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# Bond Performance of Deep Embedment FRP Bars Epoxy-bonded into Concrete

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**ABSTRACT:** With increasing numbers of strength-deficient concrete infrastructure assets, strengthening and repair of concrete structures is becoming an issue of international importance. This study examines the bond behaviour of deep embedment (DE) glass fibre reinforced polymer (GFRP) and carbon FRP (CFRP) bars embedded into concrete prisms using an epoxy adhesive. The experimentally investigated parameters were the embedment length, FRP bar type and diameter, concrete compressive strength and hole diameter. The increase in embedded length enhanced the pull-out capacity for both GFRP and CFRP bar types. However, the bond strength and initial stiffness of the bond stress-slip curves decreased with the increase in embedded length. The specimens with DE CFRP bars had higher pull-out capacities and better bond performance than the corresponding specimens with DE GFRP bars. For the specimens with DE CFRP bars, the pull-out capacity increased with the increase in bar diameter and concrete strength but these two parameters did not affect the behaviour of the specimens with DE GFRP bars. The increase in hole diameter reduced the initial stiffness of the specimens with DE GFRP bars but affected neither the failure mode nor the failure loads. For the first time, this paper presents a mathematical

model for predicting the bond strength of DE FRP bars. The mathematical model was validated against experimental results and demonstrated to produce accurate predictions. It is envisaged that both the mathematical model and the experimental results will contribute to the development of future design guidelines for DE concrete shear strengthening.

**Keywords:** bond; concrete; deep embedment; epoxy; fibre reinforced polymer; pull-out

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Retrofitting of strength-deficient reinforced concrete (RC) infrastructure assets has become an issue of global significance [1]. Various strengthening techniques utilising fibre reinforced polymer (FRP) composites have been adopted to achieve shear strength enhancement of deficient RC structures [1-8]. Non-corrodible FRP composites can effectively enhance the shear capacity of RC structures due to their high strength-to-weight ratio and durability. A significant advancement in concrete shear strengthening has been the development of the deep embedment (DE) [9-10], or embedded through-section (ETS) [11-12], technique. In this method, vertical or inclined holes are drilled upwards from the soffit in the shear spans of existing RC beams and high viscosity epoxy resin is injected into the drilled holes to bond FRP or steel bars to the concrete core.

Many experimental and numerical studies [9-17] proved the superiority of the DE method over other shear strengthening techniques in terms of the bond performance and shear strengthening effectiveness. For example, Chaallal et al. [11] compared the shear strengthening effectiveness of DE FRP bars, near-surface mounted (NSM) FRP rods and externally bonded (EB) FRP sheets concluding that the shear strength capacity of the strengthened RC beams was increased by 61%, 31% and 23%, respectively. The DE method

provides higher strengthening effectiveness because, unlike the EB and NSM techniques, in the DE method the concrete core transfers the stresses to the bars. Thus, the DE technique avoids the de-bonding and de-lamination of concrete cover failure mechanisms associated with external shear strengthening techniques [11]. Notwithstanding the above advantages, it can be difficult to drill holes in members with congested internal steel reinforcement. Moreover, DE carbon FRP (CFRP) bars can cause galvanic corrosion if they are in direct contact with existing steel bars. However, this can be addressed by using an electrically insulating epoxy.

Pull-out testing has been commonly adopted as a practical approach to assessing the bond performance for both steel and FRP bars embedded in concrete. Valerio et al. [10] performed sixty-five pull-out tests using aramid FRP (AFRP), glass FRP (GFRP), CFRP and steel bars. These bars were epoxy-bonded using different types of adhesives into 150 mm  $\times$  150 mm  $\times$  150 mm concrete cubes with a cube compressive strength of 60 MPa. Five embedment lengths ranging from 15 to 75 mm and hole diameters of 1.2 and 1.3 times the bar diameter were considered. Godat et al. [14] performed thirteen pull-out tests on DE CFRP bars. The CFRP bars were epoxy-bonded into concrete blocks with cross-sectional dimensions of 190 mm  $\times$  190 mm and a length of 345 mm. The key studied parameters were embedment length (48 to 285 mm) and hole diameter (1.25 to 2 times the bar diameter). The concrete cylinder compressive strength (20.7 and 42.7 MPa) and bar diameter (9.5 and 12.7 mm) were limitedly considered.

Both research studies [10, 14] reported that, for all bar types, the increase in embedded length leads to a higher bonded area and consequently a higher pull-out capacity. Valerio et al. [10] found that the pull-out force values for the DE strengthening combination of non-sag, high

strength epoxy with steel and CFRP bars were higher than those achieved by the GFRP and AFRP bars. This is due to a better bond performance and a more ductile bond stress-slip response achieved by the steel and CFRP bars which have elastic moduli considerably higher than those of GFRP and AFRP bars. Godat et al. [14] confirmed that the pull-out capacity is higher for FRP bars of greater diameter due to a larger contact area thus higher pull-out force.

An adequate amount of high-viscosity, high-strength epoxy adhesive is crucial to prevent debonding failure and to achieve a good bond between the bar and concrete along its full embedded length. Godat et al. [14] investigated the effect of quantity of adhesive on the bond behaviour of DE CFRP. They recommended an optimum hole diameter of about 1.5 times the bar diameter ( $1.5d_b$ ).

Godat et al. [14] reported that as the concrete strength increased, the pull-out capacity also increased and a change in the failure mode of the specimens was also observed. Specimens with low concrete compressive strength (20.7 MPa) failed due to concrete splitting, while specimens with high concrete strength (42.7 MPa) experienced bar pull-out at the bar/adhesive interface.

Nonetheless, the bond behaviour of DE FRP bars is not fully understood. This is reflected in the lack of mathematical models for the bond strength of DE FRP bars. Moreover, except for embedment length, the effect of the main parameters influencing the bond behaviour has so far been limitedly considered. This paper examines the effect of embedment length, bar type and diameter, concrete compressive strength and hole diameter on the bond behaviour of DE FRP bars. Additionally, it presents a mathematical model for the bond strength of DE FRP bars.

## 2 RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

Understanding the FRP-to-concrete bond behaviour is crucial to the safe implementation of the DE shear strengthening technique. For the first time, this paper presents a mathematical model for predicting the bond strength of DE FRP bars. Moreover, this paper investigates the effect of the main parameters influencing the FRP-to-concrete bond behaviour. It is envisaged that both the mathematical model and the experimental results will contribute to the development of future design guidelines for DE concrete shear strengthening.

## 3 EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME

The experimental programme is based on the recommendations of CSA/S806-02 [18] as well as the experimental pull-out test studies performed by Valerio et al. [10] and Godat et al. [14]. A total of eighteen concrete cube specimens with embedded GFRP or CFRP bars were tested as reported in Table 1. The effect of embedment length, bar type and diameter, concrete strength and adhesive quantity on the bond behaviour of the bars was examined. The following sections provide details of the material properties, test specimens, installation of FRP bars and pull-out test setup.

### 3.1 *Materials*

Two concrete mixes were used. The concrete mixes were designed according to the BRE [19] guidelines. Portland cement (Class 32.5) and aggregates with a maximum size of 10 mm were used in both concrete mixes. Two batches were used to cast the pull-out specimens with lower concrete strength whereas one batch was used to cast the pull-out specimens with higher concrete strength. Each batch was used to cast six concrete cubes (200 mm × 200 mm × 200 mm) and seven ancillary control specimens (four cubes (100 mm × 100 mm × 100 mm) and three cylinders (100 mm diameter × 200 mm height)). The control specimens were

used to characterise the concrete compressive strength. The average cylinder compressive strength for each batch on the day of pull-out testing was 26.1 MPa (referred to as C26), 24.8 MPa (referred to as C25) and 45.6 MPa (referred to as C46).

Two types of sand-coated FRP bars (CFRP and GFRP) were used in this study. The sand-coated FRP bars had diameters of either 10 mm or 12 mm. The GFRP bars had an elastic modulus, tensile strength and ultimate strain of 40 GPa, 973 MPa and 2.43 %, respectively, as declared by the manufacturer. The CFRP bars had an elastic modulus, tensile strength and ultimate strain of 130 GPa, 2300 MPa and 1.76 %, respectively, as declared by the manufacturer.

A commercially available high viscosity epoxy resin (Hilti 500) was used to bond the DE FRP bars to the concrete. This epoxy resin had a compressive strength, compressive modulus, tensile strength, bond strength and ultimate strain at failure of 82.7 MPa, 1493 MPa, 43.5 MPa, 12.4 MPa and 2%, respectively, as certified by the manufacturer.

### 3.2 Test specimens

Table 1 provides a summary of the pull-out test specimens. Each specimen had a four-part designation. The first part (C25, C26 or C46) specifies the concrete cylinder compressive strength. The second part identifies the embedded length of the FRP bar ( $5d_b$ ,  $10d_b$  or  $15d_b$  where  $d_b$  is the nominal bar diameter). The third part denotes the FRP bar type and diameter (CFRP 10/12 or GFRP 10/12). The last part represents the hole diameter (either  $1.5d_b$  or  $1.8d_b$ ). Hence C26- $15d_b$ -CFRP12- $1.5d_b$  refers to a specimen with a concrete cylinder compressive strength of 26.1 MPa, embedment length of  $15d_b$  (180 mm), 12 mm diameter CFRP bar and a central hole with a diameter of  $1.5d_b$  (18 mm).

### 3.3 *Installation of FRP bars*

In order to install the CFRP and GFRP bars, vertical holes were cast along the centrelines of the 200 mm concrete cubes using polyvinyl chloride (PVC) rods with diameters ( $d$ ) of either 15 mm or 18 mm ( $d = \text{epoxy thickness} + d_b$ ). The PVC rods were positioned vertically at the centres of the moulds prior to concrete casting. To control the embedded length of the FRP bar in a given pull-out specimen, a square (40 mm  $\times$  40 mm) polystyrene block with a central hole equal to the PVC rod diameter acted as a cast-in-concrete bond breaker (see Figure 1). The polystyrene block was glued with waterproof silicon around the PVC rod. The lengths of the polystyrene blocks varied from 10 to 130 mm depending on the required value of the embedded length. This approach was selected for simplicity and also to prevent any cracking or local damage that may occur if a drilling machine was used. It should be noted that drilling would probably provide a rougher hole surface and consequently improve the bond between the FRP bars and the concrete. De-moulding of all the concrete specimens and the removal of the PVC rods were carried out 24 hours after casting. Following de-moulding, the concrete specimens were marked and cured at room temperature (about 20<sup>0</sup> C) for at least 28 days.

Before installing the FRP bars, a wire brush was used to roughen the internal surfaces of the holes. This was followed by using compressed air to clean the holes from any cement and aggregate residues. The bottom ends of the holes were blocked to prevent leakage and high viscosity epoxy resin (Hilti 500) was used to fill two-thirds of the holes. A thin layer of epoxy was also applied along the embedded lengths of the FRP bars and then the bars were twisted as they were being inserted vertically into the holes. This step was deemed necessary in order to ensure that no air pockets were formed or left inside the holes. The excess epoxy was removed from the top surfaces of the holes. The specimens were then cured for a week at room temperature (about 20<sup>0</sup> C) before testing. Of note is that this installation technique was



used by Jemaa et al. [15] to strengthen large scale deficient RC beams using GFRP bars and epoxy adhesive similar to those reported in this study. The technique resulted in 96 % shear strength enhancement and GFRP strain of up to 0.91%.

### 3.4 Test setup

Figure 1 illustrates the pull-out test setup. The FRP bars were cut into 700 mm lengths to meet the recommendations of Godat et al. [14] and to ensure that the test specimens fitted properly within the testing machine. The concrete cube, together with the DE FRP bar, was placed inside a steel box as shown in Figure 1. To ensure that the FRP bar remained undamaged during testing, a 310 mm long hollow steel tube with 42 mm external diameter and 4.8 mm wall thickness was bonded to the upper end of the FRP bar using Hilti 500 epoxy resin. The steel tube surrounding the FRP bar was then gripped by the testing machine.

Linear variable differential transducers (LVDTs) were mounted on a PVC rig to measure the slip between the FRP bar and the concrete cube at the loaded end. A displacement-controlled testing machine was used to apply the pull-out force at a rate of 0.03 mm/s. This arrangement is similar to that used by Godat et al. [10].

## 4 EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

Table 2 gives the peak pull-out force (i.e. pull-out capacity), maximum average bond stress, slip at peak pull-out force and failure mode for each tested specimen. Based on ACI 440.1R-06 [20], the average bond stress ( $\tau$ ) is given by:

$$\tau = \frac{P}{\pi d_b l_b} \quad (1)$$

where  $P$  is the pull-out force,  $d_b$  is the bar diameter and  $l_b$  is the embedded length of the bar. Equation 1 assumes the average bond stress to be constant along the embedded length. Although this assumption is not fully accurate due to the non-uniform variation of bond stresses along the embedded length [14, 21-23], the concept of average bond stress is used in this study as it facilitates comparison of results.

#### 4.1 Failure modes

One specimen, C26-15 $d_b$ -CFRP12-1.5 $d_b$ , failed due to concrete splitting. This failure mode involved a crack plane that crossed the central hole and split the concrete cube into two parts (see Figure 2a). This failure mode was sudden and brittle due to the tensile failure of the concrete. Except for C26-15 $d_b$ -CFRP10-1.5 $d_b$  and C46-15 $d_b$ -CFRP10-1.5 $d_b$ , the mode of failure for the remaining specimens with an embedded length of 15 $d_b$  was bar rupture (see Figure 2b). The FRP bars remained well attached to the concrete cubes, with no visible cracks, until the end of testing. C26-15 $d_b$ -CFRP10-1.5 $d_b$ , C46-15 $d_b$ -CFRP10-1.5 $d_b$  and the specimens with shorter embedded lengths (5 $d_b$  and 10 $d_b$ ) experienced pull-out at the adhesive/concrete interface (see Figure 2c). A thin adhesive layer was attached to the FRP bars at failure. These results confirm previous findings [10, 14] suggesting that the increase in embedment length eventually leads to tensile failure of the bar.

Three sets of specimens were tested twice to examine repeatability of the results. The first set of specimens, C26-15 $d_b$ -GFRP12-1.5 $d_b$ , failed due to rupture of the GFRP bar (see Figure 2b). The difference in pull-out force at failure was 13.1 kN (21.2%) and might be attributable to unintended bending effects. The second set of duplicate specimens, C25-5 $d_b$ -GFRP12-1.5 $d_b$ , failed due to bar pull-out (slip) at the adhesive/concrete interface. The difference in peak pull-out force and maximum average bond stress were 4.3 kN (15.9%) and 1.9 MPa

(15.9%), respectively. The third set of duplicate specimens, C25-5d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP12-1.5d<sub>b</sub>, experienced bar pull-out without developing cracks in the concrete (see Figure 2c). The difference in peak pull-out force and maximum average bond stress were 1.5 kN (4.8%) and 0.7 MPa (4.8%), respectively. Of note is that each set of duplicate specimens had comparable initial stiffness values.

Specimen C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> is comparable to specimen C2-1.5d-9.5S-15d tested by Godat et al. [14]. The former specimen, which had cast-in-concrete holes, failed due to bar pull-out at a force of 74.8 kN whereas the latter specimen, which had drilled holes, failed due to bar pull-out at a force of 91.2 kN. This result suggests that the bond strength of the specimens with cast-in-concrete holes is about 82% of that of the specimens with drilled holes.

#### *4.2 Stiffness of the bond-slip curves*

Figures 3a and 3b illustrate the pull-out force-slip and average bond stress-slip curves for the specimens with 12 mm FRP bars, respectively. The corresponding curves for the specimens with 10 mm FRP bars are presented in Figures 4a and 4b, respectively. It should be noted that both Figures 3 and 4 give the global bond behaviour which is characterised by the pull-out force (or average bond stress) and the slip at the loaded end. On the other hand, the local bond behaviour defines the FRP/concrete interaction at a sectional level and is characterised by the interfacial bond stress at a given section and the corresponding interfacial slip at the same section. The global behaviour can therefore be thought of as summing up the local response along the bonded length.

Two types of behaviour can be seen in Figures 3 and 4. The majority of specimens that experienced pull-out failure had a behaviour that is characterised by an initial, almost linear, increase in the pull-out force or average bond stress with slip (ascending branch), followed by a gradually descending branch once the maximum pull-out force or average bond stress is achieved. On the other hand, the specimens that failed due to bar rupture had similar initial response to those specimens which failed due to pull-out. However, there was a sudden drop at the peak load caused by the brittle failure of the FRP bars.

The effect of embedded length on the initial stiffness (i.e. the stiffness of the ascending branch) of the bond stress-slip curves can be seen in Figures 3b and 4b. As the embedment length increased from  $5d_b$  to  $15d_b$ , the initial stiffness of the average bond stress-slip curves was reduced. As a result, the slip values corresponding to the maximum average bond stresses increased with increasing the embedded length for both bar types. The highest slip values corresponding to the maximum average bond stresses were obtained by the FRP bars with an embedment length of  $15d_b$ .

As can be observed in Figures 3 and 4, the specimens with CFRP bars had higher initial stiffness than the corresponding specimens with GFRP bars. The higher stiffness for the specimens with CFRP bars was to be expected as the elastic modulus of the CFRP bars is higher than that of the GFRP bars. As a result, the slip values corresponding to the peak pull-out forces (see Figures 3a and 4a) and the slips values corresponding to the maximum average bond stresses (see Figures 3b and 4b) were lower for the specimens with CFRP bars; while the maximum bond stresses were higher for these specimens confirming a better bond performance.

The concrete compressive strength did not have a significant impact on the initial stiffness of the specimens with GFRP bars. As can be seen in Figures 4a and 4b, C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> and C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub>, which differed in concrete strength only, had approximately equal initial stiffness. C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> had higher initial stiffness than that of C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> although the latter specimen had higher concrete compressive strength. Premature cracking (e.g. due to shrinkage) could have resulted in the lower stiffness of C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub>. Further testing is required to confirm this result.

The increase in hole diameter from 1.5d<sub>b</sub> to 1.8d<sub>b</sub> resulted in a reduction in the initial stiffness of C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.8d<sub>b</sub> compared to that of C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> (see Figures 4a and 4b). C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.8d<sub>b</sub> had the lowest initial stiffness suggesting that the combination of GFRP bars and a higher quantity of adhesive (i.e. larger hole diameter) has a detrimental effect on stiffness. Yet, the mode of failure was not affected by the increase in quantity of adhesive as both specimens experienced rupture of the GFRP bars.

#### 4.3 *Effect of embedment length*

Table 2 shows that the pull-out capacity increased with the increase in embedded length. An increase of two times (from 5d<sub>b</sub> to 10d<sub>b</sub>) in the embedded length led to increases of 46% and 61% in the pull-out capacity of the 12 mm GFRP and CFRP specimens with a concrete compressive strength of 24.8 MPa, respectively. The corresponding increases for the specimens with a concrete compressive strength of 45.6 MPa and 10 mm GFRP or CFRP bars were 87% and 106%, respectively.

Figure 5 combines the results of this study with the results of Valerio et al. [10] and Godat et al. [14]. Except for the few pull-out specimens with a concrete compressive strength of 45.6

MPa, Figure 5 shows that the maximum average bond stress generally decreased with the increase in embedded length, which is in agreement with Equation 1. An increase of two times (from  $5d_b$  to  $10d_b$ ) in the embedded length led to decreases of about 28% and 20% in the maximum average bond stresses of the 12 mm GFRP and CFRP specimens with a concrete compressive strength of 24.8 MPa, respectively. This trend is further highlighted by the results of Valerio et al. [10] and Godat et al. [14] which show that increases of five and six times, respectively, in the embedded length led to decreases of almost 1.5 and 2 times, respectively, in the maximum average bond stress.

The results of this study combined with those of Valerio et al. [10] show that, at given embedded length and concrete strength values, the specimens with CFRP bars had generally higher bond strength values than the corresponding specimens with GFRP bars (see Figure 5). This result may be explained by the better bond performance of the CFRP bars which have higher elastic modulus than that of the GFRP bars. Of note is that Godat et al. [14] did not test GFRP pull-out specimens.

#### 4.4 *Effect of bar diameter*

The impact of bar diameter on pull-out and bond strengths can be inferred from specimens C26-15 $d_b$ -CFRP12-1.5 $d_b$  and C26-15 $d_b$ -CFRP10-1.5 $d_b$  (see Table 2). The corresponding specimens with GFRP bars failed due to bar rupture; so both their failure mode and failure loads were not affected by the change in bar diameter. The increase in bar diameter from 10 to 12 mm resulted in a 17.1 kN (30.4%) increase in the pull-out capacity for the tested specimens with DE CFRP bars. For a larger bar diameter, the greater bond area results in a higher pull-out capacity [14]. In contrast, the maximum average bond stress decreased by 1.1

MPa (9.2%). This decrease may be explained by the higher amount of elastic energy available when using large diameter bars [14, 22].

#### 4.5 *Effect of concrete compressive strength*

The effect of concrete compressive strength on pull-out capacity and maximum average bond stress can be inferred from specimens C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> and C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> (see Table 2). The corresponding specimens with GFRP bars failed due to bar rupture; so both their failure mode and failure loads were not affected by the change in concrete compressive strength. As the concrete strength increased from 26.1 to 45.6 MPa, the pull-out capacity increased by 18.6 kN (33%). C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> and C46-15d<sub>b</sub>-CFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> had the same bar diameter and embedment length and thus the maximum average bond stress increased by 4 MPa (33%) due to the increase in concrete strength. The pull-out force induces shear stresses along the DE FRP bar. Pull-out (bond) failure occurs when the applied interfacial stresses exceed the resistance of the FRP-to-concrete interface [21]. Increasing the concrete compressive strength increases the resistance of the FRP-to-concrete interface. This, in turn, enhances the bond strength.

#### 4.6 *Effect of hole diameter*

The two specimens with different hole diameters (C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.5d<sub>b</sub> and C26-15d<sub>b</sub>-GFRP10-1.8d<sub>b</sub>) failed due to bar rupture at 58.2 kN and 54.7 kN, respectively. Hence it can only be inferred that the increase in hole diameter from 15 mm to 18 mm affected neither the failure mode nor the tensile capacity of the GFRP bars. Godat et al. [14] investigated the effect of three hole diameters (1.25d<sub>b</sub> (12 mm), 1.5d<sub>b</sub> (15 mm) and 2.0d<sub>b</sub> (19 mm)). The three tested specimens failed due to bar pull-out. They reported that increasing the hole diameter from 1.25d<sub>b</sub> to 1.5d<sub>b</sub> increased the pull-out capacity by 10.8 kN (13.4%) whereas the further

increase in hole diameter to  $2.0d_b$  decreased the pull-out capacity by 12.5 kN (13.9%). They argued that the increase in hole diameter to  $1.5d_b$  improved bonding while maintaining a greater confinement whereas the further increase to  $2.0d_b$  reduced the effect of confinement [14]. However, this latter effect was not observed for the specimens with DE GFRP bars tested in this study as explained above.

## 5 MATHEMATICAL MODELLING

Currently, there are no published mathematical models for predicting the bond strength of DE FRP bars. The Concrete Society Technical Report 55 (TR55) [23] suggests that the bond strength of DE FRP bars may be taken as 15 MPa in the absence of test data. Mofidi et al. [12] proposed the bond strength values of 21.3 MPa and 8.4 MPa for plain and sand-coated FRP bars, respectively. However, the experimental results clearly demonstrate that the bond behaviour of DE FRP bars is so complex that the bond strength cannot be represented by a single fixed value.

This paper proposes a new model for the bond strength of DE FRP bars. The form of the mathematical model chosen is given by:

$$\tau = \alpha f_c^j l_b^k d_b^m E^n E_p^r \quad (2)$$

where  $\tau$  is the average bond strength;  $f_c$  is the concrete cylinder compressive strength;  $l_b$ ,  $d_b$  and  $E$  are the embedded length, bar diameter and elastic modulus of the DE FRP bar, respectively; and  $E_p$  is the elastic modulus of the adhesive. The key advantage of the proposed model is that it explicitly takes into account the constituent parameters influencing the bond



behaviour, thus permitting variations during the design process. The role of such a mathematical model is crucial for developing shear strengthening design guidelines.

In the calibration process, data were restricted to experiments where bar pullout failure occurred. The model was calibrated using a multiple linear regression on two sets of data (11 experimental tests from this research study and 9 tests by Godat et al.[14]) which suggest parameter values of:  $j = 0.31 \pm 0.18$ ,  $k = -0.32 \pm 0.05$ ,  $m = -0.59 \pm 0.59$ ,  $n = 0.23 \pm 0.05$  and  $r = 0.52 \pm 0.1$ . The suggested value of  $\alpha$  is  $\exp(-0.52) = 0.59$  but the uncertainty of this is large ( $-0.52 \pm 2.4$  in the exponent), possibly because of factors (e.g. roughness of the adhesive-to-concrete interface) which have not been included in the model. The large uncertainty of the  $m$  value is probably related to the small range of diameters and thus contact surface areas considered. Additional tests need to be conducted considering a larger range of bar diameters and other parameters. The proposed model may be written as:

$$\tau = 0.59 f_c^{0.31} l_b^{-0.32} d_b^{-0.59} E^{0.23} E_p^{0.52} \quad (3)$$

In terms of statistical probability, elastic modulus of the epoxy adhesive, elastic modulus of the bar and embedded length are all highly significant (p-value < 0.001) whereas concrete compressive strength and bar diameter are less significant. The justification for including these parameters in the model is therefore theoretical rather than statistical and further work is required to improve the values associated with these parameters. In addition, as the selected data were restricted only to bar pullout failure mode, the impact of concrete strength is not significant (or does not play a significant role) as long as the compressive strength of concrete is sufficient to achieve the bond strength between the concrete and DE FRP bar. In

comparison between predicted and measured values (see Figure 6), the typical error of the proposed model is  $\pm 2\%$  and the standard error is  $\pm 9\%$ .

The proposed model was validated against the results of nineteen pull-out specimens tested by Valerio et al. [10]. These specimens were selected from a larger database of 65 specimens on the basis of bar material, epoxy adhesive and failure mode. Only the specimens with AFRP, GFRP or CFRP bars bonded into concrete using a high viscosity adhesive were deemed adequate for validation purposes. The remaining specimens with steel bars and/or low viscosity adhesive are beyond the scope of the proposed model. It should be noted that a low viscosity adhesive is unsuitable for DE strengthening applications and will negatively impact the bond performance [14]. The nineteen specimens chosen for validation purposes had embedment lengths ranging from 15 to 75 mm and hole diameters of 1.2 or 1.3 times the bar diameter. All the selected specimens experienced bar pullout failure mode only.

Figure 7 displays the comparison between the predicted and experimental bond strength values for fourteen specimens with CFRP/GFRP bars and five specimens with AFRP bars. It must be noted that for the same bar diameter and embedded length, the experimental bond strength values achieved by CFRP bars were almost twice as those achieved by AFRP bars. This different bond performance of AFRP bars suggests a smaller alpha coefficient ( $\alpha = 0.5 \times 0.59 = 0.295$ ) be adopted for the proposed bond strength model (Equation 2) which led to more accurate predictions.

It can be seen in Figure 7 that the proposed model predicted well the results of Valerio et al. [10] tests. In comparison between predicted and measured values, the typical error of the proposed model for this data set is  $\pm 2\%$  and the standard error is  $\pm 18\%$ . The predictions

were more accurate for CFRP/GFRP bars compared to AFRP bars but this can be addressed through a change to the alpha value used in the model. Additional tests need to be conducted using AFRP bars to assess the consistency of results and their bond performance.

## 6 CONCLUSIONS

This research study has expanded the experimental results and has provided further insight into the bond performance of DE FRP bars by conducting pull-out tests on both CFRP and GFRP bars epoxy-bonded into 200 mm × 200 mm × 200 mm concrete cubes. The impact of embedment length, bar type and diameter, concrete strength and hole diameter on the bond behaviour was examined. Based on the results of this study, the following conclusions can be made:

- The increase in embedded length enhanced the pull-out capacity but reduced both the maximum average bond stress and the initial stiffness of the bond stress-slip curves. The GFRP bars with embedded lengths of  $15d_b$  failed by rupture whereas the GFRP bars with shorter embedded lengths ( $5d_b$  and  $10d_b$ ) failed due to bar pull-out. Except for one specimen which failed due to concrete splitting, the CFRP bars failed due to bar pull-out.
- The specimens with CFRP bars had higher pull-out and bond strengths as well as higher initial bond-slip stiffness than the corresponding specimens with GFRP bars. The slip values corresponding to both the peak pull-out forces and the maximum average bond stresses were lower while the average bond stresses were higher for the specimens with CFRP bars, confirming a better bond performance.
- The increase in bar diameter from 10 to 12 mm led to a 30.4% increase in the pull-out capacity and 9.2% decrease in the maximum average bond stress for the specimens with DE CFRP bars. The behaviour of the corresponding specimens with DE GFRP bars was not affected by the change in bar diameter and these specimens failed due to bar rupture.

- The increase in concrete compressive strength from 26.1 to 45.6 MPa increased both the pull-out capacity and the maximum average bond stress for the specimens with DE CFRP bars by about 33%. The concrete compressive strength did not have a significant impact on the initial stiffness, pull-out capacity or failure mode of the specimens with DE GFRP bars.
- The increase in hole diameter from  $1.5d_b$  to  $1.8d_b$  reduced the initial stiffness of the specimens with DE GFRP bars but affected neither the failure mode (bar rupture) nor the failure loads.
- A new mathematical model was proposed to predict the bond strength of DE FRP bars epoxy-bonded into concrete. The model was validated against experimental results and was demonstrated to produce accurate predictions.

## 7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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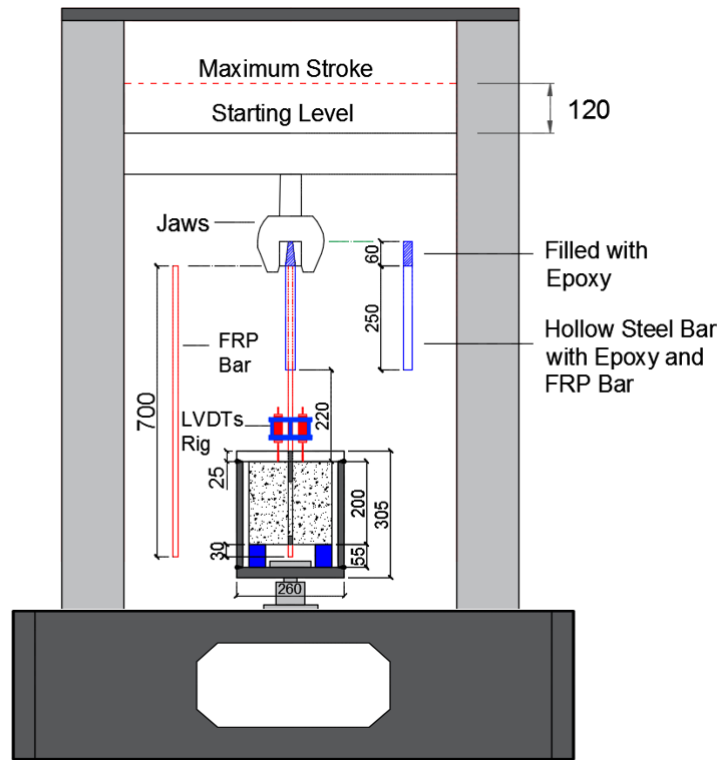
**Table 1 – Test specimens**

Specimen	Concrete compressive strength (MPa)	Bar type	Bar diameter (mm)	Embedded length (mm)	Hole diameter (mm)
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	26.1	CFRP	12	180 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>1</sup>	26.1	GFRP	12	180 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>1</sup>	26.1	GFRP	12	180 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	26.1	GFRP	10	150 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.8d <sub>b</sub>	26.1	GFRP	10	150 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.8d <sub>b</sub> )
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	26.1	CFRP	10	150 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-10d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	24.8	GFRP	12	120 (10d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-10d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	24.8	CFRP	12	120 (10d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	24.8	GFRP	12	60 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	24.8	GFRP	12	60 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>3</sup>	24.8	CFRP	12	60 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>3</sup>	24.8	CFRP	12	60 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	18 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	GFRP	10	150 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	CFRP	10	150 (15d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-10d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	GFRP	10	100 (10d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-10d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	CFRP	10	100 (10d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	GFRP	10	50 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
C46-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	45.6	CFRP	10	50 (5d <sub>b</sub> )	15 (1.5d <sub>b</sub> )
<sup>1,2,3</sup> Repeated specimens					

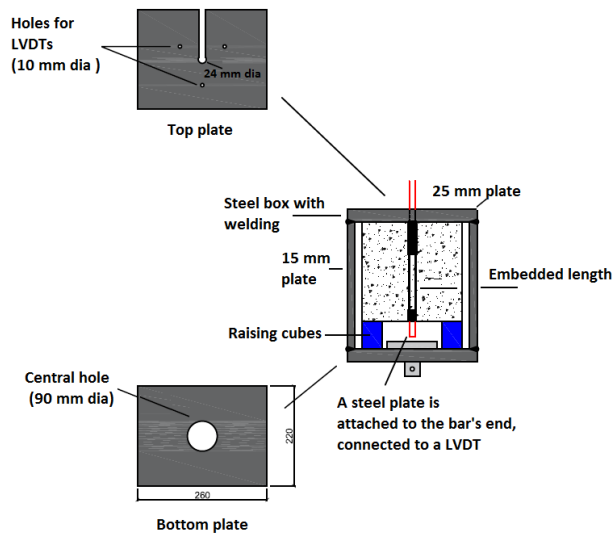


**Table 2 – Test results**

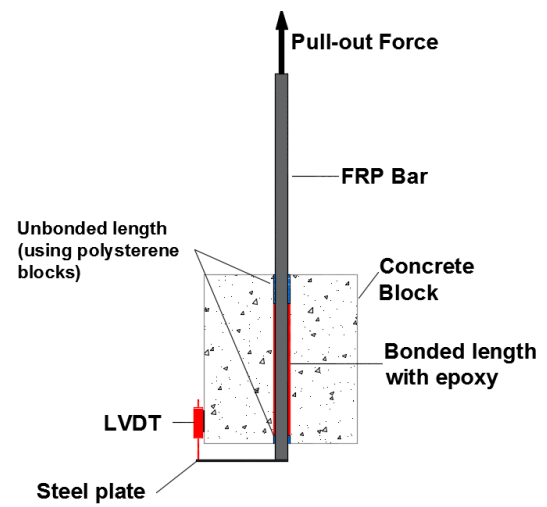
Specimen	Peak pull-out force (kN)	Maximum average bond stress (MPa)	Slip at peak pull-out force (mm)	Failure mode
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5 d <sub>b</sub>	73.3	10.8	3.2	Concrete splitting
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>1</sup>	61.9	9.1	3.2	Bar rupture
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>1</sup>	48.8	7.2	2.3	Bar rupture
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	58.2	12.4	3.7	Bar rupture
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.8d <sub>b</sub>	54.7	11.6	5.5	Bar rupture
C26-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	56.2	11.9	1.6	Bar pull-out
C25-10d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	36.3	8.0	1.9	Bar pull-out
C25-10d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	49.6	11.0	1.5	Bar pull-out
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	22.8	10.1	1.4	Bar pull-out
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>2</sup>	27.1	12.0	2.1	Bar pull-out
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>3</sup>	31.6	14.0	1.0	Bar pull-out
C25-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP12-1.5d <sub>b</sub> <sup>3</sup>	30.1	13.3	1.2	Bar pull-out
C46-15d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	61.2	13.0	4.7	Bar rupture
C46-15d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	74.8	15.9	2.2	Bar pull-out
C46-10d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	40.4	12.9	2.8	Bar pull-out
C46-10d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	43.5	13.8	1.2	Bar pull-out
C46-5d <sub>b</sub> -GFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	21.6	13.8	1.7	Bar pull-out
C46-5d <sub>b</sub> -CFRP10-1.5d <sub>b</sub>	21.1	13.4	1.1	Bar pull-out
<sup>1,2,3</sup> Repeated specimens				



(a)



(b)



(c)

**Figure 1. Test details (all dimensions in mm): (a) test setup, (b) steel box and (c) test specimen**



(a)

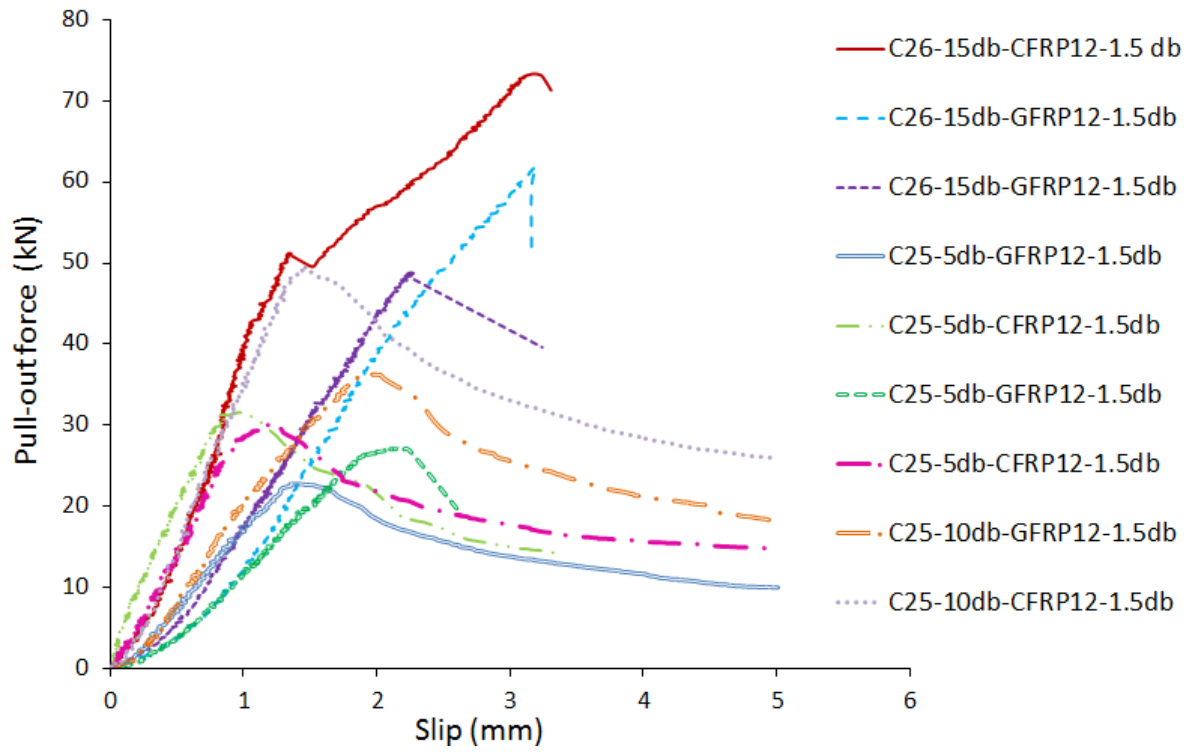


(b)

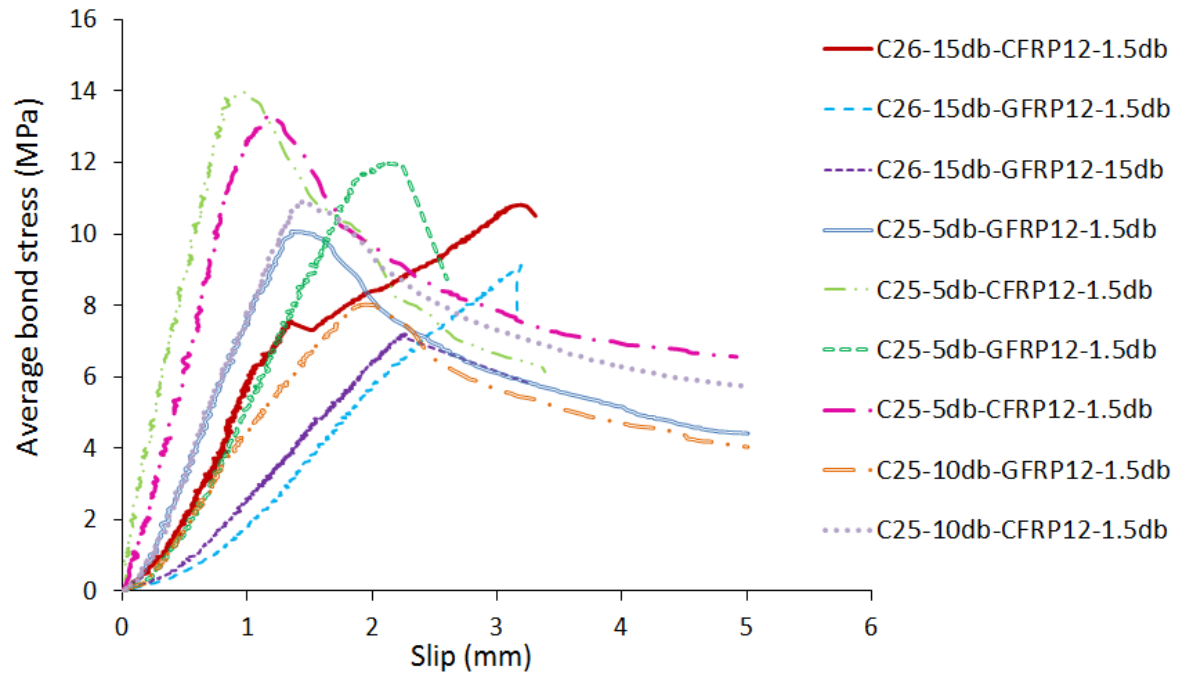


(c)

**Figure 2. Failure modes: (a) concrete splitting, (b) bar rupture and (c) bar pull-out**

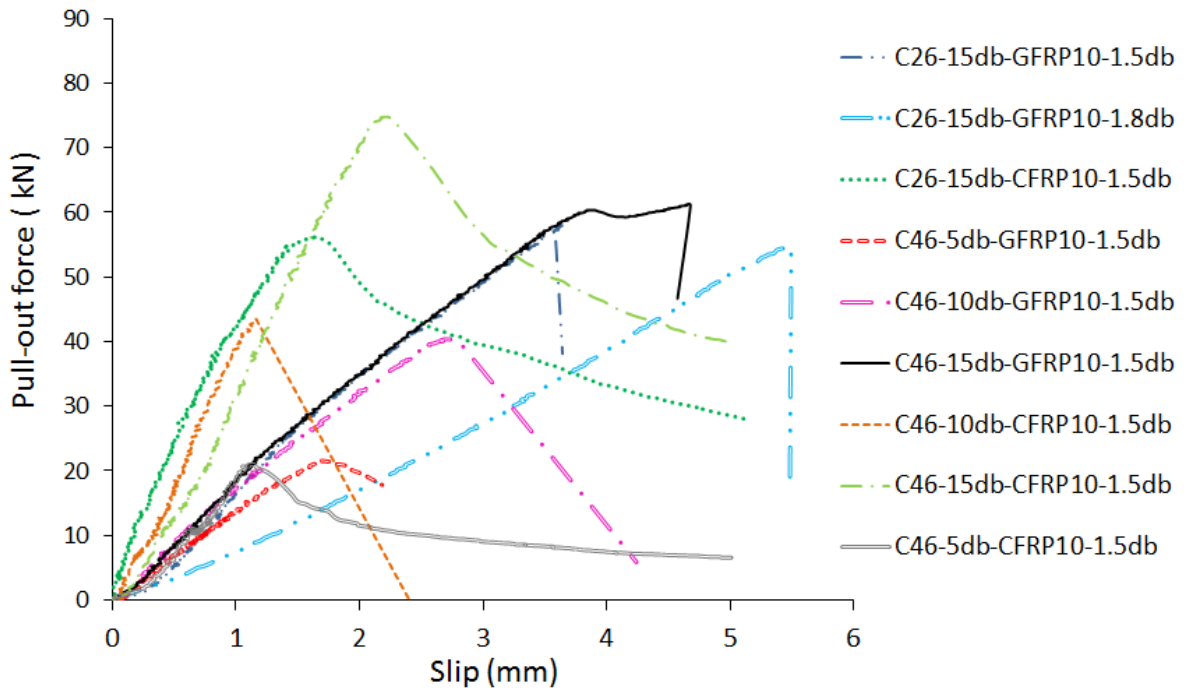


(a)

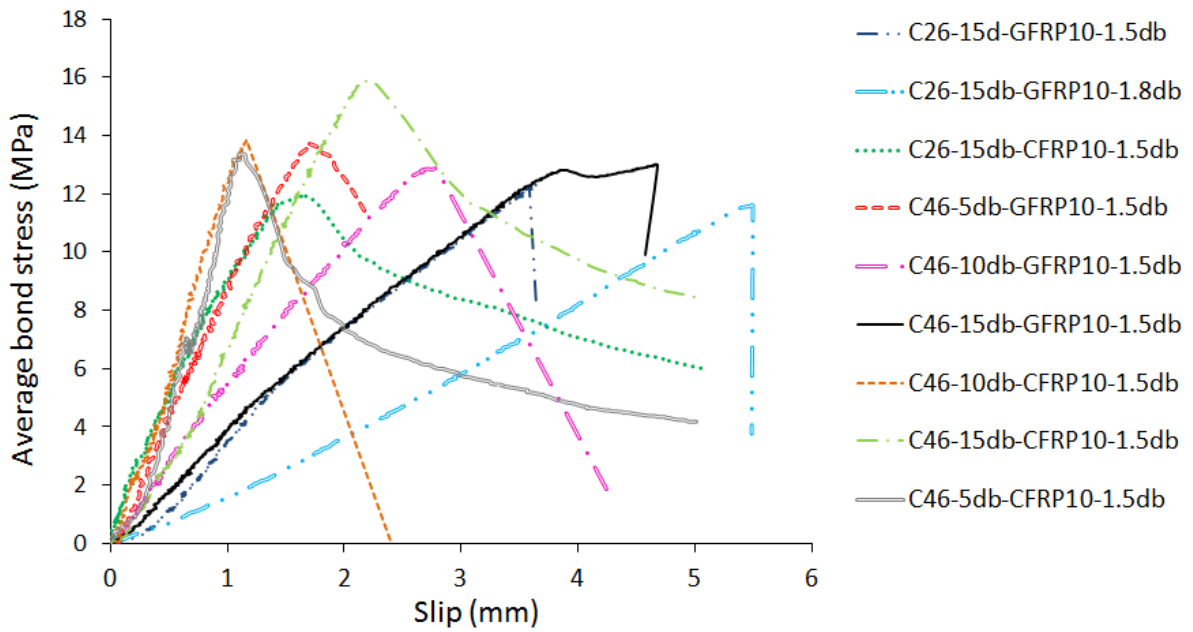


(b)

**Figure 3. Bond-slip curves for the specimens with 12 mm FRP bars: (a) pull-out force-slip curves and (b) average bond stress-slip curves**

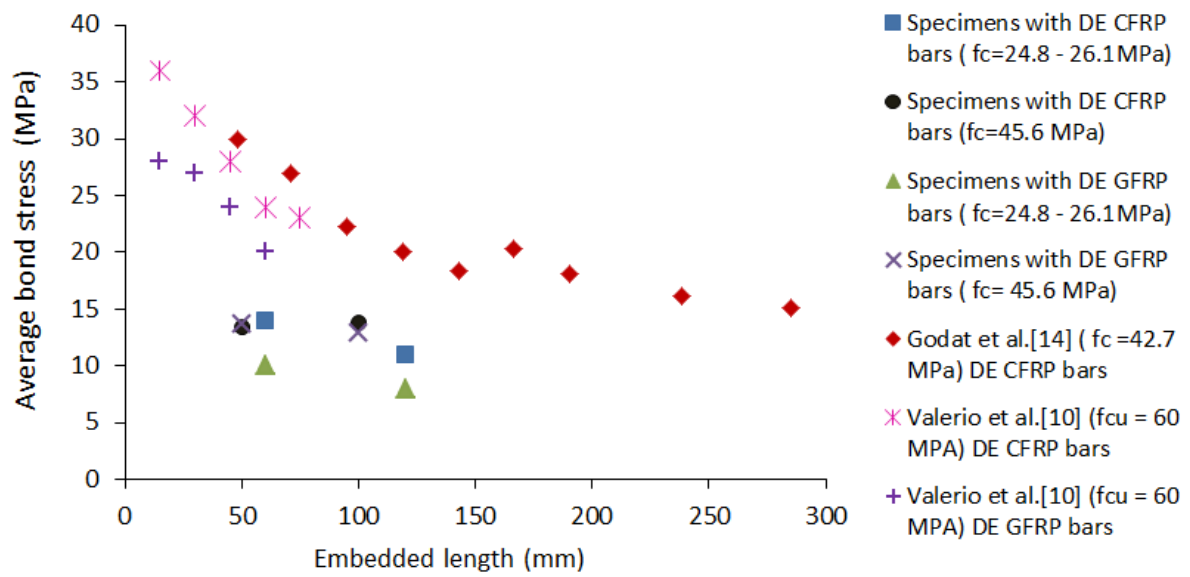


(a)

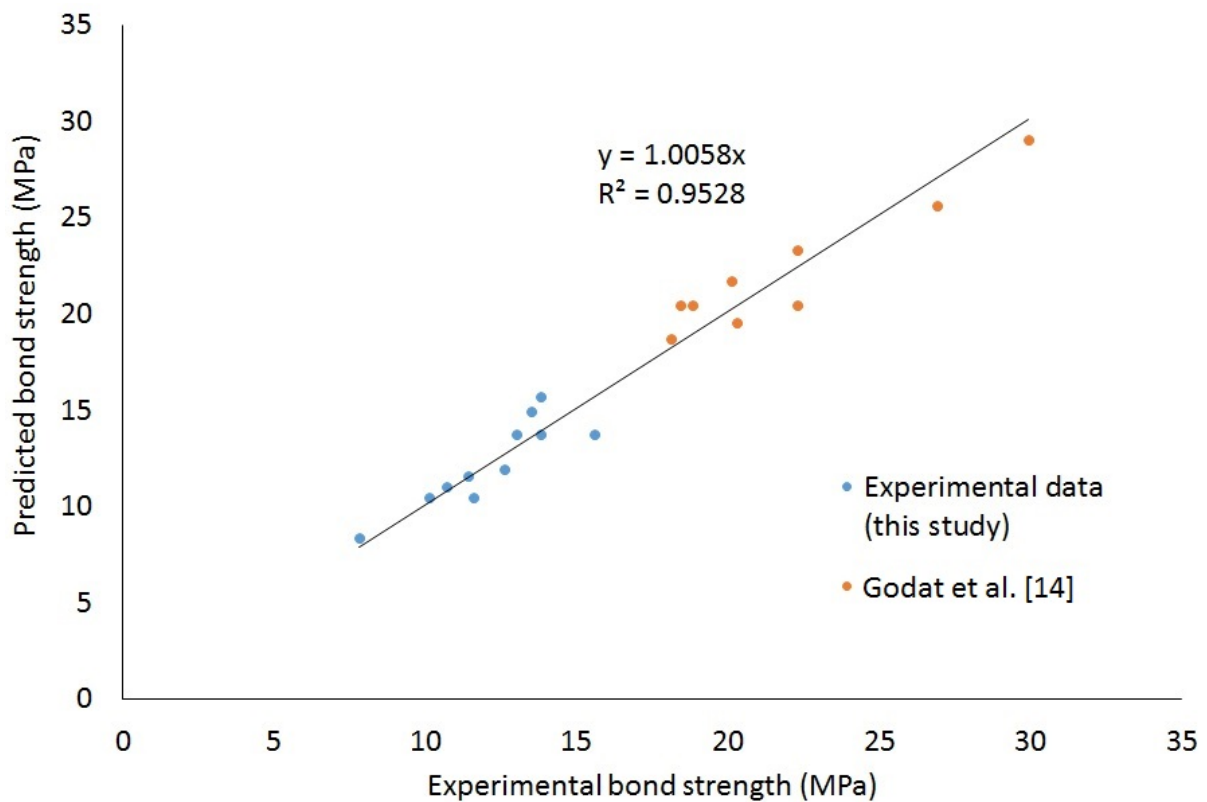


(b)

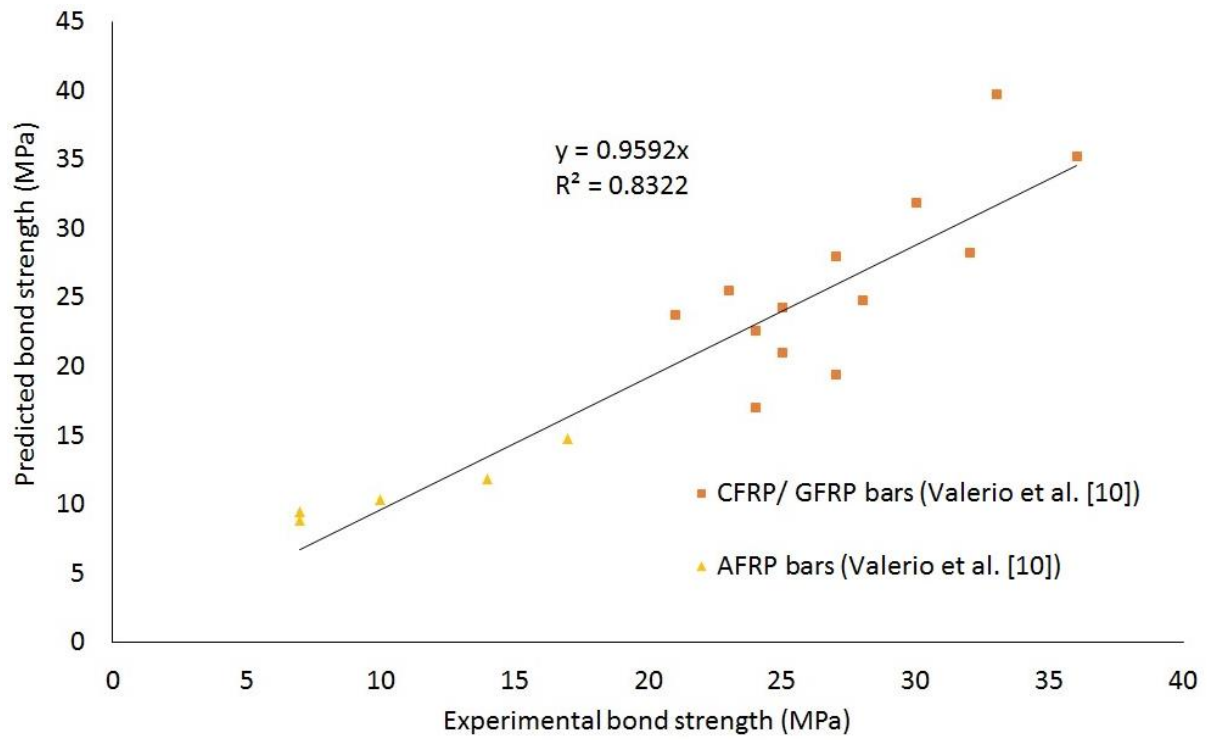
**Figure 4. Bond-slip curves for the specimens with 10 mm FRP bars: (a) pull-out force-slip curves and (b) average bond stress-slip curves**



**Figure 5. Effect of embedment length on maximum average bond stress**



**Figure 6. Model calibration – comparison between predicted and measured values**



**Figure 7. Model validation – comparison between predicted and measured values**