



Research Report

Of

**EFFECTS OF ELEVATED TEMPERATURE
CURING ON GLASS TRANSITION TEMPERATURE
OF CFRP/CONCRETE BOND**

MASTER OF SCIENCE

IN

STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING, 2016/2017

By

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August 2021

**EFFECTS OF ELEVATED TEMPERATURE
CURING ON GLASS TRANSITION TEMPERATURE
OF CFRP/CONCRETE BOND**

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The Dissertation was submitted to the Department of Civil Engineering of the University of Moratuwa in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the Degree of Master of Science

Department of Civil Engineering

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August 2021

Declaration

I confirm that, except where indicated through the proper use of citations and references, this is my original work. I confirm that subject to final approval by the Board of Examiners of the University of Moratuwa, a copy of this Dissertation may be placed upon the shelves of the library of the University of Moratuwa and may be circulated as required.

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To the best of my knowledge, the above particulars are correct.

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Abstract

Strengthening of existing structures made out of concrete, all around the world is an increasing requirement due to many reasons like aging, insufficient maintenance, and the degradation due to environmental impact, as well as due to increases of the applied loads and due to requirement of complying with the modern standards. Carbon Fiber Reinforcement Polymer, CFRP, one of the budding and potential technologies in the structural strengthening process. As such lots of researchers who wish to continue their higher studies and knowledge gaining in structural engineering have involved researchers in structural strengthening using CFRP.

Laying CFRP fabrics and composites using epoxy adhesives, along the external surfaces of structural elements are the popular method for a strengthening of structural capacities. These externally laid CFRP fabrics are subjected to elevated temperatures due to environmental conditions. The exposure to such elevated temperature affects the strength of the CFRP/Concrete bonds, because of the low glass transition temperature (T_g) of these epoxy adhesives that have been used to create the bond between CFRP and concrete substrate.

A slight increment of T_g is also contributed to enhancing environmental resistance of strengthened outdoor members which directly expose to the environmental fluctuations. Curing of the CFRP/epoxy/concrete bond in an elevated temperature environment may enhance the bond performance while improving its T_g . However, it is important to ensure a safe temperature range in curing without affecting the performance of the concrete part of the system. This study focuses on determining the safe temperature range, which may be used as raised temperature curing of the CFRP/Concrete composites and determination of bond characteristics for the corresponding temperature applied for curing.

A total of twenty-five single strap joints were prepared under two different curing conditions. The impact of curing at moderately elevated temperature (75°C) on CFRP/Concrete bond strength was examined for both ambient and elevated temperature conditions.

The test results revealed that the raised temperature curing has a remarkable effect on the T_g of CFRP/Concrete bond. A considerable improvement of T_g was noted in the joint with elevated temperature curing when matched with the ambient temperature cured CFRP/Concrete specimens. The strength degradation of the bond for a certain temperature exposure is also reduced with increased T_g of the joint.

Acknowledgment

Throughout the Research studies and writing of this dissertation, I have received a great deal of support and assistance.

First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to, my patience and supportive research supervisor, Prof. J.C.P.H, Gamage, the course coordinator of MSc in Structural Engineering, 2016/2017, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka., for her kind support, and direction given to me throughout this research project.

I would like to express my special thanks to Mr. E. R. K. Chandrathilaka, who gave enormous support while carrying out the laboratory testing works as well as at the dissertation writing stage, whom without, I would not have been able to complete this research.

I am very grateful to the research coordinator of the MSc program and all the staff members of the Structural Engineering Unit, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka., for their support and guidance to actualize this project.

A special thank goes to the staff of the Structural testing laboratory, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka., for their valuable assistance.

I must thank Mr. G.M. Karunaratne, GMK sandblasting, Heiyantuduwa, Sri Lanka., for providing the sandblasting facility at surface preparation work of concrete blocks.

I am also thankful to my family members for all the support you have shown me through these research studies, as well as in the MSc Degree studies.

W. K. K. Rathnasiri

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List of symbols, notations, abbreviations, and acronyms

CFRP – Carbon Fiber Reinforcement Polymer

T_g - Glass Transition Temperature

FRP – Fiber Reinforcement Polymer

FEM – Finite element modeling

US – United States

UV – Ultra Violet