

THE BOX

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Mechanical characterization of high performance thermal decoupling units for building envelopes

The efficiency of thermal insulating envelopes in the building sector is strongly dominated by external structural units such as balconies, which are connected to the internal floor construction. In this concern, a proper load-transmitting unit consisting of high-performance glass fiber reinforced polymer components (GFRP) with significantly reduced thermal conductivity was developed (s. Fig. 1).

For service relevant creep characterization, stress rate accelerated creep rupture tests (SRCR) provide a very time efficient method for the long-term estimation of the ultimate failure strength (s. testing arrangement in Fig. 2).

Starting at an initial stress level, various, defined stress rates are applied until failure. Finally, the extrapolation of the resulting failure times to a virtual stress rate of zero provides the corresponding creep rupture time (s. schematic Fig. 3).

Since the failure behavior for the present GFRP components is brittle, this creep testing method is expected to be a reliable procedure for the estimation of service related creep rupture strength.

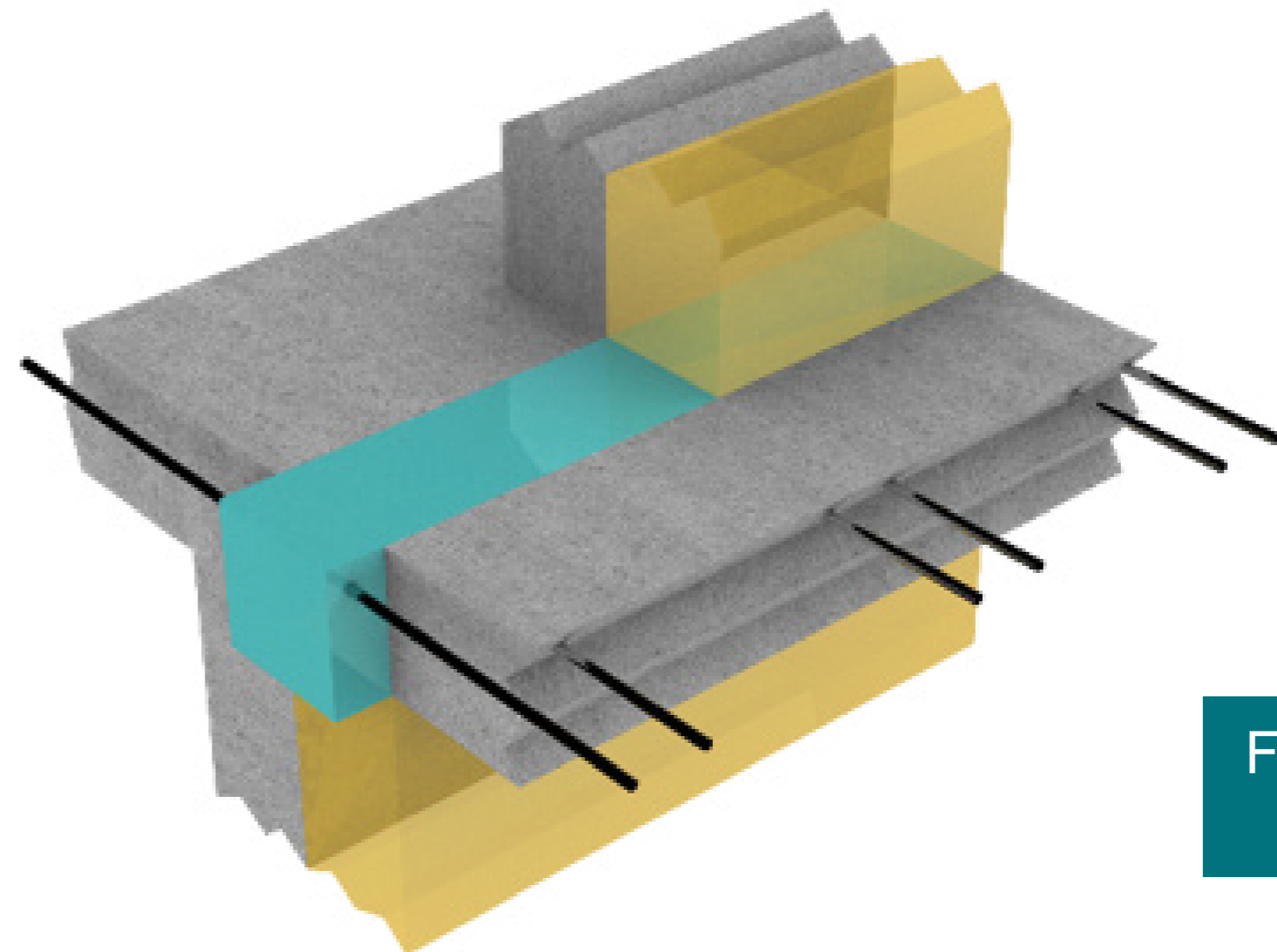


Fig. 1: Construction concept

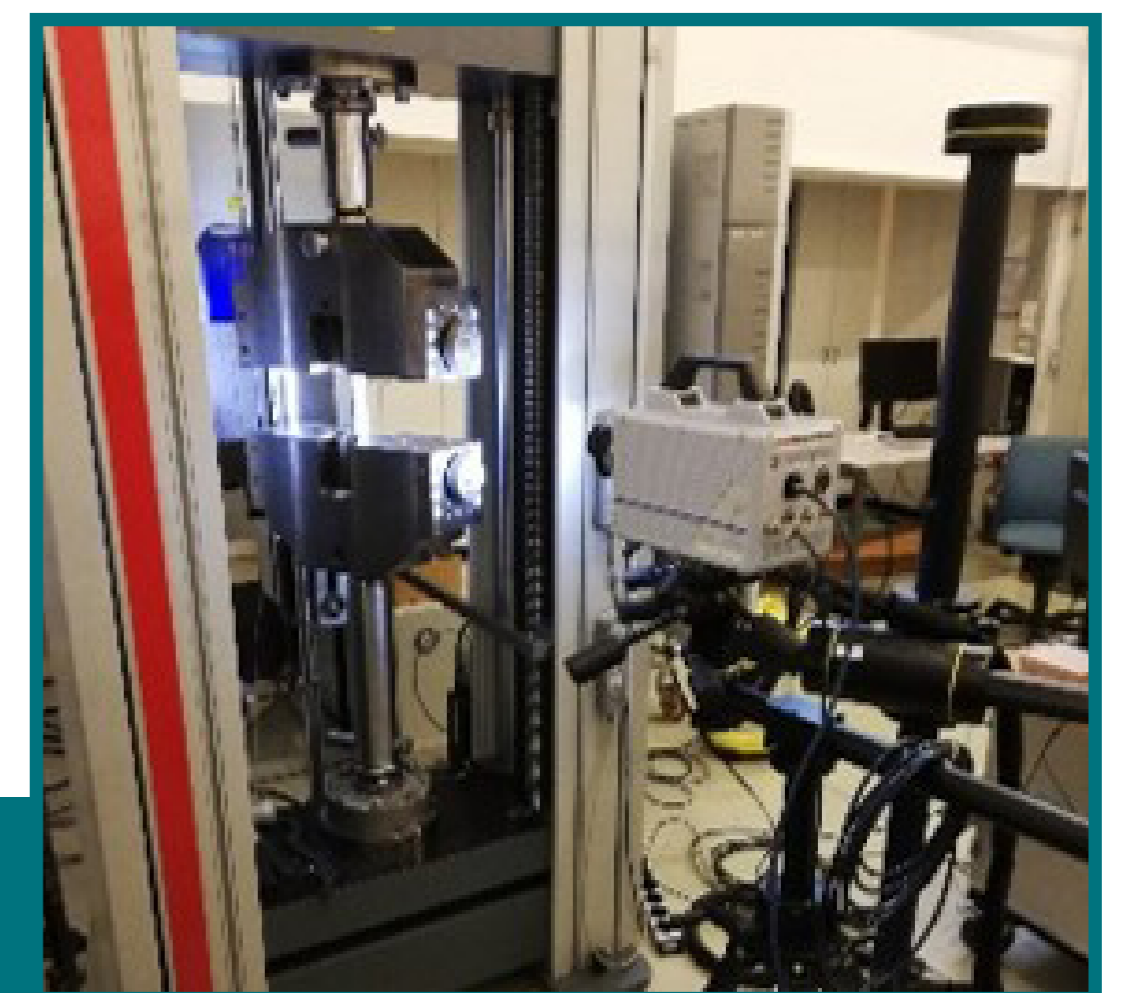


Fig. 2: Setup for mechanical testing

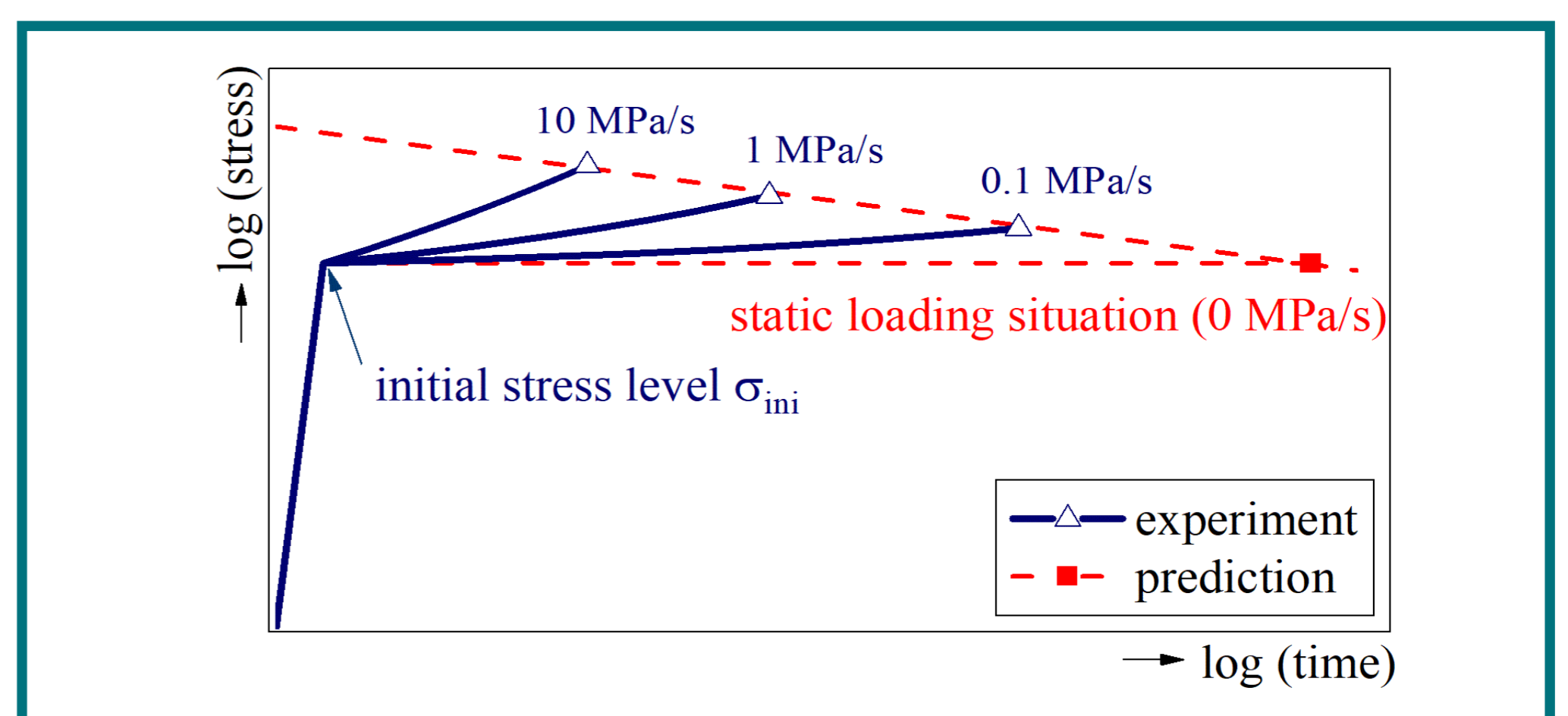


Fig. 3: Loading scheme for SRCR testing¹



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RESEARCH FOCUS: Mechanical and thermo-mechanical characterization of plastics for structural applications

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REFERENCE: ¹ S. Gloggnitzer „Beschleunigte Prüfmethode zur Charakterisierung des langfristigen Materialverhaltens kontinuierlich glasfaserverstärkter Verbundwerkstoffe unter statischer Last“, Dissertation, Leoben, 2019.