

# **In-plane shear cyclic behavior of windowed masonry walls reinforced with Textile Reinforced Mortars**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The current experimental study is focused on the mechanical performance of masonry walls under in-plane cyclic shear forces. All specimens were fabricated with a central window, in which the geometry considered the recommendations of the Spanish structural seismic design code. Windows represent a weak area in the masonry structure, in which there are stress concentrations responsible for crack initiation. In order to improve the mechanical strength and ductility, a reinforcement with a Textile Reinforced Mortar (TRM) was used on both sides of the wall. The performance of the unreinforced and reinforced masonry has been discussed in terms of strength and ductility gain, stiffness degradation and energy dissipation capacity. The experimental tests comprised an initial vertical preload, and shear cycles with increasing amplitude. All tests were monitored by means of traditional displacement transducers, and digital image correlation. The analysis of the images showed the time evolution of the overall crack distribution. The TRM effect could be observed as an increase of the mechanical strength (maximum shear from 120 kN to more than 300 kN), higher displacements (drift from 9 to 35 mm), and more energy dissipation (the cumulative energy loss from 2.7 to 12.7 kN·m). In addition, the TRM reinforcements were capable of controlling the crack initiation and growth. The widespread crack along mortar joints observed in the

25 unreinforced masonry became localized cracks (from the window's corners mainly), in  
26 which crack growth direction was not determined by masonry joints.

27 **Keywords:** Cyclic loads; masonry; Textile Reinforced Mortar (TRM); Fiber Reinforced  
28 Cementitious Matrix (FRCM); Digital Image Correlation (DIC).

## 29 **1. Introduction**

30 Masonry buildings are a traditional structural system, which can be found today as the  
31 constructive solution for new buildings or as heritage constructions, sometimes in seismic  
32 areas [1,2]. However, these structures usually present high seismic vulnerability due to  
33 their low tensile strength and the lack of reinforcement materials [3,4]. In particular, the  
34 most popular masonry structural system is the masonry wall, and it shows different  
35 behavior under in-plane or out-plane loads [5]. The seismic performance of masonry walls  
36 can be evaluated by means of their in-plane shear behavior, in which the usual failure  
37 modes are toe crushing, sliding, rocking and diagonal cracking [6,7].

38 Different external reinforcements can be used in order to reduce the seismic vulnerability  
39 of unreinforced masonry walls (URM) [8], for example composite materials, such as fiber  
40 reinforced polymers (FRP) [9,10]. The interest in these FRP solutions is focused on their  
41 low influence in the structural dynamic properties in addition to the mechanical capacity  
42 improvement, and both of them with a negligible increment of the structure's weight.  
43 However, FRPs also present some drawbacks related to high temperature exposure, FRP-  
44 masonry bonding in wet surfaces, or water permeability problems. Stratford et al. [11]  
45 presented some results of in-plane cyclic load tests, in which the FRP modified the crack  
46 patterns of masonry walls, but the FRP reinforced walls showed some FRP-masonry  
47 delamination. Different European laboratories have addressed this delamination issues by

48 means of changing the resin matrix for another polyurethane based with five different  
49 types of reinforcement materials (glass, basalt, carbon or steel composites) [12].

50 Recently, Textile Reinforced Mortars (TRM) appeared as an alternative for the seismic  
51 retrofitting of URM walls [13,14]. These materials comprise a fiber mesh (glass, carbon  
52 or basalt) and a cement mortar with different additives for higher ductility. The main  
53 advantage of TRM is a better compatibility with masonry, which could avoid the  
54 aforementioned bonding or permeability issues. In addition, TRM can also improve  
55 masonry's strength and ductility [13]. Nevertheless, the efficiency of all these external  
56 reinforcements relies on the strain compatibility between all the elements involved  
57 (masonry substrate, matrix and fiber mesh), typical TRM failure comprise debonding or  
58 fiber slippage [15], hence specific measures should be taken to test the bonding  
59 compatibility of each particular solution [16].

60 For the seismic vulnerability of masonry wall structures, the key variables are their cyclic  
61 behavior, the stiffness' variation and energy dissipation, besides the mechanical  
62 properties of the material itself [17]. The effectiveness of TRM on these properties has  
63 been assessed in small masonry specimens [18] or full-scale masonry walls [19]. For  
64 example, TRM seemed to provide a significant improvement of masonry's strength and  
65 deformability [18]. However, in terms of strength gain, TRM solutions presented less  
66 efficiency, 65-70%, with respect to similar configurations made in FRP. Nonetheless,  
67 TRM was more effective than FRP for deformability enhancement, about 15-30% higher.  
68 Another study reported the effect of a continuous reinforcement in masonry's in-plane  
69 shear response [20]. TRM could effectively prevent diagonal cracks and shear failure,  
70 and the problems of masonry elements reinforced with FRP could be avoided.

71 The main objective of the current study is the evaluation of a TRM reinforcement for the  
72 purpose of seismic performance enhancement of masonry walls. There are several studies  
73 regarding the in-plane shear behavior of massive masonry walls, in which different  
74 dimensions and vertical preloads are combined [19,21]. However, there is less  
75 information regarding TRM solutions in walls with different openings, which represent  
76 weak elements in masonry structures. Therefore, the objective of this research was aimed  
77 at the evaluation of the cyclic behavior of unreinforced and reinforced masonry windowed  
78 walls. Their performance has been discussed in terms of strength and ductility gain,  
79 stiffness degradation and energy dissipation capacity. Finally, the influence of TRM on  
80 crack development, generated by in-plane shear cycles, was monitored by means of  
81 traditional displacement transducers and Digital Image Correlation (DIC) analysis. DIC  
82 technique has been applied to control crack location and growth along the whole surface  
83 of specimens [22].

## 84 **2. Materials and methods**

85 In this research two brick masonry walls were fabricated and tested under in-plane  
86 cyclic loads to assess their behavior in case of seismic events. One of them was  
87 previously reinforced with TRM to evaluate its reinforcement capacity. Fig. 1.a shows  
88 the general geometry of the masonry walls. Their dimensions (length x height x  
89 thickness) were 3x2x0.24 m, and presented a central window of 1x0.8 m. The window  
90 was constructed with an upper lintel, 1.5 m long, composed by three timber beams with  
91 a 150 x 75 mm<sup>2</sup> cross section. This geometry was designed according to the  
92 recommendations in the Spanish seismic structural design code NCSE-02 [23]. Masonry  
93 was fabricated with clay bricks and lime mortar. The brick's dimensions were  
94 230x110x55 mm, and had 15 MPa compressive strength and 1550 kg/m<sup>3</sup> density

95 (according to the supplier). The compressive strength of the lime mortar of the joints  
96 was measured in six  $4 \times 4 \times 16 \text{ cm}^3$  specimens, for a 120 days value of  $9.2 \text{ MPa} (\pm 6.8\%)$ ,  
97 it should have a compressive strength  $>7.5 \text{ MPa}$  according to the supplier.

98 In order to improve the wall's behavior under cyclic loads a Textile Reinforced Mortar  
99 (TRM) layer was applied to both  $3 \times 2 \text{ m}^2$  surfaces. This TRM was made with a Glass  
100 Fiber Mesh (see main properties in Table 1) in a fiber reinforced mortar (56 days  
101 compressive strength of  $14.1 \text{ MPa} \pm 1.7\%$ ). Two orientations were combined in the  
102 reinforcement as defined in Fig. 2. The whole surface was reinforced with a continuous  
103 mesh oriented in the wall's main directions ( $0^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ ), while the four corners, where  
104 cracks were expected, counted with an additional mesh in the tensile stress principal  
105 direction ( $\pm 45^\circ$ ). 20 cm overlaps were considered between two meshes in the same  
106 orientation.

107 Fig. 3 includes a general view of two tested specimens with all the auxiliary elements to  
108 apply the vertical preload and the lateral in-plane cyclic force. The experimental set up  
109 is shown in Fig. 1(b) and (c), in which horizontal loads were applied to point D using a  
110 hydraulic loading cell with a maximum capacity of 750 kN. A vertical load (150 kN)  
111 was applied using four Dywidag 32 before the beginning of the tests to simulate the  
112 weight of a three stories high building. Each Dywidag was monitored with a strain gage,  
113 in order to control the vertical preload of the test, and register the possible variability of  
114 the vertical load when lateral forces were applied. Different steel beams and cylinders  
115 were used to allow different displacements between the wall's drift and the upper  
116 loading devices. The shear force transmission was made with two steel plates located at  
117 the left and right sides of the wall, points A and D in Fig. 1(c), both of which were  
118 connected by four steel bars ( $\phi 20$ ). These bars did not work in push cycles, as the force

119 was directly applied to point D. However, in pull cycles, load was transferred to point  
120 A, and the bars were tensioned. Therefore, the displacement of the actuator that  
121 controlled the loading rate and cycle's amplitude included the elongation of the  
122 tensioned bars. This difference between push and pull cycles was the reason of the  
123 asymmetry in the wall's behavior, as will be shown in the discussion section. Moreover,  
124 no specific measures were taken to avoid the rotation of the head of the wall during the  
125 test. Therefore, the unreinforced wall may have experienced some flexural effect,  
126 causing the crack initiation near the base, as will be discussed in detail later. The  
127 displacement rate was fixed during the whole test and the drift amplitude was  
128 progressively increased. Each amplitude was repeated once before passing to the next  
129 loading step.

130 Four LVDTs were attached to the structure to register crack openings, and horizontal  
131 displacements (in the base, B, and the top, D). The opposite side was monitored with a  
132 Digital Image Correlation (DIC) system. DIC is a non-contact optical technique used for  
133 measuring strain and displacement [24]. The position of each object point in the image  
134 can be identified by applying a correlation algorithm using a stochastic intensity pattern  
135 (speckle) on the object surface. Using this technique, deflections, axial deformations,  
136 local strains and crack patterns can be determined. The resolution of the DIC is related  
137 to the pixel density of the camera, the size of the area of interest and the quality of the  
138 speckle.

139 For the current DIC measures, a 16 MP camera and the GOM Correlate software [25]  
140 were used. The software was used to process the images and obtain the field of  
141 displacements of one side of the wall. This system was previously tested on FRCM direct  
142 tensile tests and masonry wallets in diagonal tension tests[26]. Only one camera was used

143 because the out-of-plane displacement is considered negligible compared to the in-plane  
144 components. A crucial step is the creation of the stochastic pattern (Fig. 4.a). In order to  
145 optimize the analysis, the perfect contrast in the images was improved by painting in  
146 white the walls before applying the black speckle [24]. Fig. 4.b shows the good agreement  
147 between DIC and LVDT systems in this study.

### 148 **3. Results and discussion**

149 Two windowed masonry walls were tested under in-plane cyclic loads to evaluate the  
150 efficiency of a TRM reinforcement as an alternative for the seismic reinforcement of  
151 masonry buildings. The following results have been analyzed considering several  
152 aspects such as ductility, properties' degradation or cracking evolution. Table 2  
153 summarizes the main results of both specimens, which will be specifically discussed in  
154 each of the following subsections.

#### 155 **3.1 Hysteretic response**

156 The mechanical behavior of the specimens was evaluated by the relationship between  
157 loads and the displacements of the upper part of the wall. In this case, displacements  
158 have been represented as the drift, i.e. the difference between the lateral movements of  
159 the upper and lower part of the wall. Figure 5 shows the hysteresis cycles for the  
160 specimens up to an interval displacement of -35 and 30 mm for a reinforced wall (TRM-  
161 W), and -9 and 9 mm for an unreinforced wall (U-W). The similarity and symmetry of  
162 the displacements in both directions should be pointed out here. The drift amplitudes in  
163 the unreinforced wall were lower. However, for a 9 mm drift the damage detected could  
164 compromise the overall stability. Hence, the incremental cycles were changed for  
165 pushover tests at the same constant displacement rate.

166 The initial response of both structures was similar, but the U-W rapidly degraded after  
167 cracks initiated. On the other hand, the TRM-W could still resist higher loads and  
168 displacements beyond the U-W failure. On average, the maximum loads reached by the  
169 TRM-W at the end of the test were 204% higher than their U-W counterparts (see Fig.  
170 5). In addition, the TRM seemed to increase the energy dissipation capacity, which  
171 could be seen as a greater ductility.

### 172 **3.2 Envelopes and mechanical performance**

173 Fig. 6 shows the load vs drift envelope curves for both walls, considering the maximum  
174 response of each cycle. In this case, the change of the stiffness could be obtained as the  
175 load/drift ratio. Although U-W and TRM-W specimens had very different behavior,  
176 both specimens showed similar mechanical performance in both drift directions.

177 The unreinforced wall, U-W, could resist a maximum 120 kN load, and a -9 mm drift.  
178 Higher displacements produced a behavioral change. Specially, during the pushover  
179 cycles U-W specimen behaved as two independent structures because after a 9 mm push  
180 and pull a horizontal crack all along the wall's section had been generated. Therefore,  
181 both parts were detached, the upper mid wall continued moving, while the lower part  
182 remained still, hence the crack widened but the rest of the structure wasn't anymore  
183 damaged. For this reason, after a  $\pm 9$  mm drift, cycles were changed to pushover tests.

184 The U-W envelope curve in Fig, 6, after -9 mm, shows that the load remained relatively  
185 constant with only a small increase (133 kN, 9.7 % of the failure load that was 120 kN)  
186 as the imposed drift increased. It could be due to overcoming the friction between the two  
187 wall sub-structures, which could increase due to restrains imposed by vertical load to  
188 avoid the separation of both parts of the wall. Finally, the drift at the end of the test was  
189 around -35 mm. After this first pushover test, another one in the pull direction was made

190 with similar behavior. However, in this case there was a load increase with respect to the  
191 maximum values of 120 kN and 9 mm, which were reached during cyclic loading. This  
192 increase may have been due to overcoming the friction between both parts of the wall,  
193 but it may also be related to the wedge effect produced by the failure surface of the first  
194 push-over. In U-W specimen, failure occurs mainly in a surface following the mortar  
195 joints between bricks. Failure in push direction implied a stepped surface that gradually  
196 opened. However, when pushover was made in the contrary direction, this gap in the  
197 stepped surface closed again, increasing the strength of the wall and the load value.  
198 On the other hand, specimen TRM-W showed maximum loads and drifts of 300 kN and  
199 -33 mm (push), and -360 kN and 30 mm (pull). These values prove the effect of the two  
200 TRM layers on the mechanical performance of the masonry wall, which can be  
201 summarized as follows:

- 202 • Both specimens presented linear behavior during the first load cycles.  
203 Besides, no damage occurred in this stage as confirmed by visual inspection.  
204 The TRM-W specimen presented a linear load/drift ratio in the interval of [-  
205 5, 8] mm. Beyond this point, the behavior became non-linear showing with  
206 more ductility than U-W specimen. On the other hand, the U-W specimen  
207 only showed linear behavior in the interval [-2, 2] mm, and the non-linear  
208 response was registered up to [-9, 9] mm.
- 209 • The general behavior of both specimens was similar for lower displacements  
210 (linear regime) but the non-linear and ductility response of each wall differed.  
211 As drifts increased, the U-W specimen did not present ductility, and the  
212 maximum load was around 133 kN and was used to overcome the friction  
213 between the two sub-structures. On the other hand, the TRM-W specimen

214 showed a strengthening behavior with more ductility than U-W after crack  
215 initiation. TRM performed correctly and mesh slippage or TRM debonding  
216 was not observed during the test.

217 • Despite the effect on the wall's strength, the TRM did not change the initial  
218 stiffness of the wall, for low drifts. The effect of the TRM in the stiffness  
219 degradation will be discussed below.

### 220 **3.3 Energy dissipation capacity**

221 The energy dissipated in a single load cycle (i.e. for a certain drift) was obtained using  
222 the trapezoid rule to assess the area within the hysteretic load-drift curve (Fig. 5). This  
223 energy loss has been represented in Fig. 7 as the dissipation of each cycle (Fig. 7.a and  
224 7.b), or as the cumulative energy (Fig. 7.c).

225 In general, the cycles with the same drift did not dissipate equal energy. The second  
226 cycle dissipated less energy, as the main loss occurred when cracks appeared in the first  
227 cycle. In addition, the amount of energy was higher for wider cycle amplitudes (see Fig.  
228 7.a and 7.b). Nevertheless, the U-W presented a reduction of energy loss between 7 and  
229 8 mm drifts, see Fig. 7.b. This seemed to be a symptom of strength loss. Hence, the test  
230 was decided to be finished below this point.

231 As explained before, the unreinforced wall was damaged earlier. Therefore, for low  
232 levels of displacement, the U-W specimen was already cracked and dissipated more  
233 energy than the TRM-W. However, at the end of the test, considering the ductility of  
234 each sample, the TRM-W showed higher energy dissipation capacity, and the total  
235 energy loss was 529% with respect to the U-W (see Fig. 7.c). Thus, the TRM enhanced  
236 the behavior in terms of total energy dissipation and higher ductility, which could be  
237 observed as a delayed crack development, which may prove the TRM as a suitable

238 solution to improve the behavior of masonry walls to cyclic loads. The specific crack  
239 patterns will be discussed with the DIC analysis.

### 240 **3.4 Stiffness degradation**

241 In order to assess the structural degradation, the stiffness  $K$  corresponding to a certain  
242 drift value was obtained as the secant stiffness at 70% of the maximum load of the cycle  
243 [20,27]. Stiffness was determined for both directions of displacement –push (-) and pull  
244 (+)–, all of which seemed to present similar degradation. Fig. 8 includes this stiffness  
245 change vs the drift of each cycle. For a better comparison, Fig. 8.b represents the  
246 stiffness as the residual value (i.e. with respect to the initial stiffness), or as the  
247 percentage of that initial stiffness that was lost after a certain drift. As confirmed by  
248 visual inspection, no damage occurred during the first elastic phase. Afterwards  
249 significant cracking appeared on the wall, as shown in the stiffness drop. Even though  
250 the initial stiffness –at low drifts– for both walls was similar, the stiffness of the U-W  
251 specimen was rapidly reduced as the damage level increased, while the TRM-W  
252 specimen preserved the mechanical response, showing a slower degradation. Therefore,  
253 the TRM can guarantee a better performance because for the same deformation of the  
254 wall, it presented less structural degradation. Actually, the U-W specimen suffered  
255 almost a linear loss from the beginning. After suffering 1 cm drifts the U-W specimen  
256 lost approximately 90% of its original stiffness. On the other hand, after the same drift  
257 was applied to the TRM-W specimen, the average loss was only 31%, i.e. when U-W  
258 had already failed TRM-W still had 69% of its original stiffness. In fact, after suffering  
259 displacements more than three times wider, [-35, 30] mm approximately, the TRM  
260 reinforcement was capable of still responding with 50 to 60% of its initial stiffness.

261 Fig. 9 presents the relationship between the energy dissipation and the stiffness  
262 degradation. The energy dissipation of each cycle (Fig. 9.a) or the cumulative energy up  
263 to a certain drift (Fig. 9.b) have been plotted vs the stiffness loss. In both graphs, the  
264 different behavior between both specimens can be observed. The U-W presented a  
265 linear increase of the energy dissipation as more damage was generated. However, the  
266 TRM-W registered an exponential growth of the energy loss per cycle (see Fig. 9.a).  
267 This trend of the TRM-W led to a practically bilinear function of the cumulative energy  
268 dissipation-stiffness loss curve (Fig. 9.b), in which a 50% stiffness loss seemed to be the  
269 transition point between the higher and lower dissipation phases. Despite the main  
270 effect of TRM was observed for big drifts, it could be seen even at small deflections  
271 when there was not still any damage. Fig. 9(a) includes regression analyses for both  
272 series, and the energy loss at 0% stiffness degradation were 36.6 kN·mm (U-W) and  
273 97.9 kN·mm (TRM-W). Thus, even in an undamaged wall, the dissipation capacity of  
274 the TRM-W was 268% with respect to the U-W value.

### 275 **3.5 Crack patterns: LVDT vs DIC**

276 Finally, cracks were monitored with LVDTs located on one side near the window's  
277 corners and an additional DIC system was used to monitor the other side (to collect data  
278 from the whole wall). A comparison between the measures of both techniques was  
279 presented above (see Fig. 4).

280 Fig.10 includes the values registered in the LVDTs vs the shear load. Each graph  
281 includes the two sensors located in one diagonal direction or the other. Fig. 10  
282 represents positive force values in the push direction (to the left), and negative ones in  
283 pull cycles (to the right). Push cycles generated compressions in LVDT1-2 and tensions  
284 in LVDT3-4, while pull cycle's behavior was reversed (tensions in LVDT1-2 and

285 compressions in LVDT3-4). Therefore, compressions in Fig. 10 may be seen as  
286 negative deformations, while tensions are elongations (positive deformations).  
287 Crack development may be seen as slope changes in the tension side of each curve. The  
288 U-W presented cracks in all four window's corners after the pushover tests. In this case,  
289 the maximum shear forces were between 150 and 200 kN, and the measured elongations  
290 almost reached 18 mm in the bottom corners, while were only 12 mm in the upper ones.  
291 Besides, LVDT2 showed more deformation than LVDT1 in the left direction, which  
292 was another evidence of the relative displacement as rigid bodies between the upper and  
293 lower parts, and the friction between both surfaces.

294 The TRM-W sample was capable of controlling the crack opening, and the maximum  
295 apertures (7.5 and 9.5 mm) were obtained at higher load values (300 kN and 360 kN). If  
296 both responses, U-W and TRM-W, are compared, the initial stiffness in both cases  
297 seemed to be similar. Damage was rapidly produced in the unreinforced wall, and the  
298 maximum capacity was reached even at low displacements. In addition, the TRM-W  
299 showed more mechanical capacity and progressive deterioration, with gradual stiffness  
300 loss in tension as loads increased and cracks developed. On the contrary, the TRM-W  
301 behavior in compression was linear during the whole tests. Therefore, the fiber mesh in  
302 the TRM served as a crack opening control element, improving the behavior of masonry  
303 wall structural members subjected to cyclic in-plane shear forces.

304 In order to evaluate the overall crack pattern, displacement evolution was monitored  
305 with digital images. Fig. 11 includes the results of the DIC analysis for the maximum  
306 drifts applied to each wall, in which red lines represent areas with tensile strain values  
307 higher than 1%. DIC images were taken on the opposite side of LVDT measures, hence,  
308 push cycles in Fig. 11 correspond to drifts to the right, and pull tests to the left (contrary

309 to the criteria in Fig. 10). In Fig. 11, the difference between both specimens was  
310 stronger. TRM-W showed a more controlled cracking, in which the ductile behavior  
311 was observed at higher shear forces despite all the distributed cracking. In both  
312 specimens, cracks initiated around the window corners, and developed following the  
313 diagonal direction. The U-W cracks developed along mortar joints, while TRM cracks  
314 were continuous. In the U-W, besides the widespread cracks highlighted in red in Fig.  
315 11.b and 11.c, there was a wider horizontal crack in the lower part cutting the wall in  
316 two independent elements. This continuous crack -typical failure mode of masonry  
317 walls [28]- disconnected the two parts, both of which moved separately for the rest of  
318 push-over tests. This crack can be easily observed in Fig. 12, which shows the  
319 horizontal displacement distribution of the U-W at the end of both pushover cycles. In  
320 this case, the difference between both wall's subsections was clearly detected.  
321 For future dynamic modelling of masonry structures, the equivalent viscous damping  
322 could be used to represent the energy dissipation capacity of the structure, and the  
323 stability of the hysteresis behavior. This equivalent damping  $\xi_{eq}$  can be defined by the  
324 ratio between the area of hysteresis cycles  $S_{ABC} + S_{CDA}$  and the corresponding elastic  
325 energy  $S_{OBE} + S_{ODF}$ , according to eq. (1), and as shown in Fig. 13(a).

$$\xi_{eq} = \frac{1}{2\pi} \cdot \frac{S_{ABC} + S_{CDA}}{S_{OBE} + S_{ODF}} \quad (1)$$

326 Fig. 13(b) includes the values of  $\xi_{eq}$  for each cycle, shown as the damage level (i.e.  
327 stiffness loss). Both structures, showed a similar trend, in which damping was reduced  
328 as damage was being accumulated. The European seismic code [29] prescribes a  
329 damping ratio between 5 and 10% for masonry structures. The damping values of the  
330 reinforced wall were basically in that interval, only a few were slightly higher than 10%.  
331 However, the equivalent viscous damping values of the unreinforced wall were much

332 higher than the recommended values in EC-8. At low displacements, damping values  
333 were almost 25%, but considering the fast degradation of the mechanical response, it  
334 may seem reasonable to adopt values closer to 10%, as those shown by the unreinforced  
335 wall after suffering severe damage. Nonetheless, according to the current results the U-  
336 W showed more equivalent damping than the TRM-W. Unreinforced masonry  
337 presented wider crack distribution along the whole structure, which may be responsible  
338 for the bigger damping. While the TRM prevented crack development, which were  
339 more localized around the corners. Hence, the fissure length (i.e. friction areas) was  
340 controlled, and the energy had to be accumulated in the TRM itself, as cracks in the  
341 mortar, or elastic energy in the fiber mesh.

#### 342 **4. Conclusions**

343 The effectiveness of a TRM reinforcement in the in-plane cyclic behavior of windowed  
344 masonry walls was assessed. After the experimental tests, and the analyses of results in  
345 terms of strength, ductility, energy loss and stiffness degradation, the following  
346 conclusions may be drawn:

- 347 • When the wall was reinforced with TRM, the mechanical capacity of the wall  
348 was increased an average 204% with respect to the unreinforced masonry  
349 strength. Besides, the structural ductility was enhanced, as the maximum drifts  
350 increased from 9 mm to 35 mm due to the TRM reinforcement.
- 351 • The energy dissipation capacity for small drifts ( $< 1$  cm) was higher in the  
352 unreinforced masonry. Nevertheless, this energy loss implied a faster structural  
353 degradation and widespread crack development. The higher ductility related to  
354 the TRM was also observed in the cumulative energy loss, which increased from  
355 2.7 kN·m (unreinforced) up to 12.7 kN·m (with TRM).

- 356 • The initial stiffness was similar between the two structural solutions, 30 kN/mm  
357 approx. Hence, the effect of TRM seemed to be negligible in the elastic  
358 behavior. However, the damage in the unreinforced masonry led to residual  
359 stiffness below 10% of that initial value after only 9 mm drifts. While, the TRM  
360 guaranteed the structural stability, preserving at least 40% of the initial stiffness  
361 even after a 30 mm drift.
- 362 • Finally, the TRM layers also modified the cracking pattern. Unreinforced  
363 masonry showed distributed cracks along the whole surface, following joint  
364 directions. Even longitudinal crack in the low part affected the complete cross  
365 section, which produced a relative displacement between two independent sub-  
366 walls. The TRM was capable of controlling the crack initiation and growth.  
367 Main cracks were concentrated in the four window's corners, and their direction  
368 did not follow the masonry joints.

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456 *Figure 1. (a) Geometry of masonry walls; Test characteristics (b) front elevation, (c)*  
457 *lateral view.*

458 *Figure 2. TRM reinforcement distribution, G220 oriented in 0°-90° and ±45° directions.*

459 *Figure 3. Tested walls: (a) Unreinforced, (b). TRM reinforced sample.*

460 *Figure 4. (a) DIC speckle in the TRM-W. (b) Comparison between DIC and LVDT.*

461 *Figure 5. Hysteretic load-drift curves.*

462 *Figure 6. Load-drift envelope curves.*

463 *Figure 7. Energy dissipation vs drift curves per cycle (a), magnification for*  
464 *displacement <1 cm (b), and cumulative energy dissipation (c).*

465 *Figure 8. Stiffness degradation: (a) Stiffness vs drift; (b) Relative stiffness  $K/K_0$  and*  
466 *stiffness loss vs drift.*

467 *Figure 9. Energy dissipation vs stiffness degradation: (a) cycle's energy loss vs stiffness*  
468 *loss; (b) cumulative energy vs stiffness loss.*

469 *Figure 10. Shear vs LVDT measures: (a) LVDT1 and LVDT2, (b) LVDT3 and LVDT4.*

470 *Figure 11. Crack analysis by DIC, for different drift values (red lines represent tensile*  
471 *strains >1%).*

472 *Figure 12. Horizontal displacements of the U-W by means of DIC corresponding to*  
473 *maximum drifts in (a) push and (b) pull directions.*

474 *Figure 13. (a) Equivalent viscous damping, and (b) its variation vs stiffness loss.*

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478 *Table 1. Fiber mesh type properties (given by the supplier).*

Material	Mesh size (mm)	Weight (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Tensile strength (MPa)	Elongation at failure (%)	Elastic modulus (GPa)
Glass	25x25	225	1276	1.8	72

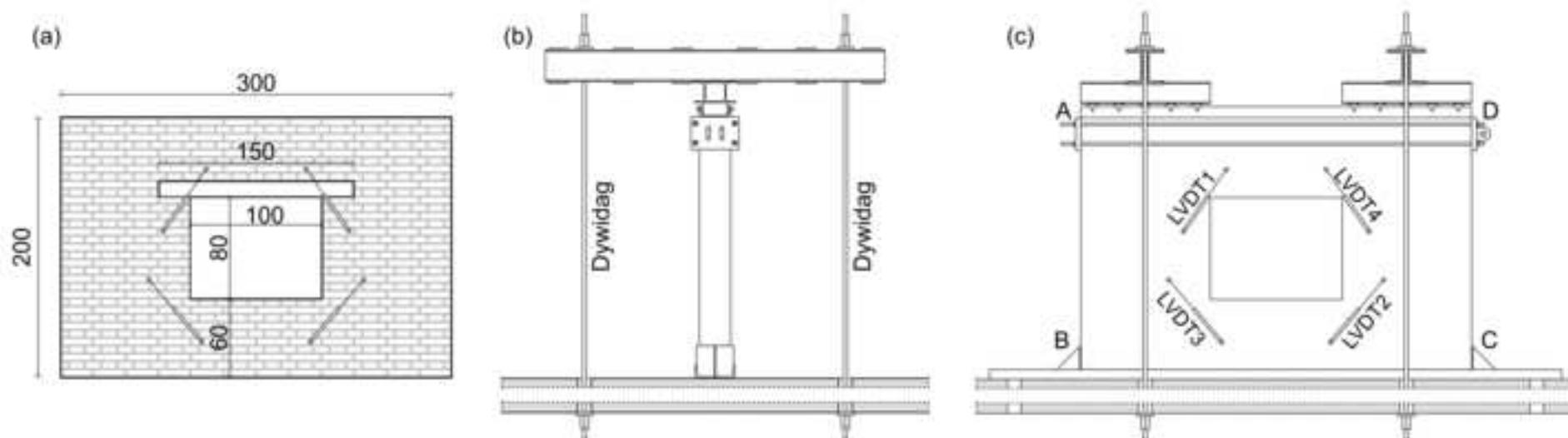
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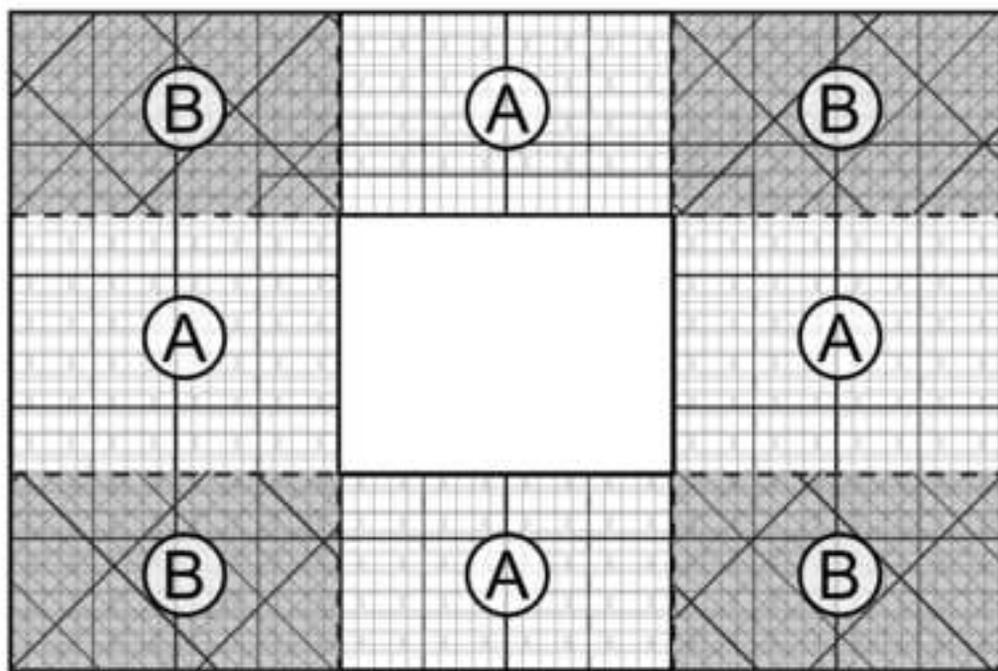
480 *Table 2. Summary of the main results. Brackets show the values in [push, pull]*

481 *directions.*

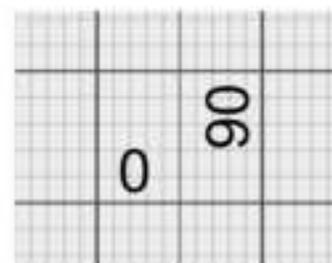
Properties.	U-W	TRM-W
Displacements at failure (mm)	[-9, 9]	[-35, 30]
Maximum displacements during pushover test (mm)	[-36, 35]	-
Maximum loads (kN)	[133, -180]	[300, -360]
Displacements in elastic behavior (mm)	[-2, 2]	[-5, 8]
% Cumulative energy dissipation $CE_{D_{TRM-W}}/CE_{D_{U-W}}$		529
Residual stiffness (%) at [-30, 30] mm	[1, 7]	[40, 50]
Stiffness loss (%) at [-30, 30] mm	[99, 93]	[60, 50]
Maximum crack width (mm) and position	18 mm in LVDT2 and LVDT3 for both push-pull direction	9.5 mm in LVDT2 for pull direction
Equivalent viscous damping (%)	25-10	10-5

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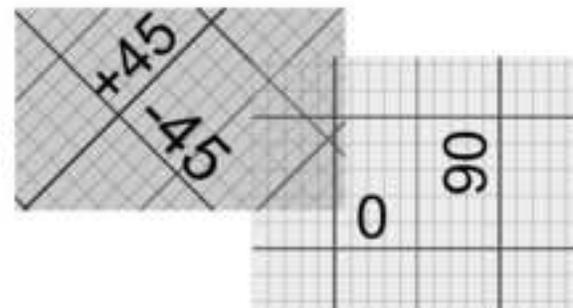




Zone A:



Zone B:



(a) Unreinforced wall, U-W



(b) TRM reinforced wall, TRM-W



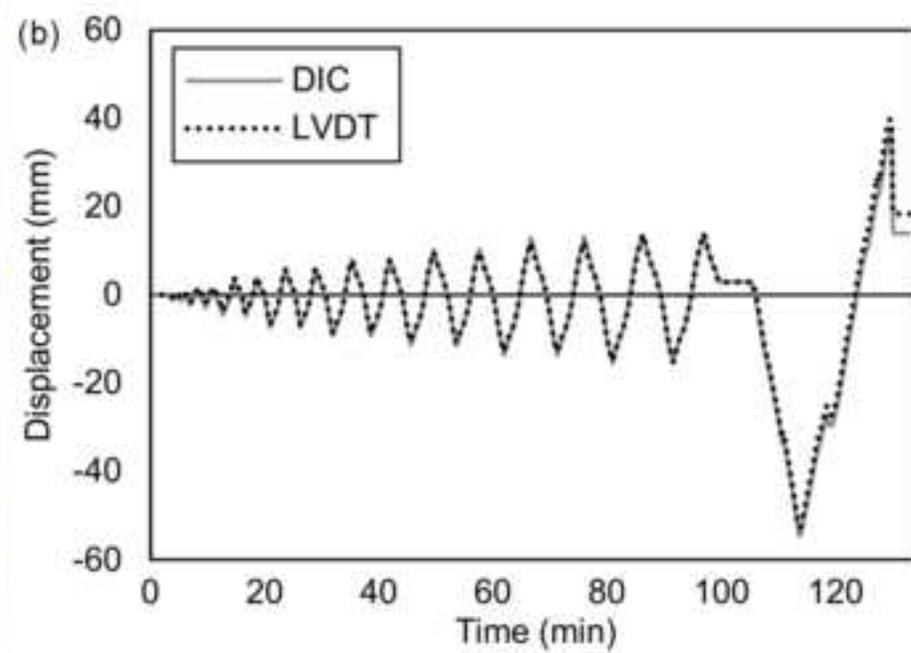


Figure 5

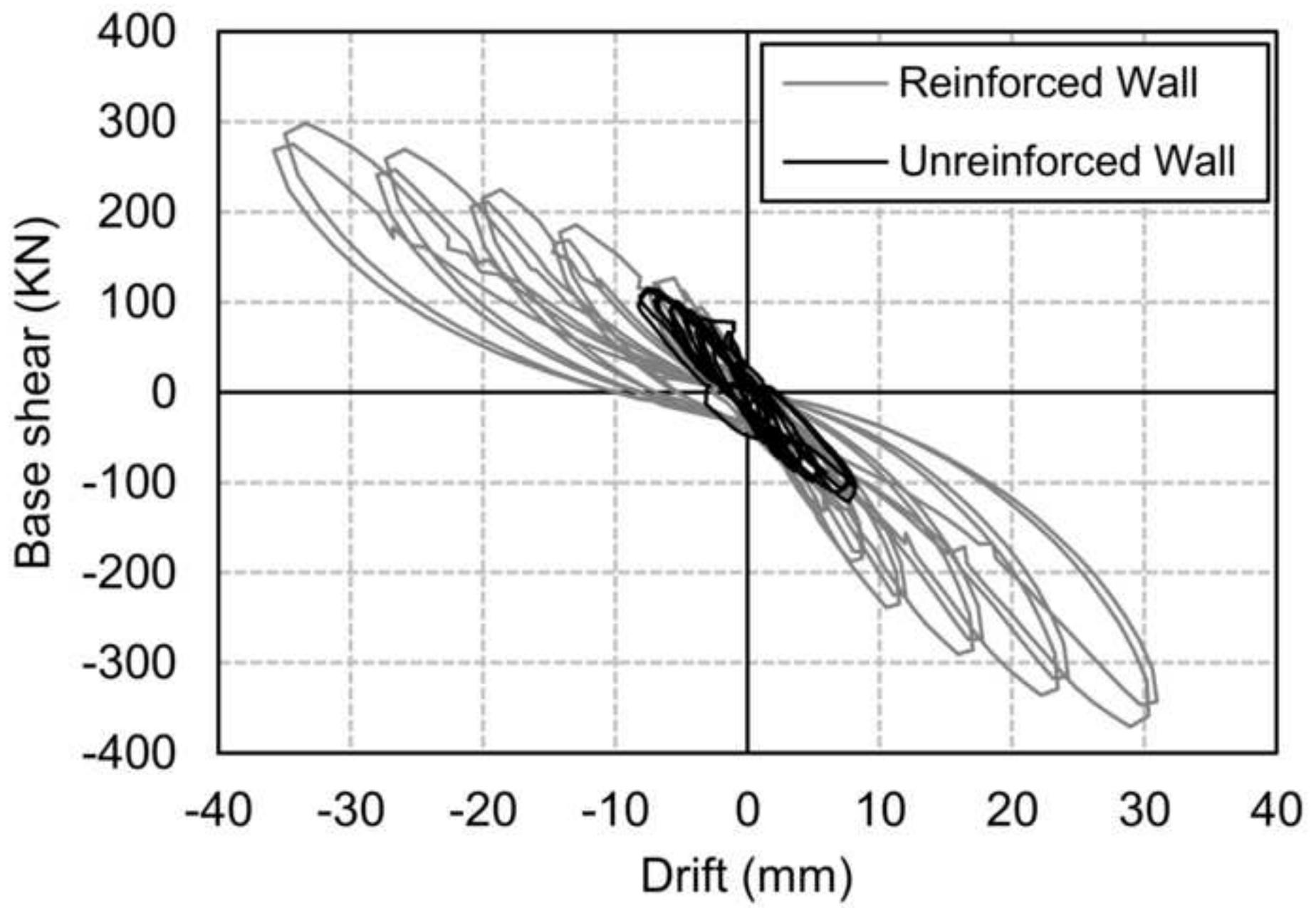


Figure 6 — revised Reinforced Wall Reinforced Wall

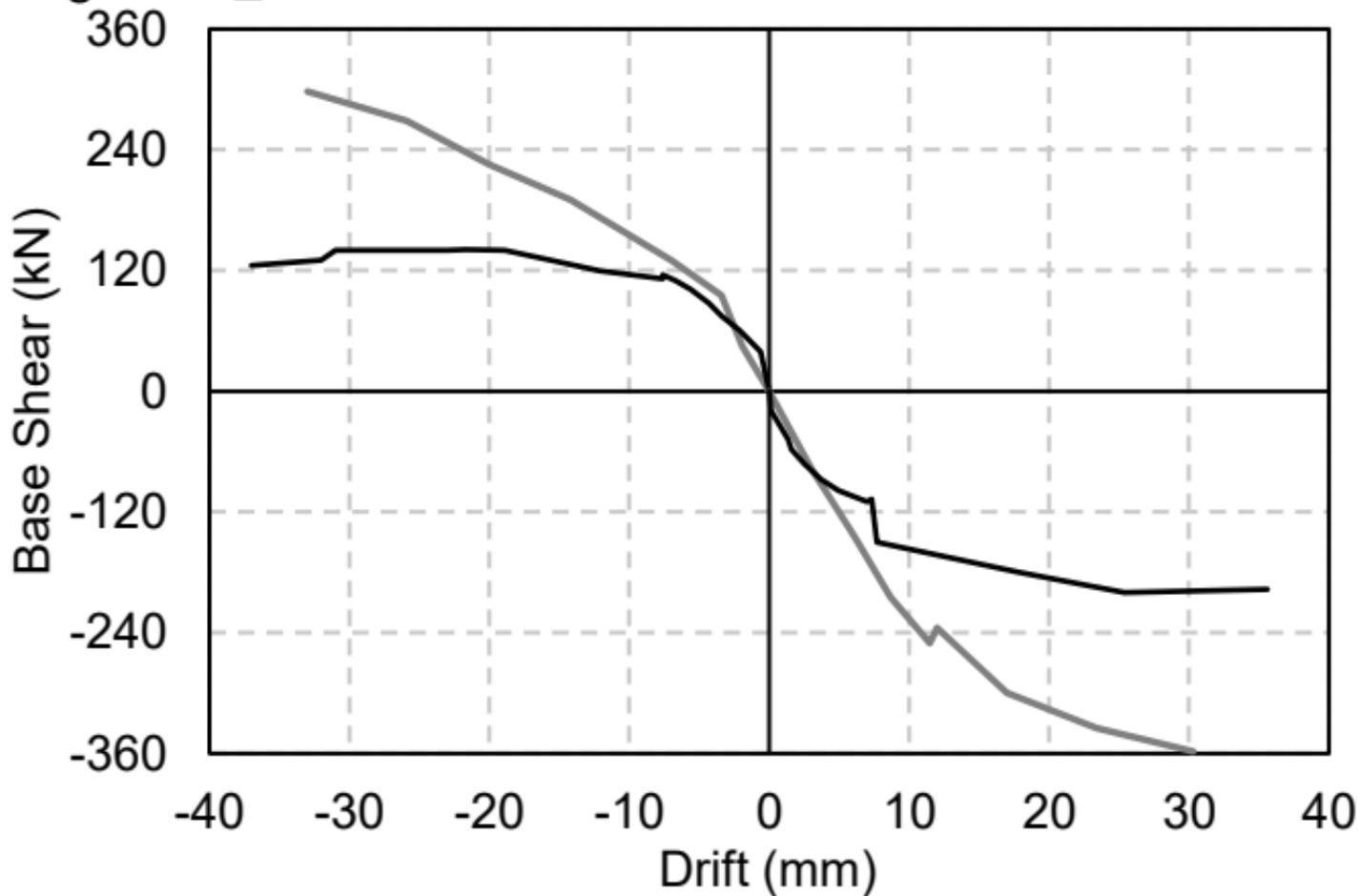


Figure 7 - revised

