

Bond of Reinforcing Bars to Steel Fiber Reinforced Concrete

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ABSTRACT

Steel fiber reinforced concrete (SFRC) has been increasingly used during recent years. Regarding bond of rebars to concrete, fibers provide passive confinement and improve bond capacity in terms of bond strength and, more importantly, toughness. An extensive experimental programme has been carried out, and SFRC specimens with embedded rebars have been subjected to the Pull Out Test to obtain the bond stress–slip curves, retaining the bond strength and the area under the curve as measures of the bond capacity of concrete. The following parameters were considered: concrete compressive strength (30-50 MPa), rebar diameter (8-20 mm), concrete cover (between 30 mm and 5 times rebar diameter), fiber content (up to 70 kg/m³), and the slenderness and length of the steel fibers used. Predictive equations have been obtained to relate the experimental results to the factors considered, and the trends observed have been analyzed and discussed.

KEYWORDS:

Bond; Concrete; Fiber; Strength; Toughness.

1 **1. INTRODUCTION**

2
3 Bond of reinforcement to concrete has been studied for different types of concrete and
4 different experimental setups and structural situations. On the other hand, steel fiber
5 reinforced concrete (SFRC) has been increasingly used. This introduction aims at
6 contextualizing this study and justifying its objectives, which are detailed after that.

7
8 **1.1 Bond between Reinforcement and Concrete**

9
10 Bond between reinforcement and concrete is measured as a shear stress, or bond stress,
11 at the interface between the two materials, distributed over the surface of the rebar along
12 the embedded length. Following this definition, bond stress is the ratio between the rate
13 of change in axial force along the rebar and the area of rebar surface over which this
14 change takes place [1]. In addition to this shear stress there are other aspects involved,
15 especially in the case of deformed, ribbed rebars [1-3]. This is illustrated in Figure 1:
16 the tensile load pulling the rebar out of concrete causes reaction forces applied onto the
17 surrounding concrete. As a result of the ribbed geometry, these reactions are oblique
18 and therefore consist of two components: a) a shear component, parallel to the rebar
19 axis, and b) a radial component which affects the surrounding concrete. Therefore, bond
20 implies not only bond stresses but radial stresses as well.

21
22 Concrete between ribs is subjected to a multiaxial stress state caused by the shear
23 component of bond stresses. This wedging action increases with the axial load pulling
24 the rebar out, which eventually results in concrete crushing between ribs. Radial stresses
25 increase as well, until concrete tensile strength is reached in the concrete surrounding
26 the rebar. As a result, transverse microcracking occurs, with the consequent loss of
27 strain compatibility between rebar and concrete: the rebar progressively slips out of
28 concrete with the development of these microcracks. The initiation and progress of the
29 slippage results in the activation of bond. As long as confinement is sufficient and the
30 cracks do not imply the total failure of concrete surrounding the rebar, bond stresses
31 keep increasing until the ultimate value, known as bond strength, is reached. After this
32 peak, bond stress–slip curves exhibit a softening behavior.

1 Depending on the confinement conditions, bond failure can occur in two different major
2 modes: pullout failure (when the rebar is pulled out after the shear failure of the rebar-
3 concrete interface), or splitting failure (when the concrete surrounding the rebar
4 undergoes total splitting as a result of the radial stresses). The confining effect of
5 concrete cover is most usually typified by rebar diameter: concrete cover/diameter ratio
6 is the reference parameter. According to the Model Code [4], concrete is considered
7 well confined when this ratio is not less than five, and it must be higher than 2.5 to
8 prevent splitting failures [5,6], although this threshold varies depending on different
9 factors. A detailed analysis of these factors determining the mode of bond failure and
10 the effect that fibers have on the risk of concrete splitting has already been published [7].

11

12 Confinement affects bond performance in terms of bond strength and bond failure
13 ductility [4] in addition to the mode of bond failure [8,9]. In terms of ductility,
14 increasing the concrete cover has been shown to improve the ductility of bond failure,
15 as bond stress–slip curves become steeper when concrete cover increases [10].

16

17 **1.2 Effect of Steel Fibers on Bond between Reinforcement and Concrete**

18

19 Steel fibers have been increasingly introduced in concrete production in recent years
20 [11,12]. They improve bond between reinforcement and concrete even when they are
21 dosed at low contents [13] as a result of their confining effect and their broadening the
22 range of crack width values within which passive confinement remains active [13-15].

23

24 The positive effect of fibers on bond capacity is acknowledged in codes and
25 recommendations for structural concrete but is not always considered in expressions to
26 determine development lengths. Their effect on bond performance is especially
27 noticeable in terms of toughness of bond failure and the ductility of the material [10,16].
28 However, accounting for the enhanced bond capacity of SFRC in order to reduce
29 required anchorage length values is not a straightforward issue. In this sense, several
30 studies have been performed attempting to model the bond phenomenon and anchorage
31 behavior in general [17-24].

32

33

34

2. OBJECTIVES

As it has been highlighted in the introduction, a number of variables are involved in terms of bond of reinforcing bars to SFRC, and there was a need to study all of them together in order to quantify their importance, detect potential synergies between them and non-linear trends. This research aimed at studying bond capacity of SFRC from a multivariate perspective. The main objectives were:

- To study different parameters characterizing the toughness of bond failure under the conditions of the Pull Out Test (POT), and their relation with bond strength.
- To study the effect that steel fiber content, fiber length and slenderness, concrete compressive strength, rebar diameter and concrete cover have on bond capacity of SFRC and on the toughness of bond failure.
- To obtain analytical expressions that can be used to estimate bond strength and bond toughness in relation to the factors considered.

3. EXPERIMENTAL INVESTIGATION

3.1 Definition of variables and experimental programme

The following factors were considered: concrete compressive strength (f_c), rebar diameter (D), concrete cover (C), steel fiber content (C_f), fiber slenderness (λ_f) and fiber length (l_f). The values considered for each of these factors are summarized in Table 1.

Three different groups of concrete mixes were considered, providing compressive strength values between 30 and 50 MPa. They are referred to throughout this paper as Type I, II, and III, and they are based on the reference mix designs given in Table 2. The mixes within each group vary in fiber content. The dosages of superplasticizer and limestone filler were slightly adjusted in all cases to maintain a similar workability throughout all mixes (slump values between 10 and 15 cm).

A highly fractioned factorial plan [25] was followed to define the experimental program. It was organized in three blocks, corresponding to Type I, Type II, and Type III mixes,

1 resulting in the combinations shown in Table 3. With this design of the experiment, it
2 was possible to draw reliable, statistically sound conclusions from the experimental
3 results after a reasonable number of tests. For each case, 3 POT specimens and 2
4 cylindrical specimens were produced with concrete from the same batch. The number of
5 POT specimens produced and tested was $9 \times 3 = 27$ for each of the three series, and
6 therefore the total number of POT specimens was $27 \times 3 = 81$.

7
8 Rebars of four different diameters were used: 8, 12, 16, and 20 mm. The different
9 values considered for concrete cover, $C1 < C2 < C3$, were defined as a function of the
10 rebar diameter. The minimum concrete cover, $C1$, was either 30 mm (type I mixes) or
11 2.5 times the rebar diameter (types II and III mixes). The maximum concrete cover
12 considered, $C3$, was set at 5 times the rebar diameter, in agreement with the definition
13 of good confinement by the Model Code [4]. An intermediate level, $C2$ being the
14 average of $C1$ and $C3$, was also considered.

15
16 Four types of hooked-end steel fibers were considered, different in slenderness and
17 length only: 45/50, 65/60, 80/35, and 80/50. They were dosed below 1% in volume,
18 considering the following fiber contents: 0 kg/m^3 , 40 kg/m^3 , and $60\text{-}70 \text{ kg/m}^3$.

19 20 **3.2 Pull Out Test**

21
22 A modified version of the Pull Out Test (POT) was selected as the most appropriate test
23 for the purposes of this research (Figure 2). All POT specimens were designed to the
24 RILEM recommendations [32–34] prescribing the following requirements: a) the total
25 length of the specimen (L) had to be 10 times the rebar diameter but never less than 200
26 mm, and b) the embedded length (L') had to be 5 times the rebar diameter. Preliminary
27 calculations following Eurocode 2 part 1-1 (art. 8.4.2) [26] were made in order to avoid
28 rebar yielding so that specimens failure could be related only to bond failure in all cases.

29
30 The dimensions of the cross-section were different for each POT specimen. This is
31 sketched in Figure 3, where D is the rebar diameter, S is the side, and C is the concrete
32 cover, variable. As shown in Figure 3, the rebar was positioned eccentrically so that the
33 factor 'concrete cover' was restricted to two out of four semi-axes in the cross-section.

1 With respect to the other two semi-axes, concrete cover was never less than 125 mm in
2 order to have good confinement.

3 4 **3.3 Materials and methods**

5
6 Cement type CEM II/B-M 42.5 R was used in all cases. River sand and crushed
7 limestone coarse aggregate were used, in addition to limestone filler and a
8 polycarboxylate ether-based superplasticizer. The reinforcing bars were ribbed bars
9 made with steel type B 500 S. With respect to the steel fibers used, all of them were
10 cold-drawn, hooked-end fibers made with low carbon steel (yield strength 1100 MPa
11 minimum) and without any coating.

12
13 To produce the concrete mixes and cast the specimens, the same sequence of operations
14 and mixing regime was followed in all cases. Each one of the concrete batches was
15 characterized by testing 2 cylindrical specimens under uniaxial compression. These
16 control specimens were cast at the same time as their corresponding POT specimens,
17 kept in storage conditions to the standard EN 12390-2:2009 [27] and tested at the same
18 age as their corresponding POT specimens, 28 days, following the standard EN 12390-
19 3:2009 [28].

20
21 Pull out tests were carried out as shown in Figure 4. The specimen was placed on a rigid
22 steel plate with the rebar passing through a hole and anchored by clamps. The
23 supporting plate was pulled up by actuating an hydraulic system and, as a result, the
24 rebar was pulled out of the specimen. The specimen was instrumented with a LVDT
25 sensor on the top surface to monitor the slip of the rebar. It was located on this surface
26 in order to detect the load corresponding to the onset of bond stress along the entire
27 embedded length.

28 29 **3.4 Bond capacity parameters**

30
31 A bond stress–slip curve was obtained from each Pull Out Test, from which the
32 following parameters were defined as the experimental quantitative outputs to be
33 analyzed in this research (see Figure 5):

- 1 • τ_{max} , bond strength, corresponding to the peak bond stress, measured in MPa.
- 2 • A_{peak} , area under the bond stress–slip curve up to its peak, measured in mmMPa.
- 3 • A_{80} , area under the bond stress–slip curve up to the bond stress value that equals
- 4 80% of the bond strength in the postpeak region of the curve, measured in
- 5 mmMPa.
- 6 • A_{50} , area under the bond stress–slip curve up to the bond stress value that equals
- 7 50% of the bond strength in the postpeak region of the curve, measured in
- 8 mmMPa.

11 4. RESULTS

13 4.1 Concrete compressive strength

15 The average compressive strength values obtained for type I, type II, and type III mixes
16 were 32 MPa, 48 MPa, and 44 MPa respectively, at the age of 28 days. The standard
17 deviation observed in the results was 2.7 MPa, 5.1 MPa, and 4.8 MPa respectively.
18 These values were considered in the analysis of the results presented in following
19 sections.

21 4.2 Bond strength and toughness parameters

23 Tables 4, 5 and 6 present the experimental results: bond strength values, τ_{max} , and the
24 toughness parameters A_{peak} , A_{80} , and A_{50} . These parameters can only be obtained in a
25 consistent manner when the mode of bond failure is pullout, as they are not defined if
26 there is a splitting failure. Therefore the analysis and discussion of results presented in
27 the following section refers to pullout failures only. A detailed analysis of the splitting
28 failures has been already published by the authors [7].

5. ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Overview of the methodology

The effects of the variables considered (f_c , D , C , C_f , λ_f , ℓ_f) on the bond capacity parameters analyzed were evaluated and modelled by means of multiple linear regression [29]. In addition to the equations obtained, statistical significance tests were used to assess the relative importance of each variable. The modelling process followed an iterative construction based on backwards stepwise regression [30] taking as reference this general expression:

$$z = \nabla_0 + \nabla_c f_c + \nabla_{cc} f_c^2 + \nabla_d D + \nabla_{dd} D^2 + \nabla_{cd} \frac{C}{D} + C_f (\nabla_f + \nabla_{\lambda_f} \lambda_f + \nabla_{\ell_f} \ell_f) \quad (1)$$

Where z is the parameter analyzed (τ_{max} , A_{peak} , A_{80} , or A_{50}), and ∇_0 , ∇_c , ∇_{cc} , ∇_d , ∇_{dd} , ∇_{cd} , ∇_f , ∇_{λ_f} and ∇_{ℓ_f} are coefficients to be estimated by least squares fitting to the experimental results.

The structure of this general equation was decided taking into account previous knowledge on bond phenomena. It takes into account the contributions of concrete quality (compressive strength), the rebar diameter, and confinement (cover/diameter ratio and fibers). The effects of concrete compressive strength and rebar diameter were modelled as the addition of two components (linear and quadratic) to be able to model non-linear trends if they were found to be statistically significant. The two sources of passive confinement considered in this research are the cover/diameter ratio (C/D) and the fiber content. The contribution of fibers is assumed to be directly dependent on fiber content (C_f) and modified by a fiber geometry factor $\nabla_F = \nabla_f + \nabla_{\lambda_f} \lambda_f + \nabla_{\ell_f} \ell_f$ which takes into account the interactions between C_f and fiber slenderness (λ_f) and length (ℓ_f).

5.2 Bond strength

After fitting equation (1) to the experimental results obtained for bond strength (τ_{max} , in MPa) and removing the terms that were not statistically significant, the following model was obtained (R-squared=0.78):

$$\tau_{max} = 70.07 - 4.43f_c + 0.068f_c^2 + 0.026D^2 + 1.03\frac{C}{D} + \nabla_F C_f \quad (2)$$

Where ∇_F is the fiber geometry factor, as follows:

$$\nabla_F = 0.51 - 0.0024\lambda_f - 0.0054\ell_f \quad (3)$$

The goodness-of-fit of the model given by equations (2) and (3) was relatively good, with an R-squared of 0.78. This is illustrated in Figure 6, which shows the relationship between experimental bond strength values and the predictions following these equations, together with the exact equivalence line and the limits of the 95%-confidence band.

Figure 7 presents the effects plots for bond strength with respect to the different variables. Solid lines show the average trends and the 95%-confidence limits for these estimates are represented by grey bands. The relative importance of the different variables on bond strength was assessed through these plots.

Concrete compressive strength was identified as the most determining factor on bond strength, which is consistent with previous literature on the subject [16,31-33]. In bond failures without splitting, the critical process is the crushing of concrete wedges between ribs due to multiaxial compression. This explains why concrete compressive strength was the determining factor in terms of bond strength. On the other hand, the slightly positive effect of fiber reinforcement and concrete cover on bond strength was attributed to their effect at the material level (enhancement of the concrete strength under compression) rather than at a structural level.

Higher rebar diameters yielded higher bond strength values. This cannot be interpreted as the rebar enhancing the bond capacity of the interface: larger rebar diameters have

1 bigger ribs and therefore cause higher bond stresses in the rebar-concrete interface to
2 balance the axial load pulling the rebar out of the concrete.

3
4 The improvement of passive confinement, by either increasing the cover/diameter ratio
5 or fiber content, tended to increase the bond strength but only slightly. This was
6 attributed to the fact that, when the bond strength is reached, the microcracking is not
7 yet so advanced as to activate the sewing effect of fibers or the confinement given by
8 the concrete cover.

9
10 Variations in fiber slenderness and length were detected to modify the effect that
11 increasing the fiber content has on bond strength. This is represented by the fiber
12 geometry factor ∇_F given by equation (3). Figure 8 represents the variation of this factor
13 with fiber slenderness and length, and Figure 9 shows the relationship between bond
14 strength and fiber content for different values of fiber length and slenderness. It was
15 observed that, for the same fiber content, shorter fibers were preferable in terms of their
16 impact on bond strength. This was attributed to the fact that the contribution of longer
17 fibers is not fully activated until the microcracking surrounding the rebar is more
18 developed than it is when bond strength is reached. With respect to the slenderness, its
19 effect is related to the section of the fibers.

21 **5.3 Toughness until the peak, A_{peak}**

22
23 For the toughness parameter A_{peak} , representing bond toughness in the prepeak region,
24 the following model was obtained (R-squared = 0.45):

$$25 \quad \ln(A_{peak}) = -0.0762 + 0.000734f_c^2 + 0.00275D^2 + 0.167\frac{C}{D} + 0.00856C_f \quad (4)$$

26
27 The values of areas under the bond stress–slip curve showed a considerable scatter. This
28 is observed in Figure 10, which shows that higher A_{peak} values are more scattered: the
29 solid line is the exact equivalence line, while the dashed lines represent the limits of the
30 95%-confidence band. Due to the highly scattered profile of A_{peak} values, predictions
31 obtained by using equation (4) would be associated with a considerable margin of error.
32 However, as a result of the logarithmic transformation applied, it is a reliable tool to

1 calculate average estimates and therefore for the detection of trends with respect to the
2 different variables considered.

3
4 Concrete compressive strength, rebar diameter, cover/diameter ratio and fiber content
5 were detected to significantly affect A_{peak} values, and the effects plots showing the
6 average trends in these relationships are presented in Figure 11.

7
8 Increasing concrete compressive strength or considering higher rebar diameters lead to
9 higher toughness, and for the same reasons that have been discussed in relation to their
10 effects on bond strength. Equation (4) can be used to quantify an average value of these
11 relative increments: A_{peak} is increased by 73% if concrete compressive strength
12 increases from 32 MPa to 48 MPa, and it is increased by 117% if the rebar diameter is
13 20 mm instead of 8 mm.

14
15 The effects of fiber length and slenderness on A_{peak} values were not statistically
16 significant and that is the reason why they do not appear in equation (4). Therefore the
17 effect of fibers on A_{peak} depends only on the fiber content and is not affected by fiber
18 slenderness or length as long as they fall within the ranges considered in this research.
19 In average, A_{peak} is increased by 71% when 70 kg/m³ of fibers are used, with respect to
20 the situation with no fibers.

21 22 **5.4 Post-peak toughness, A_{80} and A_{50}**

23
24 The following equations were obtained for the postpeak toughness parameters A_{80} (R-
25 squared = 0.57) and A_{50} (R-squared = 0.59):

$$26 \quad \ln(A_{80}) = 0.204 + 0.000975f_c^2 + 0.00318D^2 + 0.235\frac{C}{D} + 0.00962C_f \quad (5)$$

$$27 \quad \ln(A_{50}) = 0.717 + 0.00108f_c^2 + 0.00325D^2 + 0.214\frac{C}{D} + 0.0095C_f \quad (6)$$

28 Both equations are discussed together as they have the same structure and yield very
29 similar information. Figure 12 shows the effects plots for A_{80} , and the trends observed in
30 these plots are the same as in the case of A_{50} .

1
2 Consistently with the findings in relation to A_{peak} , geometrical differences between the
3 fibers considered in this research did not have a statistically significant effect on post-
4 peak bond toughness, and the effect of fibers on either A_{80} or A_{50} was related to fiber
5 content only. It is quite interesting to note that the addition of 70 kg/m^3 of fibers had the
6 same relative impact on both parameters (A_{80} is increased by 82% while A_{50} is increased
7 by 81%, in average, with respect to concrete without fibers), which was quite similar to
8 that observed for A_{peak} (relative increase of 71%).

9
10 In fact, the same applies to the other variables considered. If the rebar diameter is
11 increased from 8 mm to 20 mm, A_{80} is increased by 142% while A_{50} is increased by
12 148%, in average. For a concrete compressive strength value of 48 MPa, A_{80} is
13 increased by 123% and A_{50} is increased by 151% with respect to a compressive strength
14 value of 32 MPa. And when C/D ratio is set at 5.0 instead of 2.5, A_{80} is increased by
15 60% and A_{50} is increased by 52%.

16
17 From all the aforementioned similarities, it can be concluded that the trends observed
18 with respect to the different variables analyzed are very similar for A_{80} and A_{50} . This
19 suggests that the definition of a bond toughness parameter extended to the post-peak
20 region as an area under the bond stress–slip curve allows some flexibility regarding its
21 explicit definition.

22
23 Important similarities are also found in relation to the scatter of these parameters, and
24 the same considerations made with respect to A_{peak} are applicable to both A_{80} and A_{50} .
25 The scatter pattern observed in all these parameters is quite consistent: the higher their
26 average value is, the more scattered they are. Furthermore, as can be observed in Figure
27 13, it is also remarkable that there is a strong linear correlation between any of these
28 areas and bond strength (R-squared between 0.52 and 0.68).

31 **6. CONCLUSIONS**

32
33 The experimental results obtained from a series of pull out tests have been used to
34 analyze the effect of a number of factors (concrete compressive strength, rebar diameter,

1 concrete cover, fibers content, and fibers length and slenderness) on bond strength and
2 toughness. The semi-empirical expressions obtained for these parameters provide
3 estimates of the relative importance of the different factors considered.

4
5 The following conclusions are obtained, based on the results of these investigations:

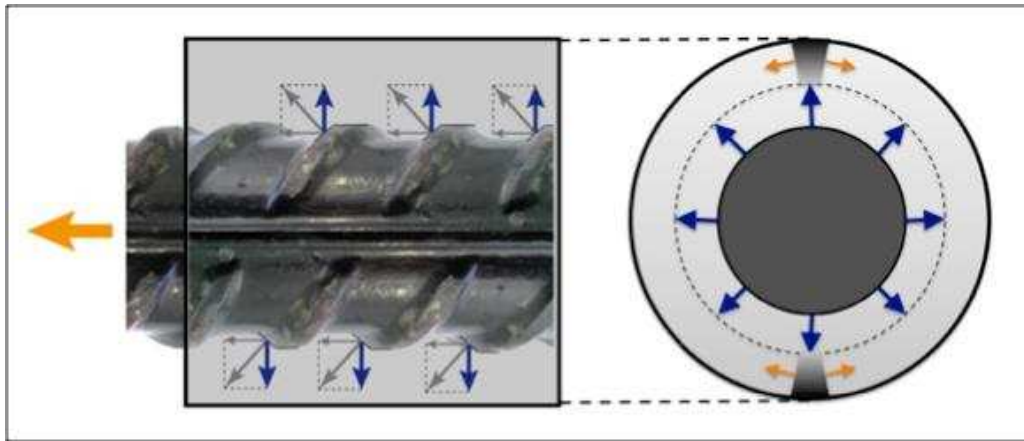
- 6 • Concrete compressive strength was identified as the most determining factor on
7 bond strength, which is consistent with previous literature on the subject.
- 8 • Higher rebar diameters yielded higher bond strength values as larger rebar
9 diameters have bigger ribs which increase wedging action.
- 10 • The effect of fiber content on bond strength is of limited importance. The
11 passive confinement exerted by either increasing the concrete cover or fiber
12 content, tended to increase the bond strength but only slightly, as the
13 microcracking was not yet so advanced at the peak bond stress.
- 14 • Variations in fiber slenderness and length were detected to modify the effect that
15 increasing the fiber content has on bond strength. The most remarkable effect
16 observed was that, for a same fiber content, shorter fibers resulted more
17 effective than longer fibers to improve bond strength.
- 18 • Concrete compressive strength, rebar diameter, cover/diameter ratio and fiber
19 content were detected to significantly affect toughness until the peak (A_{peak}).
- 20 • The effects of the studied factors on the post-peak toughness were the same
21 regardless the level the bond stress level (A_{80} or A_{50}).
- 22 • The effect of fibers on bond toughness parameters (A_{peak} , A_{80} and A_{50}) is much
23 more noticeable than on bond strength. Their contribution to bond toughness
24 depends only on the fiber content and is not affected by fiber slenderness or
25 length as long as they fall within the ranges considered in this research.
- 26 • Finally, with regard to the relationship between bond strength and toughness
27 parameters, it has been detected that there is a strong linear correlation between
28 bond strength and all the areas considered (A_{peak} , A_{80} and A_{50}) as well as with the
29 scatter of their values.

30
31 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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2 Ministry of Science and Innovation for the funding of the projects ‘BIA 2009-12722’
3 and ‘BIA 2012-35776-AR’, this research being a part thereof.
4

1 **FIGURES**

2

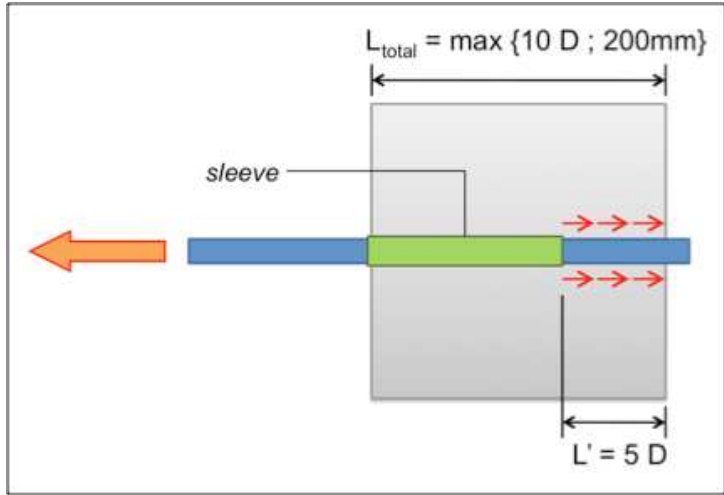


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Figure 1. Bond stresses and radial stresses generated at the rebar-concrete interface.

5

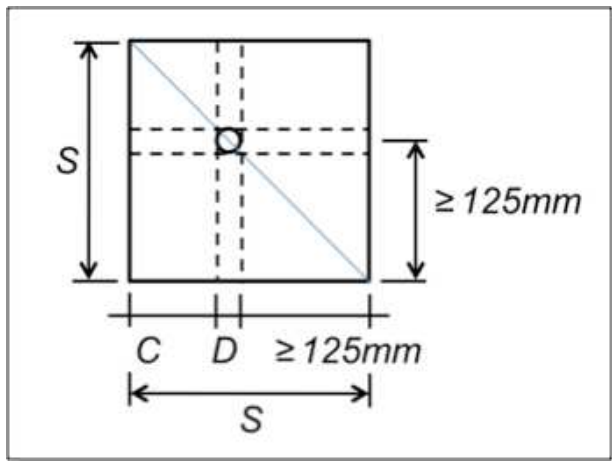


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Figure 2. Longitudinal view of POT specimen according to RILEM recommendations.

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Figure 3. Cross-section of POT specimens.

11

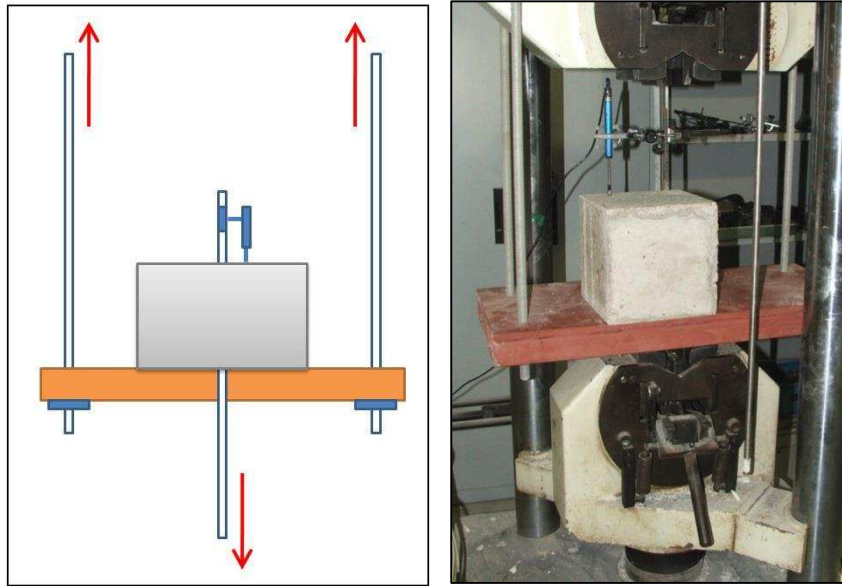


Figure 4. Force diagram (left) and picture of the Pull Out Test (right).

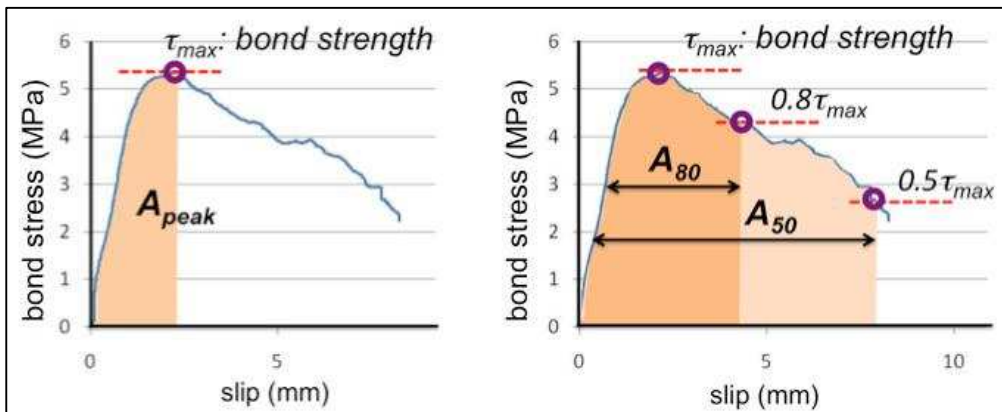


Figure 5. Definition of toughness parameters.

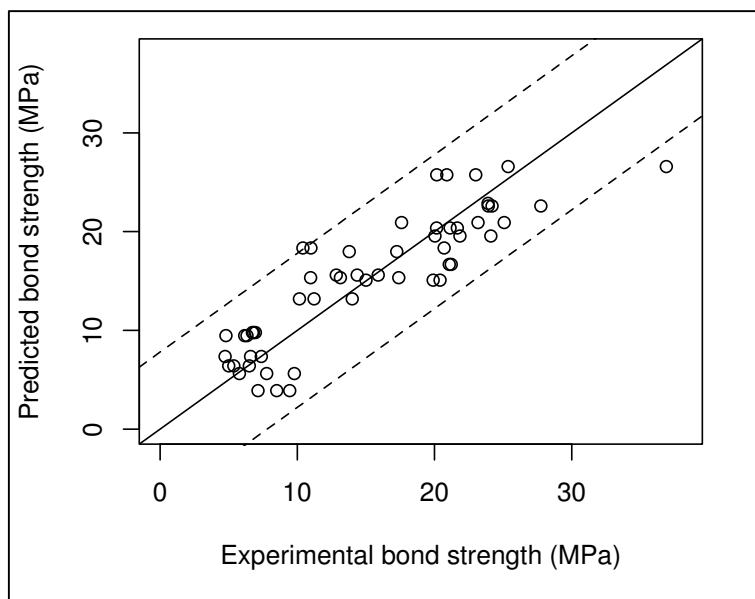
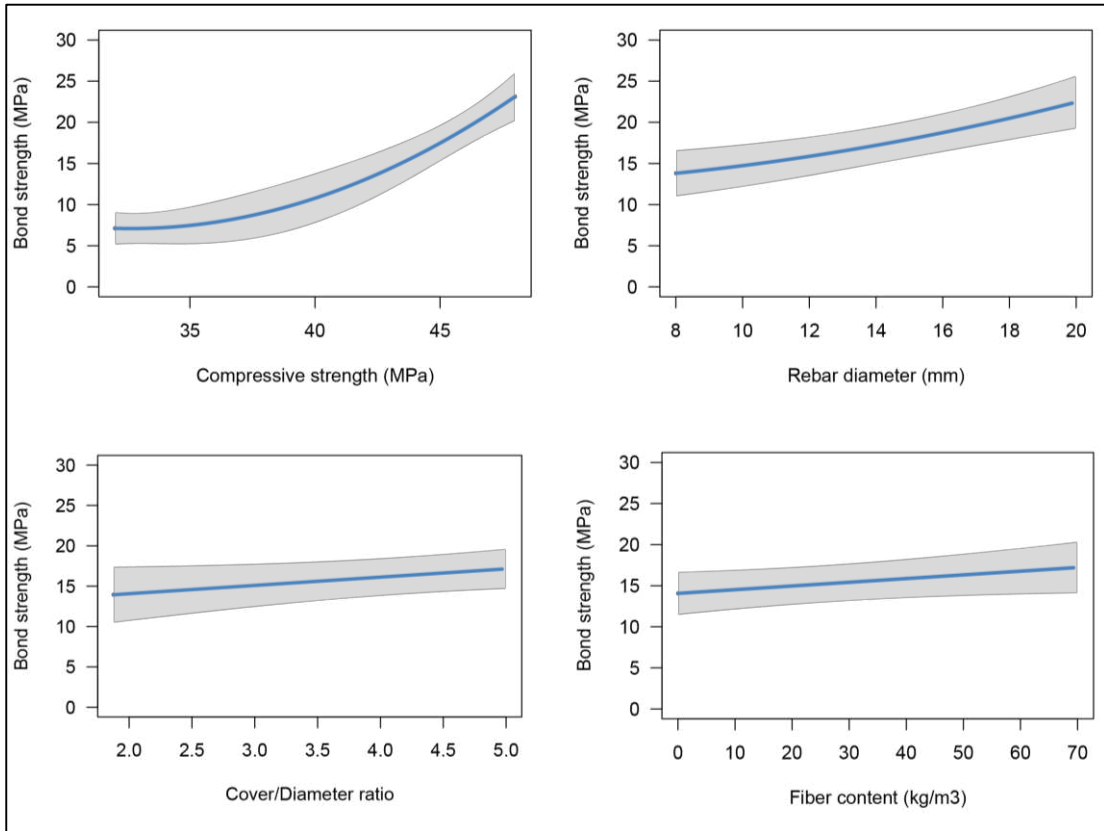


Figure 6. Predicted vs experimental values of bond strength.

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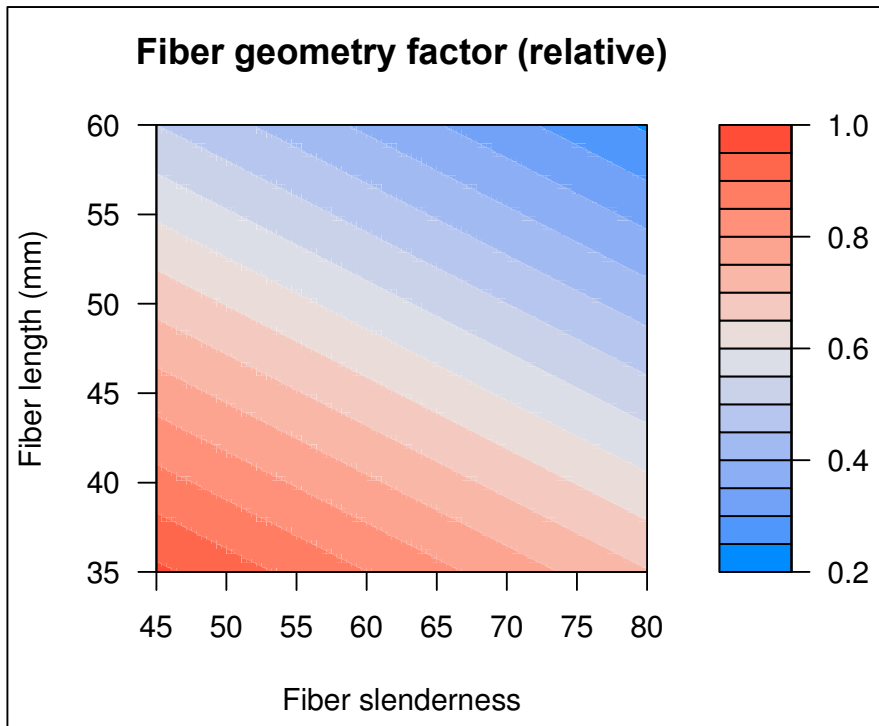


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Figure 7. Bond strength: average trends with respect to the factors considered.

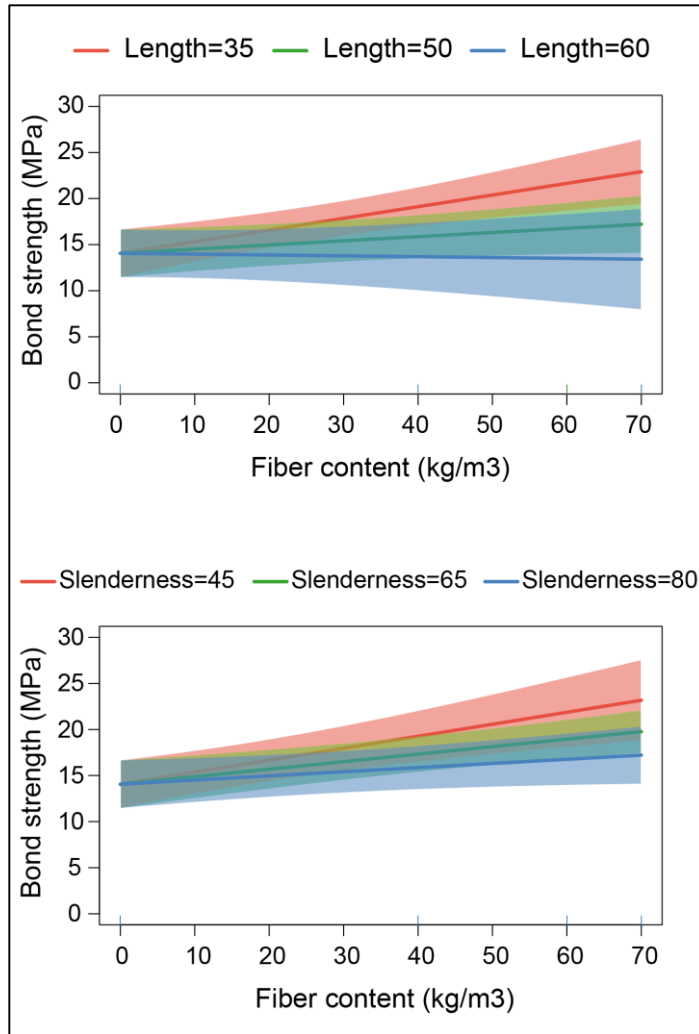
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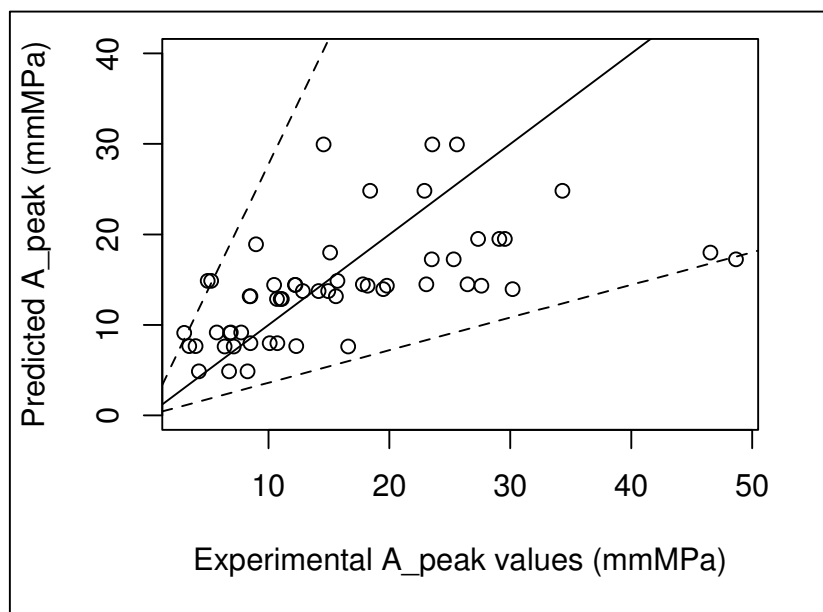
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Figure 8. Bond strength: relative value of the fiber geometry function ($\nabla_F/\nabla_{F,max}$).



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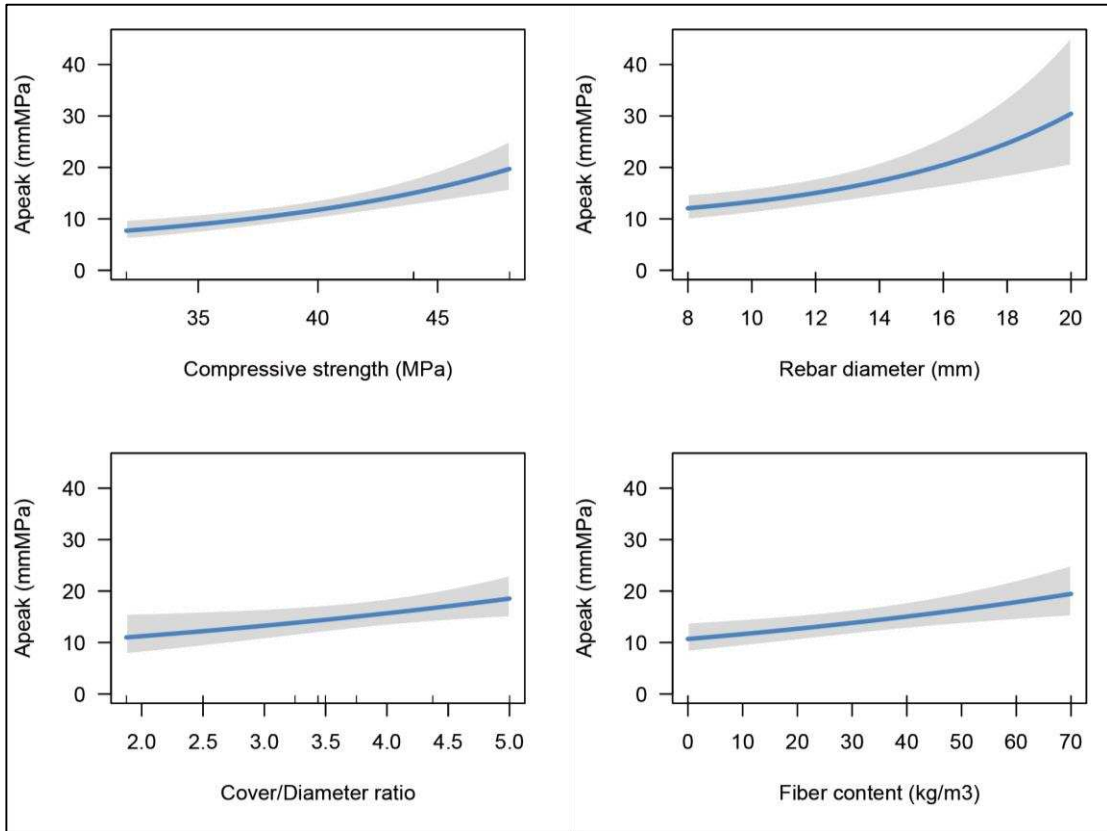
Figure 9. Effect of fiber length (a) and slenderness (b) on bond strength.



4
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Figure 10. Predicted vs experimental values of toughness parameter A_{peak} .

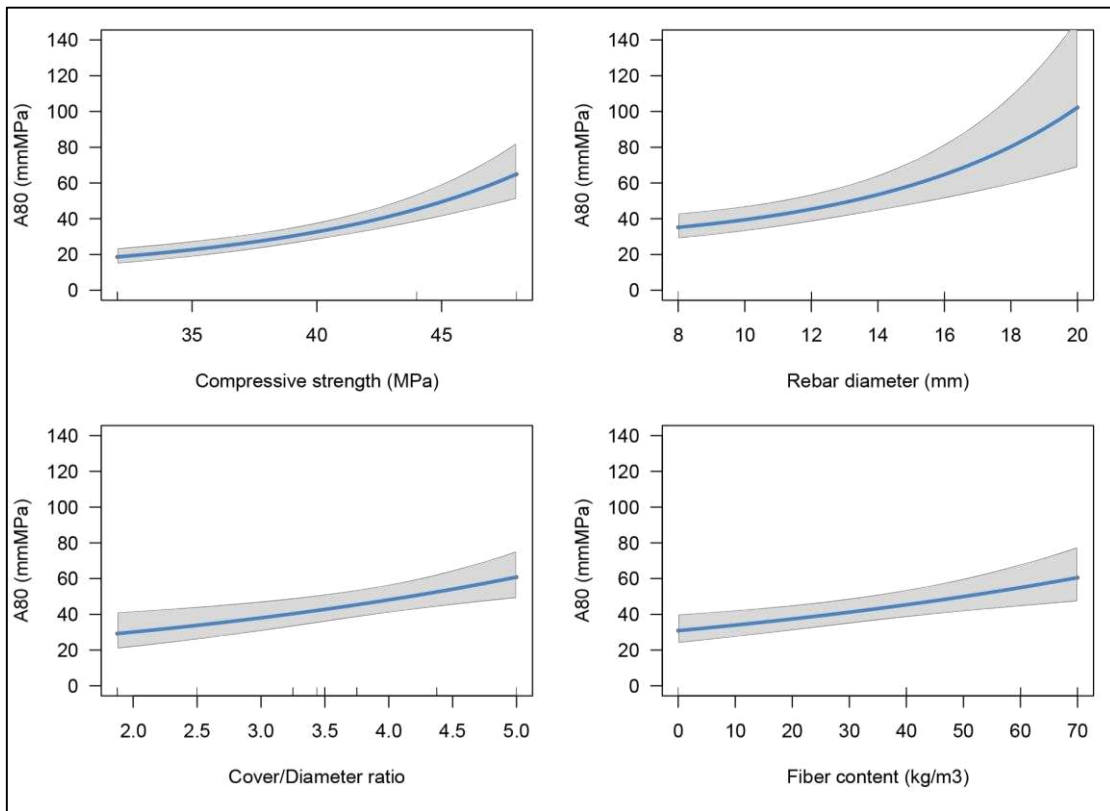
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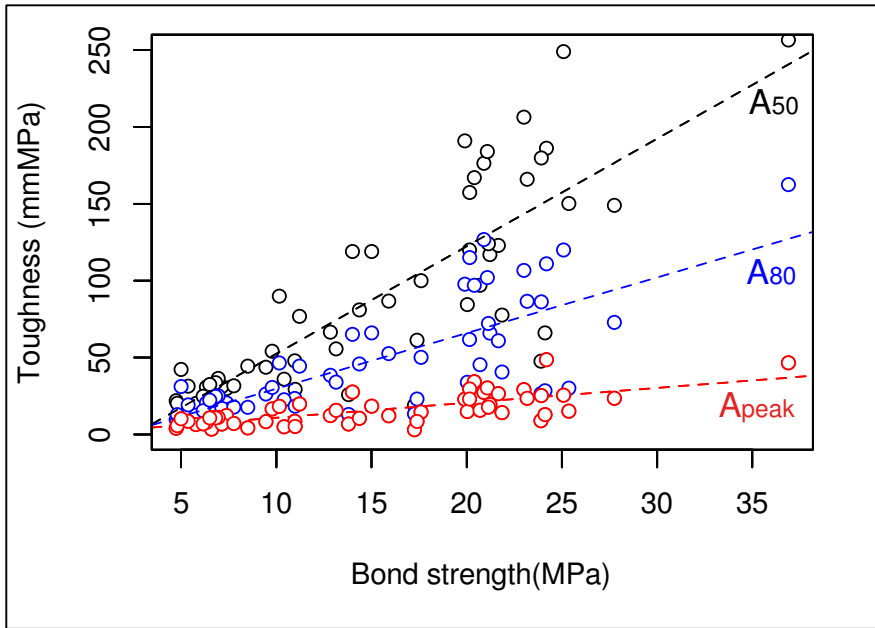
Figure 11. Toughness, A_{peak} : average trends with respect to the factors considered.



4

5

Figure 12. Toughness, A_{80} : average trends with respect to the factors considered.



1
2
3

Figure 13. Relationship between the toughness parameters and bond strength.

1 **TABLES**

2

3

Table 1. Factors and levels considered.

Factor	Type I mixes	Type II mixes	Type III mixes
Rebar diameter, mm	8	8	8
	16	12	12
	20	16	16
Concrete cover	C1=30mm C2= (C1+C3)/2 C3=5.0 D	C1=2.5 D C2=3.5 D C3=5.0 D	C1=2.5 D C2=3.5 D C3=5.0 D
Fiber geometry (slenderness/length, mm/mm)	65/60	45/50	45/50
	80/50	80/50	80/50
		80/35	80/35
Fiber content, kg/m ³	0	0	0
	40	40	40
	70	60	60

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Table 2. Reference mix designs (kg/m³).

	Type I	Type II	Type III
Water/Cement	0.60	0.45	0.55
Cement	325	440	325
Sand 0/4	1006	957	1050
Coarse aggr. 7/12	544	723	835
Coarse aggr. 12/20	362	-	-
Filler	-	72	37
Superplasticizer	1.40	10	1.40

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Table 3. Combinations tested.

Mix id.	Fibers geometry (λ_f / l_f)	Fiber content (kg/m^3)	Rebar diameter (mm)	Concrete Cover
I-1	65/60	40	16	C1
I-2	-	0	8	C2
I-3	65/60	70	20	C3
I-4	65/60	40	8	C3
I-5	-	0	20	C1
I-6	65/60	70	16	C2
I-7	80/50	40	20	C2
I-8	-	0	16	C3
I-9	80/50	70	8	C1
II-1	-	0	8	C1
II-2	80/35	60	8	C2
II-3	45/50	40	8	C3
II-4	45/50	60	12	C1
II-5	80/50	40	12	C2
II-6	-	0	12	C3
II-7	80/35	40	16	C1
II-8	-	0	16	C2
II-9	80/50	60	16	C3
III-1	-	0	8	C1
III-2	80/50	40	12	C2
III-3	80/50	60	16	C3
III-4	-	0	12	C3
III-5	45/50	40	16	C1
III-6	45/50	60	8	C2
III-7	-	0	16	C2
III-8	80/35	40	8	C3
III-9	80/35	60	12	C1

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Table 4. Experimental results, POT specimens made with Type I mixes.

Mix id.	Bond strength (MPa)	Toughness (mmMPa)		
		A_{peak}	A_{80}	A_{50}
I-1	4.74	3.97	9.58	21.90
	6.60	3.45	9.64	24.40
	7.38	12.30	20.50	29.80
I-2	9.45	8.27	26.30	43.70
	7.14	6.75	16.90	31.20
	8.50	4.24	17.60	44.40
I-3	19.90	22.90	97.70	191.00
	15.01	18.40	66.10	119.00
	20.40	34.30	97.00	167.00
I-4	7.77	7.12	17.80	31.60
	5.78	6.38	12.50	20.20
	9.78	16.60	30.50	54.10
I-5	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
I-6	6.95	11.10	25.20	36.40
	6.73	11.00	23.60	33.10
	6.81	10.71	24.70	33.70
I-7	14.00	27.60	65.10	119.00
	11.22	19.80	44.40	76.80
	10.16	18.20	46.50	90.00
I-8	6.33	7.75	20.50	30.85
	4.80	5.72	12.90	20.30
	6.16	6.88	15.40	24.80
I-9	5.37	8.51	19.20	31.35
	6.50	10.73	22.30	32.50
	5.00	10.10	31.10	42.30

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Table 5. Experimental results, POT specimens made with Type II mixes.

Mix id.	Bond strength (MPa)	Toughness (mmMPa)		
		A_{peak}	A_{80}	A_{50}
II-1	13.79	6.82	13.00	25.85
	<i>splitting</i>			
II-2	17.25	3.04	13.39	18.95
	36.89	46.54	162.46	256.54
II-3	25.36	15.09	30.06	150.22
	<i>(unavailable-testing failed)</i>			
II-3	20.90	27.34	126.79	176.40
	20.16	29.55	115.01	157.34
	23.00	29.09	106.75	206.42
II-4	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
II-5	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	23.90	8.97	26.52	47.62
II-6	27.75	23.50	72.90	148.98
	24.19	48.66	111.00	186.15
	23.92	25.32	86.30	179.85
II-7	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
II-8	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
II-9	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			

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Table 6. Experimental results, POT specimens made with Type III mixes.

Mix id.	Bond strength (MPa)	Toughness (mmMPa)		
		A_{peak}	A_{80}	A_{50}
III-1	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
III-2	15.90	12.19	52.60	86.70
	12.84	12.23	38.50	66.50
	14.36	10.47	45.80	81.00
III-3	23.17	23.54	86.60	166.00
	25.08	25.58	120.00	249.00
	17.60	14.55	50.10	100.00
III-4	10.97	8.51	23.40	47.90
	13.14	15.58	34.00	55.60
	17.39	8.45	23.00	61.30
III-5	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
	<i>splitting</i>			
III-6	21.85	14.15	40.60	77.70
	20.03	14.94	33.90	84.50
	24.11	12.84	28.40	66.10
III-7	21.22	19.49	65.90	117.00
	<i>splitting</i>			
	21.08	30.18	102.00	184.00
III-8	10.41	4.97	22.50	35.90
	10.99	5.27	18.40	29.40
	20.70	15.70	45.40	97.00
III-9	20.15	23.05	61.70	120.00
	21.66	26.46	60.90	123.00
	21.14	17.81	72.20	124.00

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