

# The influence of temperature on RC beams strengthened with externally bonded CFRP reinforcement

Ernst L. Klamer

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Eindhoven University of Technology,  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Dick A. Hordijk

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Eindhoven University of Technology,  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands and Adviesbureau ir. J. G. Hageman B.V., Rijswijk, The  
Netherlands

Michael C. J. Hermes

Faculty of Architecture, Building and Planning, Eindhoven University of Technology,  
Eindhoven, The Netherlands and Heijmans Bestcon B.V., Best, The Netherlands

**Strengthening of Reinforced Concrete (RC) structures with externally bonded Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) reinforcement has become increasingly popular in the construction industry last two decades. Failure of the FRP strengthening is generally initiated by debonding of the FRP reinforcement from the concrete surface. It is expected that temperature will affect this debonding behaviour due to the significant difference in the coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and FRP and due to the change of the material properties at elevated temperatures, especially of the adhesive. This paper presents the results of an experimental investigation into the effect of temperature on the strengthening of reinforced concrete beams with externally bonded Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymer (CFRP) reinforcement. Four different beam configurations have been investigated, each at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C. Test results have shown that, compared to room temperature, the type of failure and the failure load of the beams tested at 50°C were not significantly affected. At 70°C, the type of failure changed for one of the beams from failure in the concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface to failure exactly in the concrete-adhesive interface. The failure loads of the beams tested at 70°C were not significantly affected compared to room temperature, except for the beam with a relatively short laminate length. For this beam, the load capacity is**

**expected to be mainly related to the capacity of the end anchorage zone, which was negatively affected by the effects of the elevated temperature.**

*Keywords: FRP, strengthening, temperature, externally bonded reinforcement*

## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Strengthening of structures**

Strengthening of existing (concrete) structures has become increasingly important in the construction industry lately. Our demands to existing buildings are changing increasingly faster, resulting in an increased need to alter existing structures. Increased traffic load on civil structures has decreased the safety of many existing bridges and viaducts. Most of these structures have to be upgraded to meet code requirements again. From an economical and environmental point of view, strengthening of existing structures is in most cases a better alternative than demolishing and subsequently rebuilding. One of the recent developments in this field is the strengthening of Reinforced Concrete (RC) structures with externally bonded Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) reinforcement.

### **1.2 Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) reinforcement**

FRP reinforcement is a composite material that is composed out of small fibres embedded in a matrix material. The most commonly used fibres in the construction industry are the carbon, aramid and glass fibres, where the carbon is preferred in most cases due to the excellent environmental properties, such as a good resistance against UV-light, moisture and chemical influences and the excellent mechanical properties, like a high strength and high Young's modulus. The main function of the matrix material is to spread the load between the individual fibres and to protect the fibres against environmental influences, like moisture, corrosion and wear. The matrix material is generally a polymer, like polyester, vinylester or epoxy.

### **1.3 FRP systems**

Two basic FRP-strengthening systems are available for strengthening of RC structures, the prefabricated laminates and the fabrics for the so called wet lay-up system (Figure 1).



*Prefabricated FRP laminates at Denekamp [Sika 2004]*



*FRP fabrics for the wet lay-up system [Mapei 2001]*

*Figure 1: FRP systems for strengthening of concrete structures*

Prefabricated FRP laminates are produced by a pultrusion process, where the fibres are pulled through the matrix material. After impregnation of the fibres, the FRP is cured and shaped in its final form. At the end of the process, the laminates can be cut to length. Before applying the FRP to a structure, the concrete surface first has to be roughened, e.g. by sandblasting, and cleaned. The FRP can then be glued to the concrete surface with an adhesive, like epoxy.

In the case of the wet lay-up system, the impregnation of the fibres with the matrix material is carried out in situ at the same time when bonding the fabric to the concrete structure. After sandblasting and cleaning of the concrete surface, a layer of adhesive is applied, followed by a layer of fabric. This can be continued until sufficient fibres have been applied for the required capacity. One of the main advantages of this technique is the fact that the FRP can be applied in different shapes. However, due to the application method, generally a smaller percentage of fibres per unit area can be achieved, resulting in a thicker layer of FRP compared to the laminates. Moreover, the quality of the application is more sensitive to labour skills, as the composite is made in situ.

#### **1.4 Recent developments**

Although the technique of strengthening with externally bonded laminates and fabrics is quite young, new developments have already been introduced by many researchers. Currently there is a wide interest in the prestressing and mechanical anchoring of FRP reinforcement and the Near Surface Mounted (NSM) strengthening technique. Anchorage systems have been developed, mainly to avoid debonding of the FRP and to create the opportunity to apply prestressing to the externally bonded FRP. Mechanical anchoring and

prestressing will result in a higher efficiency of the FRP, resulting in a higher capacity of the strengthened structure [Garden et al., 1998; El-Hacha et al., 2001].

In the NSM strengthening technique [De Lorenzis et al., 2002], the FRP is bonded into a slice in the concrete perpendicular to the surface. This has the benefit of a larger bonding surface and thus the potential for a higher capacity of the strengthened beam. The FRP is also better protected against environmental influences and vandalism. Another important FRP strengthening technique is the wrapping of FRP around a column to increase the axial capacity by confinement [fib, 2001].

### 1.5 *Research objective*

Last two decades, extensive research has been carried out into the strengthening of structures with externally bonded FRP. Since guidelines, like *fib* Bulletin 14 in Europe [fib, 2001] and ACI 440.2R-02 in the USA [ACI, 2002], have become available, the number of FRP-strengthening applications has increased enormously. An important aspect of FRP-strengthened structures is the debonding of the FRP from the concrete surface before the FRP tensile strength or concrete compressive strength is reached. Debonding of the FRP is generally governed by the failure of concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface, leaving a small layer of concrete remaining attached to the adhesive after debonding. The debonding behaviour has been investigated quite extensively. Design guidelines nowadays provide models for a safe design of a FRP-strengthened structure. Nevertheless, there is still a need to increase the knowledge of and experience with FRP strengthening applications, as well as to expand the field of application of these design guidelines. One of the topics for which further research is required, is the influence of service temperature on the debonding behaviour of externally bonded FRP. Accidental loss of the FRP due to extreme temperatures (e.g. fire) is covered by most guidelines by verifying the unstrengthened structure in the case of the accidental load situation. However, the effect of temperature changes under service conditions, where temperatures up to 50°C or more may occur, e.g. due to sun heating, is so far insufficiently investigated.

Temperature changes are expected to affect the material properties of the concrete, FRP and the adhesive, but also the bond between these materials. Increasing the temperature is expected to have a negative effect on the adhesive properties, especially when the glass-transition temperature ( $T_g$ ) is exceeded. Exceeding this temperature results in a significant reduction of the strength and stiffness of the adhesive. Temperature changes will also induce thermal stresses, due to the significant difference in the coefficient of thermal

expansion (CTE) between concrete ( $\alpha_c \approx 10 \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$ ) and e.g. Carbon Fibre Reinforced Polymers (CFRP) ( $\alpha_f \approx -1 \times 10^{-6} / ^\circ\text{C}$  in the longitudinal direction).

Research into the effect of temperature has, so far, only been carried out on small scale bond tests. It was therefore decided to set up an experimental test program in which the behaviour of full scale RC beams strengthened with externally bonded CFRP is investigated at elevated temperatures.

In the next chapter, first an overview of the possible failure modes of FRP strengthened RC beams is given, which is needed for a good understanding of the experimental results.

Chapter 3 deals with the results of small scale bond tests that have been carried out by several researchers at low and high temperatures. The full scale test setup is discussed in chapter 4 followed by the experimental test results in chapter 5 and the conclusions and recommendations in chapter 6.

## 2 Failure of FRP strengthened structures

### 2.1 Flexural failure

Flexural failure of a strengthened RC beams is quite similar to failure of non-strengthened RC members, taken the additional FRP as additional reinforcement into account. When debonding (Section 2.3) is prevented, flexural failure of a FRP strengthened beam is governed by either FRP rupture (Figure 2) or crushing of the concrete in the compressive zone (Figure 3). Both failure modes could occur before or after yielding of the internal steel reinforcement. However, in practical applications, flexural failure is hardly ever observed, as, in general, failure is governed by debonding of the externally bonded FRP.

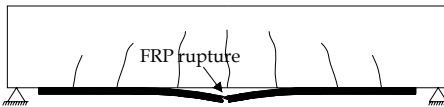


Figure 2: FRP rupture

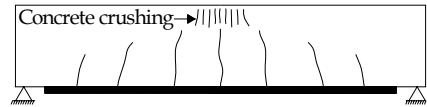


Figure 3: Concrete crushing

### 2.2 Shear failure

FRP that is used to strengthen a structure in flexure does not significantly contribute to the shear capacity of the beam and is therefore often neglected in the verification of the shear capacity. Shear failure could become the governing failure mode (Figure 4), as the flexural capacity is increased. Shear failure should however be avoided due to the brittleness of this

type of failure. If additional shear capacity is needed, it is possible to strengthen the structure in shear with FRP.

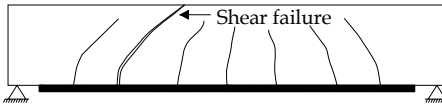


Figure 4: Shear failure

### 2.3 Debonding of the externally bonded FRP

Failure after debonding of the FRP is in most cases the governing failure mode of FRP-strengthened structures. Several debonding mechanisms can be distinguished in literature [fib, 2001], which can initiate at several locations along the length of the laminate (Figure 5).

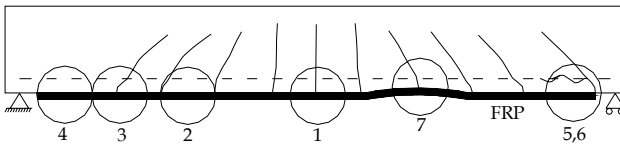


Figure 5: Possible debonding mechanisms of a FRP-strengthened beam (partial from [fib, 2001])

The debonding mechanisms that can be distinguished in literature are;

1. Debonding at flexural cracks
2. Debonding due to high shear stresses
3. Debonding at shear cracks
4. Debonding at the end anchorage
5. Plate-end shear failure
6. Concrete cover rip-off
7. Debonding due to the unevenness of the concrete surface

When a FRP-strengthened beam cracks, high stress concentrations will develop in the FRP at the intersection with a crack. These stress concentrations are transferred to the concrete by means of shear stresses at both sides of the crack. It is expected that exceeding the shear strength only result in local non-progressive debonding close to the crack tip of the (flexural) crack [Matthys, 2000], as the stress concentration will decrease after debonding over a short distance (Figure 6).

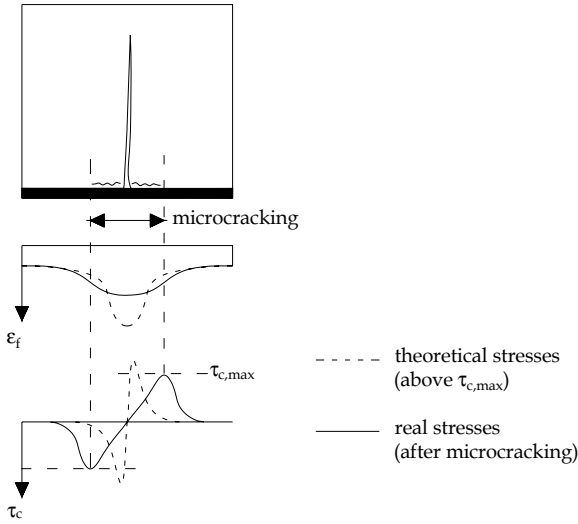


Figure 6: Local debonding at flexural cracks [Matthys, 2000]

Loading the beam will also cause shear stresses in the concrete adjacent to the adhesive layer, due to the difference in bending moment, and consequently in FRP force, along the length of the FRP laminate (Figure 7). This could eventually lead to debonding, which initiates somewhere away from the plate-end and propagates towards the plate-end. This type of debonding generally propagates in the concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface, leaving a thin layer of concrete remaining attached to the adhesive after debonding.

At a shear crack, additional stresses will develop besides the shear stresses due to the FRP force distribution. At this location tensile stresses will develop perpendicular to the bonded area due to the difference in vertical displacement between the two opposite sides of the crack (Figure 8) [Matthys, 2000]. These stresses are expected to negatively affect the load at which debonding occurs.

The FRP is generally ended at some distance from the support due to practical reasons. The FRP force in the end anchorage zone has to be transferred to the concrete by means of shear stresses over a certain length, which is generally referred to as the anchorage length (Figure 9) [Neubauer et al., 1999; Matthys, 2000; Niedermeier et al., 2001]. The maximum FRP force in an arbitrary cross section in the end anchorage zone that can be transferred to the concrete is related to the available anchorage length from that specific cross section to the FRP end. Increasing the available anchorage length initially increases the FRP force that can be anchored, until a certain maximum FRP anchorage force is reached with a

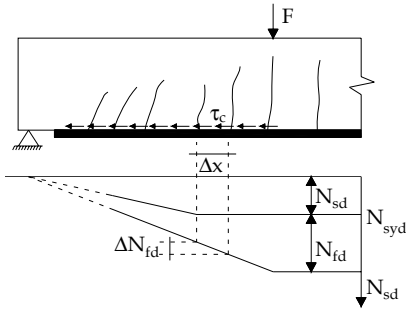


Figure 7: Debonding due to high shear stresses

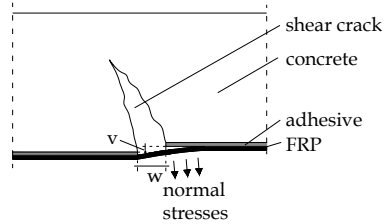


Figure 8: Debonding at shear cracks [Matthys, 2000]

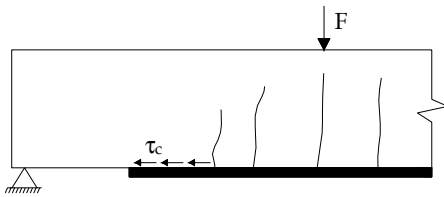


Figure 9: Debonding at the end anchorage

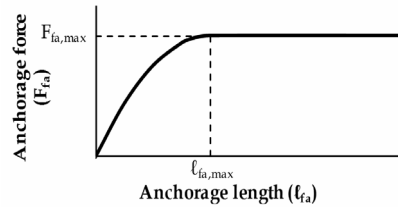


Figure 10: Relation between the anchorage length and maximum anchorage force [fib, 2001]

corresponding maximum anchorage length (Figure 10). Increasing the anchorage length above this length does not provide additional anchorage capacity.

The sudden ending of the FRP laminate will also cause high stress concentration at the plate-end. A crack can develop from this point towards the level of the tensile steel reinforcement and then further towards midspan ripping-off the concrete cover (concrete cover rip-off) (Figure 11) or as a shear crack (plate-end shear failure) (Figure 12) [Oehlers, 1992; Jansze, 1997; Smith et al., 2002]. Concrete cover rip-off is commonly reported in literature for beams with sufficient shear reinforcement, while plate-end shear failure is governing for beams with a small amount of shear reinforcement.

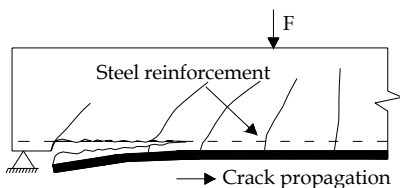


Figure 11: Concrete cover rip-off

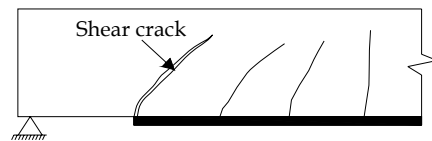


Figure 12: Plate-end shear failure



### 3 Previous research into the effect of temperature on the debonding

#### 3.1 Introduction

So far, only limited research has been carried out into the effect of temperature on concrete structures strengthened with externally bonded FRP. Furthermore, research has only been carried out with small scale test setups, like double-lap shear tests and flexural tests (Figure 13). These bond tests are commonly used to investigate the bond behaviour of the concrete-adhesive-FRP joint.

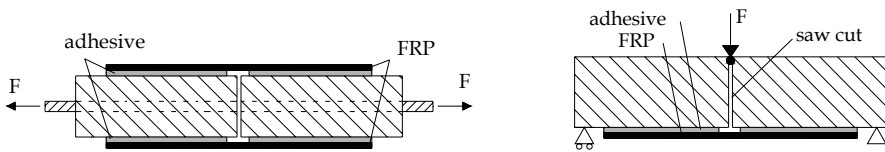


Figure 13: Typical double-lap shear test and flexural test setup

Small scale bond tests provide a relatively cheap and easy way to investigate the debonding behaviour of the concrete-adhesive-FRP joint. There are however some differences in the loading of the joint between bond tests and normal beams. First of all, in the double-lap shear test, the joint is loaded in pure shear, while in full scale beam, a combination of shear and normal stresses will occur in the joint. Secondly, not all debonding mechanisms can be investigated with small scale bond tests. Concrete cover rip-off and plate-end shear failure are generally not found in bond tests. Nevertheless, bond tests can provide useful information about the debonding behaviour of the concrete-adhesive-FRP joint, which is of interest for full scale FRP strengthened beams.

#### *Double-lap shear tests*

Tadeu and Branco [2000] have investigated the effect of temperature on concrete specimens strengthened with externally bonded steel strips, which have, unlike FRP, almost the same coefficient of thermal expansion as concrete. This means that hardly any thermal stresses had developed in between the steel strips and the concrete. In the experiments, a reduction of the failure load with an increase in temperature was found (Figure 14), which was expected to be caused by the changed mechanical properties of the adhesive at elevated temperatures.

Blontrock [2003] and Klamer et al. [2006; 2007] carried out similar double-lap shear tests with externally bonded CFRP laminates. In both investigations, starting from room

temperature, an increase in failure load with increasing temperatures was found up to around the glass transition temperature of the adhesive (Figure 15 and 16). Further increasing the temperature resulted in a decrease of the failure load and a changed type of failure.

It was concluded by Klammer [2006; 2007] that three effects had affected the capacity; the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion, the reduced Young’s modulus of the adhesive and the changed type of failure at elevated temperatures. The difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP was expected to be the main cause for the increase of the failure load up to the glass transition temperature, as thermal stresses after heating acted in the opposite direction as the interfacial shear stresses due to loading.

The changed failure mode was expected to be the main cause of the decrease in failure load above the glass transition temperature. Around the glass transition temperature, the failure mode changed from failure in the concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface to failure exactly in the interface, without leaving any concrete attached to the adhesive after debonding.

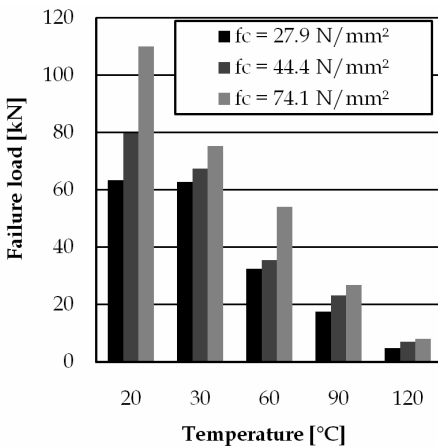


Figure 14: Temperature-failure load relation of double-lap shear tests by Tadeu and Branco [2000]

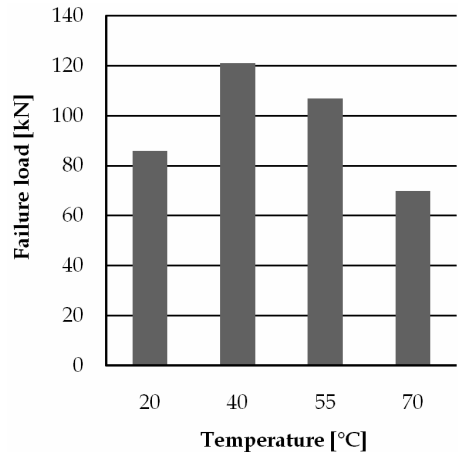


Figure 15: Temperature-failure load relation of double-lap shear tests by Blontrock [2003]

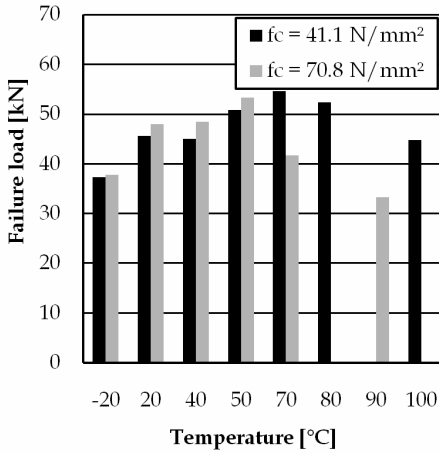


Figure 16: Temperature-failure load relation of double-lap shear tests by Klamer et al. [2006]

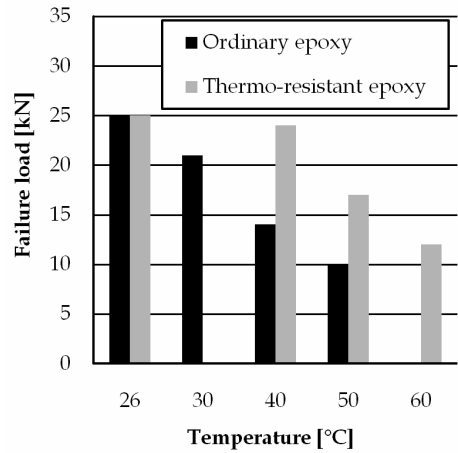


Figure 17: Temperature-failure load relation of double-lap shear tests by Wu et al. [2005]

Wu et al. [2005] carried out similar double-lap shear tests, which, opposite to the results of Blontrock [2003] and Klamer et al. [2006], showed a reduction of the failure load with increasing temperature (Figure 17), probably due to the lower glass transition temperature of the adhesive.

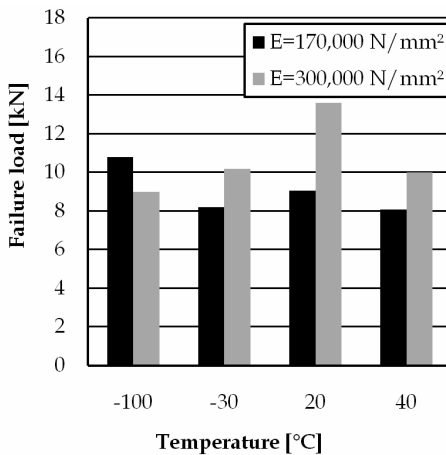


Figure 18: Temperature-failure load relation of flexural tests by Di Tommaso et al. [2001]

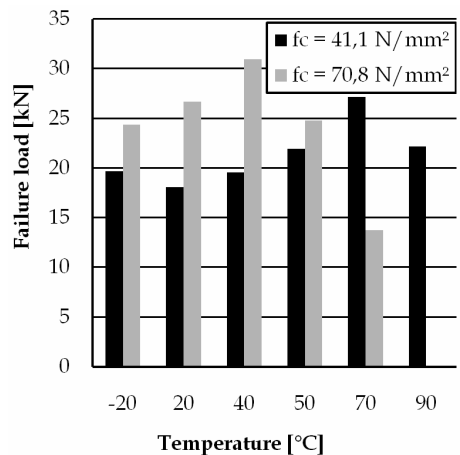


Figure 19: Temperature-failure load relation of flexural tests by Klamer et al. [2006]

### 3.2 Flexural tests

Di Tommaso et al. [2001] investigated the influence of temperature in three point bending tests at temperatures ranging from  $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$  up to  $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Relative to the failure load at room temperature, decreasing failure loads were found both for increasing and decreasing temperatures (Figure 18). Furthermore, different types of failure were found depending on the applied temperature. For high temperature ( $40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ), cohesive failure of the adhesive was found (figure 20a). For moderate temperatures failure of the concrete was found near the interface with the adhesive (figure 20b), while for very low temperatures ( $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) delamination within the CFRP was found (figure 20c). The first two types of failure were similar to those observed in the double-lap shear tests.

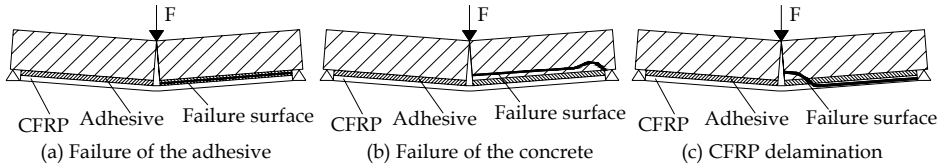


Figure 20: Failure of the three point bending tests at different temperatures [Di Tommaso et al., 2001]

The influence of temperature on small scale three point bending tests has also been investigated by Klamer et al. [2006]. In these tests, an increasing failure load was found with increasing temperatures, until around the glass transition temperature of the adhesive ( $62^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) (Figure 19). For higher temperatures, a decreasing failure load was found due to the changed type of failure. Failure changed above the glass transition temperature from failure in the concrete near the interface with the adhesive to failure exactly in the interface in between the concrete and the adhesive (Figure 21).

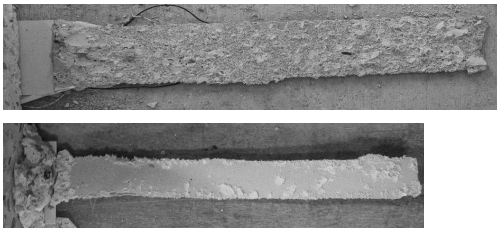


Figure 21: Failure in the concrete (left) and in the concrete-adhesive interface (right) [Klamer et al., 2006]

## 4 Test setup

### 4.1 Test program

The double-lap shear tests and flexural tests on small scale test specimens have mainly been used to investigate the influence of temperature on the bond behaviour of the concrete-adhesive-FRP joint. It is however difficult to translate this information to real structures, where failure can be initiated by different possible debonding mechanisms as discussed in Section 2 and cracking of concrete does occur. It was therefore decided to set up a test program in which the influence of temperature on full scale beams strengthened with externally bonded CFRP was investigated [Hermes, 2006; Klamer, 2008]. Four different beams were designed in such a way that probably the four most important debonding mechanisms were covered. 'Debonding at flexural cracks' and 'plate-end shear failure' were not investigated due to the fact that the first will not lead to failure of the beam and the second is initiated in the same way as concrete cover rip-off.

It was decided to only vary the concrete grade and the CFRP dimensions amongst the different beams (Table 1), which had the advantage that the same test setup could be used for all tests. The models in CUR Recommendation 91 [CUR, 2002] were used for the design of the beams. Note that this Recommendation has been replaced with the second edition in 2007 [CUR, 2007].

Table 1: *Experimental test program*

Beam	Assumed debonding mechanism at room temperature	Concrete grade	Width of FRP ( $b_f$ )	Distance plate-end-support (L)
A	Debonding due to high shear stresses	C20/25	50 mm	100 mm
B	Debonding at the cracks	C45/55	80 mm	100 mm
C	Debonding at the end anchorage zone	C45/55	80 mm	300 mm
D	Concrete cover rip-off	C20/25	150 mm	100 mm

*See Figure 22 for the definition of L.*

For each debonding mechanism, three similar beams were made, which were tested at three different temperatures; at 20°C as a reference, at 50°C, which is below the glass transition temperature of the adhesive (62°C) and at 70°C, which is above the glass transition temperature of the adhesive.

**4.2 Test setup**

The twelve beams were tested in a four point bending test setup (Figure 22). The beams were loaded with two hydraulic jacks at 650 mm from midspan. The beams measured  $200 \times 450 \times 4000 \text{ mm}^3$  and spanned 3.8 m. Four reinforcement bars  $\text{Ø}12 \text{ mm}$  were applied in the tensile zone and two reinforcement bars  $\text{Ø}8 \text{ mm}$  were applied in the compressive zone (Feb 500 HWL, HK).

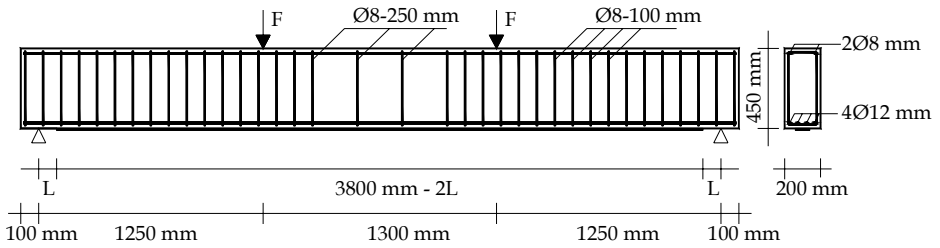


Figure 22: Experimental test setup [Hermes, 2006]

Stirrups  $\text{Ø}8 \text{ mm}$  were applied for all beams at a 100 mm centre-to-centre distance, except for the part at midspan, where a centre-to-centre distance of 250 mm was applied. One CFRP laminate (SIKA Carbodur) of 1.2 mm thickness was glued to the soffit of each beam after sandblasting and cleaning of the concrete surface. The applied width and length of the laminates are given in Table 1. A two-component epoxy adhesive (SikaDur 30) with a thickness of approximately 1.5 mm was used to glue the CFRP laminates to the concrete surface. A temporary isolated chamber was designed, to be able to test the beams at elevated temperature (Figure 23). The isolated chamber could easily be opened and closed after each test for removing and replacing the beams and measurement devices (Figure 24). The isolated chamber was part of a closed air circuit, where the air was circulated by means of an air-fan through an air-heating unit (6.6 kW) and subsequently through the isolated chamber. Additional small fans were placed in the isolated chamber to make sure that the heat was equally divided between the bottom and top of the chamber. Air temperature and pressure were controlled by a climate control system, while the temperature of the beams was measured by thermocouples.

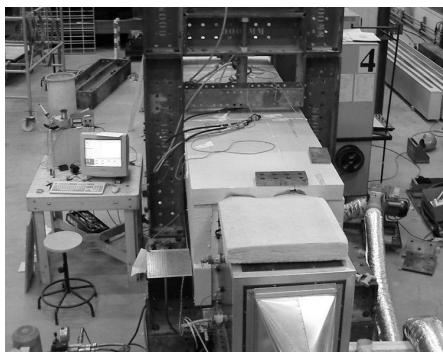


Figure 23: Air-heating unit and isolated chamber

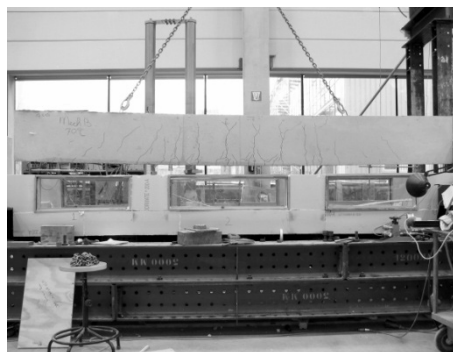


Figure 24: Taking the beam out of the heating unit

The vertical displacement of the beam was measured at midspan by means of a Linear Variable Differential Transducer (LVDT). Strain gauges were applied on the CFRP laminate, to measure the strain distribution over the length of the laminate, both during heating and during loading of the beam.

### 4.3 Material properties

Due to the relatively long preparation time that was needed between the different tests, it was decided to cast the concrete in four times. In this way it was possible to have, on average, an almost similar age at testing (49 days on average). Due to problem with the delivery of the concrete, one of the beams B and one of the beams D had to be produced from another concrete cast (Table 2). However, the differences are rather small for C20/25 and negligible for C45/55 (Table 3).

The tensile strength and Young's modulus of the CFRP and adhesive were taken according to the manufacturer's data sheets [Sika, 2005a; Sika, 2005b]. The CFRP laminates (SIKA Carbodur) had a characteristic tensile strength of 2800 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (mean value 3050 N/mm<sup>2</sup>) and a Young's modulus of 165,000 N/mm<sup>2</sup>. These properties are constant up to 150°C. The

Table 2: Concrete grade of the tested beams and (age at test date)

Beam	20°C	50°C	70°C
A	C20/25a (56 d)	C20/25a (51 d)	C20/25a (59 d)
B	C45/55b (41 d)	C45/55a (43 d)	C45/55b (49 d)
C	C45/55a (46 d)	C45/55a (49 d)	C45/55a (48 d)
D	C20/25b (40 d)	C20/25a (66 d)	C20/25b (44 d)

Table 3: Mean values of the concrete material properties at room temperature (28 days)

Material properties	C20/25a	C20/25b	C45/55a	C45/55b
Compressive strength ( $f_{cm,cube}$ )	27.7 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	36.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	51.2 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	52.3 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Tensile splitting strength ( $f_{ctm,sp}$ )	2.3 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	3.0 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	3.7 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	3.6 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
Young's modulus ( $E_{cm}$ )	21,600 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	19,400 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	24,600 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	25,200 N/mm <sup>2</sup>

coefficient of thermal expansion was determined experimentally in this investigation with Electronic Speckle Pattern Interferometry (ESPI) and was equal to  $-0.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the fibre direction and  $33 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the direction perpendicular to the fibre direction.

The adhesive was a two-component epoxy adhesive (SikaDur-30) with a Young's modulus of 12,800 N/mm<sup>2</sup>, a tensile strength between 24 N/mm<sup>2</sup> and 31 N/mm<sup>2</sup> and a glass transition temperature of 62°C. The coefficient of thermal expansion was experimentally determined in this investigation according to EN 1770 [CEN, 1998] and was equal to  $26 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Since the Young's modulus of the adhesive was expected to be strongly dependent on the temperature, it was decided to determine it at different temperatures ranging from 20°C till 80°C (Figure 26). The specimens were heated at 80°C for two days, prior to testing. It can be seen that even below the glass transition temperature of the adhesive (62°C) a significant reduction of the Young's modulus was found.

The bond strength of the concrete-adhesive joint perpendicular to the bonded surface was experimentally determined according to CUR Recommendation 20 [CUR, 1990], by pulling-off a bonded steel cylinder Ø50 mm from the concrete surface. The tests were carried out at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C (Table 4).

Table 4: Mean values of the concrete bond strength (28 days)

Mean concrete bond strength ( $f_{cbm}$ )	C20/25a	C20/25b	C40/45a	C40/45b
20°C	2.60 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	2.78 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	4.48 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	4.79 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
50°C	1.83 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	2.17 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	3.87 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	3.77 N/mm <sup>2</sup>
70°C	n/a	1.27 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	2.44 N/mm <sup>2</sup>	2.85 N/mm <sup>2</sup>



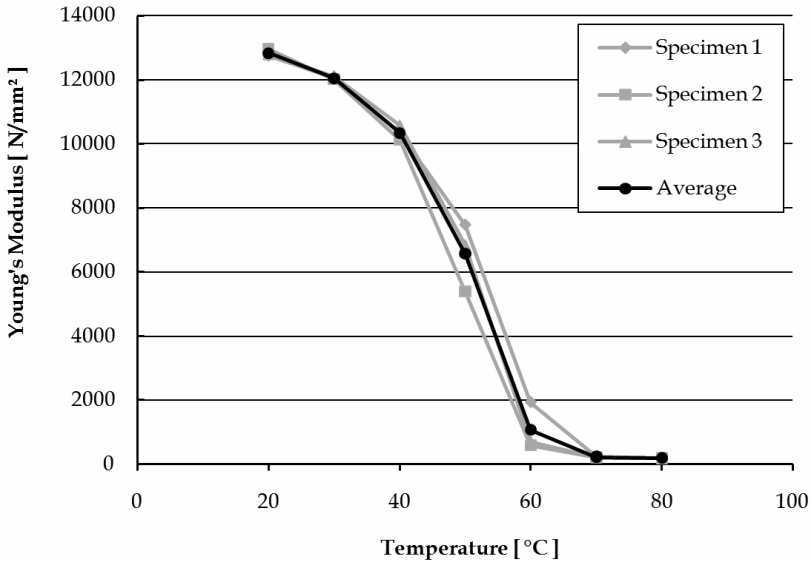


Figure 25: Young's modulus of the adhesive at elevated temperatures [Klamer, 2008]

## 5 Experimental results

### 5.1 Test procedure

The beams were first heated up in the isolated chamber until the entire beam reached the test temperature. This took about 6 hours for the beams tested at 50°C and 30 hours for the beams tested at 70°C. The significant difference in heating time was caused by the fact that heating of the beams was not allowed during night. After heating, the beams were loaded by two hydraulic jacks with a speed of 6.6 kN/min until yielding of the internal steel reinforcement. From that point on, loading speed was reduced to 3.3 kN/min until failure of the beam occurred.

### 5.2 Development of thermally induced strains and stresses

The thermal mismatch between concrete and CFRP will induce strains and stresses in the concrete and CFRP at elevated temperatures. These thermally induced strains and stresses can be determined analytically according to a kinematic model developed by Di Tommaso et al. [2001] (equation 1 and 2). In this model, the FRP is assumed to be supported over its entire length by linear elastic springs that represent the shear stiffness of the concrete adjacent to the laminate. According to Di Tommaso et al. [2001], for full scale beams, a concrete layer of 50 mm can be assumed to contribute to the shear stiffness. The adhesive

layer in between the concrete and the CFRP was not taken into account in the original model. It was decided to expand the original model in such way that the shear stiffness of the adhesive layer is also taken into account in the stiffness of the springs ( $k_G$ ), by introducing the stiffness  $k_{Ga}$ . This gives the opportunity to take the effect of the reduced Young's modulus of the adhesive at elevated temperatures into account.

$$\varepsilon_f(x) = \left[ \frac{\varepsilon_{\Delta T}}{\cosh(\omega \cdot \ell/2)} \cdot \cosh(\omega \cdot x) - \varepsilon_{\Delta T} \right] + \alpha_f \cdot \Delta T \quad [1]$$

$$\tau_c(x) = E_f \cdot t_f \cdot \omega \cdot \frac{\varepsilon_{\Delta T}}{\cosh(\omega \cdot \ell/2)} \cdot \sinh(\omega \cdot x) \quad [2]$$

Where

$$\varepsilon_{\Delta T} = \alpha_c \cdot \Delta T$$

$\alpha_c$  = Coefficient of thermal expansion of the concrete

$$\omega = \sqrt{\frac{k_G}{E_f \cdot t_f}}$$

$$\frac{1}{k_G} = \frac{1}{k_{Gc}} + \frac{1}{k_{Ga}}$$

$$k_{Gc} = \frac{E_c(T)}{2 \cdot (1 + \nu_c) \cdot h_{c,ef}}$$

$E_c(T) = E_c(20^\circ\text{C}) \cdot (1.06 - 0.003 \cdot T)$  (according to Model Code 1990 (CEB, 2003))

$h_{c,ef} = 50 \text{ mm}$  (effective height) or two times the maximum aggregate size

$$k_{Ga} = \frac{E_a(T)}{2 \cdot (1 + \nu_a) \cdot t_a}$$

$E_a(T) = \text{Young's modulus of the adhesive at temperature } T$  (Figure 26)

$t_a = \text{Thickness of the adhesive layer}$

$t_f = \text{Thickness of the FRP laminate}$

$\ell = \text{Length of the FRP laminate}$

$x = \text{Distance from midspan}$

$\alpha_f = \text{Coefficient of thermal expansion of the FRP}$

Figure 26 shows the measured CFRP strains along the length of the laminate and the analytically determined strain distribution according to equation 1 after heating of the

beams up to 50°C for concrete grade C20/25. Similar results were found for C45/55. The indication (I) represent the measurements on the beams that were tested 50°C, while the indication (II) represent the measurements at 50°C on the beams that were later heated up to 70°C.

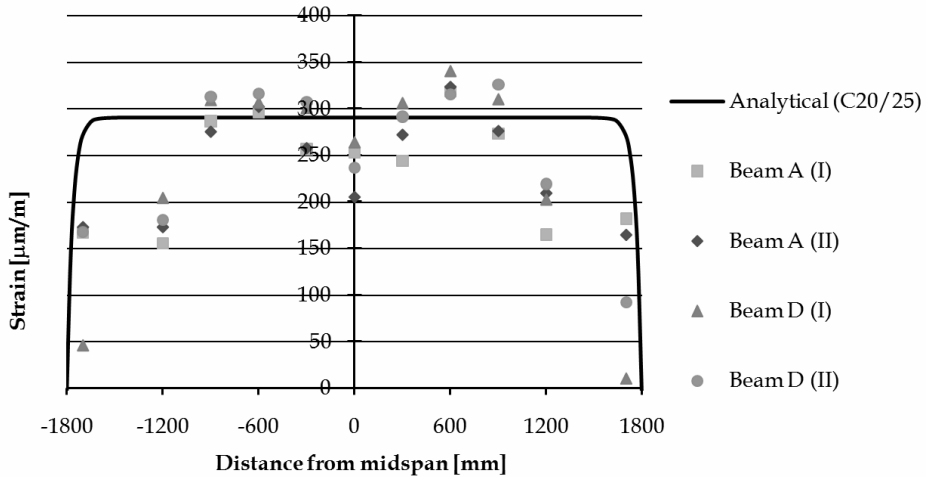


Figure 26: Strains in the CFRP laminate after heating of the beams up to 50°C (C20/25)

It can be seen that there is a similar tendency between the analytical determined strain distribution and the measured CFRP strains. The CFRP strain is reaching to zero close to the plate-end and is almost equal to the thermal expansion of concrete at midspan. However, starting from the plate-end, the CFRP strain builds up in a faster way in the analytical model compared to the strain measured in the experiments. It is expected that this is caused by the time-dependent creep behaviour of the adhesive, which becomes significant at elevated temperature. The thermally induced strain in the CFRP at midspan will cause a tensile stress of  $\sigma_t(50^\circ\text{C}) = 49.5 \text{ N/mm}^2$ , which is far below the tensile strength of the CFRP.

The shear stresses in the concrete along the length of the laminate can be calculated with equation 2, although it is expected that they are overestimated, given the differences in experimental and analytical strain distributions. Figure 27 shows the shear stresses at the plate-end at 50°C and 70°C, both with and without taking the (reduced) Young's modulus of the adhesive layer into account.

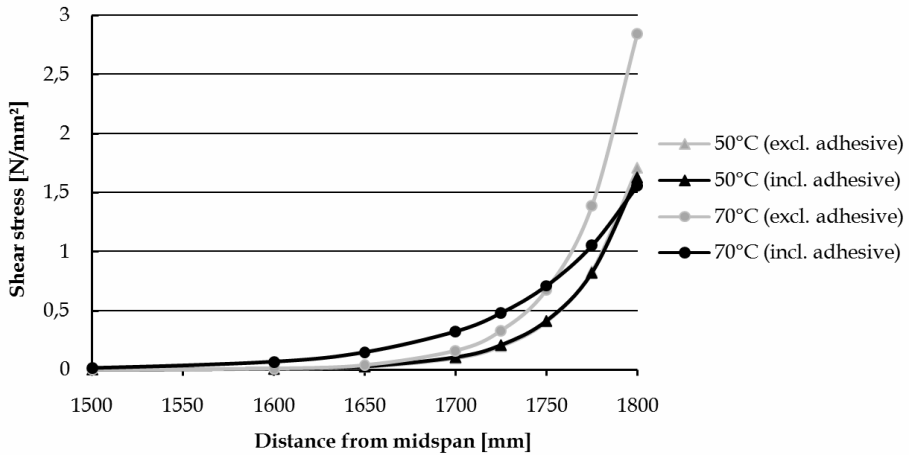


Figure 27: Shear stresses in the concrete near the plate-end after heating of the beams (C20/25)

It can be seen that in the theoretical model, the effect of the reduced Young's modulus of the adhesive layer on the shear stress distribution can be neglected at 50°C. At 70°C, however, the effect of the adhesive layer can not be ignored anymore, due to the extremely low Young's modulus of the adhesive. This will affect the factor  $k_G$  and will therefore reduce the shear stress at the plate-end.

### 5.3 Beam A

The beams that were designed to fail by debonding due to high shear stresses showed hardly any difference in the load-displacement response between the different tested temperatures (Figure 28). The failure load was almost similar for all tested temperatures. When comparing the experimental results to an analytical prediction of the failure load of a similar non-strengthened beam (76 kN) an increase in failure load of 34% was achieved by strengthening of the beam. In all tests, debonding of the externally bonded CFRP seemed to have initiated at a location away from the plate end and propagated towards the plate-end. It was however difficult to indicate the exact location of initiation due to the explosive behaviour of the debonding. At 20°C and 50°C, debonding failure propagated in the concrete, leaving a small layer of concrete remaining attached to the adhesive after debonding. At 70°C, significant less concrete remained attached to the adhesive after debonding, which indicated that debonding was shifting from concrete failure to interfacial failure exactly in the concrete-adhesive interface (Figure 29).

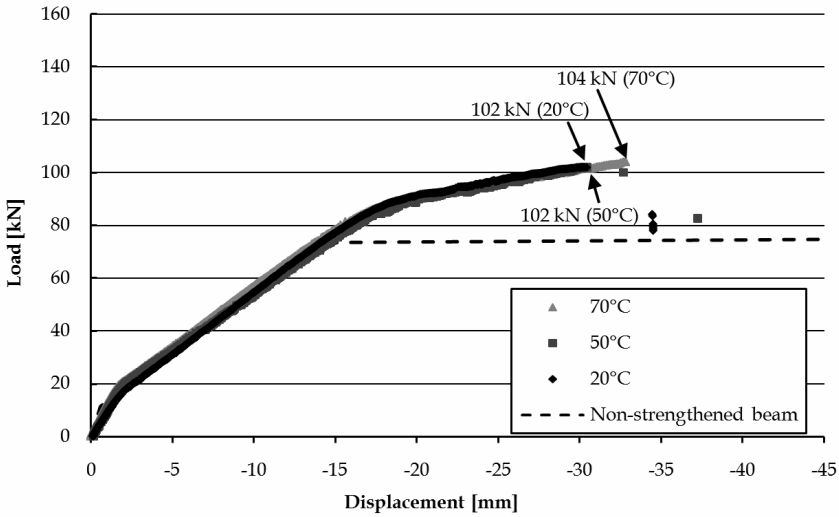


Figure 28: Load-displacement curves for beam A at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C

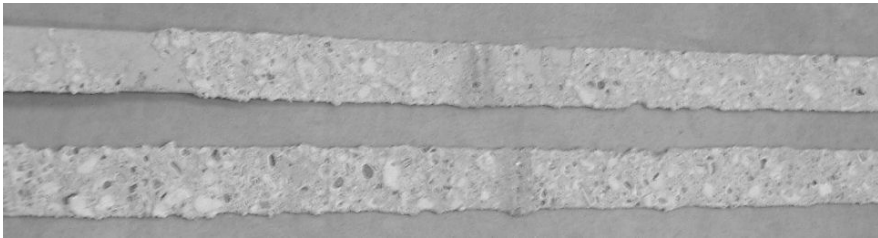


Figure 29: Failure surface after debonding of beam A at 70°C (top) and 20°C (bottom)

It can be concluded that temperature did not significantly affect this debonding mechanism. The effect of the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP, which was affecting the failure load of the small scale bond tests, turned out to be negligible in this situation. This can be easily explained by the fact that thermally induced shear stresses in the concrete will mainly develop near the plate-end, as was shown in Figure 27, and not further away from the plate-end, where debonding was initiated. The expected reduced bond strength of the adhesive did also not affect the failure load, possibly because the reduction was not as significant as in the small scale bond tests, as bond failure at 70°C was still to a large extent governed by failure of the concrete.

#### 5.4 Beam B

The beams that were designed to fail by debonding at shear cracks showed an almost similar load-displacement curve at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C (Figure 30). A slightly lower stiffness was observed with increasing temperature, probably due to the reduced Young's modulus of the adhesive and concrete. The failure load at 50°C was about 10% higher compared to that at 20°C and 70°C. The failure load of the CFRP strengthened beam was 52% higher compared to the (analytical) failure load of a similar non-strengthened beam (79 kN).

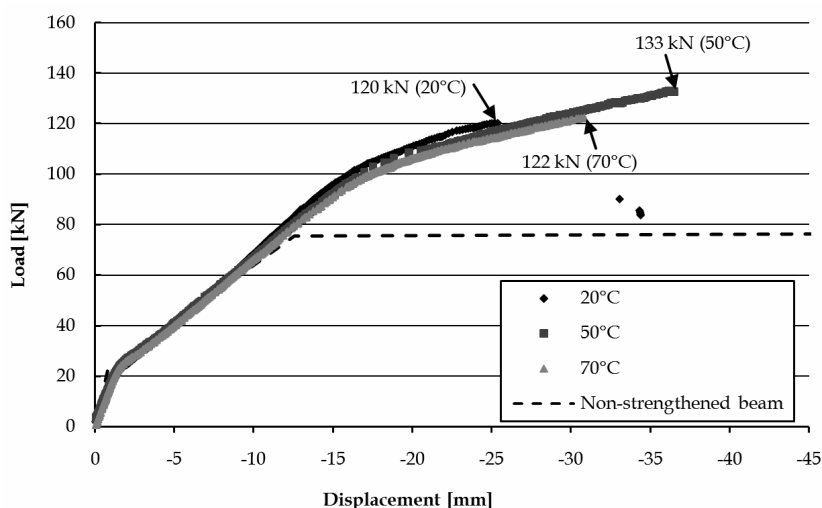


Figure 30: Load-displacement curves for beam B at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C

Debonding of the externally bonded CFRP seems to have initiated at a location away from the plate-end and propagated in the concrete close to the concrete-adhesive interface towards the plate-end, although again, it was difficult to locate the exact location where debonding initiated due to the explosive behaviour.

It was expected that the behaviour at elevated temperature could be explained as follows. The stress concentrations at the tip of a shear crack, due to the relative vertical displacement between both sides of the crack, will be reduced due to the decreasing Young's modulus of the adhesive at elevated temperature. This will postpone the initiation of debonding, resulting in a higher failure load at 50°C. At 70°C, however, the reduced bond strength became more important, resulting in a decreased failure load compared to

the failure load at 50°C. The effect of the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP was expected to be negligible, as these stresses develop at the plate-end, while debonding was initiated at some distance from the plate-end, similar as for beam A.

**5.5 Beam C**

No significant difference was found in the load-displacement curves at 20°C and 50°C for the beams that were designed to fail by debonding at the end anchorage (Figure 31). The beam that was tested at 70°C failed however at a significant lower failure load as soon as yielding of the internal steel reinforcement started. Compared to the analytical failure load of a non-strengthened beam, the failure load at 20°C was increased with 69% by strengthening of the beam.

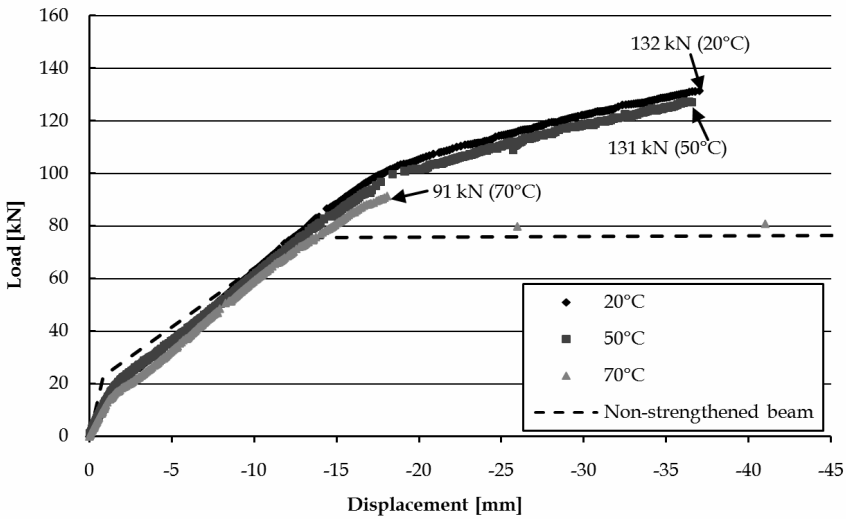


Figure 31: Load-displacement curve for beam C at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C

At 20°C and 50°C, debonding initiated at the plate-end and propagated in the concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface towards midspan, which is the opposite direction as in beams A and B. At 70°C, debonding initially also propagated in the concrete adjacent to the concrete-adhesive interface, but after debonding over about 500 mm, it started to partly rip-off the concrete cover, leaving large pieces of concrete remaining attached to the adhesive (Figure 32).



Figure 32: Large pieces of concrete remained attached to the adhesive after debonding at 70°C

It was expected that the thermally induced stresses due to the difference in the coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP did not significantly affect the debonding behaviour, given the small difference in failure load between 20°C and 50°C, despite the fact that thermal stresses develop at the same location where debonding is initiated. Failure of this beam was expected to be closely related to the capacity of the end anchorage zone. The capacity of this end anchorage zone was expected to be significantly reduced at 70°C, due to the reduced bond strength and Young's modulus of the adhesive. Due to the reduced Young's modulus, stresses in the CFRP will be transferred to the concrete over a longer length, resulting in a longer required anchorage length. It was expected that the available anchorage length was not sufficient and, in combination with the reduced bond strength, had caused the decreased failure load at 70°C.

## 5.6 Beam D

The beams that were designed to fail by concrete cover rip-off showed a slightly different load-displacement behaviour at 20°C, compared to that at elevated temperature (Figure 33). It is expected that the beam at 20°C was already cracked, which explains the longer initial branch of the load-displacement curve. The failure load decreased by 5% at 50°C and 10% at 70°C, both compared to the failure load at 20°C. Compared to the prediction of the failure load of a similar non-strengthened beam, the failure load at 20°C increased with 94% by applying CFRP strengthening.

In all beams the internal steel reinforcement was clearly visible after failure of the beam, which confirms that the beams had failed by concrete cover rip-off (Figure 34). Thermally induced stresses due to the difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP will, for these beams, occur at exactly the same location as the location where debonding initiated. Because the normal strain distribution due to heating of the beam and due to loading of the beam act in the same direction (Figure 36), it can be concluded that



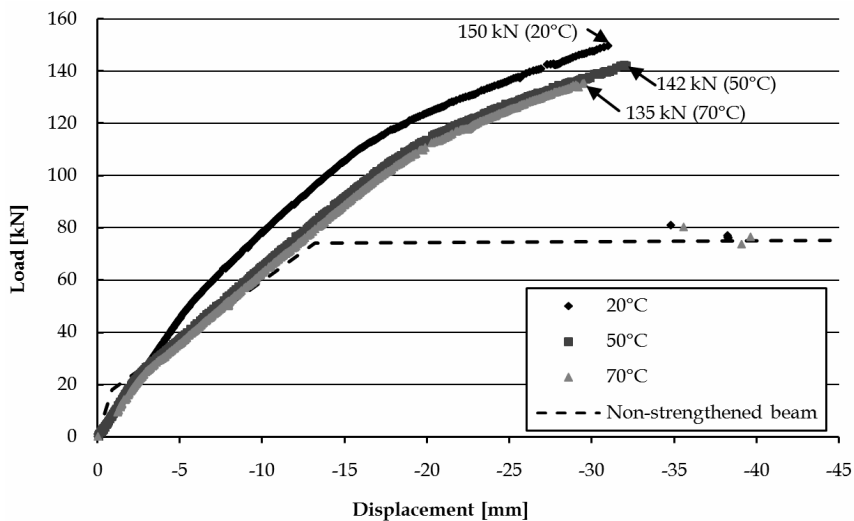


Figure 33: Load-displacement curve for beam D at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C

the thermally induced shear stresses will also act in the same direction and are therefore expected to have negatively affected the failure load. The reduced Young's modulus of the adhesive will however partly reduce the stress concentrations at the plate end, as has been shown in Figure 27. The combined effect on the failure load turned out to be small, as can be seen in Figure 33. The effect of the reduced bond strength does in this case not play a significant role, as failure is governed by failure of the concrete and not by the bond failure near the interface with the adhesive.



Figure 34: Internal steel reinforcement is clearly visible after concrete cover rip-off

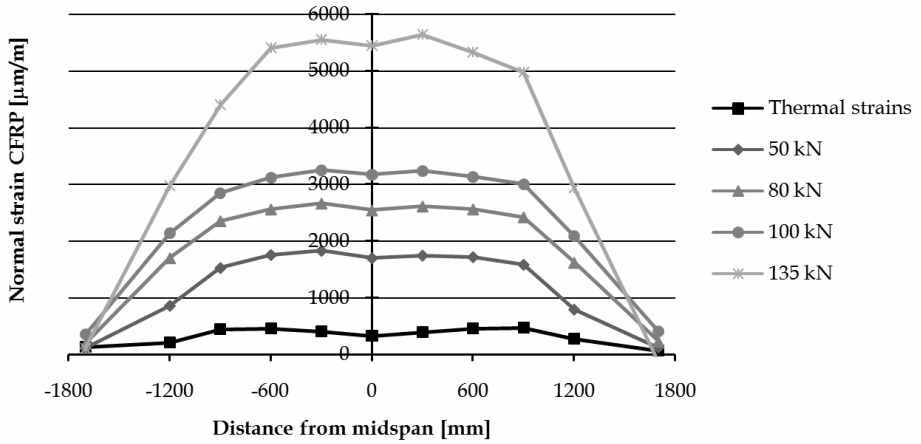


Figure 35: Normal strain in the CFRP laminate due to temperature and due to loading of the beam (70°C)

## 6 Conclusions

### 6.1 Conclusions

In the investigation, four different CFRP-strengthened RC beams that were designed to fail by four different debonding mechanisms have been investigated at 20°C, 50°C and 70°C.

For all the beams tested at 50°C, no change in the type of debonding was observed compared to the beams tested at 20°C. The failure load was also not (significantly) affected at 50°C, compared to room temperature, despite the reduction of the Young's modulus of the adhesive and bond strength of the concrete surface. The significant difference in coefficient of thermal expansion between concrete and CFRP was expected to only have had a small negative effect on the failure load of the beam that failed by concrete cover rip-off, as thermal stresses developed at the same location where failure initiated.

At 70°C, the type of failure changed for only one of the beams. For beam A, debonding failure changed from bond failure in the concrete to failure where significant less concrete remained attached to the adhesive. The failure loads of the beams in which debonding initiated at a location away from the plate-end (beam A and B) were not significantly affected by temperature, as thermal stresses mainly developed at the plate-end and not at a location where debonding was initiated.

The failure load of beam C that failed by debonding at the end anchorage was significantly lower at 70°C compared to room temperature. For this beam, which had a shorter laminate length, debonding was expected to be mainly related to the capacity of the anchorage zone,

which is expected to be negatively affected by both the reduced Young's modulus of the adhesive and the reduced bond strength of the concrete-adhesive joint at 70°C. Beam D, which failed by concrete cover rip-off, was only slightly affected by temperature at 70°C, due to the same reason as at 50°C. The effect on the failure load was however only small, probably due to the positive effect of the reduced Young's modulus and time dependent creep behaviour of the adhesive, which reduces the stress concentrations at the plate-end.

## 6.2 Recommendations

Based on the test results, there is no need to take the effect of temperature into account in the design of a FRP-strengthened structure as long as the temperature stays below 50°C ( $\approx T_g - 10^\circ\text{C}$ ). Strengthening of structures at temperatures above this temperature should be avoided, due to the possible change in type of bond failure and corresponding reduced bond strength. At these temperatures, extra precautions can possibly be taken to avoid premature debonding. One of the possibilities is the application of anchorage which prevents debonding, although further investigation into the effect of temperature on the anchorage should be carried out before applying in practice. It is also possible to choose a different type of adhesive with a higher  $T_g$  or to increase  $T_g$  by post-curing of the adhesive.

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