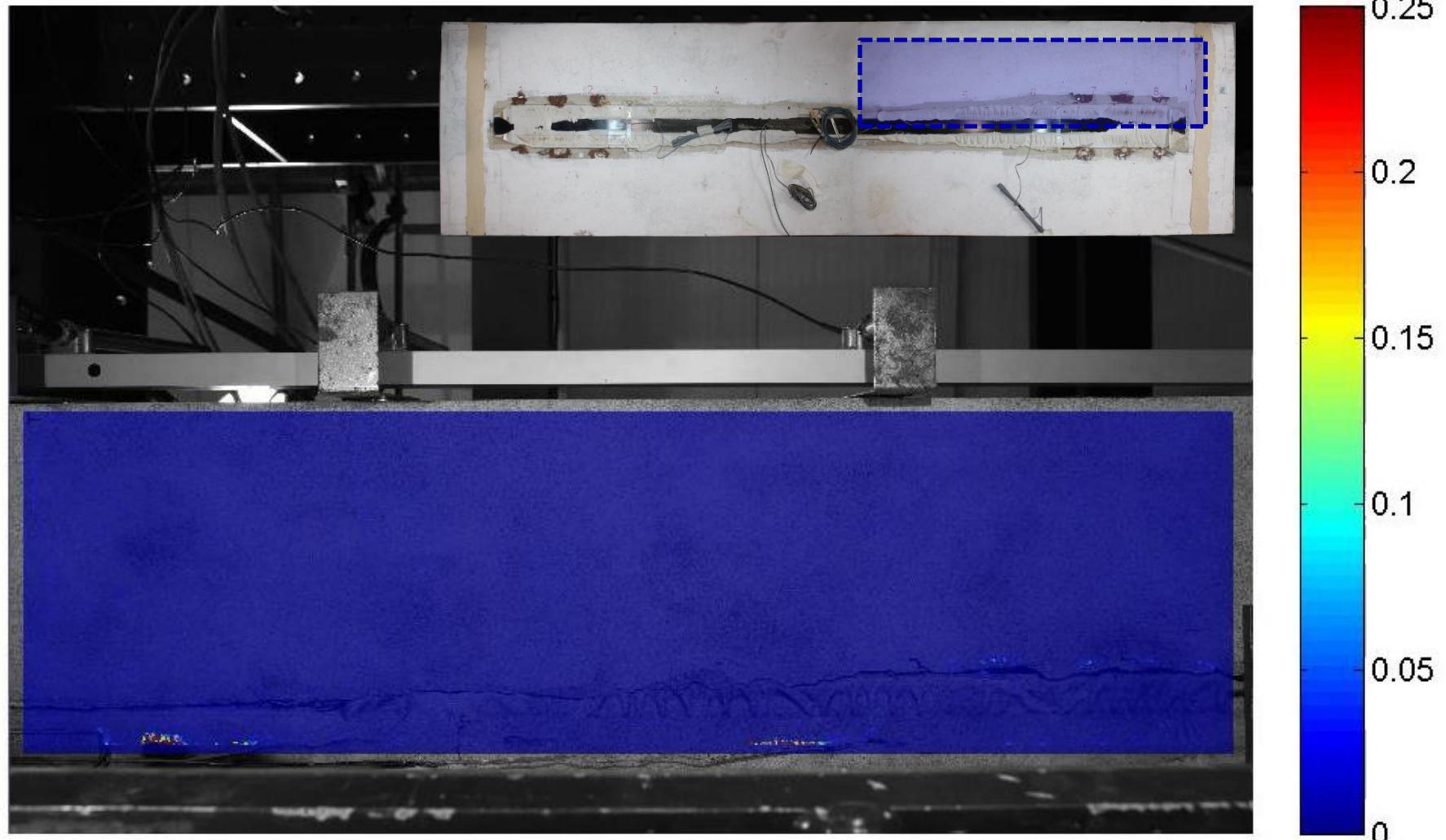
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### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



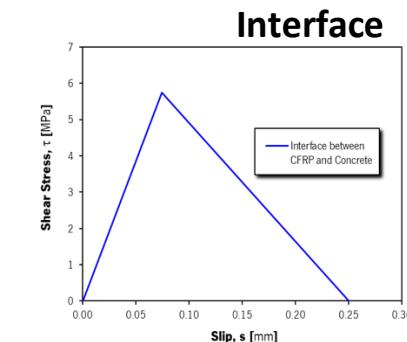
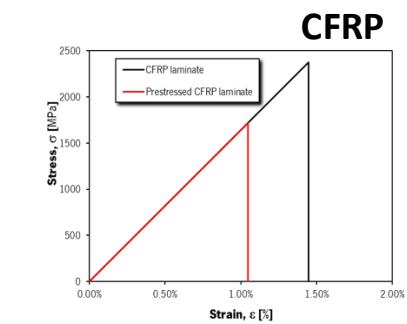
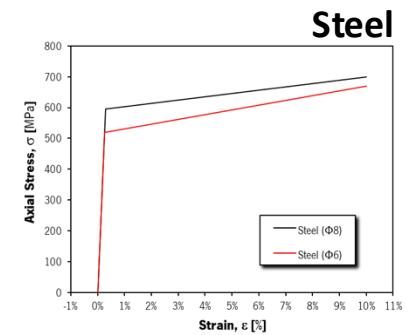
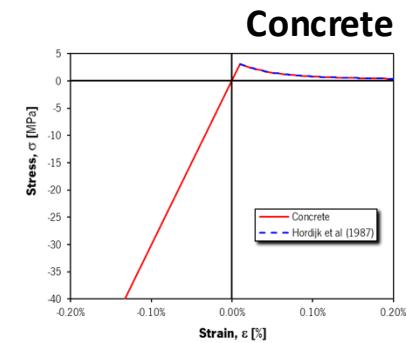
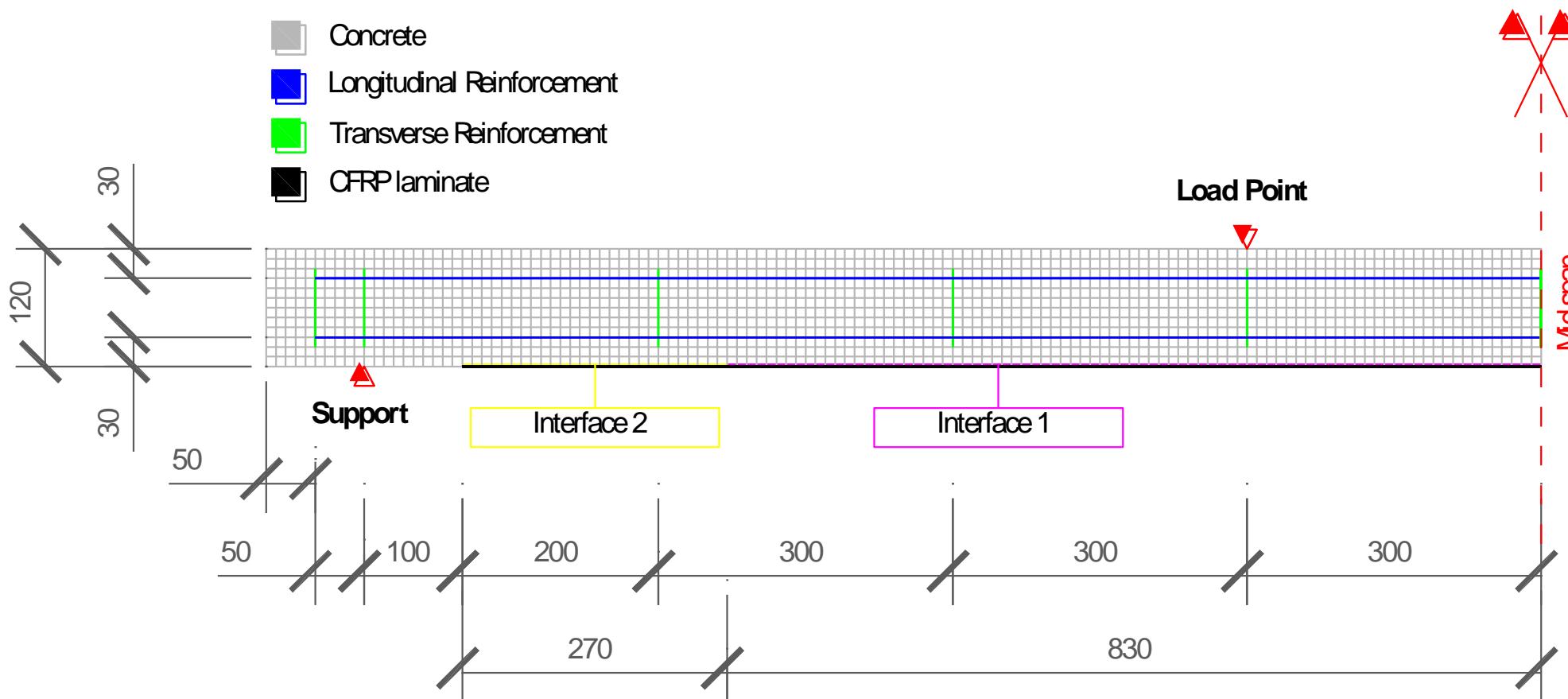
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



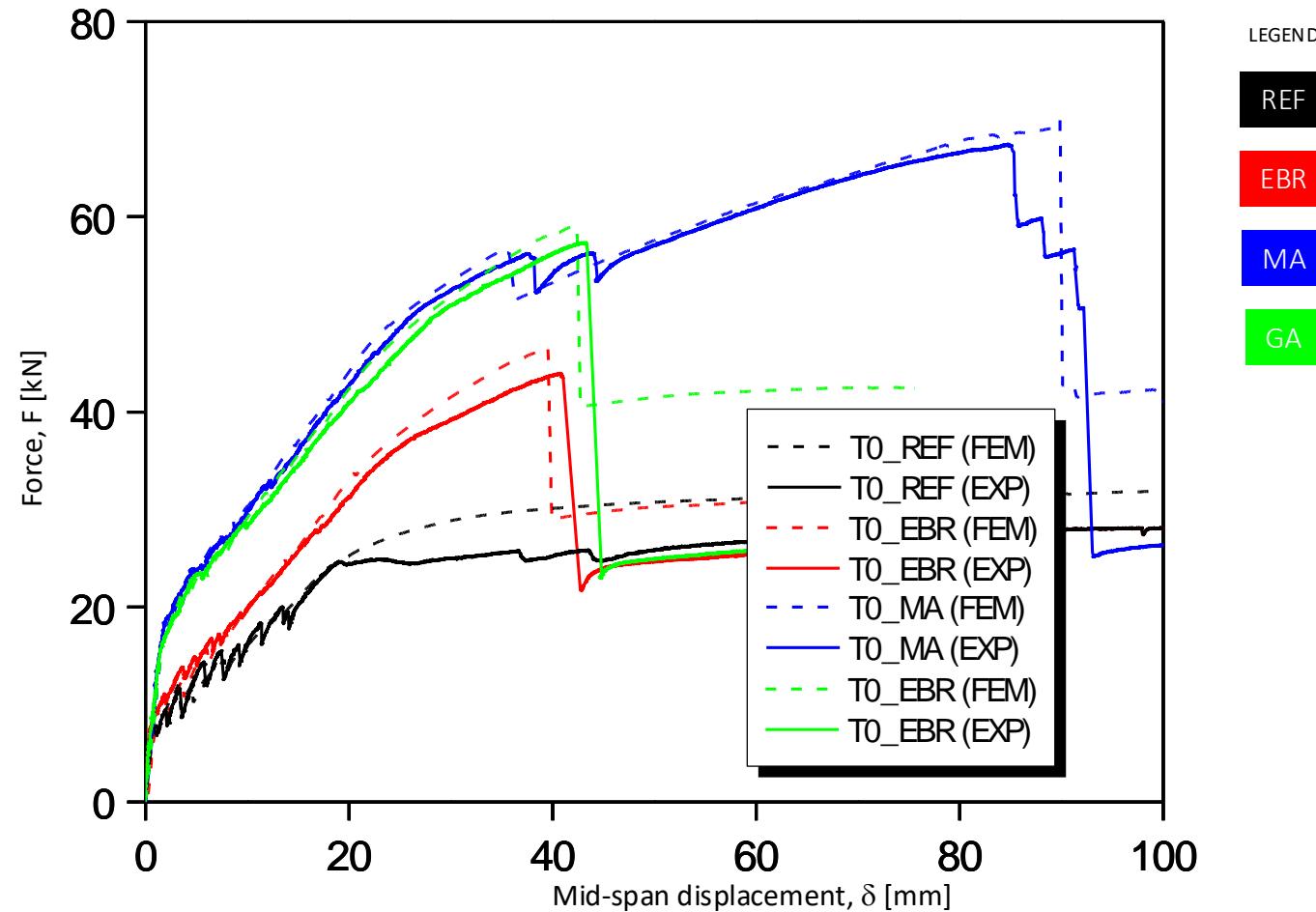
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### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



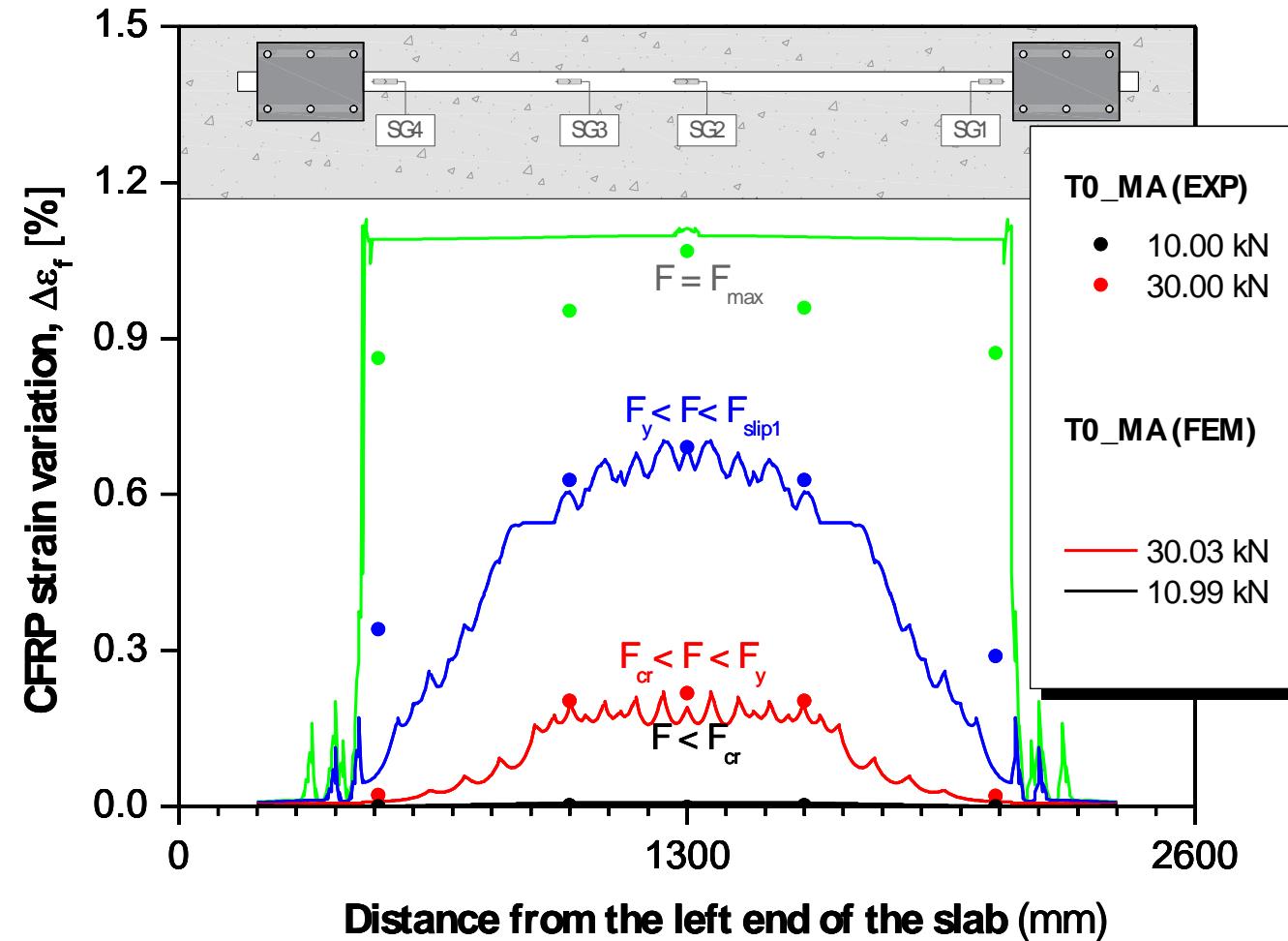
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### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



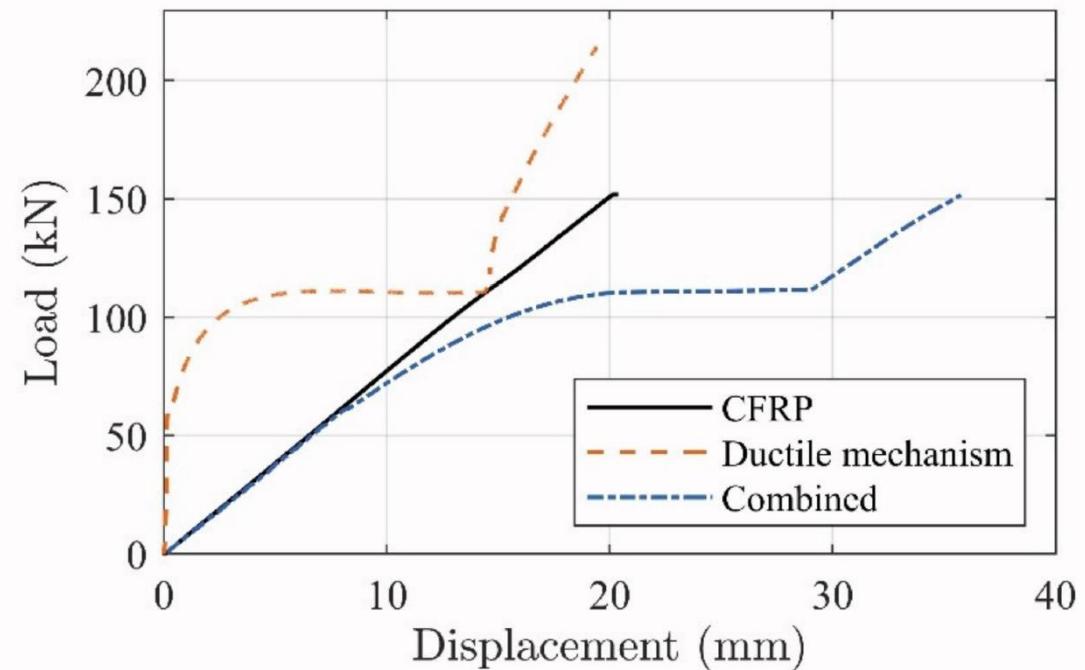
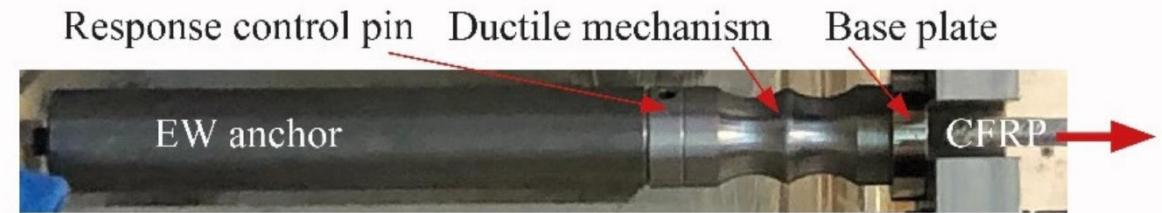
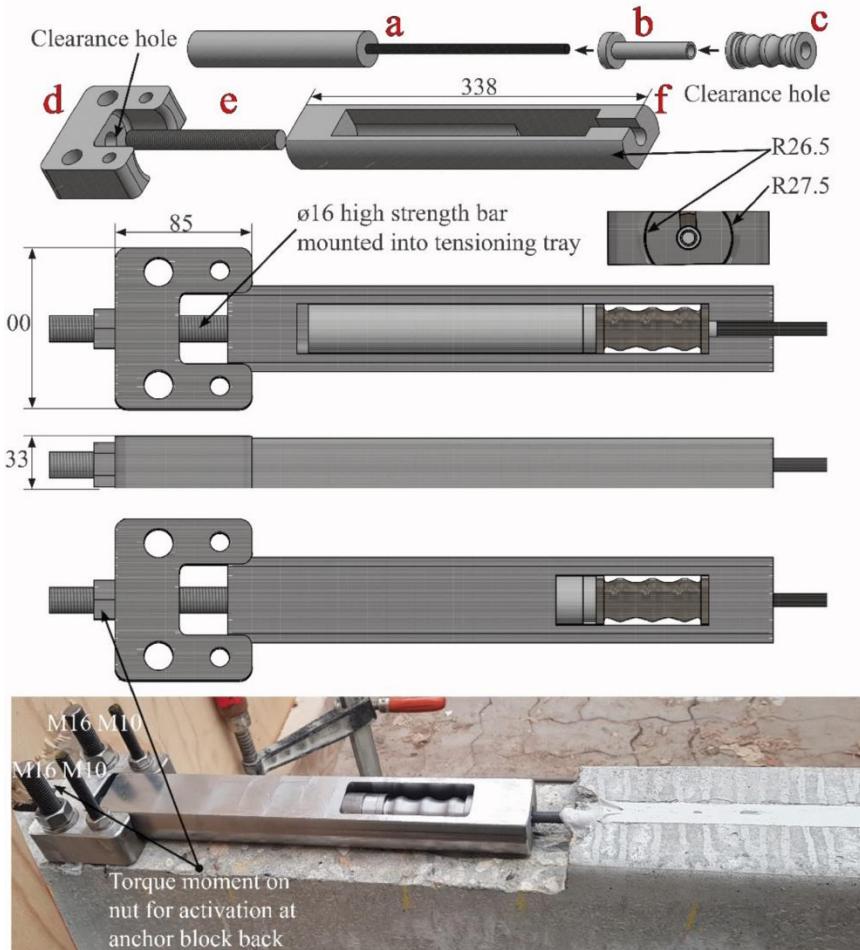
## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Mechanical Anchorage vs. Gradient Anchorage



## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

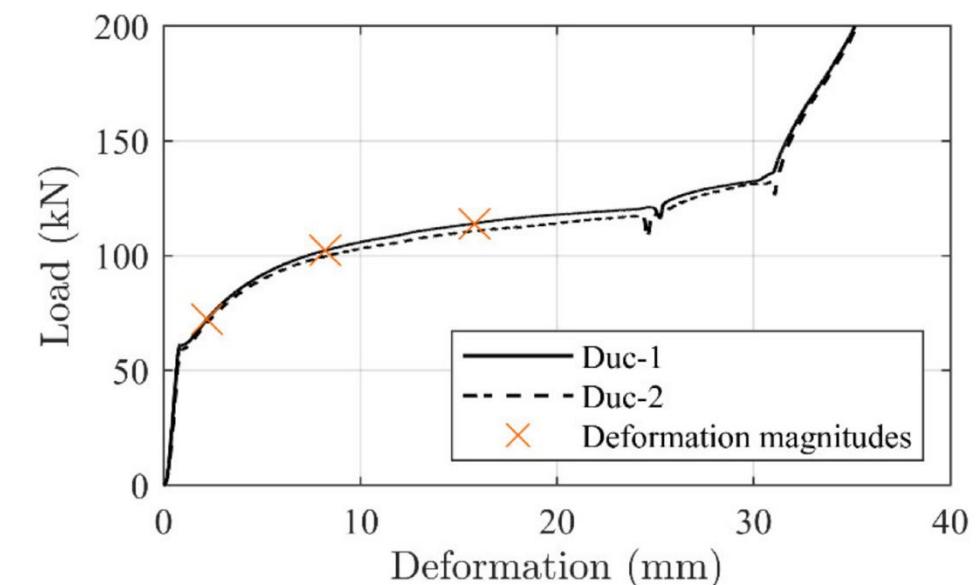
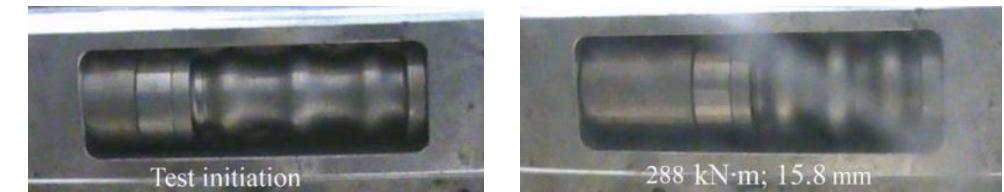
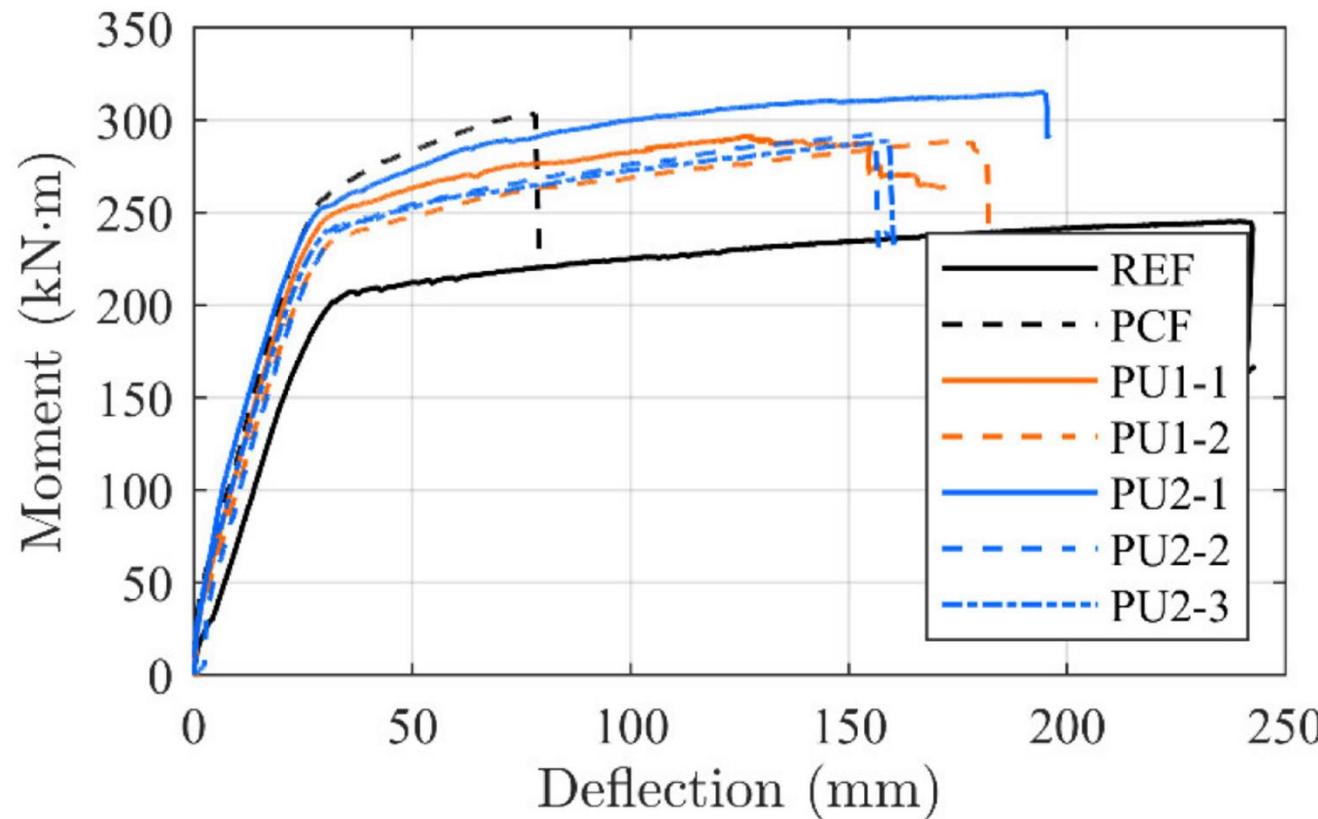
### □ Activated Ductile CFRP NSMR Strengthening



**Source:** Schmidt, J.W.; Christensen, C.O.; Goltermann, P.; Sena-Cruz, J. (2021). Activated Ductile CFRP NSMR Strengthening. *Materials*, 14: 2821, 21 pp. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ma14112821>

## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### □ Activated Ductile CFRP NSMR Strengthening



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## 5. Advanced strengthening techniques with composite materials

### Activated Ductile CFRP NSMR Strengthening





**Thank you for your attention!**