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Proposed Design Method for EB-FRP Ties Debond Strain Encompassing Short/Long and Thin/Thick Ties Junrui Zhang¹, Enrique del Rey Castillo¹, Ravi Kanitkar², Aniket D Borwankar³, and Ramprasath R⁴

¹The University of Auckland, New Zealand
²KL Structure, United States
³Simpson Strong-Tie, United States
⁴Virginia Tech, United States

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Unexpected strength





Fig. 1 Bench-press by RC (*Powered by DALL*·*E 3*)



Case study (A heritage building in Auckland)

• Weak tension capacity of concrete diaphragms







(b) Concrete diaphragms strengthened by FRP

Fig. 2 State of the floor from the Project (*del Rey Castillo et al., 2019*)



Potential variables (1627/3162 direct tension tests from 88/117 works)

• Parametric analysis for published data



Fig. 3 Selected variables for published testing (Zhang et al., 2024)



Potential variables (1627/3162 direct tension tests)

• Available Design Code/Guidelines



Fig. 4 Comparison between experimental results and guide-prescribed equations (del Rey Castillo et al., 2022)



Unanchored tests

	Published research 1627	Our tests 51	Actuator	
1 Concrete strength (<i>f_c</i>)	1500-10000 psi (10-90 MPa)	2500-6000 psi (17.2 to 41.4 MPa)	Load cell	
2 Bonded length (<i>l_f</i>)	From 0.8" to 27" Around 7.8 " (20-700 mm, 200 mm)	<i>12" to 60"</i> (300 to 1500 mm)		Targets
3 Thickness of FRP (t_f) $(k_f = nE_f t_f)$	Around 1 or 2 layers of 11 oz, <i>0.0067</i> " (0.166-4 mm, 0.169 mm)	1 layer of 11 oz to 3 layers of 44 oz, 0.02 to 0.24 inches (0.5-6 mm)	Test Specimen	Rul
4 Number of tests	3162 tests (After cleaning 1627)	51 tests (After cleaning 48)	DIC system	

Fig. 5 Testing set-up

Debond mechanism (2500-36-2)







- Initial debonding happens
- Active bond zone progress from load end to free end, and plateau created (longer ties)
- Fully debonding of the ties

L-D responses (36/51 unanchored tests results)





- (a) 19.2 MPa, 305 mm with 1-4 layer(s) [2500 psi, 12 in., with 1-4 layer(s)]
- (b) 36.1 MPa, 914 mm with 1-4 layer(s) [5000 psi, 36 in., with 1-4 layer(s)]

36.1-914-1

36.1-914-2

36.1-914-3

36.1-914-4

Fig. 7 Load-displacement curves (Partial)

- Thicker ties, Stiffer, Load-carrying (/)
- Longer ties, Plateau, Load (-), Postelastic(debonding) deformation (/)
- Concrete compressive strength (-)

Contributions (1627 + 51 unanchored tests, Tyrell Gilb Research Lab, CA)



Fig. 8 Test results of 1627+51 unanchored tested





Failure patterns (36 unanchored tests results)





Fig. 9— Comparison of fractured surfaces of FRP ties considering: (a) bond lengths of FRP (Long to short), and (b) thickness of FRP (Thick to thin)

(a)

Proposed models (1501 +51 unanchored tests, Tyrell Gilb Research Lab, CA)



Fig. 10 Predictive model of unanchored tested

Proposed models (1501 +51 unanchored tests, Tyrell Gilb Research Lab, CA)

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Fig. 11 Design model of unanchored tested



Conclusion

• Thicker FRP ties influencing load-bearing capacity and longer ties showing greater post-debond deformation capacity.

• The debonding load capacity showed a certain correlation with concrete strength, but limited sensitivity to changes in bond length.

• Debond strain correlates non-linearly with FRP-to-concrete stiffness ratio, following a power relationship.



Conclusion

• **Thicker** FRP ties influencing **load-bearing capacity** and **longer** ties showing greater **post-debond deformation** capacity. ([†])

• The **debonding load capacity** showed a certain correlation with **concrete strength**, but limited sensitivity to changes in **bond length**. (—)

• **Debond strain** correlates **non-linearly** with FRP-to-concrete **stiffness ratio**, following a power relationship. (x^a)

Reference



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MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING



Strong-Tie





Junrui.zhang@auckland.ac.nc ajhz740@aucklanduni.ac.nz

JSINESS, EMPLOYMENT New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

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www.frprcs16.com

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Junrui Zhang

<u>Junrui.zhang@auckland.ac.nc</u> <u>ajhz740@aucklanduni.ac.nz</u>



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