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PUNCHING CAPACITY OF PRESTRESSED CONCRETE BRIDGE DECKS UNDER FATIGUE

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ABSTRACT

1
2 Previous research showed that the capacity of existing slab-between-girder bridges is larger than
3 expected based on the punching shear capacity prescribed by the governing codes, as a result of
4 compressive membrane action. A first series of fatigue tests confirmed that compressive membrane
5 action also acts under cycles of loading. However, a single experiment in which first a number of
6 cycles with a higher load level and then with a lower load level were applied, seemed to indicate
7 that this loading sequence shortens the fatigue life. This topic was further investigated in a second
8 series of fatigue tests with three static tests and ten fatigue tests. The parameters that were varied are
9 the sequence of loading and the effect of a single or a double wheel print. The results show that the
10 sequence of load levels does not influence the fatigue life.

11
12 **Keywords:** bridge evaluation; compressive membrane action; concrete bridges; fatigue; fatigue
13 testing; laboratory testing; prestressed concrete; punching shear.

INTRODUCTION

In the Netherlands, a large number of existing bridges require assessment (Lantsoght et al., 2013a). Certain bridge types typically do not fulfil the current code requirements. For example, the shear capacity of reinforced concrete slab bridges is often found to be insufficient (Lantsoght et al., 2013b). Similarly, the punching shear capacity according to NEN-EN 1992-1-1:2005 (CEN, 2005) of the slabs in slab-between-girder bridges is often found to be insufficient under the NEN-EN 1991-2:2003 (CEN, 2003) loads. In total, about 70 slab-between-girder bridges in the Netherlands need to be assessed (Koekkoek et al., 2018).

The punching shear capacity expression from NEN-EN 1992-1-1:2005 (CEN, 2005) is an empirical expression that is derived from experiments on slab-column connections (Regan and Braestrup, 1985; Walraven, 2002). These specimens mimic the behavior of slab-column connections in reinforced concrete buildings up to the point of contraflexure in the slab. Most specimens have a small depth and are heavily reinforced to make sure the failure mode in the slab is punching instead of flexure. For punching of bridge decks cast in between concrete girders and subjected to concentrated loads resulting from traffic, the load-carrying behavior differs significantly from slab-column connections. In the slab-between-girder bridges, the short length of the slabs between the prestressed girders results in the activation of compressive membrane action. This effect enhances the load-carrying capacity of the structure.

To incorporate the enhancement from compressive membrane action in the assessment of slab-between-girder bridges, the static and fatigue strength need to be evaluated. A first part of this research program focused on the static strength and the mechanics of compressive membrane action in thin transversely prestressed concrete decks (Amir, 2014; Amir et al., 2016). On the same test setup, exploratory fatigue tests raised concerns with regard to the activation of compressive membrane action under fatigue loading. Therefore, a new deck was cast as part of the original test setup, and a first series of fatigue tests was carried out (Lantsoght et al., in review). These results

1 indicated that compressive membrane action still enhances the punching capacity of slab-between-
2 girder bridges under fatigue loading, but that two parameters needed further study: the effect of the
3 sequence of load level in variable amplitude fatigue tests, requiring the confirmation of the validity
4 of Miner's rule (van Leeuwen and Siemes, 1979) for the studied bridge system, and the effect of a
5 single wheel load versus double wheel loads.

6 This paper presents the results of a second series of experiments on a completely new bridge
7 setup, which differs from the setup used in the first series. These experiments were designed to
8 study the sequence of load levels for variable amplitude loading, and to check if the fatigue life for
9 slab-between-girder decks under fatigue loading with a high load level followed by a lower load
10 level is reduced as compared to the case with a lower load level followed by a higher load level.

11 Experiments on the effect of variable amplitude fatigue loading on structural systems are
12 scarce. For experiments on small copper elements, there is an indication that high-to-low loading
13 levels of variable amplitude loading cannot be represented with Miner's rule, whereas low-to-high
14 loading levels of variable amplitude loading fit Miner's rule (Ghannouri et al., 2011). The validity
15 of these results for concrete structures is questionable. For seismic applications, experimental
16 research found that the effect of variable amplitude loading can be expressed based on damage
17 models (El-Bahy et al., 1999). Constant and variable amplitude fatigue load tests have been used to
18 confirm the performance of concrete bridge deck slabs with glass FRP bars (El-Ragaby et al., 2007)
19 and CFRP bars (Ju et al., 2017). The effect of variable amplitude loading may need to be modelled
20 with nonlinear damage accumulation models (Chen et al., 2018), with their application limited to
21 modelling uniaxial material behavior (Keerthana and Chandra Kishen, 2018). However, given the
22 large scatter on typical fatigue test results of structural systems, such damage accumulation models
23 may not lead to practical results for the validation of the fatigue life of new bridge systems or the
24 study of the fatigue life of existing bridge systems. Therefore, this study will only evaluate if
25 applying the derived Wöhler curve from the first series of experiments is conservative for high-to-

1 low load levels with variable amplitude fatigue loading.

2 The discussion with regard to the effect of the sequence of load levels for variable amplitude
3 loading has a direct practical implication. Originally, for the assessment of existing bridges in the
4 Netherlands, it was assumed that the variations on the load magnitude are limited. Weigh-in-motion
5 measurements, however, showed that on an annual basis 10 to 20 extreme axle loads could be
6 registered. These axles had a load of 350 kN (79 kip), which is almost three times larger than the
7 maximum allowed 120 kN (27 kip).

8

9 **RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE**

10 The presented experiments are unique since they study behavior at the structural level rather than at
11 the member level. These experiments study the influence of different types of variable amplitude
12 loading on the fatigue life, which is not commonly studied on large structural concrete setups.
13 These experiments, together with the first series of fatigue tests on a half-size slab-between-girder
14 bridge, show that compressive membrane action enhances the ultimate capacity of transversely
15 prestressed bridge decks under static and fatigue loading. These results are valuable for the
16 assessment of existing slab-between-girder bridges.

17

18 **PREVIOUS FATIGUE TESTING ON TRANSVERSELY PRESTRESSED CONCRETE** 19 **DECKS**

20 In previous research (Amir, 2014; Amir et al., 2016), the punching capacity of slab-between-girder
21 bridges was studied experimentally in the laboratory on a half-scale specimen modeled after an
22 existing bridge. This same specimen was subjected to four additional static tests, two tests with
23 three cycles per load level, and seven fatigue tests. Five tests were carried out on the original
24 specimen, and eight tests were carried out on a newly cast deck (Lantsoght et al., in review).
25 Punching was the failure mode in all cases.

1 elements of the setup are three ZIP600 prefabricated prestressed concrete girders, two transversally
2 prestressed deck slabs cast in situ between the girders, and two prestressed transverse beams cast in
3 the laboratory, see **Fig. 1**. The overall dimensions of the setup are 12 m (39 ft) \times 4.6 m (15 ft). The
4 main difference with the test setup from the first series is that both the top flange and slabs are cast
5 in the laboratory in these experiments, and that these are cast together resulting in a monolithic
6 deck, whereas for the previous setup only the slabs were cast in between the girders. However, the
7 static tests in the first series (Amir et al., 2016) showed that failure does not occur at the interface
8 between the prefabricated girder and the cast-in-situ slab. This difference is thus expected to be of
9 minor importance.

10 To build the setup, first the prefabricated girders were delivered and placed on the supports,
11 and for lateral stability, temporary supports were provided (**Fig. 2a**). Then, the crossbeams were
12 cast and prestressed, and the temporary supports of the girders were removed. In a last step, the
13 formwork for the top flanges and deck was made (**Fig. 2b**), the reinforcement was placed in the
14 formwork (**Fig. 2c**), the concrete was cast (**Fig. 2d**), and the transverse prestressing applied. **Fig.**
15 **2e** shows an overview of the completed test setup. **Fig. 3** shows the geometry of the cross-section
16 of the prefabricated prestressed girders.

17 **Material properties**

18 The concrete of the crossbeams, deck slab, and top flanges of the girders was cast in the laboratory
19 with concrete delivered by truck mixer. Three batches of concrete were used: one for the
20 crossbeams, and then two at a later date for the deck slab and top flanges. The average cube
21 compressive strength of the concrete of the crossbeams at 149 days was $f_{cm,cube} = 78.3$ MPa (11,356
22 ksi) and the average splitting tensile strength at that age was $f_{sp,m} = 5.2$ MPa (754 psi). The average
23 cube compressive strength of the first cast of the deck and top flanges at 28 days was $f_{cm,cube} = 80.6$
24 MPa (11,690 ksi) and $f_{sp,m} = 6.1$ MPa (885 psi). For cast two, the measured concrete properties at 28
25 days were $f_{cm,cube} = 78.6$ MPa (11,400 psi) and $f_{sp,m} = 6.4$ MPa (928 psi). The measured concrete

1 compressive strength is on average 7% higher than the compressive strength in the first series of
2 experiments (Amir et al., 2016; Lantsoght et al., in review), and the tensile strength is on average
3 12% higher than in the first series. One should consider this difference when comparing the results
4 of the two series of experiments. The measured concrete compressive strength at the age of testing
5 the deck is included in **Table 1** for the static tests and in **Table 2** for the fatigue tests.

6 The properties of the prestressing steel were not tested again for this series of experiments,
7 as the same prestressing bars from the previous setup were reused. The prestressing bars are
8 Y1100H steel, which has a characteristic tensile strength $f_{pk} = 1,100$ MPa (160 ksi). The
9 prestressing steel in the prefabricated girders is Y1860S (prestressing strands), which has a
10 characteristic tensile strength $f_{pk} = 1,860$ MPa (270 ksi).

11 The properties of samples from the mild steel reinforcement were measured. For the bars
12 with a diameter of 8 mm (0.3 in), the average measured yield strength is $f_{ym} = 552$ MPa (80 ksi) and
13 the average tensile strength is $f_{tm} = 641$ MPa (93 ksi). For the 10 mm bars (0.4 in), $f_{ym} = 516$ MPa
14 (75 ksi) and $f_{tm} = 625$ MPa (91 ksi), for the 12 mm bars (0.5 in) $f_{ym} = 527$ MPa (76 ksi) and $f_{tm} = 623$
15 MPa (90 ksi), and for the 16 mm bars (0.6 in) $f_{ym} = 517$ MPa (75 ksi) and $f_{tm} = 612$ MPa (89 ksi).

16 **Reinforcement**

17 The slab and top flanges have mild steel reinforcement (**Fig. 2c**). Since the top flanges serve as part
18 of the prestressed girders and the slab functions as a deck cast in between the girders, there is no
19 continuity of the reinforcement between the slab and top flanges. The reinforcement of the top
20 flange is designed to resist the bending moments caused by the eccentric loading of the top flange.
21 For the deck slabs, only minimum reinforcement with a diameter of 8 mm (0.32 in) at 200 mm (7.9
22 in) on center top and bottom in the 1.05 m (3.4 ft) direction (60 bars top and bottom in total per
23 deck) and 8 mm (0.32 in) at 240 mm (9.4 in) on center top and bottom in the 12 m (39 ft) direction
24 (5 bars top and bottom in total per deck) is provided. **Fig. 4** shows the reinforcement of the slab,
25 top flange, and the connection between the top flange and the prefabricated girder.

1 The cast-in-situ elements (slab and crossbeams) were post-tensioned with unbonded
2 prestressing bars with a center-to-center distance of 400 mm (16 in). The ducts had a diameter of 40
3 mm (1.6 in). The prestressing of the deck results in a compression of 2.5 MPa (363 psi) in the deck.

4 **Instrumentation**

5 Each prestressing bar is equipped with a load cell (37 in total) to verify if the required force is
6 present in each bar, and thus to check if the required transverse prestressing level of 2.5 MPa (363
7 psi) is introduced in the slab as well as the correct force in the crossbeams. Six additional load cells
8 measure the support reactions of the simply supported prefabricated girders. A load cell measures
9 the applied load in the jack, and an LVDT measures the stroke of the jack. Three lasers measure the
10 deflections in the prefabricated girders at the same position as the load. Close to the load, two lasers
11 and two LVDTs measure the deflection of the deck slab. Four horizontally placed LVDTs at the
12 bottom of the slab measure the crack width of selected cracks. The full measurement report
13 (Koekkoek and van der Veen, 2017a) of these experiments contains the detailed drawings for each
14 experiment with the positions of the sensors.

15 **Loading procedure**

16 For the static tests, the load is applied with a monotonic loading protocol. Up to a load level of 100
17 kN (22 kip) the load is applied in steps of 25 kN (6 kip), and for the higher load levels, the load is
18 applied in steps of 50 kN (11 kip). The load is kept constant at each load level to inspect the
19 specimen and mark the cracks, see **Fig. 5a**. The load is applied in a displacement-controlled
20 manner. The size of the loading plate is 115 mm × 150 mm × 20 mm (4.5 in × 5.9 in × 0.8 in),
21 which is a half-scale representation of the wheel print of the super single tire used for checking
22 joints in the Netherlands.

23 For the dynamic tests, the load cycles between a lower value F_{low} and an upper value F_{up}
24 with $F_{low} = 0.10F_{up}$. The loading frequency is 1 Hz. **Fig. 5b** shows the sine wave that is used to
25 apply the dynamic load. The load is applied in a force-controlled manner. The fatigue tests use

1 variable amplitude loading, and the number of cycles per load level were determined before the
2 experiments. If failure did not occur after a large number of cycles for the highest planned load
3 level, then the load was increased and the fatigue test was extended until the slab punched. At 1,000
4 cycles, 10,000 cycles, 100,000 cycles, and multitudes of 500,000 cycles the loading is paused at the
5 maximum load level to measure crack widths and mark the cracks.

6

7

EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

8

Test results and failure modes

9 Each experiment has a unique ID, which starts with FAT (fatigue series) and indicates the test
10 number, if the test is static (S) or dynamic (D), and the number of wheel prints (1 or 2). For
11 example, FAT11D2 is the 11th test of the FAT series, and is a dynamic test using a double wheel
12 print. The test series consists of 13 experiments: 3 static tests and 10 fatigue tests. Of these
13 experiments, 9 use a single wheel print and 4 a double wheel print.

14 **Table 1** summarizes the results of the static tests. In this table, P_{max} is the failure load, $f_{cm,cube}$
15 is the concrete compressive strength at the age of testing the deck, which is shown in the table as
16 well. For all static tests in this series, the failure mode was brittle punching.

17 **Table 2** summarizes the results of the fatigue tests. In this table, F_{up} is the upper level of the
18 sine wave used for the loading as shown in **Fig. 5b**. P_{max} is the failure load in the corresponding
19 static test. N is the number of applied cycles at the given load level F_{up}/P_{max} . The different entries
20 per reported test represent the sequence of the applied load levels. For example, for FAT9D2, first
21 500,000 cycles at $F_{up}/P_{max} = 0.59$ were carried out, and then 209,800 cycles at $F_{up}/P_{max} = 0.65$ were
22 carried out, after which failure occurred. The column “Age” shows the age of the specimen at
23 testing, which is a range for tests that lasted more than a day. The value of $f_{cm,cube}$ is the average
24 cube compressive strength determined at the age of testing the specimen, or the values that
25 correspond with the begin and end age of testing the specimen when the test lasted more than a day.

1 The corresponding static test for FAT2D1, FAT3D1 and FAT4D1 is FAT1S1 (span 1). The
2 corresponding static test for FAT5D1, FAT6D1, FAT12D1 and FAT13D1 is FAT7S1 (span 2). The
3 corresponding static test for FAT9D2 is FAT8S2 (span 2). For FAT10D2 and FAT11D2, no
4 equivalent static test on span 1 is available, but P_{max} is estimated as follows:

$$5 \quad \frac{P_{\max, FAT1S1}}{P_{\max, FAT7S1}} \times P_{\max, FAT8S2} = 570.8kN = 128kip$$

6 The first two fatigue tests, FAT2D1 and FAT3D1 are used to check the difference between
7 the current test setup and the previous test setup (with BB32 as comparable test). Since most of the
8 experiments from the first series of experiments with variable amplitude loading had increasing
9 load levels, the majority of the experiments in the current series have a high load level first
10 (FAT2D1, FAT3D1, FAT5D1, FAT6D1, FAT10D2, FAT11D2). Low to high load levels are only
11 used for FAT4D1 with one wheel load and FAT9D2 with a double wheel print. Experiments
12 FAT12D1 and FAT13D1 use a high value of F_{up}/P_{max} to study low-cycle fatigue. **Fig. 6** gives an
13 overview of the loading positions on the test specimen. The experiments were carried out
14 sequentially, with the date since casting of the deck indicated in **Table 2**.

15 **Resulting S-N curve**

16 To study the presented fatigue experiments, the S-N curve is developed, with $S = F_{up}/P_{max}$ the force
17 ratio and N the number of cycles to failure. Since the variable amplitude experiments used different
18 levels of loading, the results are analyzed in a conservative way. The loading sequence and number
19 of cycles for FAT2D1 is shown in **Table 2**. FAT2D1 was subjected to 3,285,217 cycles in total:
20 100,000 cycles between 24 kN and 240 kN (5.4 kip and 54 kip), then 2,915,123 cycles between 20
21 kN and 200 kN (4.5 kip and 45 kip), then 100,000 cycles between 24 kN and 240 kN (5.4 kip and
22 54 kip), then 150,000 cycles between 26 kN and 260 kN (5.8 kip and 58 kip), and finally 20,094
23 cycles between 28 kN and 280 kN (6.3 kip and 63 kip), at which failure occurred. It is thus
24 conservative to assume that the specimen would have at least resisted 3,285,217 cycles between 20

1 kN and 200 kN (4.5 kip and 45 kip), at least 370,094 cycles between 24 kN and 240 kN (5.4 kip and
2 54 kip), 170,094 cycles between 26 kN and 260 kN (5.8 kip and 58 kip), and 20,094 cycles between
3 28 kN and 280 kN (6.3 kip and 63 kip). This approach results in 28 datapoints from the 10
4 experiments which are used to draw the $S-N$ curve, see **Fig. 7**. The expression of the $S-N$ diagram
5 (average values) is:

$$6 \quad S = -0.064 \log N + 1.011 \quad (2)$$

7 **Sequence of load levels**

8 In the first series of experiments, all experiments had an increasing amplitude when a variable
9 amplitude loading was used except for BB32. In the current series, the majority of the experiments
10 had variable amplitude loading for which first a high load level was applied. The results of BB32
11 seemed to indicate that applying a high load level first reduces the fatigue life. With the results from
12 the current series of experiments, the influence of the sequence of load levels can be studied. For
13 this purpose, the $S-N$ diagram with the results from the high-to-low variable amplitude tests is
14 compared to the diagram with the results from the low-to-high tests, see **Fig. 8**. The resulting
15 expression for the low-to-high experiments is:

$$16 \quad S = -0.062 \log N + 0.950 \quad (3)$$

17 The expression for the high-to-low experiments is:

$$18 \quad S = -0.066 \log N + 1.002 \quad (4)$$

19 As can be seen from these expressions and **Fig. 8**, the influence of the sequence of load levels is
20 negligible. It has thus been shown that there is no reason for concerns (which were raised based on
21 the result of BB32) regarding the influence of the sequence of load levels on the fatigue life. A full
22 description of the analysis of the test results can be found in the analysis report (Koekkoek and van
23 der Veen, 2017b).

24 **Single or double wheel load**

25 Comparing the results of the static experiments can be used to calculate the increased load that can

1 be applied for a double wheel print as compared to a single wheel print. To calculate this value, the
2 results from FAT7S1 and FAT8S2 can be compared, which gives a ratio of 1.64. Combining this
3 result with the ratio of 1.48 from the BB test series gives an average increase of the maximum load
4 with 1.56 for a double wheel print as compared to a single wheel print.

5 To check the relation between testing with a single or double wheel load, the $S-N$ curves of
6 the experiments with a single wheel load and with a double wheel load are represented separately,
7 see **Fig. 9**. **Fig. 7** already indicates that the experimental results for a single and double wheel load
8 follow a similar trend. The resulting $S-N$ relation for the experiments with a single wheel load is
9 (**Fig. 9a**):

$$10 \quad S = -0.066 \log N + 1.026 \quad (5)$$

11 The resulting $S-N$ for the experiments with a double wheel load is (**Fig. 9b**):

$$12 \quad S = -0.045 \log N + 0.885 \quad (6)$$

13 Comparing these expressions and the plots in **Fig. 9** shows that the slope of the experiments with a
14 double wheel print is lower than the slope of the experiments with a single wheel print. The
15 extrapolated value for 1 cycle is lower for the case of a double wheel print than for a single wheel
16 print. However, for the data set of experiments with a double wheel print, no low-cycle fatigue
17 results are available. As such, evaluating the results for a low number of cycles based on the results
18 of the data set of experiments with two wheel prints may not be advisable. For 1 million cycles, S
19 according to Eq. (5) is 0.63 and according to Eq. (6) is 0.62. For the range of cycles that have been
20 tested, the differences between a single wheel load and a double wheel load are thus not important
21 for the evaluation of existing slab-between-girder bridges.

22 **Comparison to previous fatigue experiments**

23 The results of the current series of fatigue FAT tests (28 data points) can be compared to the
24 previous BB series (16 data points). The differences between the data sets are the result of the
25 different values of the concrete compressive strength and differences in the test setup. Comparing

1 Eq. (1) and Eq. (2) shows that the slope of the two expressions is similar, but that the extrapolated
2 value for 1 cycle is higher for the FAT experiments than for the BB experiments. For a general
3 quantification of the effect of fatigue on the punching shear behavior of slab-between-girder
4 bridges, the results from both series can be combined, see **Fig. 10**. The resulting overall $S-N$
5 expression is then:

$$S = -0.062 \log N + 0.969 \quad (7)$$

8 DISCUSSION

9 From Eq. (7) follows that for 1 million cycles the maximum load ratio S is 60%, for 10 million
10 cycles it is 54% and for 100 million cycles 47%. The resulting fatigue strength resulting from the
11 experiments is similar to fatigue tests of structural concrete and the fatigue resistance of concrete
12 under compression. The experiments from the second series result in a slightly longer fatigue life
13 than from the first series. The difference between the series lies in the tested specimen: for the first
14 series the deck was cast in between the girders, whereas for the second series the deck and the top
15 flange of the prefabricated girders were cast in the laboratory. In the second series, the
16 reinforcement ratio in the deck was higher than in the first series because of the larger diameter of
17 the reinforcement bars.

18 The specimen that was test during the first and second series of static and fatigue tests had a
19 center-to-center distance between the girders of 1.8 m (5.9 ft), modeled after an existing bridge with
20 a girder spacing of 3.6 m (11.8 ft). This distance is the largest girder spacing for slab-between-
21 girder bridges in the Netherlands, and results in the largest slenderness ratio (15.7) of this subset of
22 bridges. Since for other bridges the spacing is smaller and the resulting slenderness is smaller, it is
23 conservative to extrapolate the results of this most unfavorable case to the rest of the subset of slab-
24 between-girder bridges.

25 In general, the results indicate that under fatigue loading, compressive membrane action can

1 still enhance the capacity of slab-between-girder bridges. As such, the enhancement from
2 compressive membrane action can be taken into account for the assessment of slab-between-girder
3 bridges.

4

5 **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS**

6 For static loading, compressive membrane action enhances the punching shear capacity of slab-
7 between-girder bridges. Previous research studied whether or not compressive membrane action
8 also enhances the capacity of such structures under fatigue loading. From these experiments, some
9 concerns were raised regarding the sequence of loading in variable amplitude fatigue tests, and on
10 the effect of a single wheel print versus a double wheel print.

11 A half-scale model of a slab-between-girder bridge was built in the laboratory. In this series
12 of experiments, prefabricated inverted T girders were used, and the top flange of the girders as well
13 as the deck slab were cast in the laboratory. This arrangement is different from the first series of
14 experiments for which the full prestressed girder was prefabricated and only the deck slab was cast
15 in between the girders in the laboratory. Comparing the results of the two series of experiments
16 shows that the overall structural behavior of both specimens is comparable and that the resulting
17 datapoints can be studied together.

18 On the new test setup, 13 experiments were done: 3 static tests and 10 fatigue tests, of which
19 2 tests with low-cycle fatigue. For 9 experiments a single wheel print was used and for 4
20 experiments a double wheel print. The failure mode for all experiments was punching shear, as also
21 observed in the first series of experiments and the corresponding static tests that explored the effect
22 of compressive membrane action in slab-between-girder bridges.

23 The conclusions from these new experiments are that the influence of the sequence of load
24 levels for variable amplitude fatigue tests is not important. The concerns with regard to the effect of
25 cycles with a high level loading before cycles with low level loading are thus not confirmed with

1 these experiments. For experiments with a double wheel load overall similar behavior was found as
2 for experiments with a single wheel load. The maximum load for the case with a double wheel load
3 is 1.56 times the maximum load for the case with a single wheel load.

4 The new experiments confirm the first series of experiments. The resulting $S-N$ curve that
5 can be used for transversely prestressed decks in slab-between-girder bridges is:

$$6 \quad S = -0.062 \log N + 0.969$$

7 Ultimately, these experiments confirm that compressive membrane action enhances the punching
8 capacity of transversely prestressed decks in slab-between-girder bridges, and that the concerns
9 with regard to possible loss of this mechanism are unfounded.

10

11

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15

NOTATION

1		
2	$f_{cm,cube}$	average measured cube concrete compressive strength
3	f_{pk}	tensile strength of prestressing steel
4	$f_{sp,m}$	average measured concrete splitting strength measured on cubes
5	f_{tm}	tensile strength of reinforcement steel
6	f_{ym}	yield strength of reinforcement steel
7	F_{low}	the lower load level in the fatigue tests
8	F_{up}	the upper load level in the fatigue tests
9	N	number of cycles
10	P_{max}	failure load
11	S	ratio between applied load and failure load
12		

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2

3

4

TABLES AND FIGURES

1

2 List of Tables

3 Table 1 – Overview of static tests. Conversion: 1 kN = 0.225 kip, 1 MPa = 145 psi

4 Table 2 – Overview of fatigue tests. Conversion: 1 kN = 0.225 kip, 1 MPa = 145 psi

5

6 **Table 1 – Overview of static tests. Conversion: 1 kN = 0.225 kip, 1 MPa = 145 psi**

Test number	P_{max} (kN)	Age (days)	$f_{cm,cube}$ (MPa)
FAT1S1	347.8	94	82.2
FAT7S1	393.7	240	88.8
FAT8S2	646.1	245	88.6

7

8 **Table 2 – Overview of fatigue tests. Conversion: 1 kN = 0.225 kip, 1 MPa = 145 psi**

Test number	F_{up} (kN)	F_{up}/P_{max}	N	Age (days)	$f_{cm,cube}$ (MPa)
FAT2D1	240	0.69	100,000	102 - 144	82.6 - 84.6
	200	0.58	2,915,123		
	240	0.69	100,000		
	260	0.75	150,000		
	280	0.81	20,094		
FAT3D1	240	0.69	200,000	149 - 168	84.9 - 85.8
	200	0.58	1,000,000		
	240	0.69	100,000		
	260	0.75	300,000		
	280	0.81	6,114		
FAT4D1	200	0.58	1,000,000	169 - 190	85.8 - 86.8
	240	0.69	200,000		
	260	0.75	100,000		
	280	0.81	63,473		
FAT5D1	280	0.71	10,000	192 - 217	91.6 - 89.6
	200	0.51	1,000,000		
	240	0.61	100,000		
	260	0.66	1,000,000		
	280	0.71	1,424		
FAT6D1	280	0.71	10,000	219 - 239	89.6 - 88.8
	200	0.51	1,000,000		
	240	0.61	100,000		
	280	0.71	160,000		
	200	0.51	410,000		
	280	0.71	26,865		
FAT9D2	380	0.59	500,000	246 - 255	88.5 - 88.2

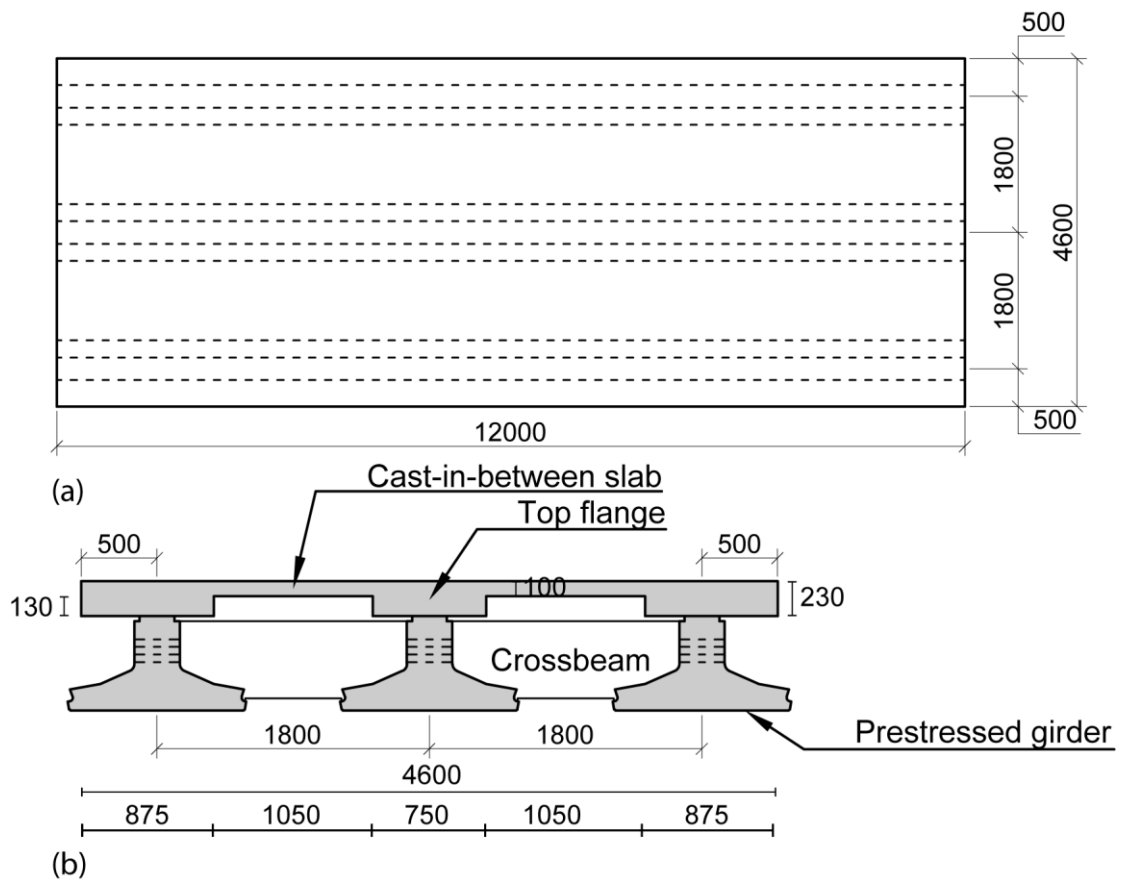
	420	0.65	209,800		
FAT10D2	360	0.63	100,000	260 – 284	90.2 – 91.3
	320	0.56	1,000,000		
	360	0.63	950,928		
FAT11D2	380	0.67	100,000	288 – 315	91.5 – 92.8
	340	0.60	1,000,000		
	380	0.67	1,100,000		
	420	0.75	1,720		
FAT12D1	350	0.89	30	318	85.9
FAT13D1	340	0.86	38	319	85.8

1

2

1 **List of Figures**

- 2 Fig. 1–Geometry of specimen: (a) top view showing three prestressed girders and two deck panels;
3 (b) side view showing section of the slab-between-girder structural system. All units are mm.
4 Conversion: 1 mm = 0.04 in, 1 m = 3.3 ft.
- 5 Fig. 2–Construction of test setup: (a) Prefabricated prestressed girders, with lateral support system;
6 (b) formwork of the slab and top flanges of the girders; (c) reinforcement of the slab and top flanges
7 of the girders; (d) casting of the slab and top flanges of the girders; (e) complete test setup, with
8 loading frame and instrumentation.
- 9 Fig. 3–Prefabricated prestressed girder. Dimensions in mm. Conversion: 1 mm = 0.04 in.
- 10 Fig. 4–Reinforcement details of slab, top flange, and connection between prefabricated girder and
11 top flange cast in the laboratory. Dimensions in mm. Conversion: 1mm = 0.04 in.
- 12 Fig. 5–Loading protocol for fatigue series: (a) static loading; (b) excerpt from dynamic loading.
- 13 Fig. 6–Position of experiments and numbering of transverse prestressing bars in the deck slab.
- 14 Fig. 7- Resulting *S-N* curve of FAT series of experiments, showing average *S-N* relation as well as
15 5% lower and 95% upper bound values. 1W is used for experiments with a single wheel print and
16 2W for the experiments with a double wheel print.
- 17 Fig. 8–Influence of loading sequence on *S-N* curve.
- 18 Fig. 9–Influence of type on loading on *S-N* curve: (a) single wheel print results; (b) double wheel
19 print results.
- 20 Fig. 10–Resulting *S-N* curve from the combination of BB and FAT fatigue experiments.

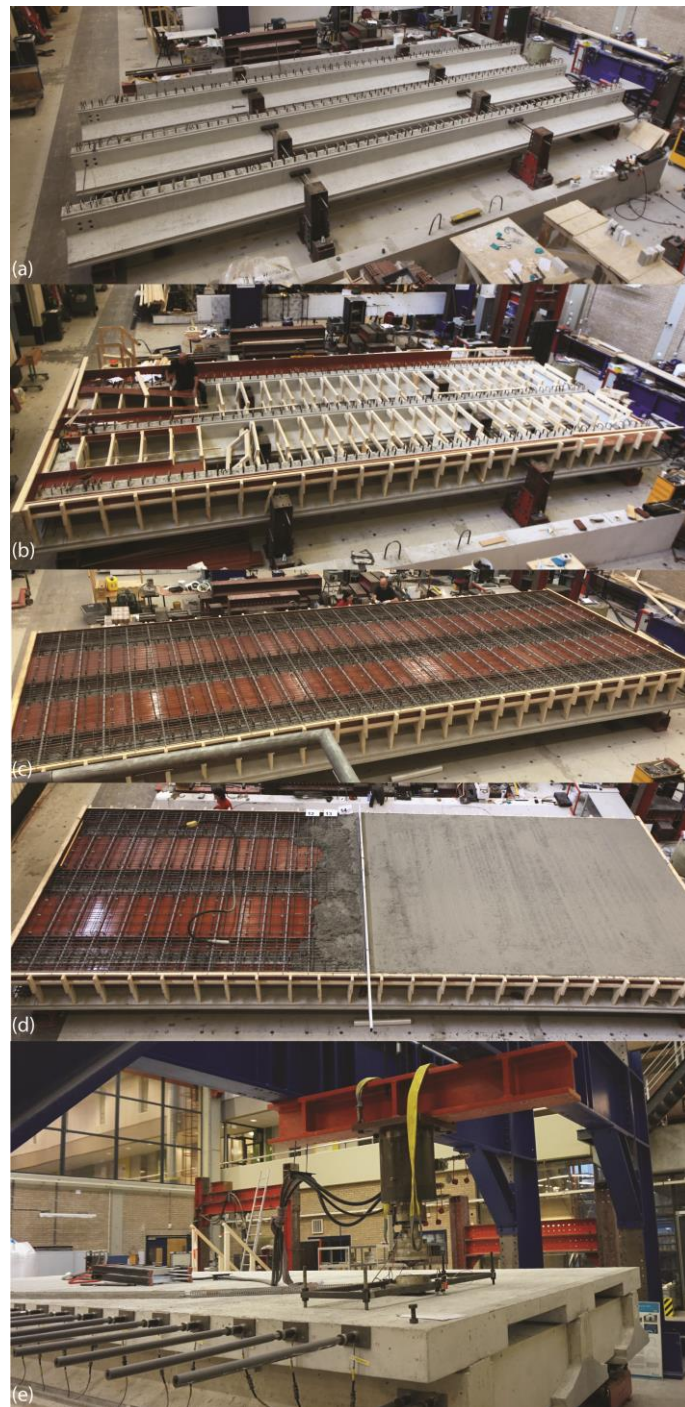


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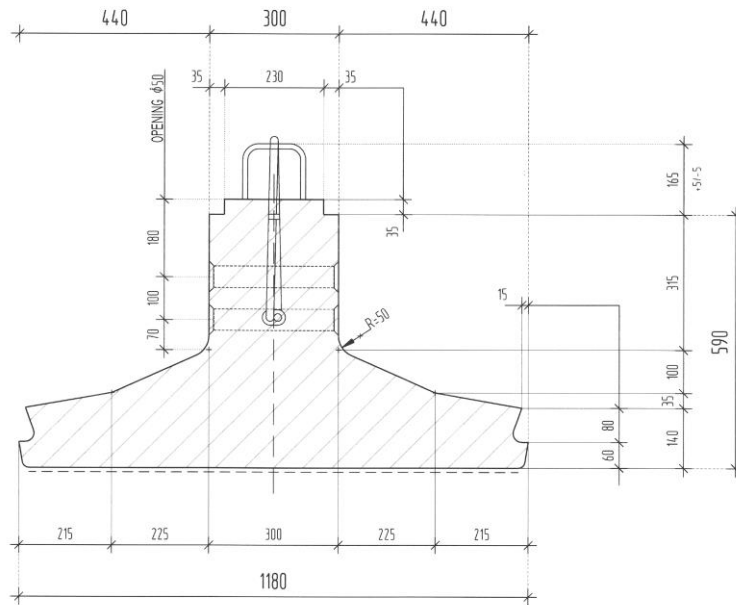
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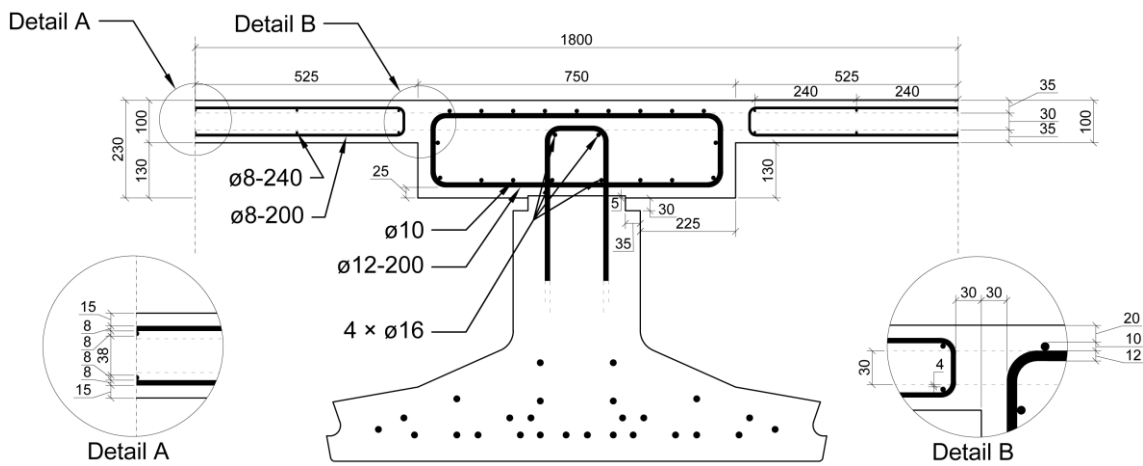
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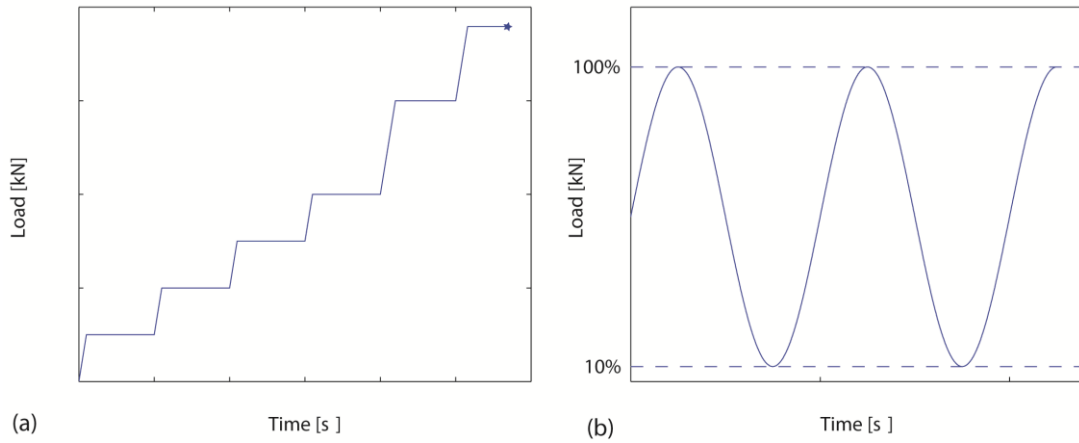
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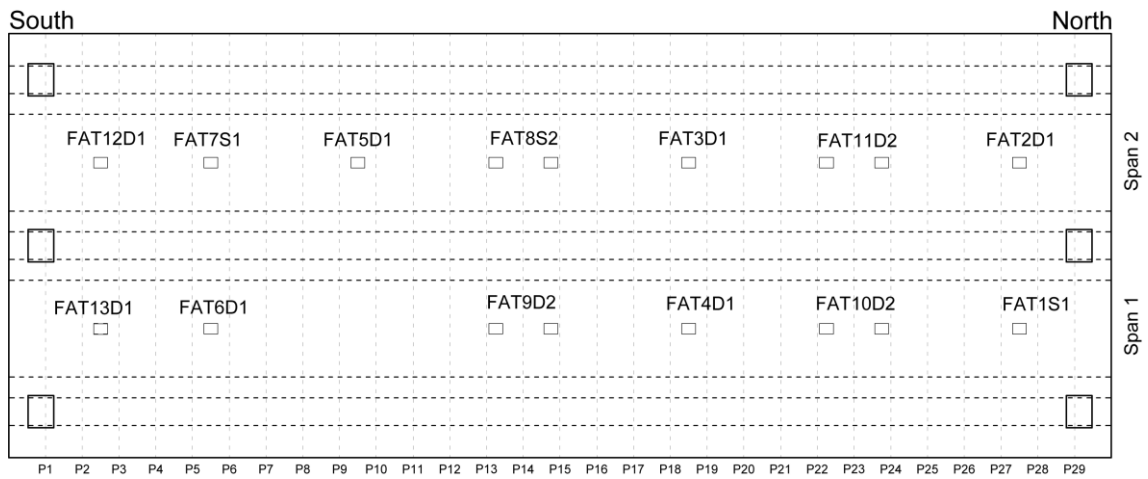


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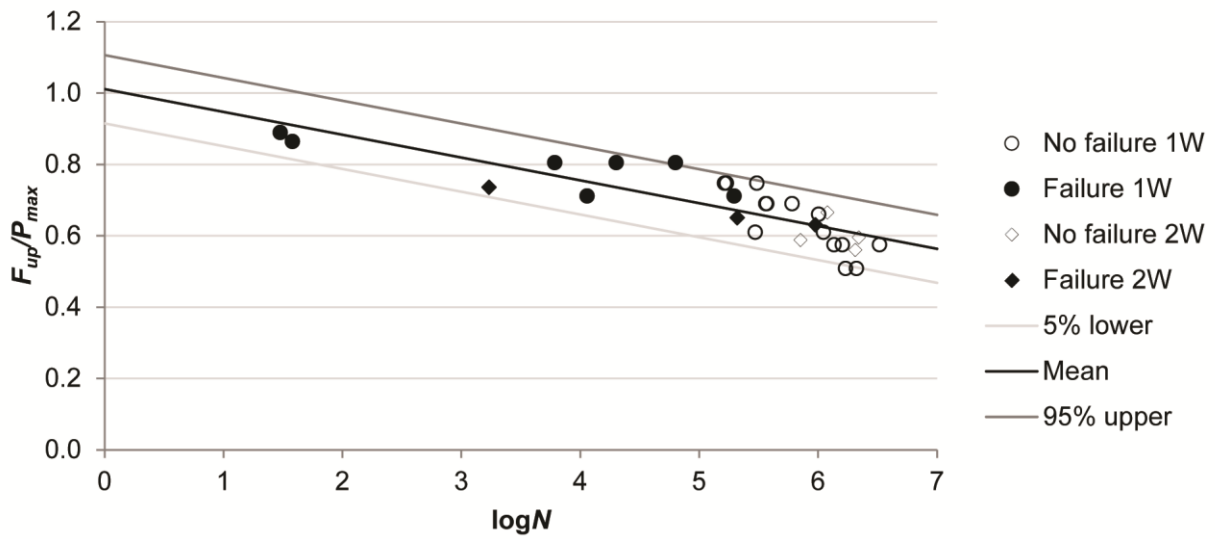


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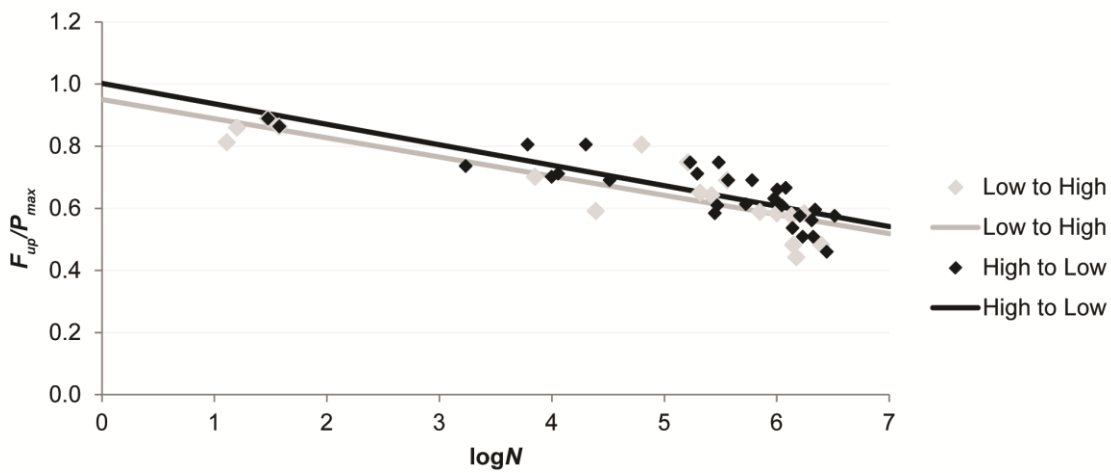
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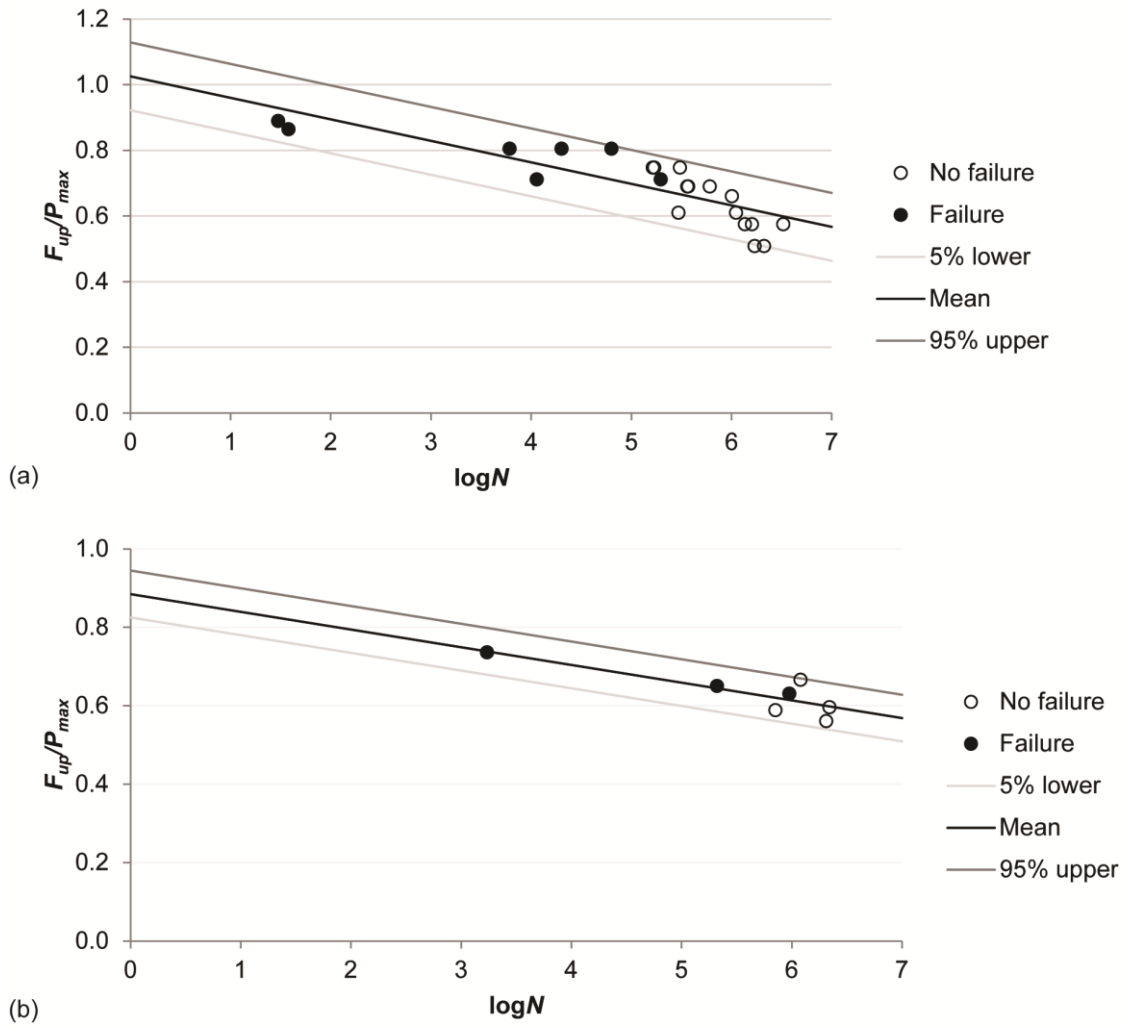
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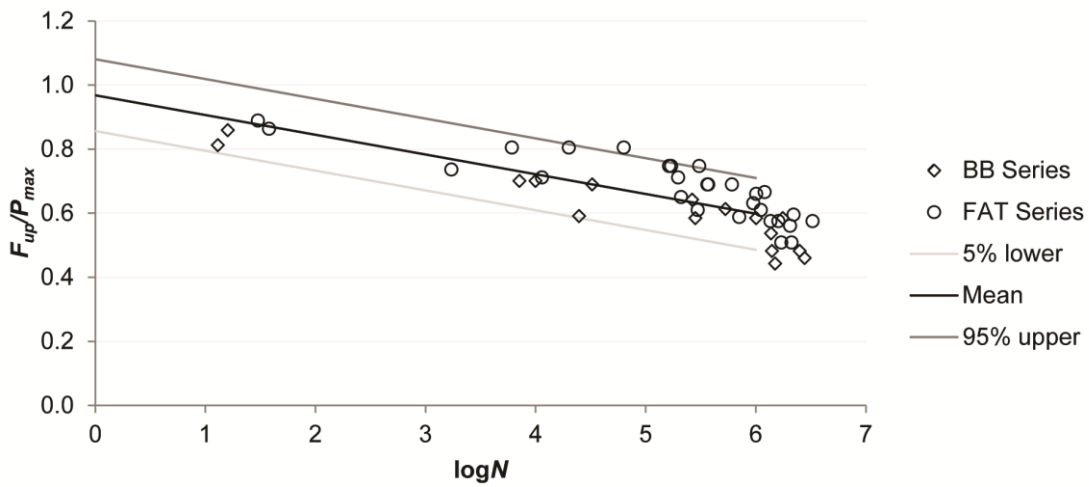
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