

Slip rate effects and cyclic behaviour of textile-to-matrix bond in textile reinforced mortar composites

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ABSTRACT

The structural effectiveness of textile reinforced mortar (TRM) composites relies on their load transfer capacity to the substrate and the interaction between textile and mortar. The bond plays a crucial role in mechanism of TRM composites. Despite some recent investigations, a deep understanding still needs to be gained on the textile-to-mortar bond to develop suitable analytical and numerical predictive models, improve test methods, and orient design criteria. This work describes a laboratory study in which pull-out tests were carried out to investigate the effect of the slip rate and cyclic loading on the textile-to-mortar bond behaviour. Alkali-resistant glass fabric and galvanized ultra-high tensile strength steel cords embedded in two different lime-based mortars were tested. The pull-out response was sensitive to the strain rate at low rates. Cyclic loading produced a strength degradation, which reduced with the number of cycles.

Keywords

Textile reinforced mortar (TRM); Steel reinforced grout (SRG); Pull-out test; Alkali resistant glass fabrics; Cyclic behaviour; Strain rate effects.

1. INTRODUCTION

Textile reinforced mortar (TRM) composites are an emerging solution for the repair and strengthening of existing structures. They are comprised of a high-strength textile bonded with an inorganic matrix. Either bidirectional meshes of basalt, carbon, alkali-resistant glass, aramid, or PBO yarns (bundles) or unidirectional textiles of ultra-high tensile strength steel cords are used. Textiles are bonded employing matrices such as cement, lime, or geopolymer mortars. Besides TRM, other names and acronyms are used in scientific and technical documents, such as fabric reinforced cementitious matrix (FRCM), inorganic matrix-based composites, and (when comprising steel textiles) steel reinforced grout (SRG). Even though TRMs are often

35 considered innovative strengthening systems, they have been developed more than fifteen years ago [1, 2].
36 Since then, several research studies have investigated their mechanical properties and the response of
37 retrofitted structures [3].

38 On the one hand, experimental outcomes prove the effectiveness of TRM for enhancing the ultimate
39 strength of reinforced concrete [4–7] and masonry [8–15] structures. With the aim of exploiting the advantages
40 of small thickness, high strength-to-weight ratio, ease of installation in different shapes, and compatibility with
41 many substrate materials (e.g., brick, stone, concrete), a wide range of systems have been made available in
42 the market. As a result, TRM composites are frequently used in structural rehabilitation, especially for seismic
43 retrofitting, applications to architectural heritage, and post-earthquake reconstruction. On the other hand,
44 laboratory investigations show the complexity of the behaviour of TRMs, especially of the substrate-to-
45 composite load transfer mechanisms, which determine the effectiveness of externally bonded reinforcements.
46 The non-linear response and brittle failure of inorganic matrices entail a high sensitivity to manufacturing,
47 installation, and curing conditions. Textile architecture and presence of coating/impregnation, mortar strength
48 and stiffness, and roughness and porosity of the substrate also play a crucial role in the substrate-to-TRM bond.
49 These parameters also affect the mode of failure, which may take place by cohesive debonding within the
50 substrate, detachment between matrix and substrate or between textile and matrix, and textile slippage within
51 the matrix [16]. TRM-to-substrate shear bond tests efficiently provide, among all the possible failure modes,
52 the weakest one and the corresponding capacity and, therefore, are recommended for system certification [17]
53 and for deriving TRM design parameters [18].

54 Many investigations have been devoted to the TRM-to-substrate bond [19–24], but only a few have
55 explicitly focussed on the textile-to-mortar interaction. Indeed, some studies on textile-reinforced concrete
56 (TRC) [25, 26] had already tackled this issue more than 10 years ago [27–29]. It has been studied more recently
57 starting from the results of shear bond tests [30] or through pull-out tests with setups specifically designed to
58 isolate the textile-to-matrix load transfer mechanism [31–33], and testing steel cords and lime mortars, which
59 were out of TRC scopes. Experimental outcomes have shown the main parameters affecting the textile-to-
60 mortar interaction. The layout of the textile and the roughness of its surface influence the mechanical
61 interlocking with the mortar. The presence of coating or impregnating resins affects the chemical bond with
62 the mortar [34]. The strength of the mortar and its curing duration [35] and conditions [36] affect the load
63 transfer mechanism with the textile. Finally, the filaments bond in a yarn plays an important role; it is improved
64 by the deep penetration of resin or mortar in the cross-section of the yarn, whereas when the bond between the
65 outer filaments and the mortar is stronger than that between the outer and the inner filaments telescopic failure
66 may occur [28]. Load-slip curves generally exhibit a first stage, during which the load transfer relies on
67 chemical bond and interlocking, followed by a second stage associated with the onset of relative slippage and
68 the combined contribution of adhesion and friction, and by a final stage, in which the load transfer relies on
69 friction only [32].

70 Among the issues that still deserve further investigation, the effects of slip rate and the response under
71 cyclic loading are significant to develop analytical and numerical predictive models, improve test methods,
72 and orient design criteria. This paper describes an experimental study performed on two TRM composites,

73 which comprised either alkali-resistant glass yarns or galvanized ultra-high tensile strength steel (UHTSS)
74 cords embedded in lime-based mortars. Pull-out tests were carried out with different displacement rates to
75 investigate the effect on the textile-to-mortar bond response and contribute to developing reliable test methods
76 for both research and certification purposes. Then, cyclic tests were performed to detect possible deterioration
77 of the bond capacity induced by unloading-reloading and provide a preliminary estimate of the residual bond
78 capacity for serviceability assessment.

79 **2. EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAMME**

80 **2.1. Materials under investigation**

81 Two commercial hydraulic lime-based mortars, referred to as M1 and M2 throughout this paper, and two
82 glass and steel textiles were used. Mortar M1 was a high-ductility hydraulic lime mortar [37], prepared by
83 mixing the powder with the liquid provided by the manufacturer (5:1 powder to liquid ratio according to the
84 technical datasheets) in a low-speed mechanical mixer for four minutes to form a homogenous paste. Mortar
85 M2 [38] comprised a pure natural hydraulic lime (NHL 3.5) and mineral geo-binder and was prepared by
86 mixing 1 kg powder with 0.212 kg water for seven minutes. According to the technical datasheets, the
87 compressive elasticity modulus at 28 days are 8 GPa for M1 and 9 GPa for M2.

88 The glass textile was a woven biaxial mesh (25 mm × 25 mm grid spacing) made of alkali-resistant glass
89 yarn, in which weft (longitudinal) yarns pass through the warp (transversal) yarns and are stitched to them. Its
90 cross-sectional area per unit width was 35.27 mm²/m [39]. The unidirectional steel textile was made of
91 galvanized UHTSS micro-cords [40]. Each cord consisted of five individual wires twisted together; three
92 straight wires wrapped by two wires at a high twist angle. The textile had a surface mass density of 670 g/m²,
93 a cord spacing of 6.35 mm, and a cross-sectional area per unit width of 84 mm²/m.

94 **2.2. Material characterisation tests**

95 Compressive and flexural strength tests were performed on mortars at the age of 60 days, according to
96 relevant standards (ASTM C109 [41] and EN 1015-11 [42]). Five cubics (50×50×50 mm³) specimens were
97 prepared for the compressive tests and five prismatic (40×40×160 mm³) specimens for the bending tests. The
98 tests were carried out with a Lloyd testing machine under force control at rates of 150 N/s (for compressive
99 tests) and 10 N/s (for bending tests). In the compressive tests, a pair of Teflon sheets with a layer of oil in
100 between was placed between the loaded surfaces of the specimen and the compression plates to reduce friction.
101 Bending tests were performed according to the three-point bending test scheme with a 100 mm distance
102 between the supports. The experimental results showed an average compressive strength of 8.36 MPa
103 (coefficient of variation: CoV= 15 %) and average flexural strength of 4.49 MPa (CoV= 9 %) for mortar M1,
104 whereas these values were 7.47 MPa (CoV= 5 %) and 1.78 MPa (CoV= 10 %), respectively, for mortar M2.

105 The tensile response of the textiles was characterised by performing direct tensile tests on single yarn/cord
106 using a universal testing machine with a maximum load capacity of 10 kN, based on [21, 22]. These tests were

107 performed under displacement control at a rate of 0.3 mm/min. Five specimens with a free length of 300 mm
108 were tested for each textile. A 100 mm clip gauge was located at the centre of the specimens to measure the
109 strain. The average tensile stress, Young's modulus (E_t), and ultimate strain (axial strain at peak stress) were
110 obtained as 875 MPa (CoV= 13 %), 65.9 GPa (CoV= 5 %), and 0.0177 mm/mm (CoV= 10 %) for the glass
111 yarns, and 2972 MPa (CoV= 8 %), 189.3 GPa (CoV= 8 %), and 0.0188 mm/mm (CoV= 9 %) for the steel
112 cords.

113 **2.3. Pull-out tests**

114 *2.3.1. Geometry and manufacturing of specimens*

115 The textile-to-mortar bond behaviour was investigated using a single-sided pull-out test setup developed
116 and presented in [32]. To manufacture the specimens, a 200 mm textile was first embedded in an epoxy resin
117 block, as shown in Fig. 1a, b. The opposite end of the textile was then embedded in a tile-shaped mortar block
118 with a cross-section of $125 \times 16 \text{ mm}^2$ (Fig. 1c). For detailed information on the procedure followed for
119 preparing the specimens, the reader is referred to [32]. The specimens were demolded after three days of
120 casting, were cured in a damp environment for seven days, and then stored in laboratory environmental
121 conditions (20°C, 60% RH) for 50 days. The final age of the specimens at testing was 60 days.

122 *2.3.2. Test setup*

123 The pull-out tests were performed using either a servo-hydraulic system with a load capacity of 25 kN (for
124 monotonic tests) or a universal testing machine with a load capacity of 10 kN (for cyclic tests). This change of
125 the testing system was due to the unavailability of the servo-hydraulic system when cyclic tests were
126 performed. All the tests were performed under displacement control, and the machine stroke displacement was
127 controlled.

128 The mortar blocks were fixed by U-shaped steel support to a rigid frame, integral with the lower crosshead
129 of the testing machine, whereas a mechanical clamp gripped the unbonded yarn/cord embedded in the epoxy
130 resin from the top (Fig. 1d). Two LVDTs with a 20 mm range and 2- μm sensitivity were placed at the two
131 sides of the epoxy block to record the relative displacement between the mortar and the textile at the loaded
132 end of the bonded length (upper surface of the mortar block). The slip (showed hereinafter in the paper) was
133 calculated as the average of the two displacements measured by these LVDTs.

134 *2.3.3. Monotonic test protocol*

135 To investigate the slip rate effect on the textile-to-matrix bond behaviour, monotonic tests were performed
136 on specimens comprising a single glass yarn, extracted from the textile mesh in the longitudinal (warp)
137 direction or a single steel cord. Mortar M1 was used to manufacture all the specimens for these tests. The bond
138 lengths (L_b) were 50 mm for the glass yarns and 150 mm for the steel cords, equal to the effective bond lengths,
139 as determined in [34]. The effective bond length was defined as the embedded length in which the load
140 corresponding to the complete debonding did not change at the load-slip curve (bond lengths longer than the
141 effective bond length do not entail any increases of the debonding load). Five different slip rates were

142 considered, namely 0.2, 1.0, 5.0, 10.0, and 20.0 mm/min. Five specimens were prepared and tested for each
143 slip rate, resulting in 25 specimens for the glass TRM and 25 for the steel TRM (Table 1).

144 2.3.4. *Cyclic test protocol*

145 Cyclic pull-out tests were performed on glass yarns and steel cords embedded in M1 and M2 mortar
146 matrices. Loading-unloading cycles were performed with progressively increasing maximum (target) slip,
147 from 0.3 mm to 20 mm, whereas the minimum slip was that corresponding a load of 50 N in the unloading
148 phase, to avoid yarn/cord instability and ensure that its position was kept. Two cycles for each target slip were
149 carried out, with a slip rate of 1.0 mm/min (up to a target slip of 9 mm) and of 3.0 mm/min (increased for a
150 timesaving reason) until the end of the tests (Fig. 1e).

151 In cyclic tests, various configurations were considered, as shown in Fig. 1a, b . More specifically, in some
152 of glass TRM specimens, the yarn was not provided with transverse (weft) elements (the orthogonal yarns
153 were cut before casting, as in monotonic tests) and L_b was either 50 mm or 75 mm, whereas in other specimens
154 transverse elements were left embedded in the mortar, and L_b was 50 mm (Fig. 1a). The transverse elements
155 had a total length of 25 mm, 12.5 mm at each side, equal to half of the mesh size. Furthermore, some specimens
156 comprised two fibre yarns and were provided with two transverse elements, with $L_b= 50$ mm or $L_b= 75$ mm
157 (Fig. 1a). All specimens of glass TRM were manufactured with M1 mortar. As concerns steel TRM, the
158 parameters investigated were mortar type (the two mortars, M1 and M2, were used), L_b (50 mm and 150 mm),
159 and the number of steel cords (in addition to one cord, two cords in M1 and M2, and four cords in M1, always
160 with $L_b= 150$ mm), as presented in Fig. 1b. Note that the steel textile is unidirectional, and there are no weft
161 elements.

162 3. SLIP RATE EFFECT

163 3.1. Reliability and physical meaning of test outcomes

164 As explained before, the specimens prepared for pull-out tests consisted of a free yarn/cord length, which
165 was embedded in an epoxy block resin to facilitate gripping of the samples by the wedges of the testing
166 machine. Nevertheless, as the tests were performed by imposing displacement rates to the hydraulic system, it
167 was necessary to check the actual slip rates at the loaded end of the bonded area (upper surface of the mortar
168 block), measured by the LVDTs.

169 Fig. 2 showed the changes in the actual slip rate versus slip for the different imposed (machine stroke) slip
170 rates. The actual slip rate was computed by dividing the textile slip (measured by the LVDTs) into the
171 experimental time. For better understanding, these changes were presented in the complete and enlarged scales
172 for both the glass and steel-based TRM composites in Fig. 2a and Fig. 2b, respectively. For both systems, the
173 slip rate reached the expected value in the early stages of the tests, namely, at about 0.03 mm in the specimens
174 tested at 0.2 mm/min and 1.0 mm/min rates, and about 0.4 mm for those tested at higher slip rates. In glass
175 TRMs tested at 0.2 mm/min and 1.0 mm/min rates and in all steel TRMs, these slip values were lower than the
176 slip corresponding to the first peak load, S_{p1} , so the bond behaviour was still in the elastic stage, and no

177 delamination has occurred. On the other hand, in glass TRMs tested with a slip rate equal or higher than
178 5 mm/min, these slip values were larger than S_{P1} , indicating the tests reached the intended slip rate after
179 debonding had initiated. These comparisons validate the experimental setup developed for the tests presented
180 in this study and the slip rate selected for the first part of the cyclic tests. At the same time, they indicated the
181 need to represent the results in terms of actually measured slip and actual slip rate (e.g., at peak load), instead
182 of controlled machine stroke displacement and imposed slip rate, also in order to make test outcomes
183 independent from test implementation details.

184 3.2. Glass TRM specimens

185 The typical load versus slip response curve of a monotonic pull-out test is shown in Fig. 1f. In the first static
186 ascending branch, which includes an initial linear elastic phase and a non-linear pre-peak phase, the load
187 transfer between textile and mortar relies on adhesion (debonding phase). When a peak load (P_{P1}) is attained,
188 the complete debonding occurs, and the dynamic stage initiates, in which the load transfer mechanism relies
189 only on friction [43–46]. For further information about the pull-out mechanism of TRM composites, the reader
190 is referred to [32].

191 The transition between static and dynamic ranges can either be a sudden drop in the pull-out force if the
192 frictional bond is smaller than the adhesive bond (the load suddenly drops down to a residual value P_F , which
193 shares the same slip with P_{P1} , which is named as S_F) or can be smooth [44, 45, 47, 48]. In the dynamic stage,
194 either a slip hardening or a slip softening effect can be observed [45]. When a slip hardening is observed in the
195 dynamic stage, the load increases with a lower slope than that of the static one. A recent study attributes this
196 slip hardening to the damage of the surface of the fibre yarn, which is due to its interaction with the matrix as
197 a result of pull-out activation [34, 43, 45, 46, 49–51], but further investigations are still needed to understand
198 better the mechanisms behind this observation. As the test progresses, the portion of the textile-to-mortar
199 interface where friction holds progressively becomes smaller as the debonding length becomes larger. A
200 second load peak (P_{P2}) is attained (at a slip of S_{P2}) when the interaction of the damaged yarn surface is
201 diminished, and friction becomes the sole resistance mechanism. With the increment of the debonded length,
202 the load resistance of the system reduces until the end of the tests.

203 The curves obtained from the experiments on glass TRM composites are shown in Fig. 3, in which each
204 subplot from (a) to (e) collects the curves, detected under the same slip rate, of the individual tests and the
205 average one, whereas subplot (f) shows the five average curves together to compare the different slip rates.
206 The average load values P_{P1} , P_F , and P_{P2} are compared in Fig. 4a. The mean debonding peak loads (P_{P1}) vary
207 between 153 N (at 0.2 mm/min slip rate) and 340 N (at 10 mm/min), whereas the second peak loads range
208 between 144 N (0.2 mm/min) to 386 N (at 10 mm/min), as listed in Table 2. It is worth noting that these peaks
209 are of the same order of magnitude and that the former is not necessarily higher than the latter.

210 Pull-out tests revealed that the bond behaviour in terms of peak load was affected by the slip rate. More
211 specifically, for low rates when passing from 0.2 mm/min to 1.0 mm/min and to 5 mm/min, the higher was the
212 slip rate, the higher were P_{P1} and P_{P2} . In contrast, a quasi-stabilisation was found for the higher rates

213 (5 mm/min, 10 mm/min, and 20 mm/min). On the other hand, the load drop amount after full debonding
 214 ($P_{P1} - P_F$) seems to be independent of the load rate.

215 A similar trend was also found on the pull-out energy (E_{po} , see also Fig. 1f) as shown in Fig. 4b, and on the
 216 chemical bond energy (G_d , Table 2), defined by Eq. 1, in which E_f is the modulus of elasticity of the glass
 217 textile and d_f is the diameter of the yarn (1.06 mm) [43, 44, 46].

$$218 \quad \left\{ G_d = \frac{2(P_{P1} - P_F)^2}{\pi^2 E_f d_f^3} \right\} \quad (1)$$

219 The debonding energy (E_{deb}), calculated as the area below the response curve until P_{P1} (Fig. 1f), was smaller
 220 than the pull-out energy, and its changes with the increment of the slip rate were less significant. The initial
 221 axial stiffness (K , as defined in Fig. 1f) showed a large scatter but still following a similar trend as the load
 222 peaks, as illustrated in Fig. 4c. By contrast, the values obtained under the slowest rates were always lower than
 223 the other ones, confirming that very slow tests may provide lower results. Finally, no clear effect of the slip
 224 rate was observed on the slip values, S_{P1} , S_F , and S_{P2} (Table 2).

225 In summary, based on the results of the pull-out tests performed on the glass TRM system investigated in
 226 this work, and limited to the experimental setup used and the slip rate range considered, the influence of the
 227 slip rate was negligible between 5 mm/min and 20 mm/min. In contrast, it led to a reduction of the bond
 228 strength for lower rates (below 5 mm/min).

229 3.3. Steel TRM specimens

230 Fig. 5 shows the load versus slip response curves of the monotonic pull-out tests on steel TRM systems. As
 231 for the glass TRM ones, subplots (a-e) refer to homogeneous slip rates, and subplot (f) collects the five average
 232 curves. The first stage of the test was associated with a stiff branch of the response curves, in which the load
 233 transfer between cord and matrix relied on both adhesion and interlocking, this latter arising by the high
 234 roughness of the cord surface. Then, the curves displayed a progressive reduction of the slope, up to the
 235 attainment of the load peak, followed by a post-peak softening phase with a nearly linear load reduction
 236 associated with the increase of slip. The transition between first and second stages was much smoother than in
 237 glass TRM, there were no sudden load drops associated with brittle failures, such that, in this case, a precise
 238 value of the loads corresponding to the loss of adhesion and its residual value after the load drop could not
 239 be identified. For this reason, Fig. 6a and Table 2 do not include P_{P2} , P_F , nor S_{P2} , S_F , and G_d , which could not
 240 be determined.

241 The maximum load (P_{P1}), resulting from the contributions of adhesion, interlocking and friction, increased
 242 from 328 N (at 0.2 mm/min slip rate) to 507 N (20 mm/min), without a clear trend with the increase of slip
 243 rate (Fig. 6a). The strength at the slowest rate (0.2 mm/min), however, confirmed itself as the lowest one.
 244 Noteworthy is that, for each slip rate, the peak load attained by steel TRM was higher than the corresponding
 245 value recorded in the tests on glass TRM, by virtue of the higher contribution provided by friction and adhesion,
 246 which, in its turn, was due to the better adhesion of cords with the mortar as well as the roughness of the cord
 247 surface and the more effective load transfer capacity provided by interlocking and friction. As for the glass

248 TRMs, also in the steel TRM composites the pull-out behaviour was affected by the slip rate at the lowest rates
 249 considered in this investigation. The bond capacity at 0.2 mm/min resulted lower than those obtained at all the
 250 other rates. On the other hand, the differences amongst such higher rates (from 1 mm/m in to 20 mm/ min,
 251 Table 2) were of the same order of magnitude of the scatter, so no clear trends emerged.

252 The debonding energy (E_{deb}) in steel TRM system was, in general, significantly higher than that of glass
 253 TRM, whereas the pull-out energies (E_{po}) were comparable (Fig. 6b). Both debonding and pull-out energies
 254 showed slight variations with the slip rate beyond 0.2 mm/min. The slip S_{P1} also appeared independent from
 255 the slip rate (Table 2). Finally, the initial stiffness (K), decreased until a slip rate of 5 mm/min and then it did
 256 not change, showing an opposite trend compared to the glass TRM system. This output should be further
 257 investigated considering also other types of steel cords.

258 4. CYCLIC BEHAVIOUR

259 4.1. Glass TRM specimens

260 The experimental results of cyclic pull-out tests on glass TRM composites are shown in Fig. 7-Fig. 9.
 261 Subplots (a) display the load versus slip response curves. Subplots (b) show the peak loads attained in each
 262 cycle, and are represented at the corresponding target slip, as shown in Fig. 1g. More specifically, the first two
 263 peaks (Peak-1 and Peak-2) were followed by an unloading phase, whereas the third one (Peak-3) was attained
 264 during a longer loading phase, which ended at the following target slip (see the cyclic test protocol in Fig. 1e).
 265 In subplots (a) and (b) the load is referred to the single yarn to allow comparisons between specimens with one
 266 yarn and those with groups of yarns. Subplots (c) show the strength degradation, calculated (in percent) at each
 267 cycle (i.e., at each target slip) as the reduction of Peak-2 with respect to Peak-1 (Cycle-1) and that of Peak-3
 268 with respect to Peak-2 (Cycle-2), see Fig. 1g. Finally, subplots (d) represent the reduction of stiffness detected
 269 in cycles 2 and 3, with respect to that of the previous cycle, the stiffness corresponding to the secant modulus
 270 of elasticity of the loading branch between its first point and the target slip (Fig. 1g), as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left\{ \Delta K_1 = \left(1 - \frac{K_1^i}{K_{1,max}} \right) \times 100 \right\} \\
 & \left\{ \Delta K_2 = \left(1 - \frac{K_2^i}{K_{2,max}} \right) \times 100 \right\}
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

272 Where K_1^i , and $K_{1,max}$ were the slop of the first load cycle at the slip “i”, and the slop corresponding to the
 273 maximum stiffness of the same test group, respectively. The same function was employed for the second cycle.

274 Some common features emerged in all specimens, independently from their specific configuration. First,
 275 un-loading-reloading cycles were very narrow, indicating a small amount of dissipated energy, and the cyclic
 276 test results contained in the envelope of the monotonic one. Second, under repeated cycles at the same target
 277 slip, the peak load at the end of the first loading phase was not recovered after the cycles, i.e., a strength
 278 degradation resulted due to the irreversible loss of adhesion, especially in the first cycle. More precisely, the
 279 strength degradation after the first cycle, represented by the difference between Peak-1 and Peak-2 in subplots

280 (b) and by the curve of Cycle-1 in subplots (c), was comprised between 15 % and 45 %. The peak loads after
281 two cycles (Peak-3), instead, were similar to those after one cycle (Peak-2); the strength degradation curve of
282 Cycle-2 was lower than that of Cycle-1, and comprised between 5 % and 25 %. On the other hand, for both
283 Cycle-1 and Cycle-2, no clear correlation resulted between strength degradation and slip. Finally, the stiffness
284 degradation varied in the 5- 15 % range at small slips (less than 1 mm), increased up to 50- 75 % at 15 mm
285 slip, and was similar in Cycle-1 and in Cycle-2, as shown in subplots (d).

286 There were also some differences amongst the different configurations investigated. First, a higher
287 maximum load was attained by the specimens with the single yarn with $L_b=75$ mm (Fig. 7a, b) with respect
288 to $L_b=50$ mm (Fig. 7a, b and Fig. 8a, b), indicating that a longer bond length led to a higher pull-out strength,
289 which, in its turn, may be due either to an effective bond length longer than 50 mm or to a higher contribution
290 of friction activated over a longer embedded yarn (or to a combination of the two factors). At the same time,
291 $L_b=75$ mm showed a smaller strain (slip) capacity when compared to $L_b=50$ mm (around 1/3) that is due to
292 the early occurrence of the yarn rupture. These observations are also in line with the ones previously reported
293 on monotonic response of the same glass TRM system tested under different embedded lengths [34]. Also, the
294 single yarn with $L_b=75$ mm showed a smaller load degradation of Cycle-1 and Cycle-2 while similar stiffness
295 degradation compared to $L_b=50$ mm.

296 The role of transverse yarns on the cyclic response was also significant (Fig. 8). A clearly larger Peak-1,
297 Peak-2 and Peak-3 was obtained in the specimens with transverse yarns when compared to those with a single
298 longitudinal yarn. At the same time, single yarns showed a larger strength degradation in both Cycle-1 and
299 Cycle-2. A higher pull-out load/yarn was also obtained with two fibre yarns (Fig. 9a, b) with respect to one
300 yarn (note that, as said before, the load is always indicated per yarn, i.e., the force recorded by the load cell
301 was divided by the number of yarns to plot the results). This again shows the beneficial role of interaction
302 between fibre yarns connected by weft elements, as also previously reported in [34].

303 4.2. Steel TRM specimens

304 Fig. 10 to Fig. 13 show the cyclic response of steel TRM composites, namely, load versus slip response
305 curves in subplots (a), peak loads at target slips (b), strength degradation (c), and stiffness degradation (d). As
306 in glass TRMs, the cyclic curves displayed narrow cycles with small energy dissipated by hysteresis.
307 Moreover, the monotonic curves could be considered as envelopes of the cyclic ones. Cyclic loading led to a
308 strength degradation, which was higher after the first cycle (10- 35 %) than after the second cycle (5- 20 %,
309 with only few exceptions), suggesting that a residual bond strength could be attained with few more cycles.
310 The stiffness degradation in the two cycles was comparable and comprised between 10- 30% at small slips
311 (below 3 mm) and 50- 75 % at the end of the test (15 mm slip).

312 The comparisons amongst different configurations showed the role of embedded length and type of mortar,
313 confirming the outcomes of previous monotonic studies [33–35]. The maximum load attained by a single cord
314 in M2 mortar with $L_b=50$ mm (246.5 N, Fig. 10b) was much lower than that exhibited with mortar M1
315 (519.1 N, Fig. 10b), clearly showing the role of mortar properties on the bond performance. Mortar M1, despite
316 a similar compressive strength and elastic modulus, showed a larger flexural strength compared to mortar M2.

317 The better flexural tensile strength of this mortar, which can be due to the presence of short fibres in the mix
318 and differences in the chemistry of these mortars, appeared as a good indicator for the bond performance with
319 the textile. Also, the enhancement of the bond response when the embedded length is increased from 50 mm
320 to 150 mm was different. In contrast to the specimens with mortar M2, the bond behaviour did not show a
321 significant improvement when the embedded length was increased in specimens with mortar M1, which could
322 be attributed to the differences in the effective embedded length in these two systems.

323 The UHTSS textile being unidirectional, the effect of the number of cords was expected to be insignificant.
324 Nevertheless, the peak loads per cord with M1 mortar were 611.9 N with 1 cord (Fig. 11b), 783.6 N with 2
325 cords (Fig. 12b) and 983.8 N with 4 cords (Fig. 13b), showing an increase in the load bearing capacity by each
326 cord when the number of cords increases. In contrast, in samples with M2, the peak load difference is
327 insignificant (819 N with 1 cord (Fig. 11b) and 907 N with 2 cords (Fig. 12b), (in all cases L_b was 150 mm).
328 Indeed, the interaction between cords was much weaker due to the absence of weft (transversal) elements with
329 respect to that experienced by bidirectional meshes and, therefore, the beneficial effects observed with the
330 groups of glass yarns (discussed in the previous section) were much less pronounced in this case. Finally, and
331 as in glass TRMs, also for steel ones the energy absorption levels were smaller in cyclic tests with respect to
332 of monotonic tests.

333 5. CONCLUSIONS

334 Displacement controlled pull-out tests were carried out under monotonic and cyclic loading to investigate
335 the textile-to-matrix load transfer mechanism in glass and steel TRM composites. The experimental setup was
336 designed to control the rate of the relative displacement (slip) between yarn (or cord) and matrix at the first
337 bonded section. The bond behaviour was characterised by a first stage, in which the load transfer relied on
338 adhesion, followed by a second stage in which friction also significantly contributed after the onset of a relative
339 slippage of the textile within the matrix. A contribution of interlocking was also detected in steel TRM
340 composites, due to the rough surface of steel cords.

341 The bond strength was affected by the slip rate at low rates (it was lower below 1 mm/min than beyond this
342 threshold), whereas no significant variation of peak loads was detected in faster tests (up to 20 mm/min).
343 Despite the scatter of test outcomes (due to the brittle nature of the mortar matrices and of the adhesion
344 phenomena investigated), similar trends were observed also for absorbed energy and stiffness, confirming the
345 sensitivity to the slip rate in slow tests. Clearly, other TRM materials may exhibit different sensitivity and it
346 the results obtained in this investigation are hardly extendable to composites with different fabrics and mortars,
347 as well as to different manufacturing and curing conditions. It was also observed that in the glass TRMs the
348 intended slip rate was reached only after the peak load in samples tested under high slip rates.

349 The cyclic response was characterised by narrow unloading-reloading cycles, indicating a small amount
350 of hysteretic energy dissipation. The cyclic curve was contained in the envelope of the monotonic one. Cyclic
351 loading led to a pull-out strength degradation, especially after the first cycle and in the order of 25-35%. Its
352 reduction with the increase of performed cycles indicated that a residual strength can eventually be identified.

353 The stiffness degradation, instead, varied in the 5-15% range at small slips (less than 1 mm), and increased up
354 to 50-75% at 15 mm slip for both the first and the second load cycled performed in the tests. The bidirectional
355 glass mesh exhibited an effective interaction between fibre yarns, which was much less pronounced in the
356 cords of the uniaxial UHTSS textile, which is not provided with weft (transversal elements).

357 Future investigations can be oriented by the experimental results obtained in this study to develop a deeper
358 understanding on the textile-to-matrix bond behaviour, with an impact on testing protocols and design
359 relationships. As for the former, the knowledge of the sensitivity to slip rate is useful to integrate the outcomes
360 of previous studies [32, 34] and support comparisons between different investigations. As for the latter, the
361 execution of cyclic tests can provide the residual bond strength under unloading-loading cycles, which may be
362 considered as lower bound threshold and associated with permissibility limit state conditions.

363 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

364 Kerakoll SpA (Sassuolo, MO, Italy) is kindly acknowledged for supplying reinforcement materials.
365 Additionally, the authors wish also to thank Andrea Della Torre (master student) who helped with the
366 experimental part.

367 COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS

368 This work was partly financed by FEDER funds through the Competitivity Factors Operational Programme
369 (COMPETE) and by national funds through the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) within the
370 scope of the project POCI-01-0145-FEDER-007633. The first author has received grant from the Foundation
371 for Science and Technology (FCT), with grant number: SFRH/BD/131282/2017. The second author
372 acknowledges funding by Regione Lazio within the Research Project “SiCura, Sustainable technologies for
373 the seismic protection of the cultural heritage” (2018-2020, N. 15136), by the Italian Civil Protection
374 Department within the Research Project “ReLUIS” (2019-2021) and by the Italian Ministry of Education,
375 University and Research (MIUR), in the frame of the Departments of Excellence Initiative (2018-2022),
376 attributed to the Department of Engineering of Roma Tre University.

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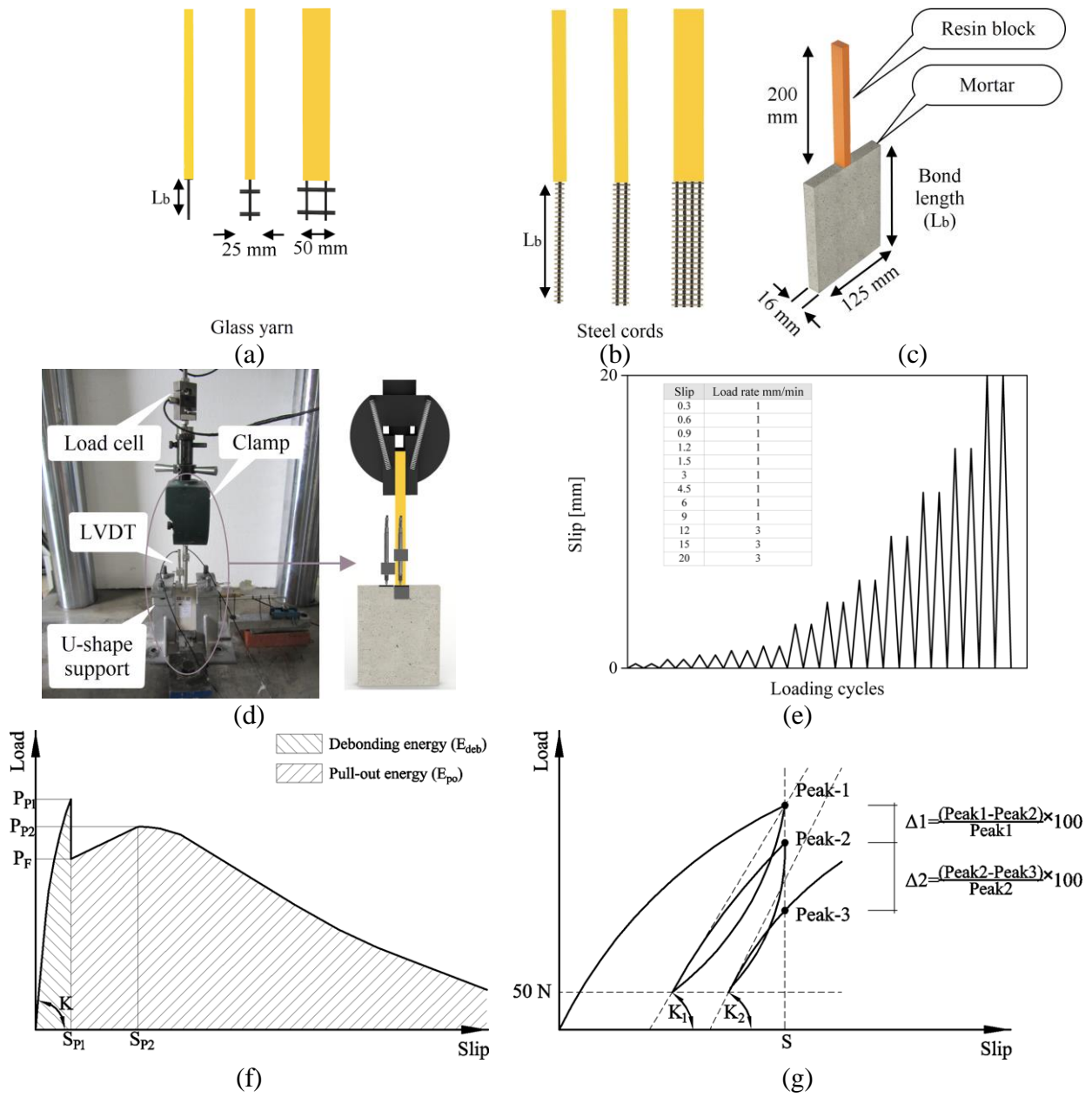


Fig. 1. Pull-out test setup.

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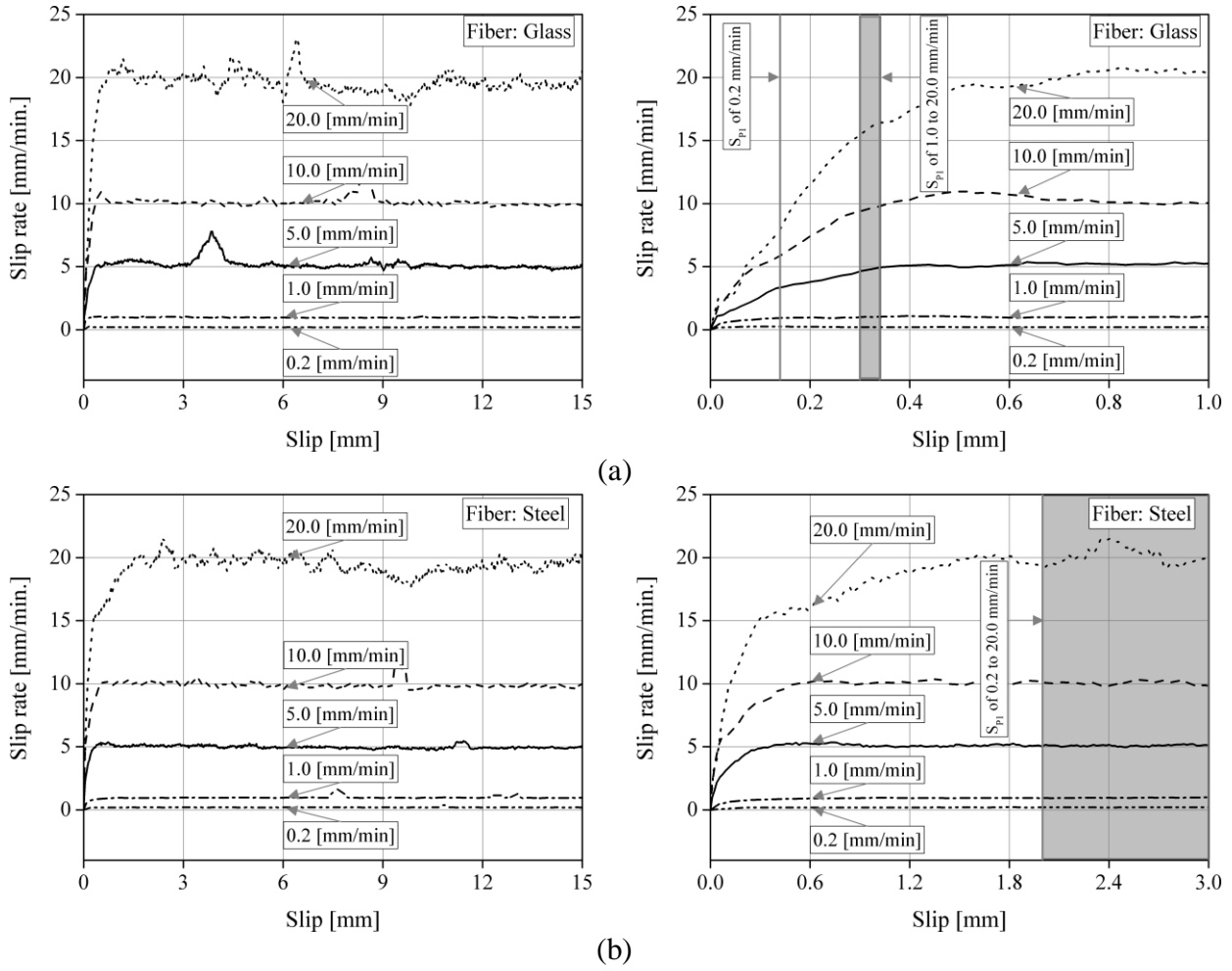


Fig. 2. Changes of slip rate vs. slip: (a) glass TRM; (b) steel TRM.

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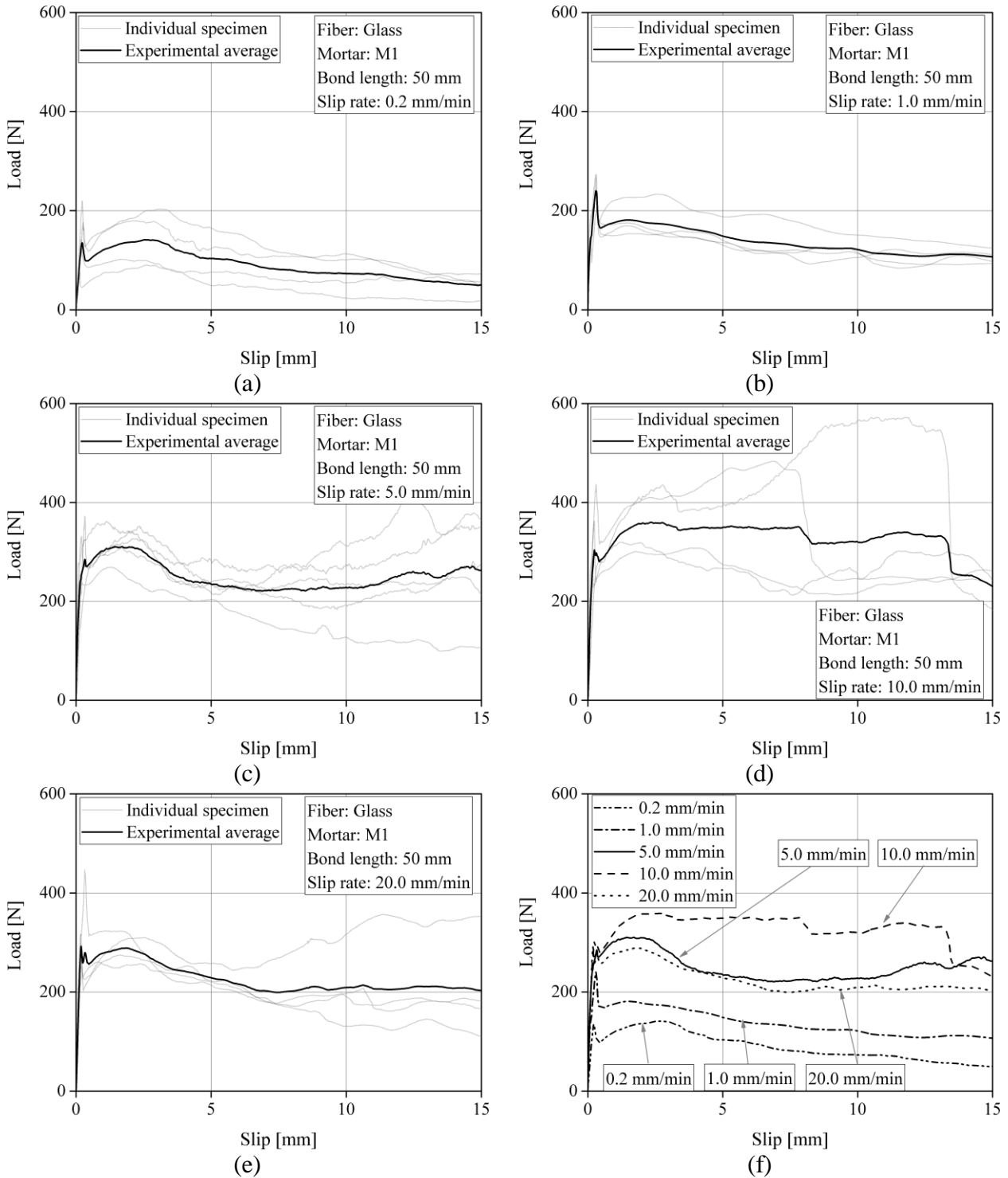


Fig. 3. Load-slip response curves of monotonic pull-out tests on glass TRM performed under different slip rates: (a) 0.2 mm/min; (b) 1.0 mm/min; (c) 5.0 mm/min; (d) 10.0 mm/min; (e) 20.0 mm/min; (f) average.

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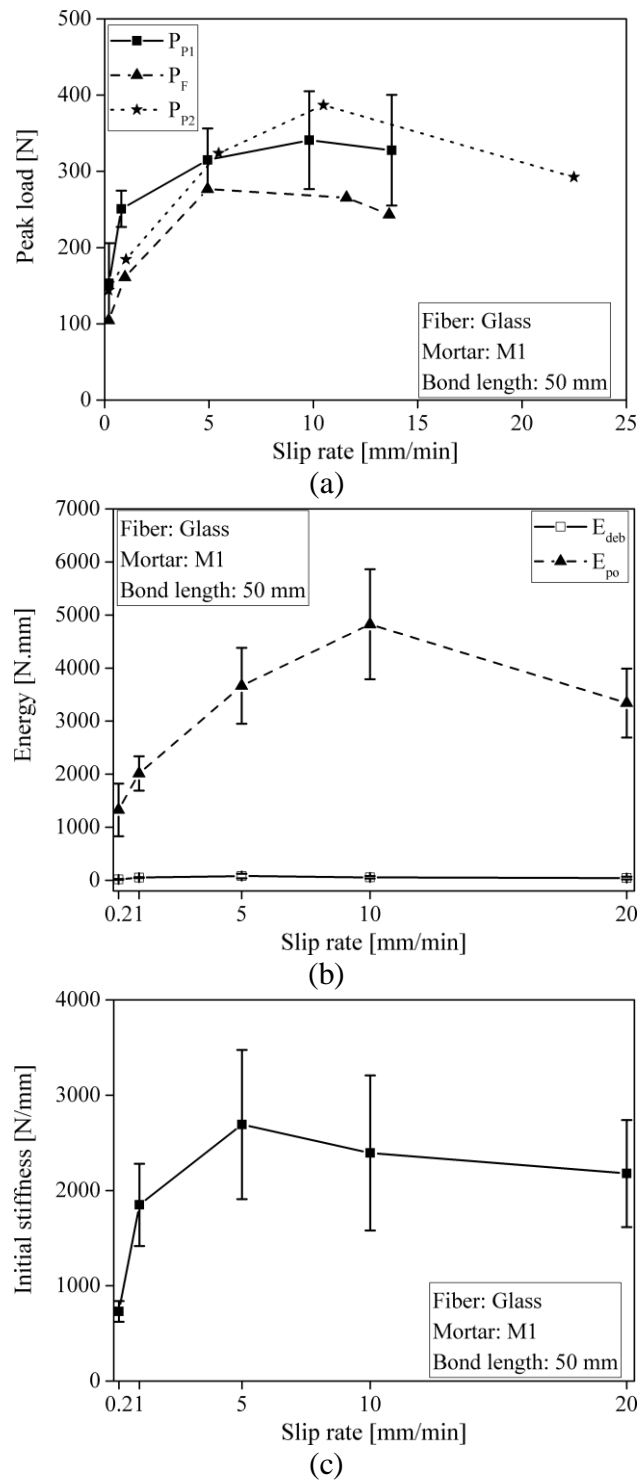


Fig. 4. Effect of the slip rate on the bond parameters of glass TRM in monotonic pull-out tests: (a) peak loads and frictional load; (b) pull-out and debonding energy; (c) initial stiffness.

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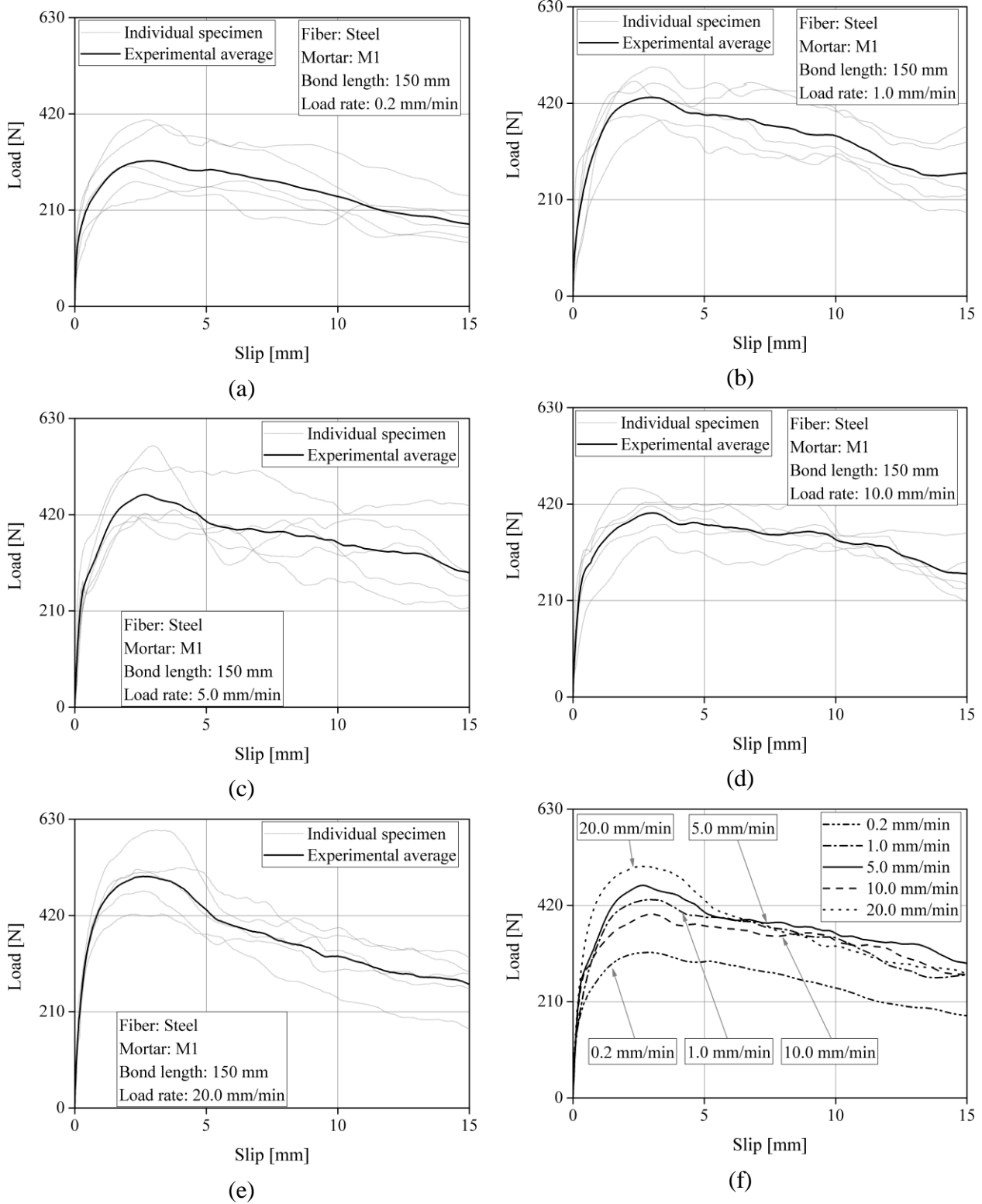


Fig. 5. Load-slip response curves of monotonic pull-out tests on steel TRM performed under different slip rates: (a) 0.2 mm/min; (b) 1.0 mm/min; (c) 5.0 mm/min; (d) 10.0 mm/min; (e) 20.0 mm/min; (f) average.

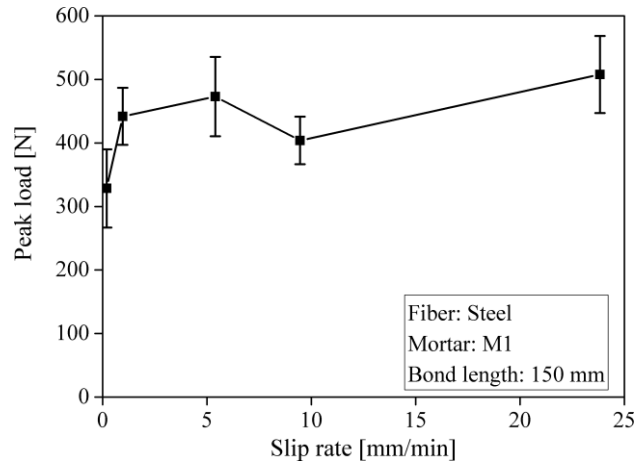
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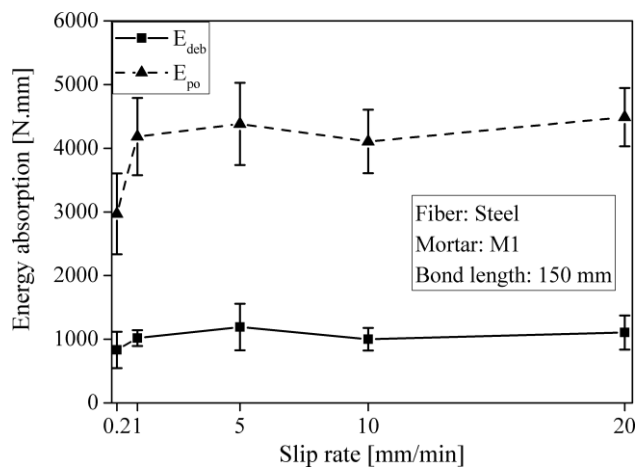
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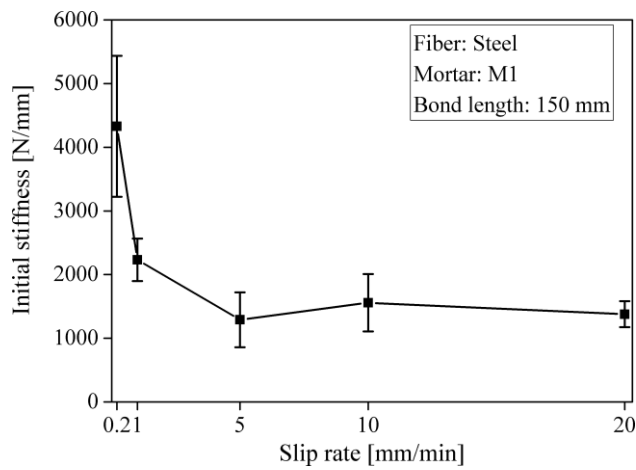
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(b)



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Fig. 6. Effect of the slip rate on bond parameters of steel TRM in monotonic pull-out tests: (a) peak loads; (b) pull-out and debonding energy; (c) initial stiffness.

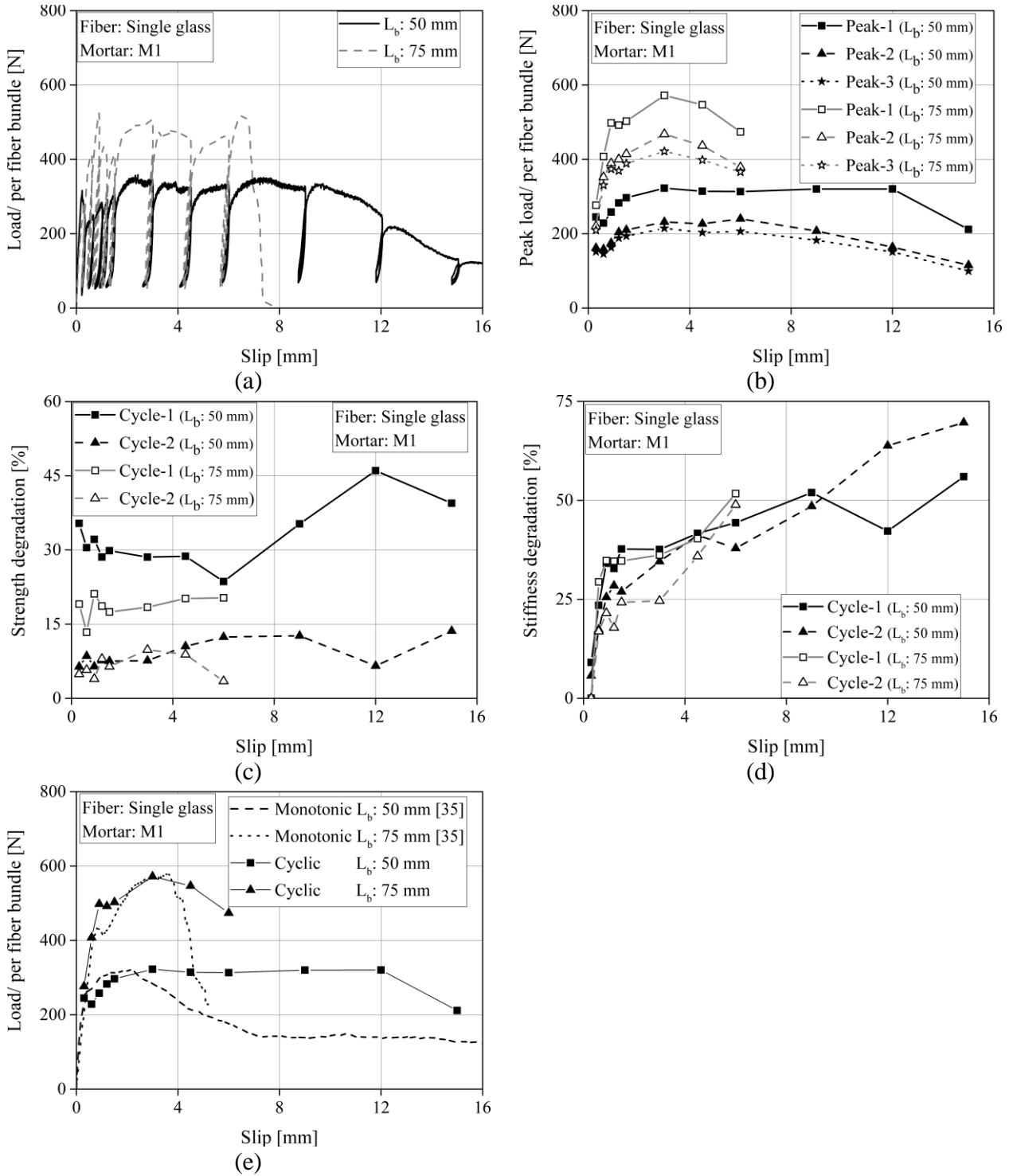
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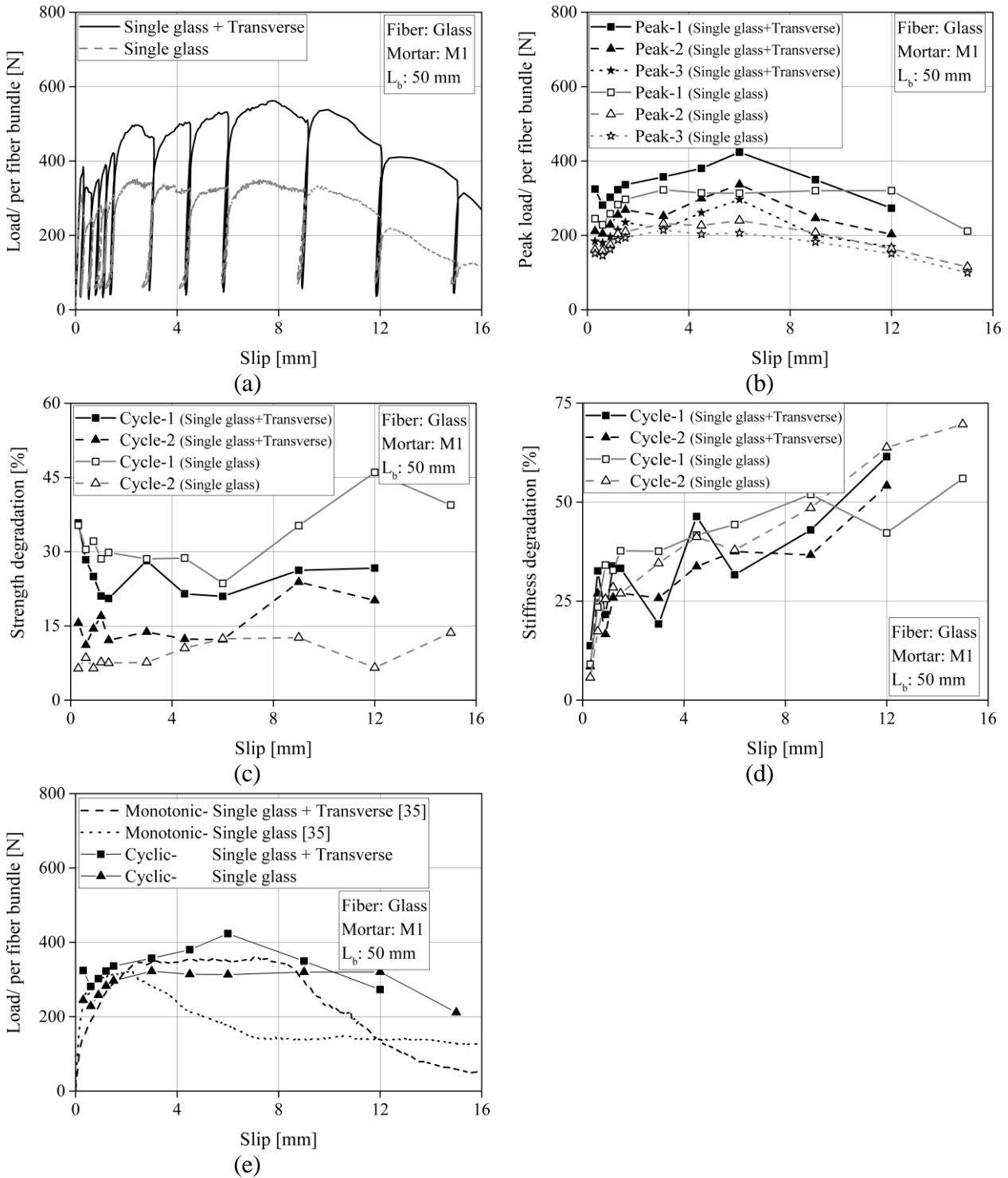
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530 Fig. 7. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the single glass yarn with $L_b = 50$ mm and 75 mm: (a) load-slip
531 curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation; (e) comparison of
532 monotonic and push of cyclic loading (Peak 1).
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Fig. 8. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the single glass yarn with and without transverse elements and $L_b = 50$ mm: (a) load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation; (e) comparison among monotonic and cyclic loading.

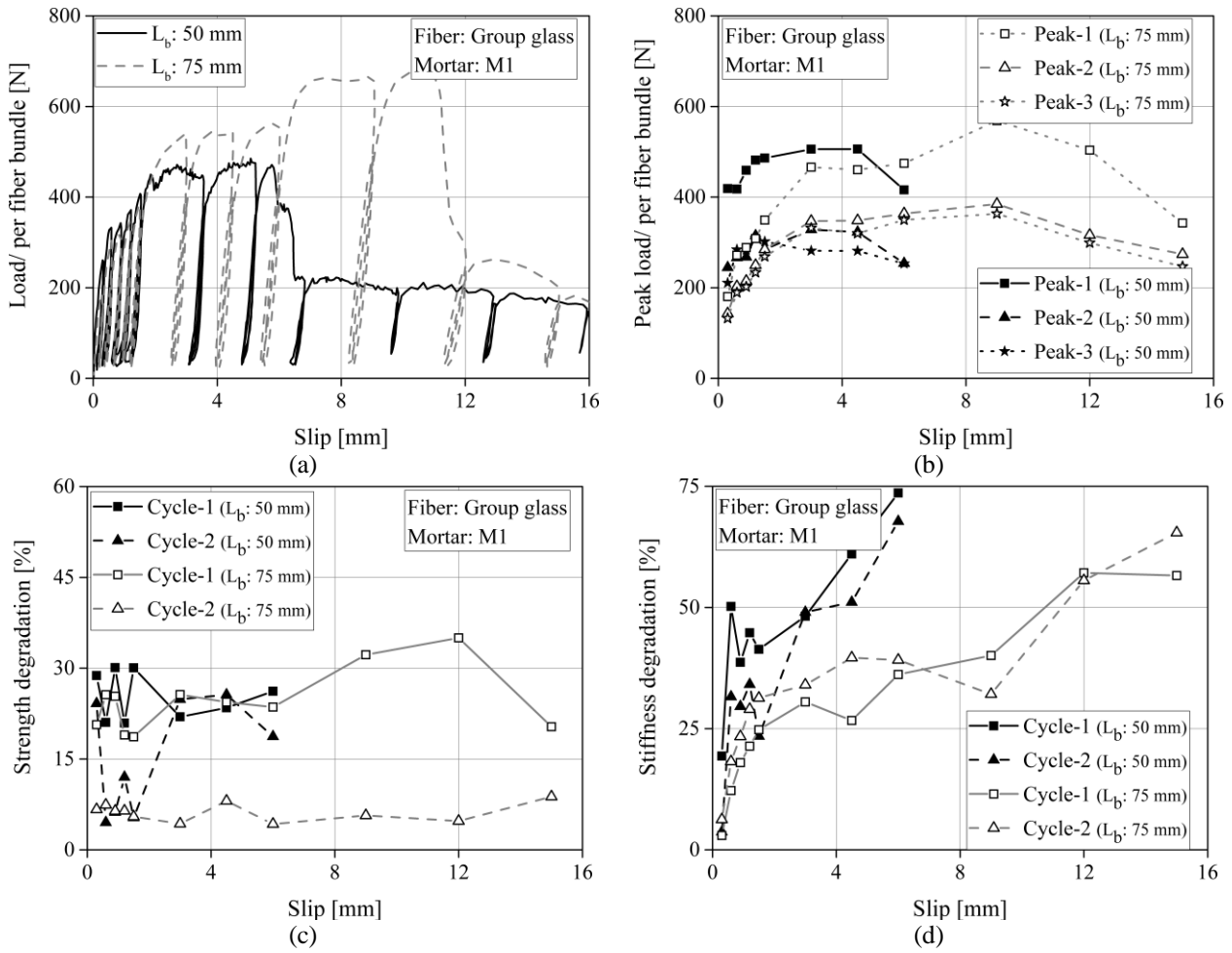


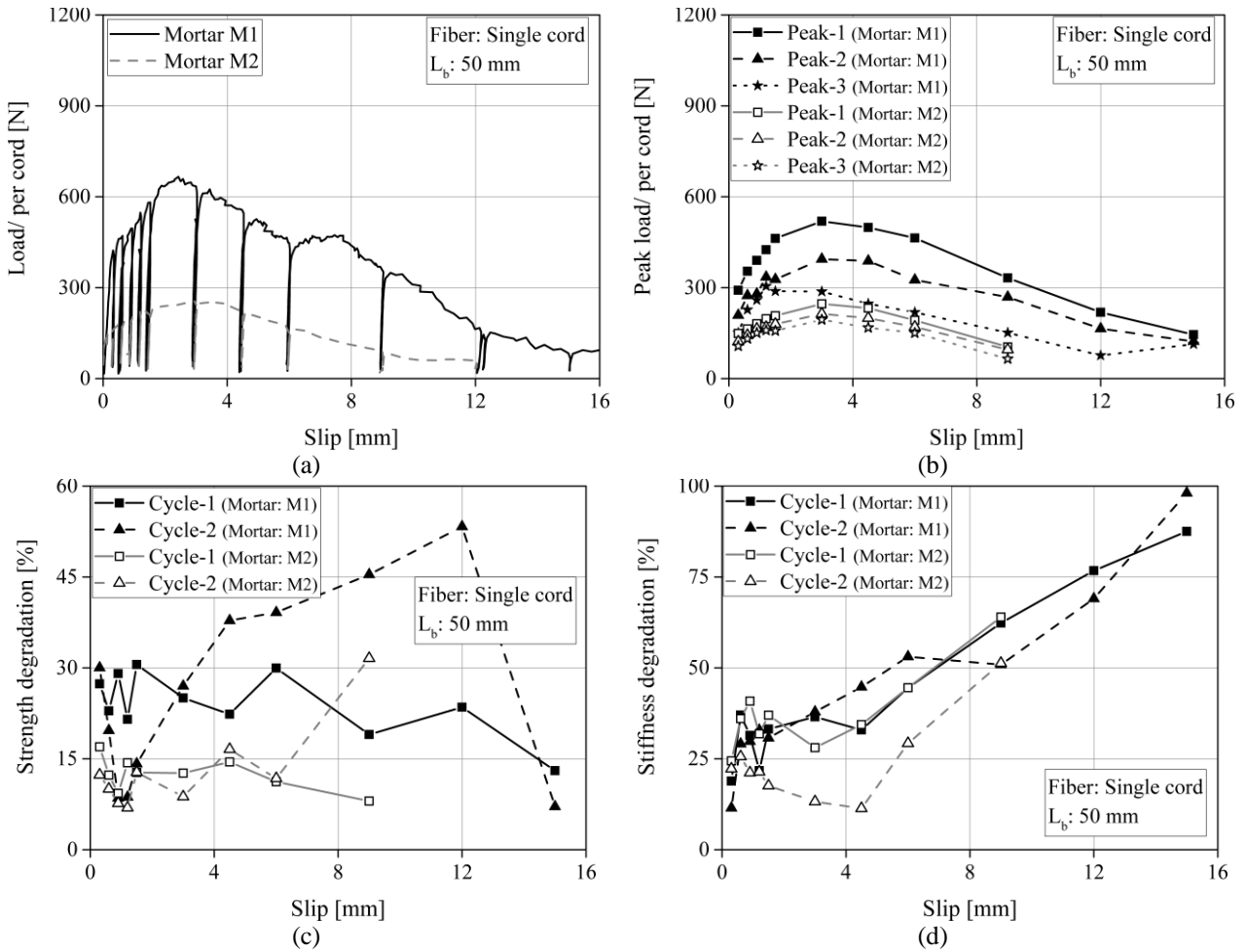
Fig. 9. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the group of 2 glass yarns with $L_b = 50$ mm and 75 mm: (a) load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation.

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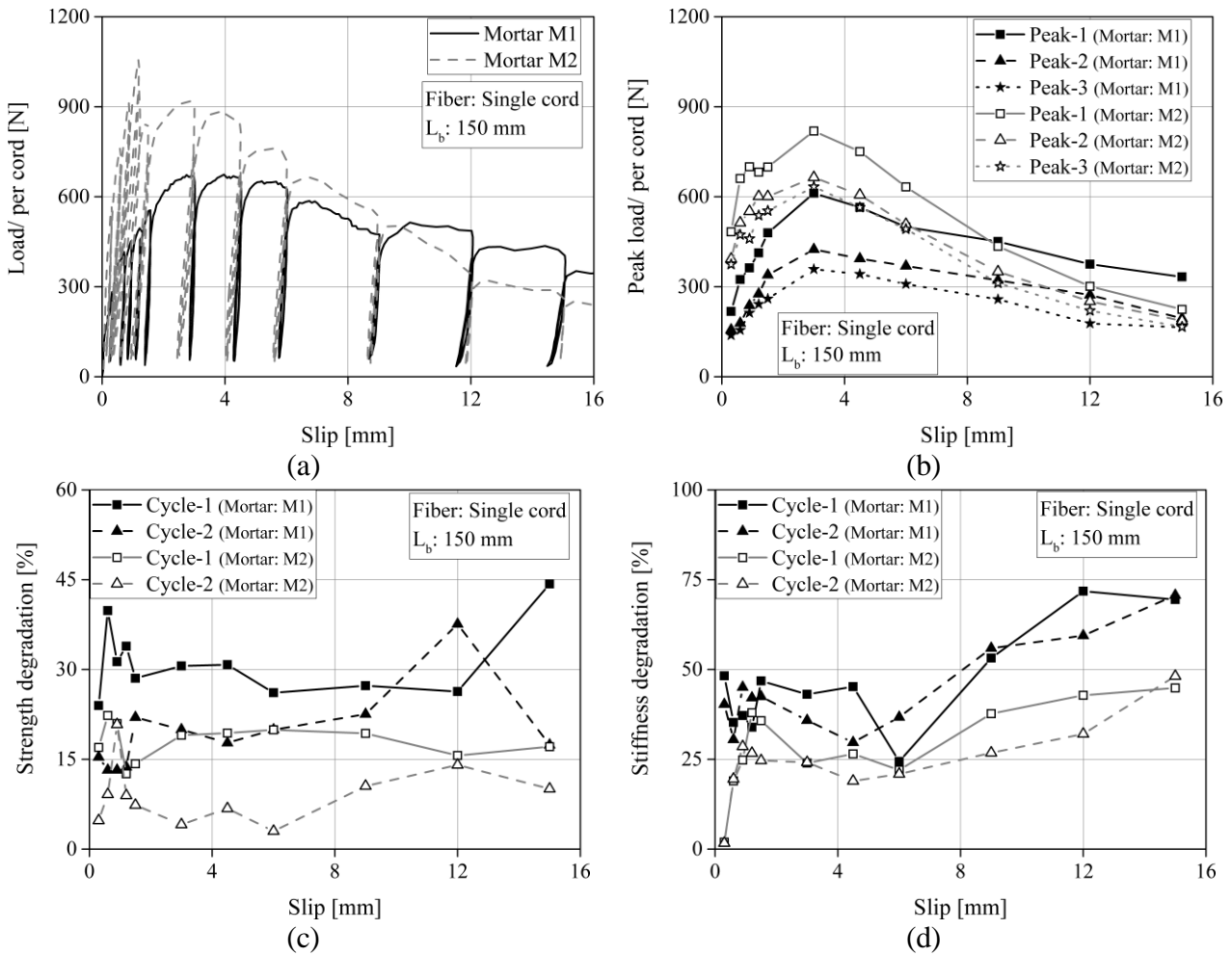
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Fig. 10. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the single UHTSS cord and mortars M1 and M2 with $L_b=50$ mm: (a) load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation.

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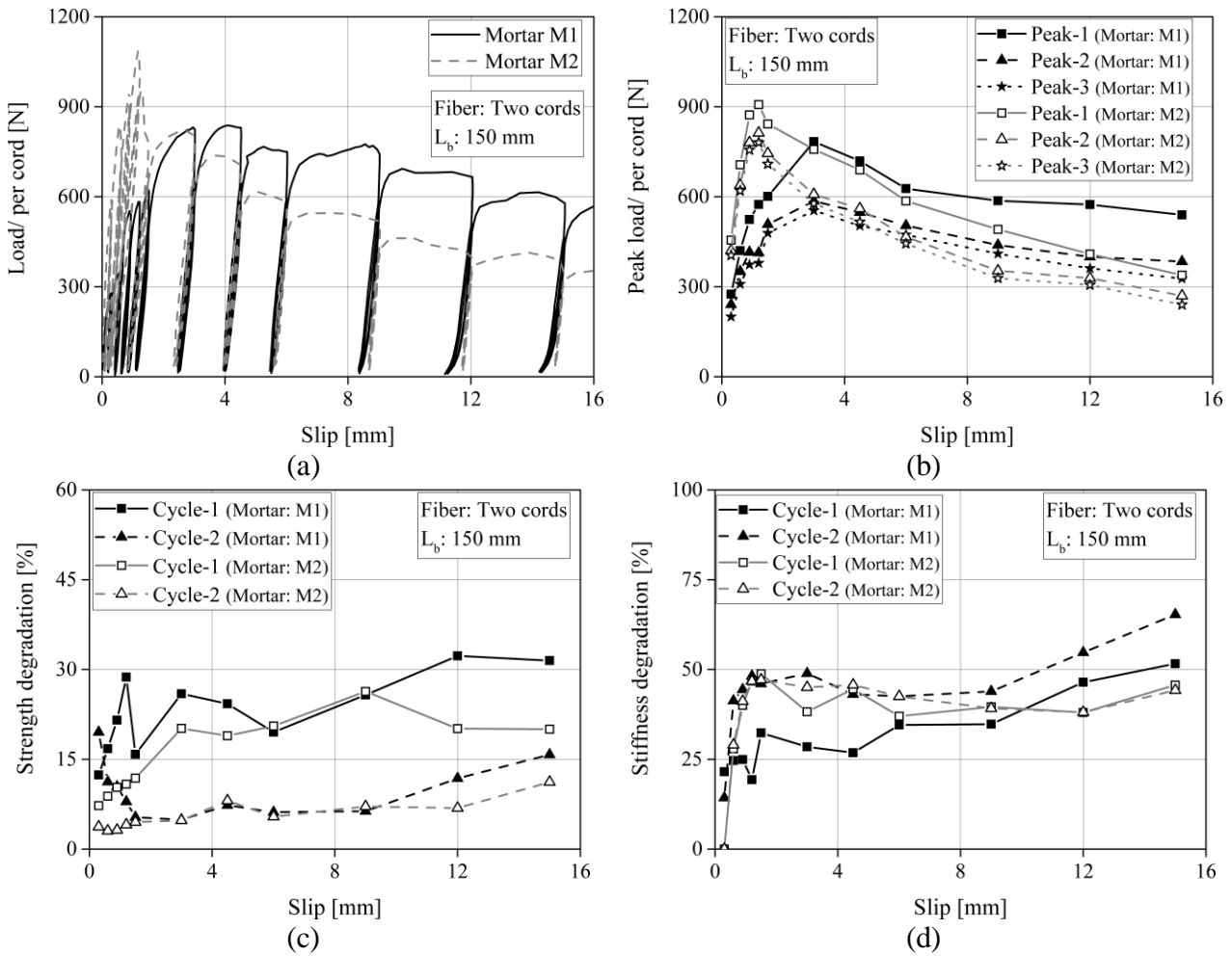
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Fig. 11. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the UHTSS cord and mortars M1 and M2 with $L_b=150$ mm: (a) an example load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation.

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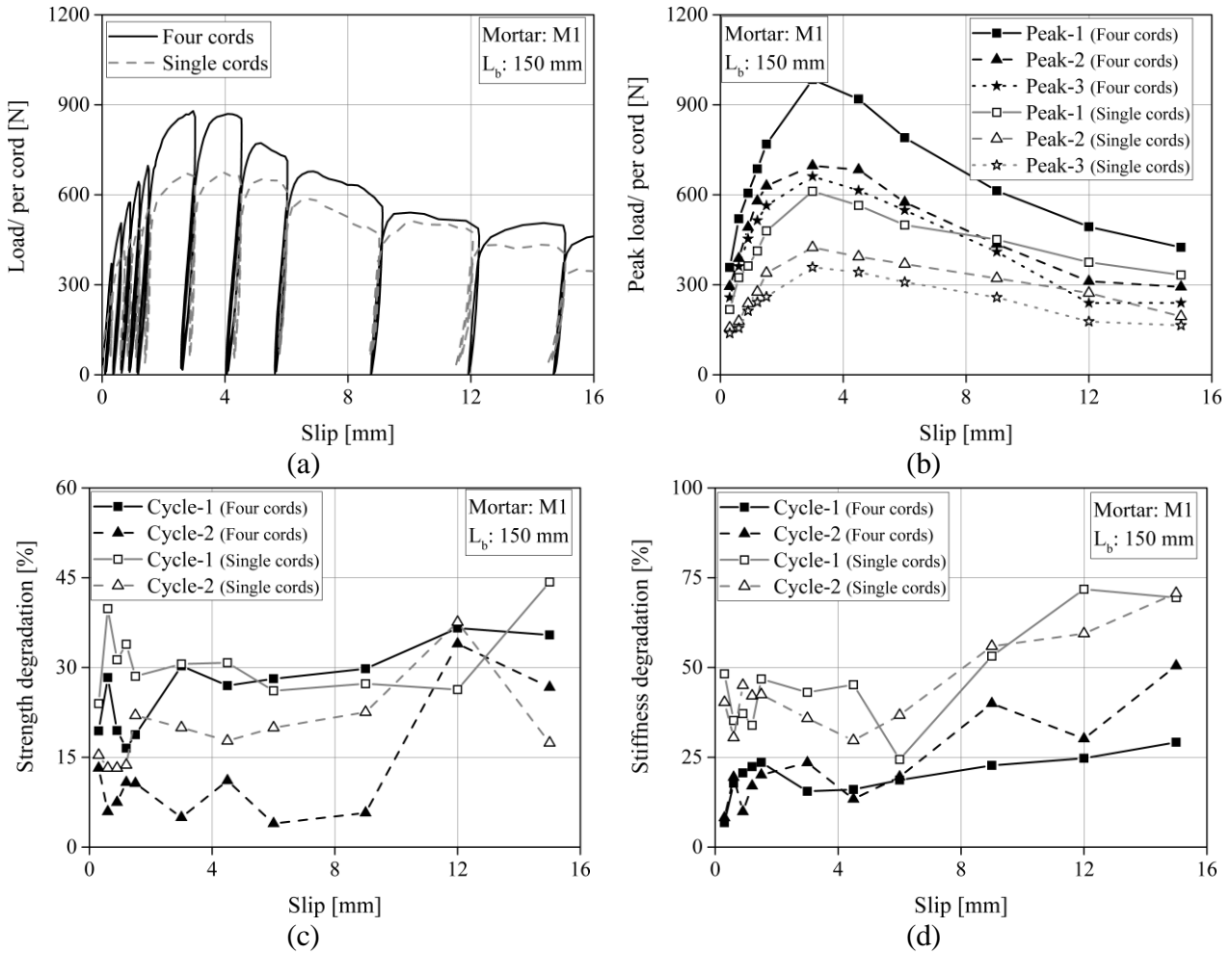
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Fig. 12. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the group of 2 UHTSS cords and mortars M1 and M2 with $L_b=150$ mm: (a) load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation.

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Fig. 13. Cyclic pull-out behaviour of the single cord and the group of 4 UHTSS cords and mortar M1 with $L_b=150$ mm: (a) load-slip curve; (b) peak loads; (c) strength degradation; (d) stiffness degradation.

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Table 1. Pull-out experimental plan.

Type of test	Objective	Matrix	Textile	Textile configuration	L_b [mm]	Slip rate [mm/min]	Number of tests		
Monotonic tests	Effect of slip rate on the textile-to-mortar bond behavior	M1	Glass	Single yarn	50	0.2	5		
						1.0	5		
						5.0	5		
						10.0	5		
						20.0	5		
		M1	Steel	Single cord	150	0.2	5		
						1.0	5		
						5.0	5		
						10.0	5		
						20.0	5		
Cyclic tests	Effect of cyclic loading on the textile-to-mortar bond behavior	M1	Glass	Single yarn	50	1.0 mm/min until 9 mm slip and 3.0 mm/min from 9 mm to the end of test	5		
				Single yarn + transverse			5		
				Group of 2 yarns			5		
				Single yarn			75	5	
				Group of 2 yarns				5	
				M1			Steel	Single cord	50
			150		5				
		Group of 2 cords	150		5				
		Group of 4 cords			5				
		M2	Steel		Single cord			50	5
								150	5
				Group of 2 cords	150		5		

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Table 2. Results of monotonic pull-out tests on glass and steel TRM: average values and CoV (%) in round brackets.

Textile	Slip rate [mm/min]	P _{P1} [N]	P _F [N]	P _{P2} [N]	E _{po} [N.mm]	G _d [J/mm ²]	E _{deb} [N.mm]	K [N/mm]	S _{P1} [mm]	S _F [mm]	S _{P2} [mm]
Glass	0.2	153.3 (34)	104.6 (41)	144 (34)	1327.1 (37)	0.008 (101)	17.1 (43)	730.9 (15)	0.21 (22)	0.31 (27)	2.38 (22)
	1.0	250.8 (9)	161 (8)	184.4 (16)	2012.7 (16)	0.022 (52)	51.5 (14)	1849 (23)	0.32 (7)	0.62 (29)	2.23 (37)
	5.0	314.8 (13)	276.8 (11)	323.9 (10)	3664.2 (20)	0.008 (141)	81.4 (54)	2692.4 (29)	0.37 (51)	0.5 (33)	1.72 (26)
	10.0	340.8 (19)	265.5 (13)	386.9 (19)	4825.3 (21)	0.021 (82)	56.1 (41)	2393.6 (34)	0.27 (30)	0.33 (27)	3.74 (54)
	20.0	327.7 (22)	243.4 (18)	292.3 (9)	3340.9 (19)	0.021 (71)	43.3 (60)	2177.9 (26)	0.22 (26)	0.35 (33)	1.52 (44)
Steel	0.2	328.5 (19)	-	-	2968.5 (21)	-	833.5 (34)	4327.9 (26)	3.13 (35)	-	-
	1.0	441.8 (10)	-	-	4182.8 (15)	-	1017.9 (12)	2230.7 (15)	2.92 (13)	-	-
	5.0	473.1 (13)	-	-	4381.9 (15)	-	1191.8 (31)	1290.2 (33)	3.1 (20)	-	-
	10.0	403.9 (9)	-	-	4106.1 (12)	-	1000.9 (18)	1557.7 (29)	3.03 (14)	-	-
	20.0	507.7 (12)	-	-	4487.6 (10)	-	1106.3 (24)	1378 (15)	2.6 (13)	-	-

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