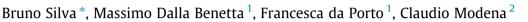
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Experimental assessment of in-plane behaviour of three-leaf stone masonry walls



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HIGHLIGHTS

• We carried out shear compression tests on 16 three-leaf stone masonry panels, before and after injecting NHL grout.

• Non-injected panels underwent external leaf separation at lower displacement levels.

• Injected walls presented enhanced behaviour and increased mechanical parameters.

• The use of scaled specimens may be considered representative of the tested masonry.

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ABSTRACT

This paper presents an experimental campaign on multi-leaf stone masonry panels, scales 1:1 and 2:3, in both original conditions and strengthened with grout injections. The panels were subjected to horizontal in-plane cyclic loading combined with vertical loading for different pre-compression levels, and provided important information on failure mechanisms, maximum displacement capacity, shear strength and other mechanical parameters, such as shear modulus and tensile strength. Further analysis provided results on other parameters which mainly characterise the behaviour of three-leaf masonry under seismic loads, i.e., stiffness degradation, energy dissipation, and viscous damping.

The main aim of this study was to gather information on the static and dynamic behaviour of three-leaf stone masonry structures in non-injected and injected conditions, in order to accurately characterise their mechanical behaviour. In particular, the effectiveness of injections of hydraulic lime-based grout as a reinforcement technique was assessed and validated.

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1. Introduction

During an earthquake, a resistant masonry wall is subjected to both vertical loads (due to gravity and the vertical component of the seismic action) and horizontal loads as a consequence of inertia-restoring forces. Multi-leaf stone masonry is particularly susceptible to in-plane shear actions, due to its low tensile strength. In addition, if the quality of the inner leaf with respect to the external leaves is poor, and if there are no transversal elements connecting the leaves, detachment and out-of-plane collapse of external leaves very often occurs, as shown in Fig. 1. In order to predict the seismic resistance of masonry, study of its shear capacity is therefore necessary, as well as evaluation of the effectiveness of grout injections, to prevent out-of-plane and in-plane collapse mechanisms.

Grout injections have proved effective in improving the in- and out-of-plane behaviour of multi-leaf stone masonry. Shaking table tests on storey-high walls have recently also demonstrated the effectiveness of injections in delaying leaf detachment under seismic loads, significantly improving wall behaviour [1].

As regards behaviour under horizontal in-plane loads, Shear Compression (SC) tests are typically used, to determine shear and tensile strength, including shear modulus. Parameters such as ductility, energy dissipation and stiffness degradation can also be evaluated by testing specimens under cyclic loading, in conditions which buildings actually undergo during an earthquake. In this technique, specimens are subjected to a constant vertical (axial) load, simulating the pre-compression level acting on the building. Cyclic lateral displacements are then applied at increasing







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Nomenclature

Α	cross-sectional area of wall	V	vertical load
b	shear stress distribution factor	w	width of stone masonry panels
Ε	Young's modulus	α	boundary condition parameter
E _{hys}	dissipated energy	δ	horizontal displacement measured at top of panels
Einp	input energy	$\delta_{\rm u}$	ultimate displacement
E _{wc,0}	elastic modulus of non-injected walls	δ_{cr}	displacement corresponding to cracking limit state
E _{wc,s}	elastic modulus of injected walls	δ_{f}	displacement corresponding to flexural cracking limit
$f_{\rm gr}$	compressive strength of grout		state
$f_{\rm t}$	tensile strength	δ_{Hmax}	displacement corresponding to maximum resistance
f _{wt.0}	experimental tensile strength of non-injected walls		limit state
$f_{\rm wt.s}$	experimental tensile strength of injected walls	Δ	imposed displacement at top of wall
G	shear modulus	γi	shear strain evaluated on masonry panel
Gexp	shear modulus corresponding to cracking limit state	$\rho_{\rm b}$	apparent density
G_{exp} 30	-60% experimentally obtained shear modulus, resulting	$\rho_{\rm r}$	real density
	from average of values ranging from 30% to 60% of max-	σ'_0	vertical pre-compression
	imum shear resistance	σ_{\max}	compressive strength of panels
G _k	theoretical shear modulus	τ	average nominal shear strength evaluated on panels
$G_{w,0}$	shear modulus of non-injected walls	$\tau_{ m Hmax}$	average nominal shear strength evaluated on panels at
G _{w.s}	shear modulus of injected walls		maximum resistance
h	height of stone masonry panels	$\tau_{\rm u,0}$	shear strength of non-injected walls
Н	horizontal resistance	$\tau_{u,s}$	shear strength of injected walls
H _{cr}	horizontal resistance corresponding to cracking limit	μ	ductility
	state	μ_0	ductility of non-injected walls
$H_{\delta u}$	horizontal resistance corresponding to ultimate dis-	$\mu_{\rm s}$	ductility of injected walls
	placement limit state	v	Poisson ratio
$H_{\rm f}$	horizontal resistance corresponding to flexural cracking	ξ	equivalent viscous damping
	limit state	ξcr	equivalent viscous damping corresponding to cracking
H _{max}	horizontal resistance corresponding to maximum resis-		limit state
	tance limit state	ξδυ	equivalent viscous damping corresponding to ultimate
Κ	secant stiffness		displacement limit state
K _{cr}	secant stiffness at cracking limit state	ξf	equivalent viscous damping corresponding to flexural
1	length of masonry panel		cracking limit state
p_0	open porosity	ξ_{Hmax}	equivalent viscous damping corresponding to maxi-
p	total porosity		mum resistance limit state
t	thickness of stone masonry panels		

amplitudes step-wise. Walls can be tested as cantilevers with central vertical loading or as double fixed-end walls [2].

Since the early 1960s, several authors have carried out shear compression tests on multi-leaf stone masonry, both in the laboratory and on-site, before and after grout injection. The main results of such experimental results are listed in Table 1. The geometry, mechanical properties of the studied materials, and the mechanical properties of the masonry before and after grouting are shown.

Shear compression tests on injected and non-injected multi-leaf stone masonry specimens show that diagonal cracks generally develop in mortar joints, in some cases also passing through the stone, particularly at higher pre-compression levels. With repeated imposed lateral displacement, cracking becomes more extensive and, at maximum lateral resistance, vertical cracks appear as an effect of compression [1,3]. Cracking also occurs in the transversal sides, due to increased out-of-plane deformation of the external leaves, reducing the resistant section of the compressed walls. Experimental tests also show that the failure mechanisms of injected masonry walls submitted to in-plane cyclic loading are mainly governed by the slenderness ratio, pre-compression level, and masonry bond.

As observed from the failure modes of masonry walls, separation of external and internal leaves is due to shear failure planes generated in the infill material, causing high horizontal pressure on the external leaves [4]. The main cause of the im-



Fig. 1. Out-of-plane failure of stone masonry walls without transversal connections due to horizontal seismic actions, L'Aquila, Abruzzo, Italy.

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