

# Durability Assessment of Reinforced Concrete Structures Considering Global Warming: A Performance-Based Engineering and Experimental Approach

Hongyuan Guo<sup>1,2,3</sup>, You Dong<sup>3,\*</sup>, and Xianglin Gu<sup>1,2</sup>

1. Key Laboratory of Performance Evolution and Control for Engineering Structures of Ministry of Education, Tongji University, 1239 Siping Rd., Shanghai 200092, China

2. Department of Structural Engineering, College of Civil Engineering, Tongji University, 1239 Siping Rd., Shanghai 200092, China

3. Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong 999077, China

**Abstract:** Reinforced concrete (RC) structures under marine atmospheric environment usually suffer from chloride ingress, which could impair structural serviceability and performance within the service life. Performance-based engineering, as an approach to design structures with predictable and defined performance, has attracted increased attention. In this paper, the developed probabilistic performance-based durability engineering (PBDE) approach is used as a novel attempt to integrate different computational modules (i.e., exposure analysis, deterioration, repair analysis, and impact/consequence analysis) within the durability assessment and management process of RC structures incorporating the experimental results. To begin with, a probabilistic environmental model is developed using the measured data to account for global warming, the seasonal and daily variation of temperature, etc. Additionally, deterioration analysis is conducted considering two-dimensional chloride transport and non-uniformity of corrosion. The experimental studies are conducted to verify the relevant numerical results. Subsequently, consequence analysis is performed to aid the maintenance process of RC structures. Uncertainties associated with material properties, model, and environmental scenarios, as well as the effect and cost of maintenance actions, are incorporated within the developed framework, which is illustrated using a real-world example. Compared to the traditional durability assessment approach, non-uniformity of corrosion, 2D convection-dominated chloride transport model, and climate change effects are assessed in a probabilistic manner.

**Keywords:** Durability; Performance-based engineering; Experimental study; Global warming; 2D chloride transport; Reinforced concrete structure.

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\*\* Corresponding Author

E-mail address: you.dong@polyu.edu.hk

Tel.: +852-3400 8818

## 31 **1. Introduction**

32 Nowadays, sustainable design and management of reinforced concrete (RC) structures in a life-  
33 cycle context have received increased interest within civil engineering. During the service life,  
34 the RC structures may be subjected to different deterioration scenarios, which could affect  
35 structural durability and long-term performance. The 2017 ASCE infrastructure report card  
36 showed that 56,007 bridges suffered from structural deficiency, and the estimated cost of  
37 rehabilitation was \$123 billion in 2016 [1]. One of the significant issues associated with RC  
38 structures is the erosion media induced corrosion. A survey from the U.S. Government  
39 Accountability Office revealed that the cost caused by corrosion was \$20.6 billion in 2016 [2].  
40 The Chinese government spent approximately RMB 2.1 trillion, accounting for 3.34 % GDP  
41 in 2014 on the corrosion related issues [3]. Thus, the corrosion effect and its adverse influences  
42 on structural durability should be paid special attention to, and it is of great importance to  
43 establish a comprehensive framework to assess the durability of RC structures.

44 Under the marine atmospheric environment, RC structures suffer from chloride ingress  
45 [4]. Such physical phenomenon significantly affects the life-cycle design and maintenance  
46 philosophy. Studies have been conducted on different aspects of chloride ingress, such as  
47 the physical mechanism of chloride-induced deterioration [5–13] and durability design method  
48 [14–16]. However, due to the complexity of chloride-induced deterioration mechanism and  
49 lack of compatible and feasible physical models, a comprehensive and systematic durability  
50 framework for life-cycle assessment and decision making of RC structures is still missing by  
51 considering different aspects in a unified manner and more experimental studies should be

52 conducted to verify the numerical results. Due to stochastic properties of the atmospheric  
53 environment and the unsaturated condition of concrete, the chloride transport in concrete is not  
54 only dominated by diffusion mechanism but also by convection mechanism [17,18]. In other  
55 words, a Fick-law based chloride transport model may misestimate the chloride profiles within  
56 the concrete and may be unsuitable for prediction of corrosion initiation. In this paper, the  
57 convection of chloride transport is observed within the experimental study and simulated by  
58 numerical modeling. Additionally, non-uniform corrosion and the two-dimensional (2D)  
59 chloride transport model should also be considered within the durability analysis. In this paper,  
60 the relevant aspects are considered, and experimental studies are conducted to verify the  
61 scenarios (e.g., convection mechanism, 2D transport).

62 Most traditional durability design philosophies are established based on deterministic or  
63 semi-probabilistic approach, such as Eurocode 2 [19], DuraCrete [20] and Standard for  
64 durability assessment of concrete structures (CECS) [21]. Under the traditional frameworks,  
65 the random properties of the varying climate and structural durability might not be well  
66 considered in life-cycle design and maintenance process. Additionally, the financial and social  
67 impacts were not well incorporated. Flint *et al.* [22] developed a performance-based durability  
68 engineering (PBDE) framework to evaluate the durability of RC structures considering the  
69 uncertainties and relevant costs. Concerning Flint's study [22], the application of PBDE is  
70 tentative and based on a simple case so that many related issues remained unsolved. For  
71 instance, a simplified 1D chloride transport model was adopted to evaluate corrosion initiation  
72 time without verifying its feasibility and accuracy. In this paper, the deterioration model is

73 verified using in-situ environmental data and chloride ion measurement. Additionally,  
74 uncertainties associated with material properties, model, and environmental scenarios, as well  
75 as the effect and cost of maintenance actions, are incorporated within the developed framework,  
76 which is illustrated using a real-world example.

77 Existing studies revealed that the changing climate (e.g., temperature, relative humidity)  
78 might affect the durability of RC structures [23–26]. With the consideration of global warming,  
79 Bastidas-Arteaga *et al.* [24] indicated that the service life of the RC structures under the marine  
80 environment could be reduced by 2% to 18%. Also, the global warming could accelerate the  
81 chloride ingress and then increase corrosion rate [27], where Stewart *et al.* [27] found that  
82 corrosion rate may increase by 15% given 2 °C increase of temperature. Thus, it is of great  
83 importance to involve the changing climate, especially global warming, into the durability  
84 design and maintenance of RC structures. Though there exist some studies on the investigation  
85 of changing climate on structural durability, the relevant adverse effects on the durability-  
86 informed long-term financial and social impacts have not been addressed by previous studies.  
87 In this paper, considering the complexity and uncertainty in climate modeling, a rational and  
88 stochastic climate model within probabilistic PBDE framework is developed. Overall, a  
89 comprehensive probabilistic PBDE framework is proposed for the RC structures under the  
90 marine atmospheric environment considering global warming. To begin with, the proposed  
91 PBDE framework is introduced in Section 2. Then, in Section 3, the deterioration analysis  
92 model is established and verified by experimental data. A decision tree model is proposed to  
93 determine the repair strategies, and impact analysis is discussed in section 4. In Section 5, the

94 proposed PBDE approach is applied to a real-world example by incorporating the in situ-  
95 experiment measurements. Finally, conclusions are drawn, and further work is noted.

## 96 **2. Performance-based durability engineering (PBDE)**

### 97 **2.1. General framework**

98 The integration of PBE framework within durability assessment was initially developed by  
99 Flint et al. [22]. In this study, the experimental studies were conducted to verify the adopted  
100 chloride penetration model and non-uniform deterioration. Subsequently, the relevant effects  
101 on the decision variables are quantified. This study could aid the application of the PBDE  
102 within structural durability-informed design and management process by incorporating  
103 experimental information to reduce the uncertainty within the PBE. As indicated in Fig. 1, the  
104 computational process can be divided into four stages: exposure analysis, deterioration analysis,  
105 repair analysis, and impact analysis. The outputs of these stages are exposure conditions (*EC*),  
106 damage measures (*DM*), repair action timing (*t<sub>RA</sub>*), and decision information (*DI*). Uncertainty  
107 in each stage can be quantified by complementary cumulative distribution function (CCDF)  
108 (i.e., the probability of exceeding the value of the pinch-point variable). Due to the relation  
109 between adjacent stages, the CCDF of each analysis stage depends on the given pinch-point  
110 values from the prior stage in terms of conditional CCDF. The CCDF could be computed  
111 analytically or simulated by sampling methods. Once the probabilistic information of the  
112 computational stage is obtained, the CCDF of final decision information  $G_{DI}(di)$  can be  
113 obtained as follows [22]

$$114 \quad G_{DI}(di) = \iint G_{DI|t_{RA}}(di | t_{RA}) | dG_{t_{RA}|EC}(t_{RA} | ec) | | dG_{EC}(ec) | \quad (1)$$

115 where  $G_{EC}$  is the CCDF of the exposure condition;  $G_{IRA|EC}$  is the conditional CCDF of repair  
116 combination under the given exposure conditions, and  $G_{DI|IRA}$  is the conditional CCDF of  
117 decision information under the given repair combination. The final decision information of  $G_{DI}$   
118 could be updated easily through changing the  $G_{EC}$ ,  $G_{IRA|EC}$ , and  $G_{DI|IRA}$  in Eq. (1).

## 119 **2.2.Computational process of PBDE**

120 As indicated in Fig. 1, an appropriate deterioration model should be established first. In this  
121 paper, the deterioration model considering chloride transport is established and verified using  
122 the experimental data. After the verification, the geometrical information, material properties,  
123 climate model, repair actions, and related impact information are assessed. To begin with, the  
124 exposure information  $EC$  (e.g., temperature, humidity, and surface chloride content) is  
125 identified. Within the step 2, the damage measures ( $DM$ ) (e.g., the chloride content on the  
126 reinforcement surface  $C_{Cl}$ , the corrosion current density  $i_{corr}$ ) are analyzed. The repair analysis  
127 is conducted in step 3, supposing that periodical inspection is executed. The repair actions are  
128 determined based on the inspection results. Also, the results of deterioration and repair action  
129 analyses are used for the next round of analysis. The loop would last until the end of service  
130 life, and probability mass function of repair combinations can be acquired, as shown in Fig.1.  
131 Finally, considering the probabilistic performance indices (e.g., cost and downtime) under  
132 given repair action, the decision information ( $DI$ ) is obtained by Eq. (1). Uncertainties  
133 associated with material properties, model, and environmental scenarios, as well as the effect  
134 and cost of decision actions, are incorporated within the developed framework.

### 135 3. Exposure and deterioration analysis by numerical and experimental studies

136 As illustrated in Fig. 2, the deterioration analysis is a computational modulus embedded in the  
137 loop of the PBDE framework and is associated with several probabilistic parameters, e.g., heat  
138 transfer, moisture transfer, chloride content, corrosion rate, radius reduction, delamination. To  
139 accurately predict the corrosion initiation period, the 2D transport and convection of chloride  
140 ion are considered in this paper. Additionally, the experimental studies are conducted to verify  
141 the numerical results. Once the chloride content on the reinforcement surface reaches a critical  
142 value, the corrosion happens, and then the corrosion rate is assessed. The non-uniform  
143 corrosion is considered in this paper. The minimum reinforcement radius is adopted to calculate  
144 the cross-sectional loss and predict the delamination or concrete crack.

#### 145 3.1. Environmental model

146 Within the PBDE framework, the environmental model is not only used for exposure analysis  
147 but also the identification of boundary condition in deterioration analysis. In exposure analysis,  
148 the environmental parameters are assessed in terms of characteristic values of *EC* (i.e., *ec*) and  
149 their probability distribution. The time-dependent environmental parameters,  $ENV(ec, t)$ , Eq.  
150 (2) (e.g., temperature, relative humidity, and chloride content), consist of four parts: seasonal  
151 variation  $ENV_{sea}(t)$ , Eq. (3), daily variation  $ENV_{daily}(t)$ , Eq. (4), the increasing tendency  $ENV_{$   
152  $incre(ec, t)$ , Eq. (5), and zero-mean noise of environmental value  $\lambda$ .

$$153 \quad ENV(ec, t) = ENV_{sea}(t) + ENV_{daily}(t) + ENV_{incre}(ec, t) + \lambda \quad (2)$$

$$154 \quad ENV_{sea}(t) = a_1 \cdot \sin\left[w_1 \cdot (t - t_{ref}) / 365 + b_1\right] + a_2 \cdot \sin\left[2 \cdot w_1 \cdot (t - t_{ref}) / 365 + b_2\right] + bam \quad (3)$$

$$155 \quad ENV_{daily}(t) = a_{01} - a_{11} \cos(w_{11} \cdot t) + b_{11} \sin(w_{11} \cdot t) - a_{21} \cdot \cos(2w_{11} \cdot t) - b_{21} \sin(2w_{11} \cdot t) \quad (4)$$

156 
$$ENV_{incre}(ec, t) = a(ec) \cdot \left[ \frac{(t - t_{ref})}{365} \right]^{n(ec)} \quad (5)$$

157 where  $t$  is the time (day);  $t_{ref}$  is the reference time (day);  $bam$  is the baseline average mean  
 158 annual value;  $a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2, w_1$  and  $w_2$  are the parameters of seasonal variation;  $a_{01}, a_{11}, a_{21},$   
 159  $b_{11}, b_{21}$  and  $w_{11}$  are the parameters of daily variation; and  $a(ec)$  and  $n(ec)$  are the parameters  
 160 of the increasing tendency of environmental parameters based on the characteristic exposure  
 161 condition. To account for the global warming effects, the temperature rising is predicted by a  
 162 power function Eq. (5) and parameters  $a(ec)$  and  $n(ec)$  are acquired by fitting the measured  
 163 data [22].

164 **3.2. Corrosion initiation stage**

165 *3.2.1. Chloride transport model*

166 Considering the binding capacity of cement, the total content of chloride  $C_{tc}$  contains two parts:  
 167 bound chloride content  $C_{bc}$  (kg/m<sup>3</sup> of concrete) and free chloride content  $C_{fc}$  (kg/m<sup>3</sup> of pore  
 168 solution).

169 
$$C_{tc} = C_{bc} + w_e C_{fc} \quad (6)$$

170 where  $w_e$  is evaporable water content (m<sup>3</sup> pore solution/m<sup>3</sup> concrete). Existing study showed  
 171 that ignoring convection mechanism of chloride transport may misestimate the corrosion  
 172 initiation time and its uncertainty [23]. Thus, this paper employs a diffusion-convection model  
 173 of chloride transport as [28]

174 
$$\frac{\partial C_{fc}}{\partial t} = D_c^* \left( \frac{\partial^2 C_{fc}}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 C_{fc}}{\partial y^2} \right) + D_h^* \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \left( C_{fc} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} \right) + \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \left( C_{fc} \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} \right) \right) \quad (7)$$

175 where  $x$  and  $y$  denote the horizontal and vertical coordinates (m) in cross-section;  $h$  is the  
 176 relative humidity (RH) in pore solution; and  $D_c^*$  and  $D_h^*$  denote the apparent diffusion



177 coefficients of chloride and humidity, respectively.

$$178 \quad D_c^* = \frac{D_{c,ref} f_{c1}(T) f_{c2}(t) f_{c3}(h)}{1 + (1/w_e) (\partial C_{bc} / \partial C_{fc})}, \quad D_h^* = \frac{D_{h,ref} f_{h1}(T) f_{h2}(t) f_{h3}(h)}{1 + (1/w_e) (\partial C_{bc} / \partial C_{fc})} \quad (8)$$

179 where  $D_{c,ref}$  and  $D_{h,ref}$  are the reference diffusion coefficients of chloride and humidity,  
180 respectively [29] and  $\partial C_{bc} / \partial C_{fc}$  denotes the binding capacity of cement. Due to the failure of

181 Freundlich isotherm in low  $C_{fc}$  [30], Langmuir isotherm [31] is employed herein

$$182 \quad C_{bc} = \frac{\alpha_L C_{fc}}{1 + \beta_L C_{fc}}, \quad (9)$$

183 in which  $\alpha_L$  and  $\beta_L$  are binding constants;  $f_{c1}(T)$ ,  $f_{c2}(t)$ , and  $f_{c3}(h)$  are the influencing factors of  
184 temperature ( $K$ ), time ( $d$ ), and relative humidity on chloride transport; and  $f_{h1}(T)$ ,  $f_{h2}(t)$ , and  
185  $f_{h3}(h)$  are the influencing factors of temperature, time, and relative humidity on moisture  
186 transport, respectively.

$$187 \quad f_{c1}(T) = \exp \left[ \frac{U_c}{R_{gas}} \left( \frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \right], \quad f_{c2}(t) = \left( \frac{t_{ref}}{t} \right)^m, \quad f_{c3}(h) = \left[ 1 - \frac{(1-h)^4}{(1-h_c)^4} \right]^{-1} \quad (10)$$

$$188 \quad f_{h1}(T) = \exp \left[ \frac{U_h}{R_{gas}} \left( \frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \right], \quad f_{h2}(t_e) = 0.3 + \sqrt{\frac{13}{t_e}}, \quad f_{h3}(h) = \alpha_0 + \frac{1 - \alpha_0}{1 + ((1-h)/(1-h_c))^n} \quad (11)$$

189 where  $U_c$  and  $U_h$  denote the activation energy of the chloride diffusion and moisture diffusion  
190 respectively;  $R_{gas}$  is the gas constant;  $T$  and  $T_{ref}$  are the current and reference temperature ( $K$ ),  
191 respectively;  $t$ ,  $t_{ref}$ , and  $t_e$  are the current, reference and equivalent hydration time ( $d$ )  
192 respectively;  $h_c$  is reference relative humidity (RH) in pore solution; and  $\alpha_0$  is a parameter  
193 representing the ratio of  $D_{h, min}$  to  $D_{h, max}$ .

194 For the description of moisture ingression, most of the previous studies focused on the  
195 diffusion mechanism [29,30,32–34]. Herein, the relative humidity  $h$  and moisture diffusion is

196 used to describe moisture transport [28].

$$197 \quad \frac{\partial w_e}{\partial h} \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} = \text{div}(D_h \text{grad}(h)) \quad (12)$$

198 where  $D_h$  is the humidity diffusion coefficient ( $\text{m}^2/\text{s}$ ). In 1972, Bažant *et al.* [35] proposed a  
199 nonlinear empirical model of humidity diffusion coefficient  $D_h$

$$200 \quad D_h(h) = D_{h,ref} \left( \alpha_0 + \frac{1 - \alpha_0}{1 + ((1-h)/(1-h_c))^n} \right) \quad (13)$$

201 where  $D_{h,ref}$  is the reference  $D_h$  and  $\alpha_0$  is the ratio of  $D_{h,min}$  to  $D_{h,max}$  (ranging between 0.025  
202 and 0.10); and  $h_c$  is the reference humidity. Furthermore, Saetta *et al.* considered the influences  
203 of temperature  $T$  (K) and hydration time  $t_e$  (day) and suggested a model for humidity diffusion  
204 coefficient [36]

$$205 \quad \begin{aligned} D_h(T, t, h) &= D_{h,ref} f_{h1}(T) f_{h2}(t) f_{h3}(h), \\ f_{h1}(T) &= \exp \left[ \frac{U_h}{R} \left( \frac{1}{T_{ref}} - \frac{1}{T} \right) \right], \\ f_{h2}(t_e) &= 0.3 + \sqrt{\frac{13}{t_e}}, \\ f_{h3}(h) &= \alpha_0 + \frac{1 - \alpha_0}{1 + ((1-h)/(1-h_c))^n} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

206 where  $U_h$  denotes the activation energy of the moisture diffusion. Based on absorption theory,  
207 Brunauer *et al.* [36] proposed a three-parameter Brunauer-Skalny-Border isotherm (BSB model)  
208 to predict the moisture content  $w_e$ . Then, based on the BSB model, Xi *et al.* [37] established a  
209 three-parameter model of the adsorption isotherm

$$210 \quad \begin{aligned} w_e &= \frac{Ck_s V_m h}{(1 - k_s h) [1 + (C - 1)k_s h]}, \\ C &= \exp(855/T), k_s = \frac{[1 - (1/N)]C - 1}{C - 1}, \\ N &= (2.5 + 15/t)(0.33 + 2.2w/c)N_{ct}, \\ V_m &= (0.068 - 0.22/t)(0.85 + 0.45w/c)V_{ct}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

211 where  $V_{ct}$  and  $N_{ct}$  are the factors relating to cement type. Being different from the absorption  
 212 process or wetting process, desorption process or drying process often presents a lagged  
 213 phenomenon viz. Hysteresis Effect [38,39]. Although scholars have proposed drying and  
 214 wetting curves based on the micro properties of concrete [38–40], it may be complicated for  
 215 practical application. Lin *et al.* [41] developed a simplified way of changing the moisture  
 216 diffusivity coefficient during drying and wetting periods. Lin's approach focused on the ideal  
 217 wetting process and drying process, while the scanning process seems to be more common than  
 218 the ideal wetting process and drying process in practical engineering. Besides, according to the  
 219 relative humidity response test of OPC, Min *et al.* found that the coefficient of moisture  
 220 diffusion is about  $3 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  under the drying process and  $15 \times 10^{-10} \text{ m}^2/\text{s}$  under the wetting  
 221 process [42]. In this paper, given the expression of absorption isotherm Eq. (15), the  $D_{h,\text{ref}}$  in  
 222 Eq. (14) is replaced by  $D^{\text{dry}}_{h,\text{ref}}$  when  $h$  decreases; and the  $D_{h,\text{ref}}$  in Eq. (14) is replaced by  
 223  $D^{\text{wet}}_{h,\text{ref}}$  when  $h$  increases.

224 For the heat transfer process, a differential equation proposed by Bastidas-Arteaga [24] is  
 225 employed

$$\rho_c c_q \frac{\partial T}{\partial t} = \lambda \left( \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} \right) \quad (16)$$

227 where  $T$  is the current temperature (K) and  $\rho_c$ ,  $c_q$  and  $\lambda$  denote the density, heat capacity, and  
 228 thermal conductivity of concrete, respectively.

229 The calculation process of chloride ingress is divided into three steps: solving the heat  
 230 transfer equation (Eq. (16)), solving moisture transfer equation (Eq. (12)) based on the  
 231 solution of the heat transfer equation, and finally solving the chloride transfer equation (Eq.

232 (7)). All boundary conditions are obtained through the environmental model (i.e., Eqs.(2)-(5)).  
233 Eqs. (12) and (7) are associated with high nonlinearity. The alternating-direction implicit  
234 (ADI) finite-difference method developed by Peaceman and Rachford is used to solve the  
235 partial differential equations.

### 236 3.2.2. *Verification of chloride transport model by experimental studies*

237 In this study, the chloride transport model is verified using experimental data. The process of  
238 verifying the chloride transport model can be divided into three steps: (1) Build an in-situ  
239 experimental field and prepare concrete specimen; (2) Monitor and record the environmental  
240 information and chloride profiles inside concrete specimen; and (3) Compare the experimental  
241 results with numerical simulation. As shown in Fig. 3, the experimental field is located in the  
242 coastal area. The real-time local relative humidity (RH) and temperature are measured. The  
243 cubic specimens of ordinary concrete with the dimensions of  $150 \times 150 \times 150$  mm or  $100 \times$   
244  $100 \times 100$  mm are cast and cured for 28 days. After curing, the surfaces of concrete cubic are  
245 sealed by epoxy resin to achieve 1D or 2D chloride transport. Next, the specimens are  
246 transferred for the exposure test.

247 The following step is to capture the chloride profiles, which could be used to compare  
248 with numerical results and testify the feasibility of the numerical model. The chloride profiles  
249 of concrete need to be destructively tested regularly. The experimental interval varies from six  
250 months to 1 year. The concrete cubic is taken for the chloride content test. As shown in Fig. 4,  
251 given a profile interval, e.g., 3 mm or 5 mm, the power samples at different depths of the  
252 specimen are collected through a bench drilling machine and dissolved in a bottle of acid

253 extract liquor for 24 hours. Next, the chloride concentration in the acid extract liquor is  
 254 measured by the direct potentiometry with the help of electrode and measurement device. The  
 255 recorded potentiometry in the bottles is converted into the chloride concentration at different  
 256 depths, which could be used to draw the scatter plot of chloride content versus ingress depth.

### 257 **3.3.Propagation stage**

258 Once the chloride content on concrete cover exceeds critical chloride content  $C_{cr}$  (wt % of  
 259 cement, a gauss random variable with a mean value of 0.4% and a standard deviation (STD) of  
 260 0.1% [16,22]), reinforcement corrosion occurs [8]. Considering the influences of chloride  
 261 content, temperature and time on corrosion rate  $i_{corr}(t)$  ( $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ ), an empirical model of  
 262 corrosion rate developed by Liu is used [9]

$$263 \quad \ln(1.08i_{corr}(t)) = 7.89 + 0.7771\ln(1.69Cl) - 3006/T - 0.000116R_c + 2.24t^{-0.215} + N(0,0.3312) \quad (17)$$

264 where  $Cl$  denotes chloride content ( $\text{kg}/\text{m}^3$ );  $T(K)$  is the temperature at the concrete inside;  $R_c$   
 265 (Ohms) is the resistance of cover concrete (e.g., 25000 Ohms [22]);  $t$  (year) is the time since  
 266 corrosion initiation; and  $N(0, 0.3312)$  is the aleatory component of corrosion rate. According  
 267 to Faraday law, the average reinforcement diameter loss  $\Delta r(t)$  can be computed by Eq. (18)  
 268 [43]

$$269 \quad \Delta r(t) = \int 0.0116i_{corr}(t)dt \quad (18)$$

270 Given the circular cross-section, the average corrosion ratio of steel bar can be calculated

$$271 \quad \eta_s(t) = 1 - [r_0 - \Delta r(t)]^2 / r_0^2 \quad (19)$$

272 In general, due to the complex chloride transport mechanism and non-uniformity of  
 273 material properties, chloride ingress may induce macro-cell corrosion of reinforcement (e.g.,

274 pitting corrosion or localized corrosion). Most of existing studies used the pitting factor to  
 275 quantify the pitting corrosion based on the assumption of one-single pit [44, 45]. However, in  
 276 practical engineering, the cross-section of corroded rebar might be complex due to distribution  
 277 of different numbers of corrosion pits. Thus, it is difficult to assess the pattern of pitting  
 278 corrosion by using pitting factor and minimum rebar diameter. Then, Zhang et al. [46] and Gu  
 279 et al. [12] proposed the  $R$  factor of non-uniform corrosion to quantify the corrosion geometry  
 280 for both uniform corrosion and pitting corrosion based on both experimental and numerical  
 281 studies.  $R$  factor is the ratio of the average cross-sectional area to the minimum cross-sectional  
 282 area. Gu *et al.* [12] conducted the salt-spray test of RC slabs to obtain corroded steel bars, then  
 283 used 3D scanner to acquire the distribution of cross-sectional area. According to statistics  
 284 analysis,  $R$  values of corroded steel bar were collected, and the  $R$  factor was found to follow  
 285 Type I extreme distribution (Gumbel distribution). The distribution parameters  $\mu_0$  (Eq. (20))  
 286 and  $\sigma_0$  (Eq. (21)) of  $R$  factor are obtained from the statistics result of cross-sectional areas of  
 287 rebar [12].

$$288 \quad \mu_0(t) = 3.35\eta_s(t)e^{-0.236i_{corr}(t)} + 0.12\eta_s(t) + 1.01 \quad (20)$$

$$289 \quad \sigma_0(t) = 0.3371\eta_s(t) + 0.0006 \quad (21)$$

$$290 \quad A_0 = \pi D_0 L_0 \quad (22)$$

291 where  $D_0$  is the initial diameter of rebar;  $L_0$  is the analysis length and  $A_0$  is rebar surface area.  
 292 According to the theory of extreme value, Eq. (23) is employed to calculate the distribution  
 293 parameters of the  $R$  factor under the surface area  $A$

$$294 \quad \mu(t) = \mu_0(t) + \sigma_0(t)\ln(A/A_0), \sigma(t) = \sigma_0(t) \quad (23)$$

295 The  $R$  factor is related with the corrosion current density and corrosion degree, but  $R$  factor  
296 refers to cross-sectional area, rather than the steel bar radius or diameter. Herein, the cracking  
297 of concrete cover happens once the equivalent maximum radius loss  $\Delta r_{\max}$  (i.e.,  $r_0 - r_{\min}$ )  
298 exceeds  $\Delta r_{\text{cr}}$ . In this paper, an equivalent maximum radius loss  $\Delta r_{\max}$  is proposed to quantify  
299 the corrosion level and testify whether the cover crack happens or not. The detailed  
300 investigation on the pitting corrosion (e.g., number of pits within a given section, geometry of  
301 steel bar after corrosion) is beyond the scope of this study. In this paper, the  $r_{\min}$  is  
302 approximately computed by an equivalent  $r_{\min}$  as follows

$$303 \quad r_{\min}(t) = \frac{r_0 - \Delta r(t)}{\sqrt{R(t)}} \quad (24)$$

#### 304 **4. Repair and impact analysis**

305 The purposes of repair and impact analysis are to provide the application timing of different  
306 repair actions. Supposing that regular inspection and special inspection are executed every two  
307 and ten years, respectively, three repair technologies are provided: Cathodic protection ( $CP$ )  
308  $ra_1$ , cathodic prevention ( $CPre$ )  $ra_2$ , and patch repair  $ra_3$  [22]. According to the design  
309 reference period (50 years) in GB50068-20001 [47], the validity period of  $CP$  and  $CPre$  are  
310 assumed as 15 and 17 years, respectively. Meanwhile, two types of decision information (i.e.,  
311 cost and downtime associated with the repair actions) are considered. As there are limited  
312 information on the maintenance cost and downtime associated with different maintenance  
313 actions in China, the relevant parameters used are based on the previous studies. Given more  
314 validated information, the values of these parameters could be easily updated. Assuming the

315 decision information follows Gaussian distribution ( $N(\mu^*, \sigma^*)$ ,  $\mu^*$  denotes the mean and  $\sigma^*$   
316 denotes the standard deviation), the initial costs (USD) of CP, CPre and Patch repair are  $N(250,$   
317  $80)$ ,  $N(150,40)$  and  $N(100,20)$  and their downtimes (months) are  $N(24,6)$ ,  $N(6,2)$  and  $N(4,1)$ ,  
318 respectively. During the service period of CP and CPre, both of their ongoing cost (USD/year)  
319 are  $N(5,1)$ .

320 As illustrated in Fig. 5, a decision tree model is adopted to determine the types and timing  
321 of repair actions. Repair actions are supposed to be activated when delamination occurs under  
322 regular inspection or special inspection. *CP* would be applied for the first time of repair, where  
323 the concrete cover is replaced, and the chloride ion is cleared. After the validity period of *CP*,  
324 *CPre* is used to prevent corrosion initiation. If the residual life is larger than 10 years, but less  
325 than 20 years, *patch repair* is utilized to clear the chloride on the concrete surface. Supposing  
326 the random variables of cost and downtime associated with each maintenance action are  
327 independent, the mean ( $\mu_{rc\_cost}$  and  $\mu_{rc\_downt}$ ) and STD ( $\sigma_{rc\_cost}$  and  $\sigma_{rc\_downt}$ ) of a given repair  
328 combination are computed by summing all mean values of variables and taking the square root  
329 of the sum of squares, as follows

$$\begin{aligned}
\mu_{rc\_cost} &= 250 \cdot H(t_{ra_1}) + 5t_{ra_1} + 150 \cdot H(t_{ra_2}) + 5t_{ra_2} + 100 \cdot H(t_{ra_3}) \\
\mu_{rc\_downt} &= 24 \cdot H(t_{ra_1}) + 6 \cdot H(t_{ra_2}) + 4 \cdot H(t_{ra_3}) \\
\sigma_{rc\_cost} &= \sqrt{[80 \cdot H(t_{ra_1})]^2 + t_{ra_1}^2 + [40 \cdot H(t_{ra_2})]^2 + t_{ra_2}^2 + [20 \cdot H(t_{ra_3})]^2} \\
\sigma_{rc\_downt} &= \sqrt{[6 \cdot H(t_{ra_1})]^2 + [2 \cdot H(t_{ra_2})]^2 + [H(t_{ra_3})]^2}
\end{aligned} \tag{25}$$

331 where  $H(\cdot)$  denotes the Heaviside function ( $H(x) = 1$  when  $x > 0$ ;  $H(x) = 0$  when  $x \leq 0$ ) and  
332  $t_{ra1}$ ,  $t_{ra2}$  and  $t_{ra3}$  are the durations (months) of *CP*, *CPre*, and Patch repair, respectively. Finally,  
333 given the probability distribution of repair combination, the final decision information can be



334 easily obtained through the convolution method, viz. Eq. (1).

## 335 5. Illustrative example

336 As illustrated in Fig. 6, an RC beam with the ordinary Portland cement of 0.53 water-to-cement  
337 ratio, a cross-section of  $200 \times 400$  mm and a cover thickness of 25 mm, located on the west  
338 coast of Yellow Sea, is investigated to demonstrate the feasibility and applicability of the  
339 proposed PBDE framework. The reinforcement layout of this beam is  $3\phi 25$ , and analysis length  
340 for  $R$  factor is determined as 150 mm [44]. The beam was built in 2010. Eight cases are assessed  
341 under different scenarios, as shown in Table 1. The relevant calculation parameters and values  
342 in Eqs. (6)-(16) are listed in Table 2.

343 To conduct the exposure analysis, characteristic exposure condition ( $ec$ ) of temperature is  
344 assumed as a random variable following  $0.5N(1.80,0.2) + 0.5N(3.00,0.13)$  and  $\lambda$  is the zero-  
345 mean noise component with  $0.475$  °C STD [22]. Considering global warming, the parameters  
346  $a(ec)$  and  $n(ec)$  in the increasing tendency Eq. (5) of temperature are calculated through Eqs.  
347 (26) and (27) [22].

$$348 \quad a(ec) = 5.04 \times 10^{-3} ec^2 - 3.57 \times 10^{-2} ec + 6.49 \times 10^{-2} \quad (26)$$

$$349 \quad n(ec) = 3.59 \times 10^{-1} ec + 3.33 \times 10^{-1} \quad (27)$$

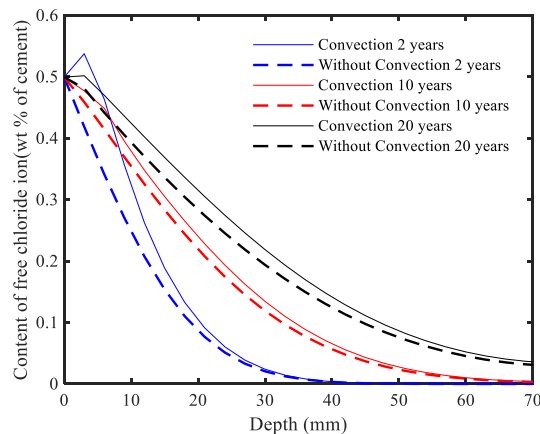
350 In this paper, the environmental information is based on the measurement data of the west  
351 coast of the Yellow Sea from 2011 to 2012 by using temperature and humidity sensor, DB 170  
352 (Dalian Beifang M&C Engineering Co., Ltd., China) with the accuracy of  $\pm 1.8\%$  for RH and  
353  $\pm 0.3$  °C under  $25$  °C [17]. Then, by curve-fitting, the parameters used in Eqs. (2)-(5), (26) and  
354 (27) are obtained as listed in Table 3. Fig. 7 illustrates the comparisons of fitting surrounding

355 temperature and relative humidity versus measured data.

## 356 5.1. Model verification

### 357 5.1.1. Influences of convection on chloride transport

358 A calculation case was supplied to compare the chloride profiles within concrete. Supposing  
359 that the boundary condition is the constant content of free chloride ion (wt % of cement) 0.5 %  
360 and other environmental parameters remain unchanged, the chloride profiles of three instants  
361 (2 years, 10 years, and 20 years) under with and without convection assumption are obtained  
362 respectively. As shown in Fig. 8, all three curves with convection assumption are about 100 ~  
363 136% times those without convection. Also, the curves with convection appear non-linearity  
364 i.e., one peak at the depth of 3 mm. On the other hand, in Fig. 8, the highest chloride content  
365 appears in the 2-th year, but the deepest chloride transport was shown in the 20-th year. Due to  
366 the various surrounding environments, the influences of convection on the chloride transport  
367 and durability assessment may be hard to evaluate precisely, but the effects of convection on  
368 structural durability and performance is negative. Thus, it is necessary to consider the  
369 convection effect in the performance based-durability assessment.



370

371 Fig. 8. Comparison of free chloride profiles within concrete under the assumptions of with

372 and without convection

### 373 5.1.2. Comparison between model prediction and experimental data

374 The filed experimental data of chloride ingress in the concrete specimen are collected to verify  
375 the accuracy of the adopted chloride transport model [17]. The concrete blocks were taken out  
376 regularly to drill the powder and measure the chloride concentration. The chloride profiles after  
377 6, 22, and 34 months are shown in Fig. 9. As indicated, the numerical curves after 6 and 22  
378 months are relatively higher than experimental curves, but after 34 months, the numerical curve  
379 is surpassed by experimental one. As illustrated in Fig. 9, the convolution zone does not appear  
380 in the profiles of chloride content until 34 months. The depth of the actual convolution zone  
381 after 34 months is about 13.5 mm while the depth of the simulated convolution zone after 34  
382 months is about 10.5 mm in Fig.9a. The difference may arise from several reasons: (1) Lack of  
383 precise surface chloride and (2) Lack of other environmental factors, e.g., wind load, rain, snow,  
384 etc. On the other hand, due to the absence of convection mechanism, the depth of the simulated  
385 convolution zone after 34 months is about 7.5 mm in Fig.9b which is smaller than Fig. 9a.

## 386 5.2.PBDE framework

### 387 5.2.1. Exposure and deterioration analysis

388 Fig. 10 shows the continuous curve and scatter points of CCDF of exposure condition, where  
389 scatter points denote the characteristic exposure condition  $ec_1, ec_2 \dots ec_{10}$ . Next, given  $ec_1,$   
390  $ec_2, \dots, ec_{10}$ , samples of  $C_{cr}, \Delta r_{cr}$ , and  $R$  factor are generated by Sobol quasi-random sequence.

391 Fig.11 presents the PDF contour of chloride content on the surface of the steel bars for  
392 cases 1 and 5. Without repair actions, the contour bands in Fig.10a and c are fluctuating and  
393 continuous reflecting the variation of environmental parameters. Considering the repair actions,

394 the contour bonds in Fig.11b and d are dispersedly distributed. The mean values in Fig.11b and  
395 d show a fluctuation, which is more apparent than Fig.11a and c. Thus, the proposed chloride  
396 transport model can reflect the effects of changing climate on chloride transport. By using the  
397 2D chloride transport model and without repair, the mean value of chloride content on the  
398 surface of the corner steel bars is about 1.29 ~ 4.49 times of the middle steel bars.

399 The mean and STD of chloride content on the steel bar surface of Cases 1, 3, 5, and 7 are  
400 presented in Fig. 12. The curves in Fig.12 show a strong and periodic fluctuation. As shown in  
401 Fig. 12, the mean and STD of ‘Case 1 corner bar’ are close to ‘Case 5 corner bar’ from 2010  
402 to 2018, but then the mean values of ‘Case 5 corner bar’ become much more fluctuating but  
403 10 % ~ 46 % lower than ‘Case 1 corner bar’. Thus, applying repair actions could effectively  
404 reduce the mean value of chloride content on the steel bar surface.

405 Fig. 13 shows the mean and STD  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of steel bar in Cases 1, 3, 5, and 7. As indicated,  
406 during most of the investigated time interval, mean and STD  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of the corner steel bars are  
407 less than  $0.10 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$  and  $0.15 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ , and only a few ones exceed  $0.16 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$  and  $0.21$   
408  $\mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ . Due to the application of repair actions on time, the mean  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of the middle steel bars  
409 is much smaller than that of the corner steel bars. The maximum means of  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of ‘Case 1 corner  
410 bar’ and ‘Case 5 corner bar’ are  $0.1525 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$  and  $0.0848 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ , which are twice of the  
411 maximum  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of ‘Case 3 corner & middle bar’  $0.815 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$  and ‘Case 7 corner & middle bar’  
412  $0.0411 \mu\text{A}/\text{cm}^2$ , respectively. The maximum mean  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of 2D chloride transport is about twice  
413 the maximum  $i_{\text{corr}}$  of 1D chloride transport.

414 Furthermore, Fig.14 and Fig.15 show the mean and STD of the average loss of

415 reinforcement radius  $\Delta r$  and maximum loss of reinforcement radius  $\Delta r_{max}$  of Cases 1 ~ 8,  
416 respectively. As indicated in Figs.14a, without repair action, the mean  $\Delta r$  of ‘Case 1 corner bar’  
417 is at least 1.447 times higher than the  $\Delta r$  associated with Case 3; and the mean  $\Delta r$  of ‘Case 1  
418 middle bar’ is about 0.882 ~ 1.381 times of the  $\Delta r$  of Case 3. Besides, Fig.14c shows that the  
419 STD  $\Delta r$  of ‘Case 1 corner bar’ is higher than that of Case 3 before 2049 but surpassed by Case  
420 1 after 2049; and the STD of  $\Delta r$  of ‘Case 1 middle bar’ is about 0.966 ~ 1.358 times of the  $\Delta r$   
421 associated with Case 3. In Fig.14b, the mean  $\Delta r$  of ‘Case 5 corner bar’ is at least 1.76 times of  
422 the mean  $\Delta r$  in Case 7. Besides, Fig.14d shows the STD of  $\Delta r$  of Case 5 and Case 7. Comparing  
423 Fig.14a with b, repair action could significantly reduce the mean  $\Delta r$  by about 85% for corner  
424 steel bar and about 99% for the middle steel bar under 2D transport. Meanwhile, the STD of  
425  $\Delta r$  decreases by about 57% for corner steel bar and about 68% for the middle steel bar.

426 As indicated in Fig.15a, the ratio of the mean of maximum radius loss  $\Delta r_{max}$  under ‘Case  
427 1 corner bar’ to ‘Case 2 corner bar’ varies from 1.239 to 5.162 and the ratio of the mean  $\Delta r_{max}$   
428 under ‘Case 1 middle bar’ to ‘Case 2 middle bar’ varies from 2.236 to 4.823. In Fig.15c, the  
429 ratio of STD of  $\Delta r_{max}$  under ‘Case 1 corner bar’ to ‘Case 2 corner bar’ is larger than 5.308 and  
430 the ratio of STD of  $\Delta r_{max}$  under ‘Case 1 middle bar’ to ‘Case 2 middle bar’ is larger than 1.725.  
431 Thus, corrosion non-uniformity is a vital factor in deterioration.

432 Without repair action, the mean value of  $\Delta r_{max}$  associated with ‘Case 1 corner bar’ is at  
433 least 1.619 times larger than Case 3, and the ratio of the mean  $\Delta r_{max}$  under ‘Case 1 middle bar’  
434 to Case 3 ranges from 0.886 to 1.702. Also, the STD of  $\Delta r_{max}$  of ‘Case 1 corner bar’ is at least  
435 6.3109 times larger than Case 3, and the ratio of the STD of  $\Delta r_{max}$  under ‘Case 1 middle bar’

436 to Case 3 ranges from 0.986 to 1.047. Given repair actions, the relevant ratios could also be  
 437 computed. Repair action could significantly reduce the mean of  $\Delta r_{max}$  by about 85% for corner  
 438 steel bar and about 99% for middle steel bar under 2D chloride transport, meanwhile the STD  
 439 of  $\Delta r_{max}$  decreases by about 56% for corner steel bar and about 69% for middle steel bar.

440 The influences of global warming within 50 years ( $\Delta T_{50}$ ) on the durability are assessed.  
 441 Three additional cases of  $\Delta T_{50}$  are applied: 0.3°C, 3°C, and 6°C. Eq. (5) is replaced by Eq.  
 442 (28) to achieve a  $\Delta T_{50}$  controlled temperature model.

$$443 \quad ENV_{new,incre}(\Delta T, ec, t) = ENV_{incre}(ec, t) \cdot \frac{\Delta T}{E[env_{incre}(ec, 50a)] - E[env_{incre}(ec, 0a)]} \quad (28)$$

444 Figs. 16 – 18 illustrate the mean and STD of chloride concentration on the steel bar surface,  
 445 corrosion current density,  $\Delta r$  and  $\Delta r_{max}$ , respectively. In Fig. 16, the influences of  $\Delta T_{50}$  on the  
 446 STD of  $C_{Cl}$  (Figs. 16c and d) are slightly more than the mean of  $C_{Cl}$  (Figs. 16a and b) both on  
 447 the middle bar and the corner bar. However, the effects of  $\Delta T_{50}$  on the STD of  $i_{corr}$  (Figs. 17c  
 448 and d) are more significant than the mean of  $i_{corr}$  (Figs. 17a and b). In Fig. 18,  $\Delta T_{50}$  has an  
 449 apparent effect on the evolution process of radius loss  $\Delta r$  and  $\Delta r_{max}$ . Table 4 lists all ratios of  
 450 the mean and STD of chloride content  $C_{Cl}$ , corrosion current density  $i_{corr}$ , radius loss  $\Delta r$  and  
 451  $\Delta r_{max}$  under different  $\Delta T_{50}$  to Case 1 (only the values at 50a are selected to compare). As  
 452 indicated, most  $C_{Cl}$ ,  $i_{corr}$ ,  $\Delta r$  and  $\Delta r_{max}$  are approximately linear to  $\Delta T_{50}$  expect that the  $i_{corr}$  of  
 453 the corner bar. The mean and STD of  $C_{Cl}$  increases by about 0.4 ~ 0.6 % and 3 % given 1°C  
 454 increase of  $\Delta T_{50}$ , respectively; the STD of  $C_{Cl}$  increase by about 3 % given 1°C increase of  
 455  $\Delta T_{50}$ ; the mean and STD of  $i_{corr}$  on middle bar increase by about 21 % and 37% given 1°C  
 456 increase of  $\Delta T_{50}$ , respectively; the mean and STD of radius loss increases by about 2% given

457 1°C increase of  $\Delta T_{50}$ .

### 458 5.2.2. *Repair and impact analysis*

459 Fig.19 compares the probability mass function (PMF) of the convoluted timing of repair actions  
460 under Cases 5 ~ 8. In Cases 5 and 6, ‘CP2020 & CPre2036’ (Combination 2) owns the highest  
461 probability of 0.4218 (Case 5) and 0.4472 (Case 6), followed by ‘CP2030 & Patch2050’  
462 (Combination 5) with the probability of 0.2839 (Case 5) and 0.4306 (Case 6). The ‘CP & CPre’  
463 (Combination 1 and 2) and ‘CP & Patch’ (Combination 3, 4, and 5) are the most common repair  
464 combinations. The probability of ‘CP & CPre’ is 0.4281 in Case 5 and 0.4472 in Case 6, and  
465 the probability of ‘CP & Patch’ is 0.4515 in Case 5 and 0.4306 in Case 6. Thus, non-uniform  
466 corrosion has few effects on the probability of the repair combinations but affects their timings.  
467 Fig.15 shows that  $\Delta r_{\max}$  of Case 5 might be 4.4 times larger than Case 6 and concrete cracking  
468 happens in Case 5 but does not occur in Case 6. Thus, Case 5 can apply repair actions after  
469 regular and special inspection, but Case 6 applies repair action only after special inspection.

470 Also, from Cases 5 ~ 8, chloride transport has much more influences on the timing of  
471 repair combination than corrosion non-uniformity. As presented in Fig.19, considering 2D  
472 chloride transport, repair action happens during the service life. If only under 1D chloride  
473 transport, ‘No repair’ could result within the 50 years.

474 According to the PMF of convoluted timing and impact information of repair actions, the  
475 distribution of final lifetime decision is obtained by Eq. (25), as shown in Fig. 20. The curve  
476 shapes of Fig.20a and b are similar.  $G_{DI1}(0)$  and  $G_{DI2}(0)$  of Cases 7 and 8 equal 0.69 due to the  
477 existence of ‘No Repair’ in Cases 7 and 8, while  $G_{DI1}(0)$  and  $G_{DI2}(0)$  of Cases 5 and 6 equal 1.

478 Thus, the mode of chloride transport has a more significant effect on the CCDF of decision  
 479 information than corrosion non-uniformity. Comparing Case 5 with Case 7, the mean values of  
 480 cost  $\mu_{\text{cost}}$  and downtime  $\mu_{\text{downtime}}$  associated with Case 5 are 108.92% and 86.15% higher than  
 481 that of Case 7. The STD of cost  $\sigma_{\text{cost}}$  and downtime  $\sigma_{\text{downtime}}$  of 2D chloride transport are about  
 482 25% and 36% lower than those of 1D chloride transport.

483 A parametric analysis is conducted to study the effect of the distribution parameters  
 484 associated with the maintenance cost and downtime on the decision variable. Concerning the  
 485 three types of repair actions in this paper, scaling factor  $x_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, \text{ and } 3$ ) is supposed to update  
 486 the distribution parameters (mean and STD) of  $ra_i$  by multiplying the  $x_i$  and original the  
 487 distribution parameters of  $ra_i$  (viz. enlarge or reduce the distribution parameters of information  
 488 parameters within one type of repair action). Then, the distribution parameters of decision  
 489 information ( $\mu_{\text{cost}}$ ,  $\mu_{\text{downtime}}$ ,  $\sigma_{\text{cost}}$ , and  $\sigma_{\text{downtime}}$ ) with updated distribution parameters  
 490 of  $ra_i$  can be calculated. Besides, A response surface model (RSM) is applied as follows

$$491 \quad y = \beta_0 + \beta_1 x_1 + \beta_2 x_2 + \beta_3 x_3 + \beta_4 x_1^2 + \beta_5 x_1 x_2 + \beta_6 x_1 x_3 + \beta_7 x_2^2 + \beta_8 x_2 x_3 + \beta_9 x_3^2 \quad (29)$$

492 where  $\beta_k$  ( $k = 0, 1, \dots, 9$ ) is the coefficient of RSM function. Taking Case 5 as one example,  
 493 128 random samples of  $x_i$  are generated to fit the surface model Eq. (29) and then fitted  
 494 coefficients are summarized in Table 5. Fig. 21 illustrates the distribution parameters of  
 495 decision information versus  $x_i$ . In Figs. 21a and b, it could be found that the mean value of  $ra_1$   
 496 affects the mean values of cost and downtime much more significantly than those of  $ra_2$  and  
 497  $ra_3$ . In Figs. 21c and b, the STD of  $ra_2$  influences the STD of cost and downtime mostly.



498 **6. Conclusions**

499 In this paper, a probabilistic PBDE framework for RC structures under marine atmospheric  
500 environment is proposed incorporating different computational modules. A comprehensive  
501 deterioration analysis model is developed to account for the 2D chloride transport and non-  
502 uniformity of corrosion. The experimental studies are conducted to verify the numeral analysis.  
503 The uncertainty associated with material properties, model, and environmental scenarios, as  
504 well as the effect and cost of decision actions, are incorporated within the developed framework.  
505 The following conclusions are drawn:

- 506 (1) Based on the experimental and numerical analysis, it is crucial to take the convection effect  
507 of chloride transport into consideration within the deterioration analysis process. Without  
508 considering the convection mechanism of chloride transport, the chloride profile within  
509 concrete would not perform high-nonlinearity and match the actual experimental data.  
510 Overall, it would underestimate the deterioration scenario of RC structures.
- 511 (2) Deterioration analysis reveals that the repair action and fluctuated environmental  
512 parameters can affect the deterioration process of RC beam. As indicated, the repair action  
513 could reduce nearly 50% mean values of chloride content on the steel bar surface and  
514 corrosion current density  $i_{corr}$ . Further, the mean values of average  $\Delta r$  and maximum radius  
515 loss  $\Delta r_{max}$  of reinforcement decrease by 85~99% with repair action, but the STD of  $\Delta r$  and  
516  $\Delta r_{max}$  decrease by 56~69% with repair action.
- 517 (3) On the other hand, without repair action, corrosion non-uniformity mainly affects  $\Delta r_{max}$ .  
518 The 2D chloride transport could increase the mean chloride content on the steel bar surface,

519 the mean  $i_{corr}$ , mean  $\Delta r$ , and mean  $\Delta r_{max}$  significantly. With the consideration of repair  
520 action, corrosion non-uniformity could slightly affect the deterioration process, and 2D  
521 chloride transport can increase the deterioration conditions. The differences between 2D  
522 chloride transport and 1D chloride transport are mitigated by repair action, which  
523 demonstrates the importance of maintenance actions within the service life of RC  
524 structures. Additionally, a sensitivity analysis shows that 1°C increase during the 50 years  
525 could lead to about 2% increase on the mean and STD of radius loss.

526 (4) Repair analysis shows that repair action could be activated earlier if corrosion non-  
527 uniformity is considered. Also, 2D chloride transport makes corrosion detected earlier,  
528 and the possibility of repair is much higher than that using 1D chloride transport.

529 (5) Impact analysis indicates that the mode of chloride transport dominates the CCDF of  
530 decision information cost and downtime, while they are not much affected by corrosion  
531 non-uniformity. Considering both the 2D chloride transport and non-uniform corrosion,  
532 the mean and STD of cost are 0.34% and 0.04% lower than the case, which only considers  
533 2D chloride transport. Apart from that, comparing with 1D transport, 2D chloride transport  
534 could increase the mean of cost and downtime by about 110 % and 86 %. According to  
535 the RSM analysis, the mean value of  $ra_1$  affects the mean values of cost and downtime  
536 most significantly, while the STD of  $ra_2$  influences the STD of cost and downtime mostly.

537 In summary, it is feasible to apply the developed PBDE framework to evaluate the  
538 durability of RC structures. The proposed approach could aid the durability-informed design

539 and management of civil infrastructures.

540

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550

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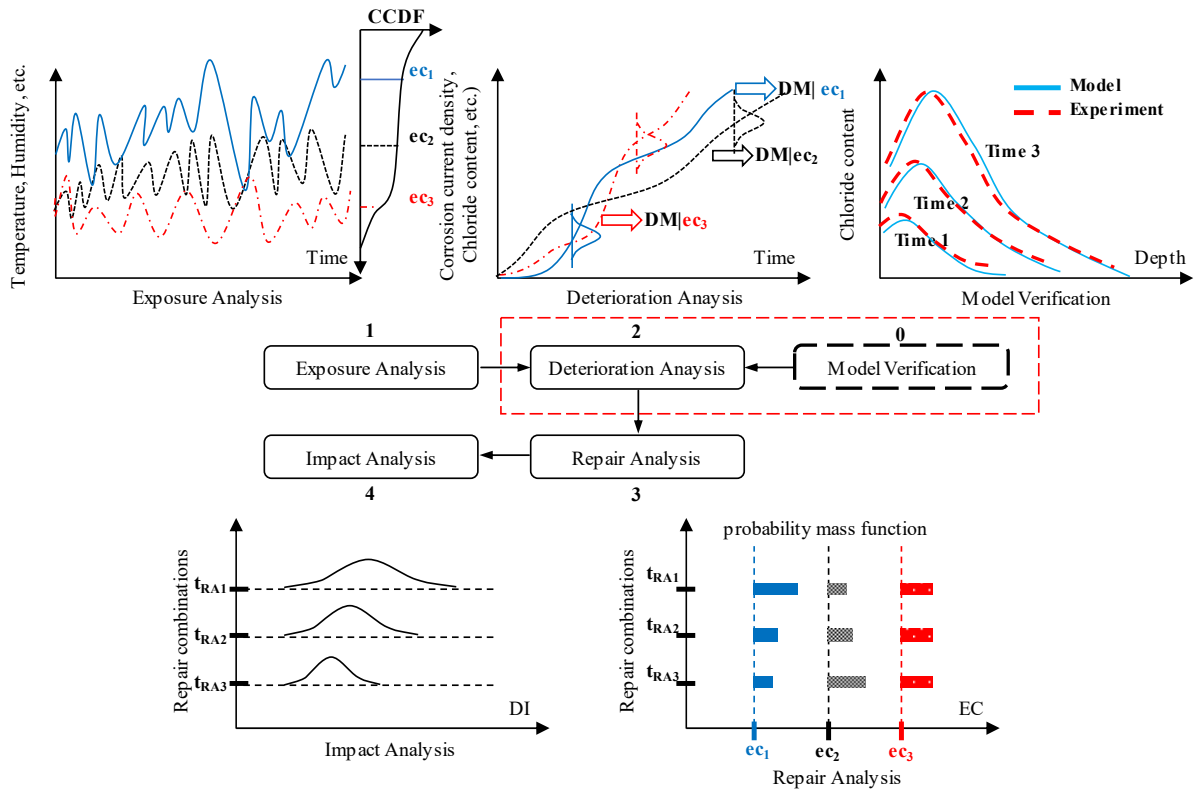


Fig. 1. Computational flowchart of the PBDE

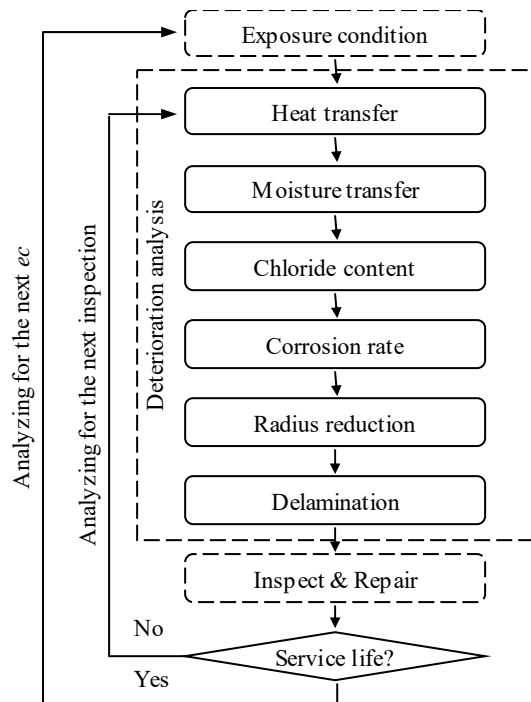
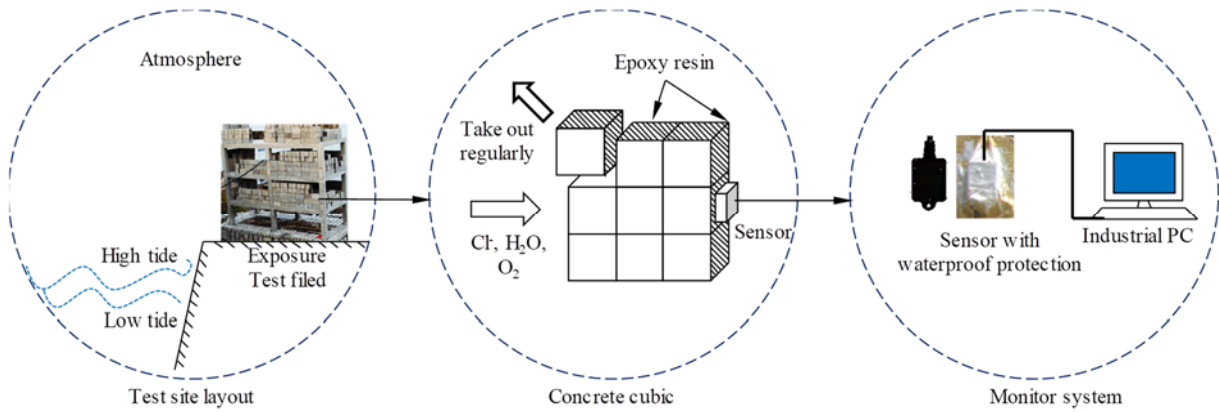
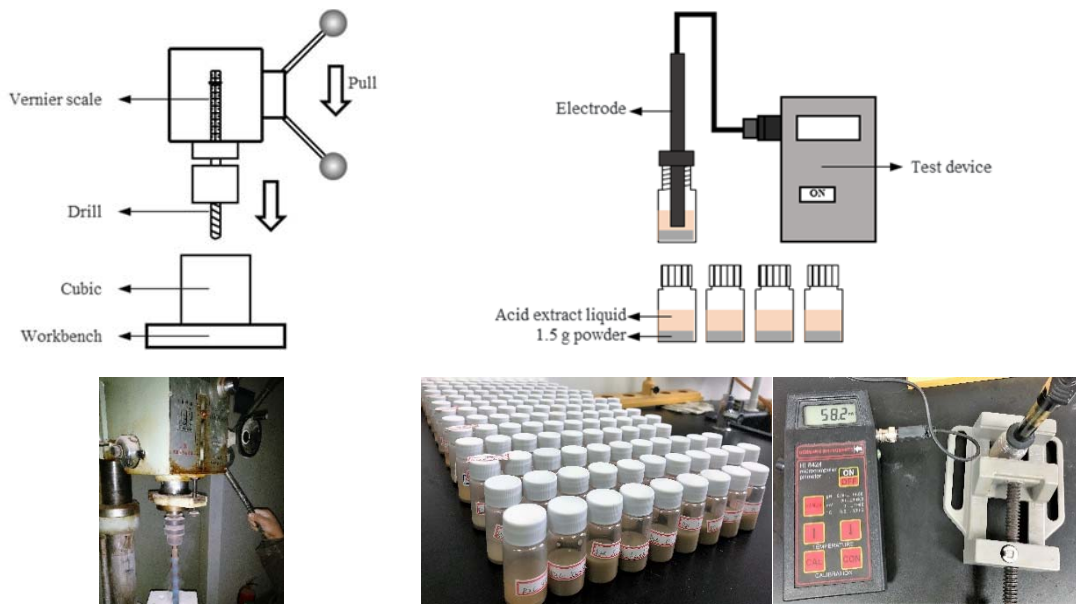


Fig. 2. Flowchart of the deterioration analysis



**Fig. 3.** Illustrative figures of the exposure test

Note: Photos come from Ref. [17]

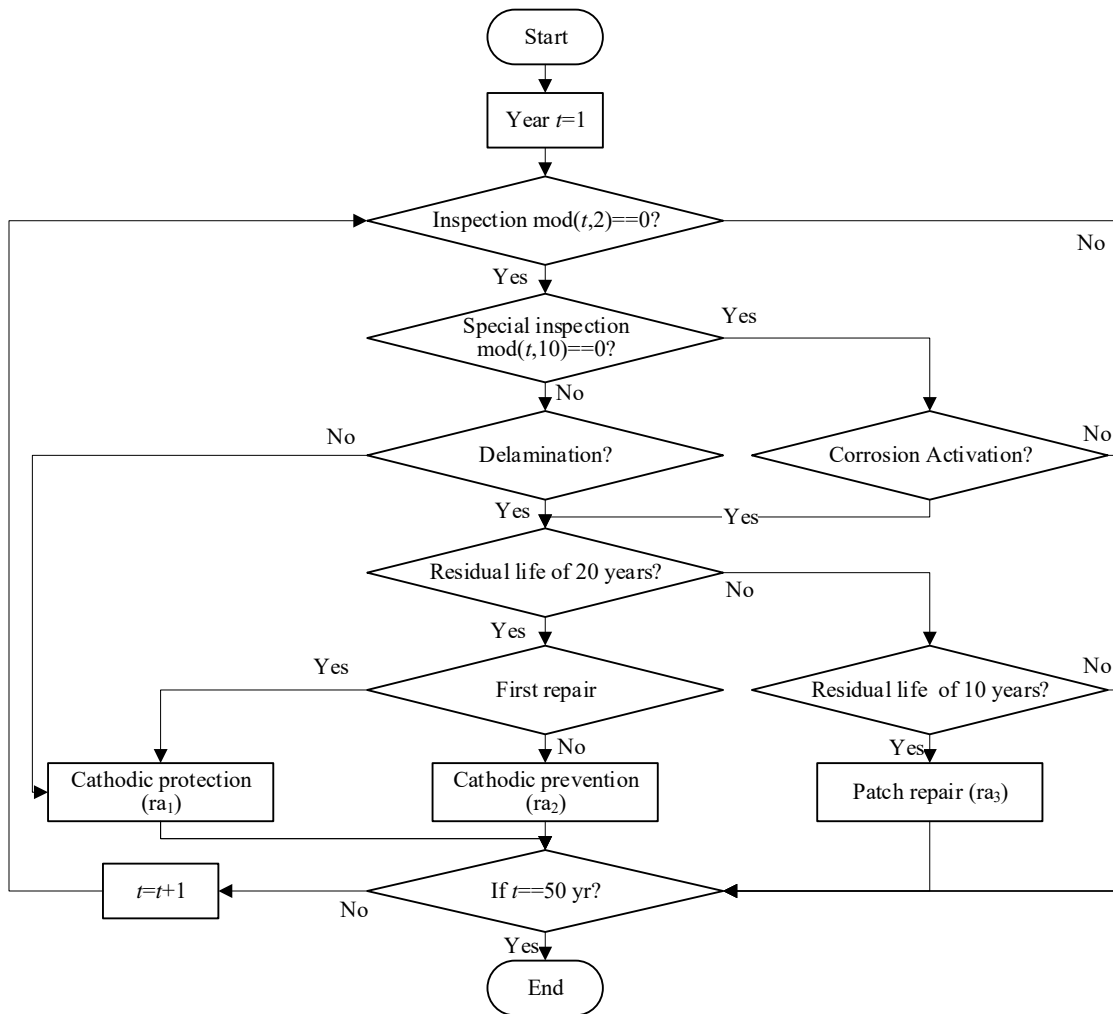


(a) Powder drilling

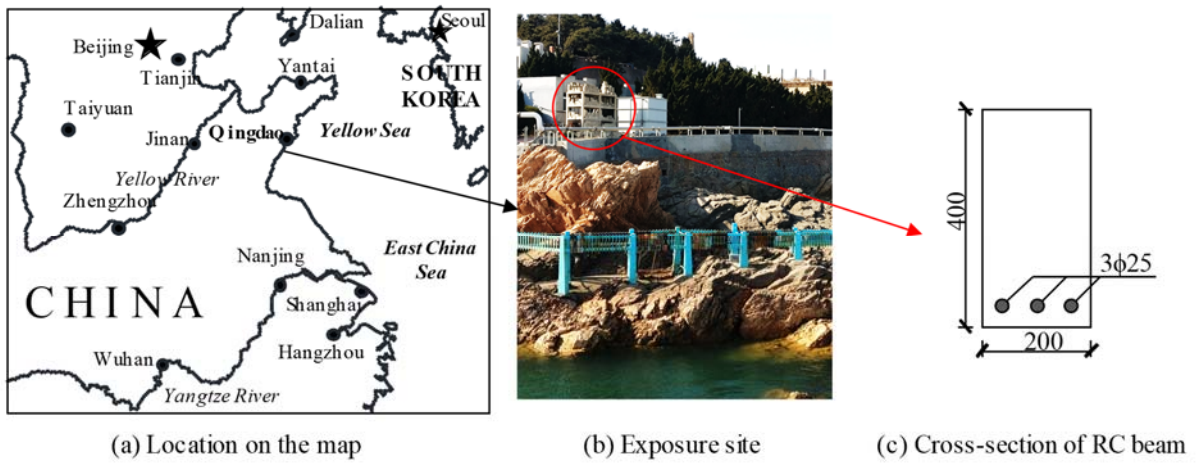
(b) Test of Chloride concentration

**Fig. 4.** Illustration of chloride concentration measurement

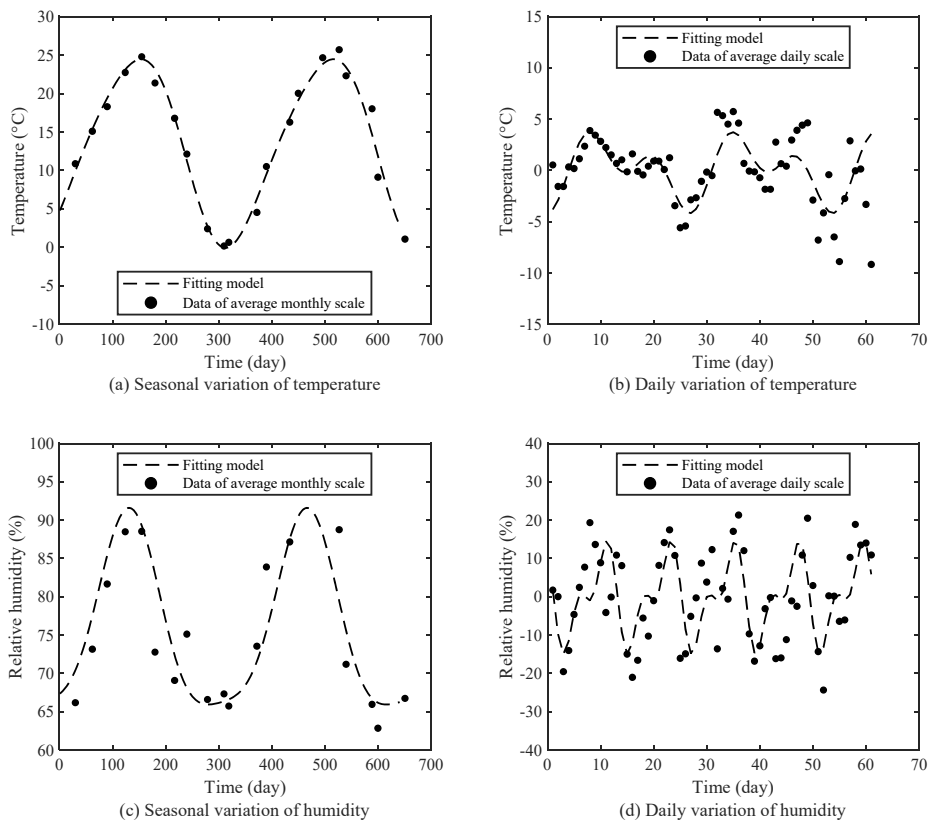
Note: Photos were shot by the first author



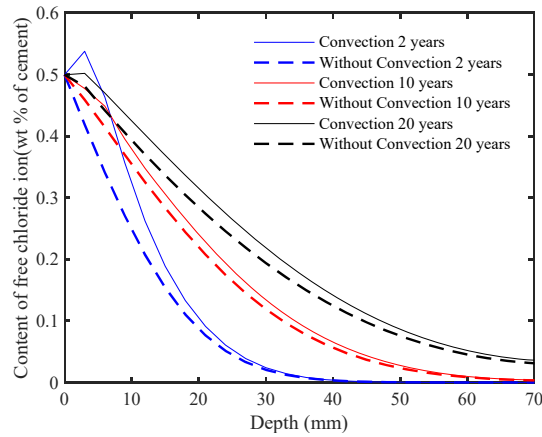
**Fig. 5.** Decision tree model of repair actions within the service life



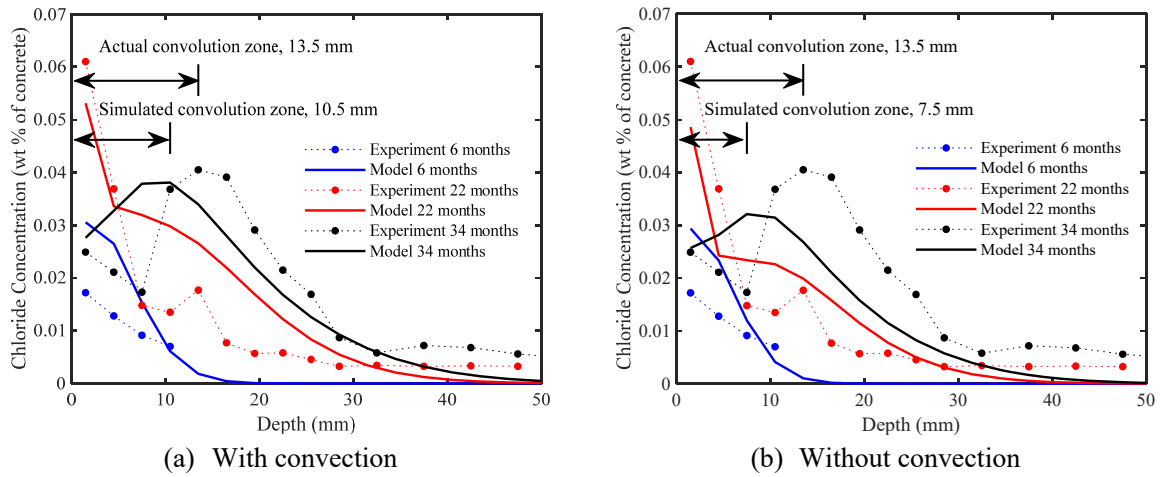
**Fig. 6.** Investigated corroded RC beam  
 Note: Photo was shot by the first author



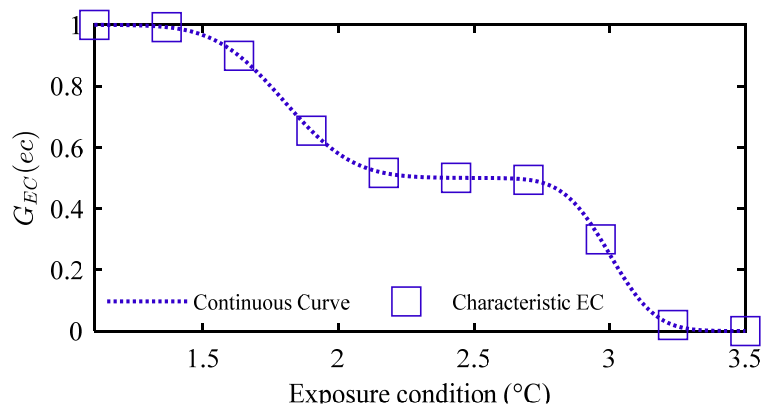
**Fig. 7.** Comparisons between the numerical model and measured data of temperature and relative humidity



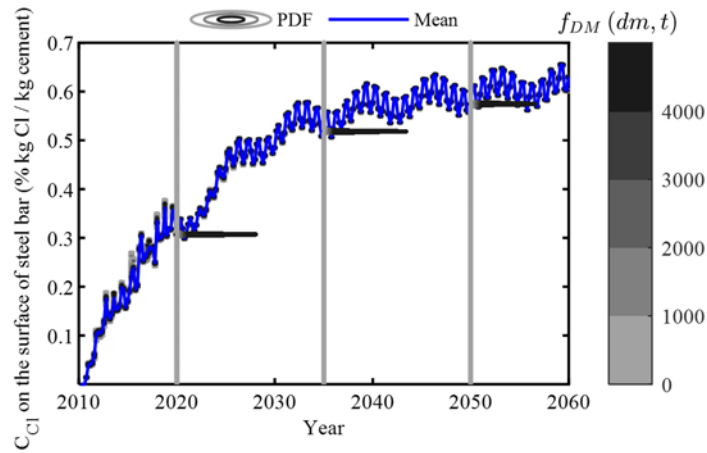
**Fig. 8.** Comparison of free chloride profiles within concrete under the assumptions of with and without convection



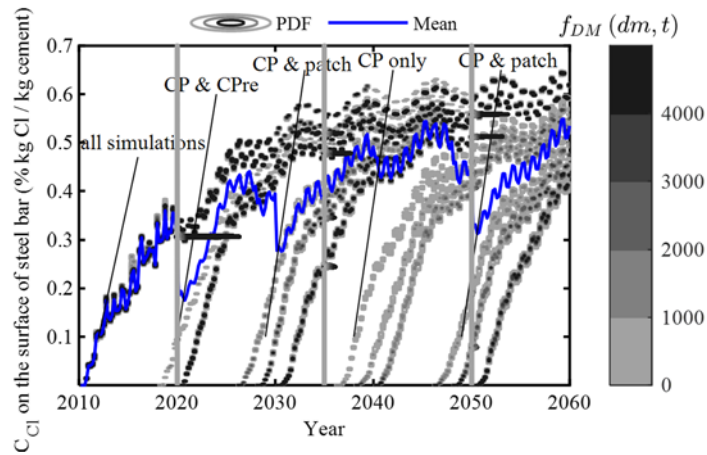
**Fig. 9.** Comparison between the prediction model and experimental data of chloride transport within concrete



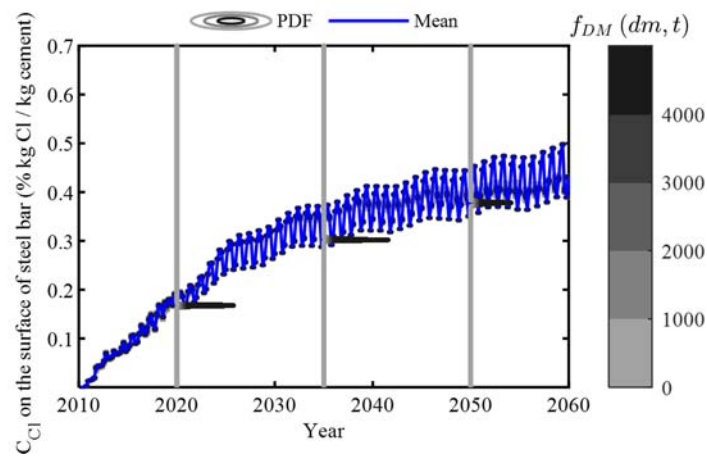
**Fig.10.** Discretized CCDF of exposure condition



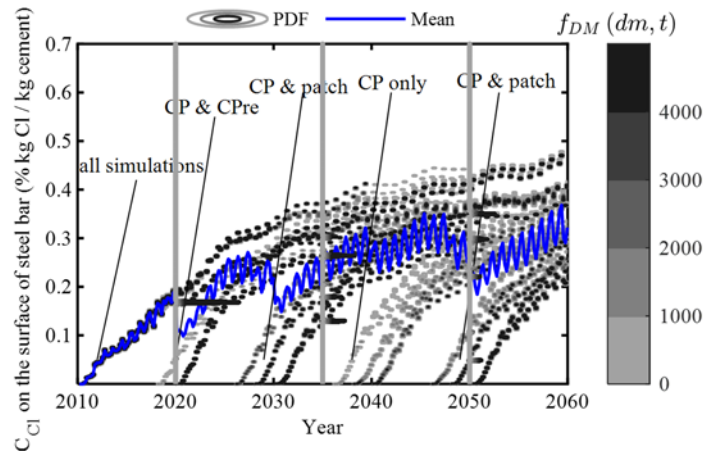
(a) Evolution of chloride content on the surface of the corner reinforcement of Case 1



(b) Evolution of chloride content on the surface of the corner reinforcement of Case 5

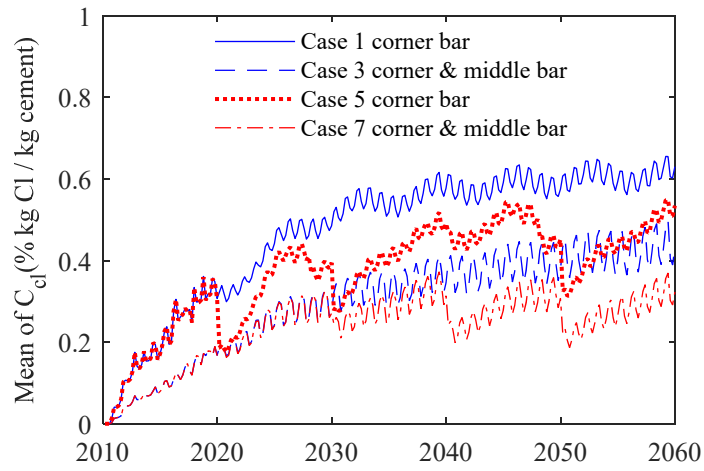


(c) Evolution of chloride content on the surface of the middle reinforcement of Case 1

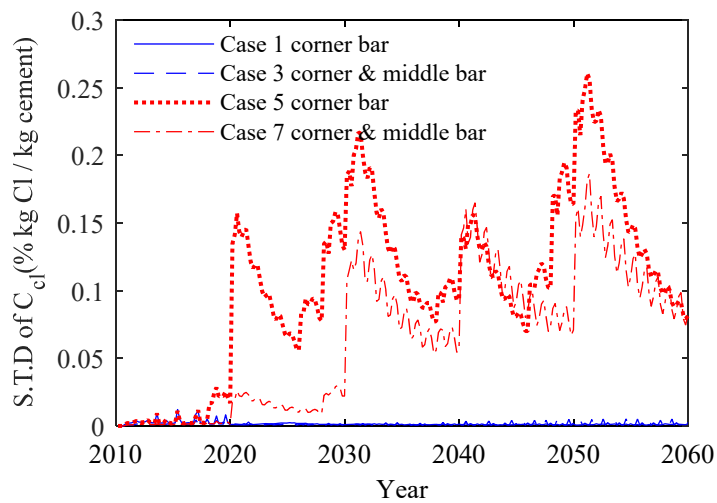


(d) Evolution of chloride content on the surface of the middle reinforcement of Case 5

**Fig. 11.** Contour plots of PDF surface of chloride concentration on the steel bar surface in the Case 1 and Case 5 (Contours are plotted at  $f_{dm} = \{0, 10^3, 2 \times 10^3, 3 \times 10^3, 4 \times 10^3\}$  and PDF are drawn horizontally by 1/5000 scale against vertical axes at 2020, 2035 and 2050)

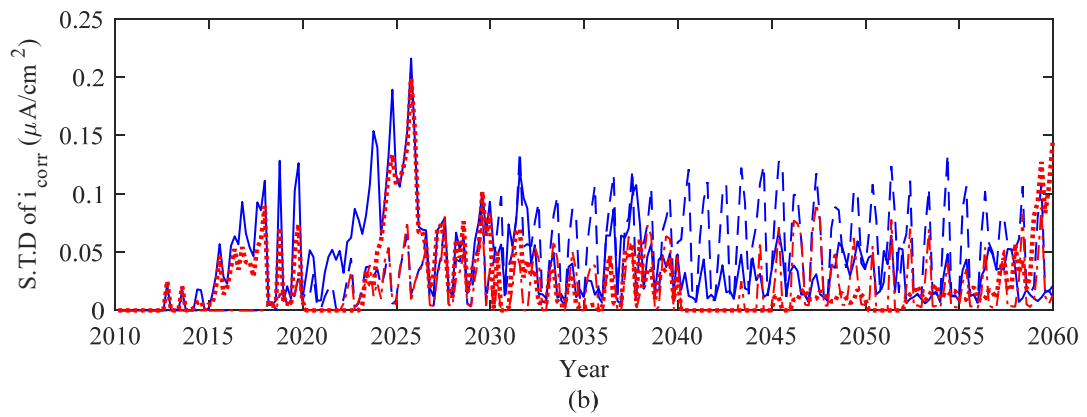
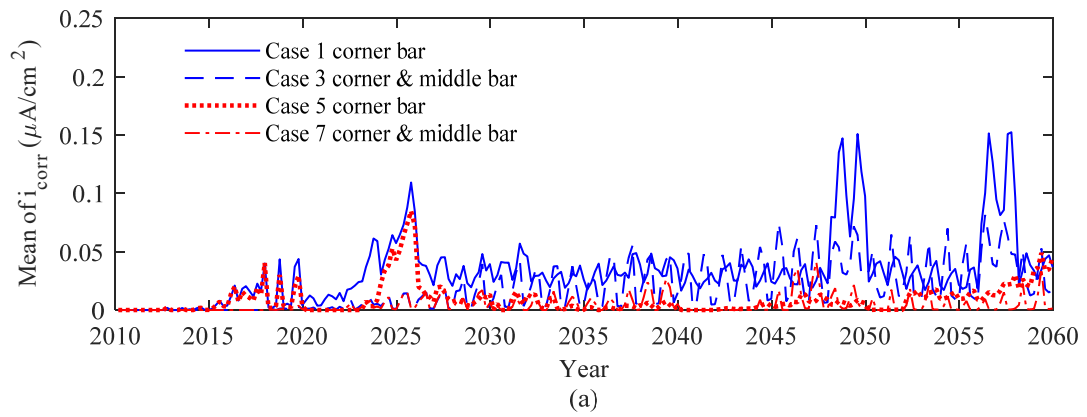


(a)



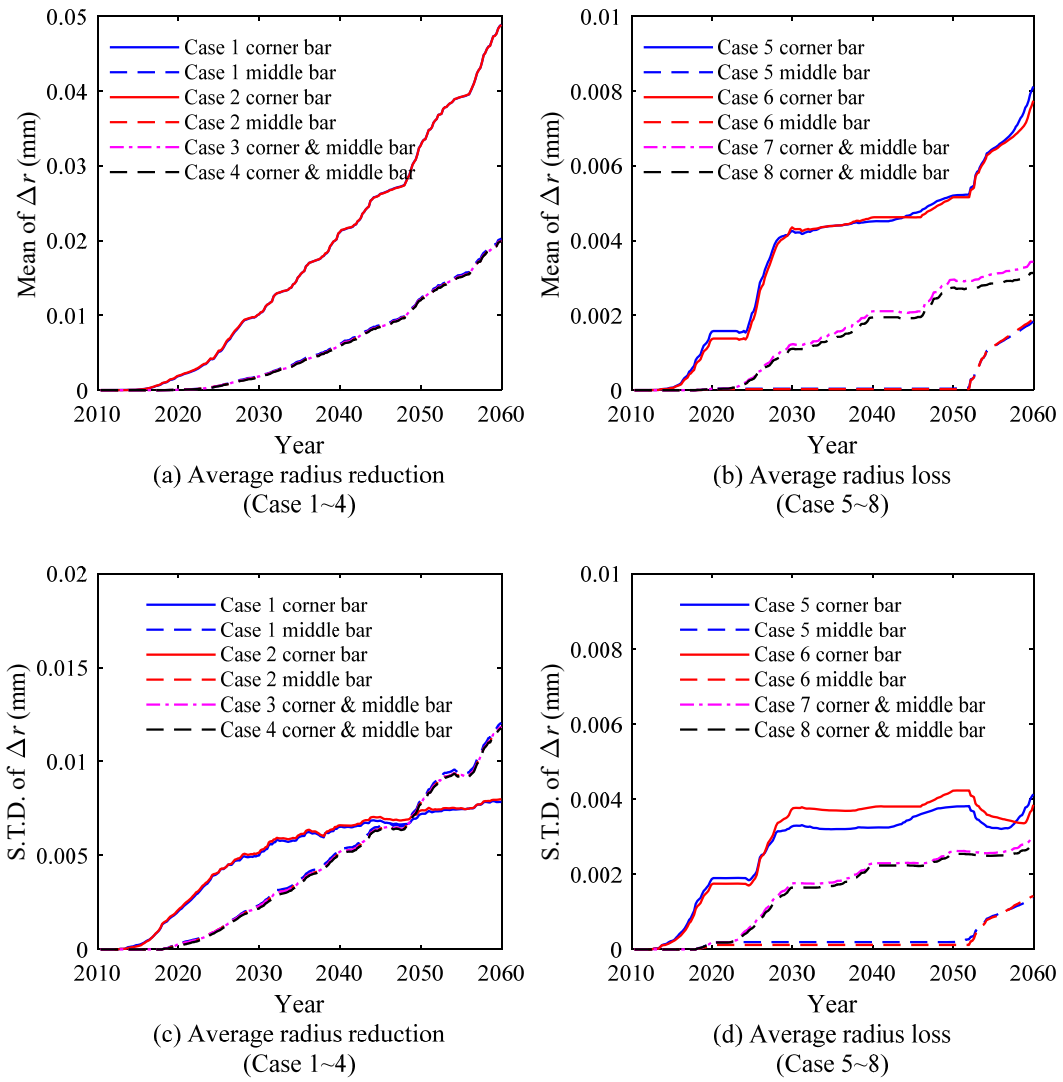
(b)

**Fig.12.** Comparison of the mean and STD of chloride concentration on the steel bar surface (Note: ‘Case 1 corner/middle bar’ denotes the results of surface the corner/middle steel bar under Case 1)

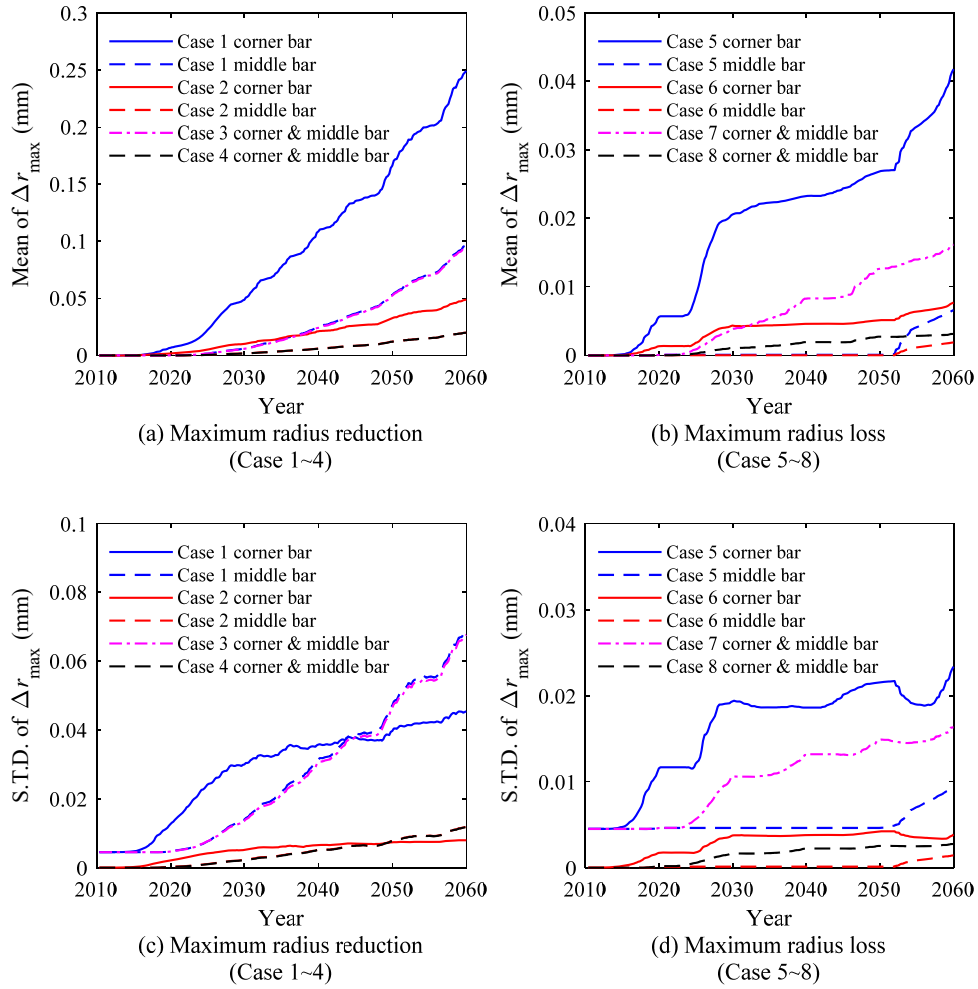


**Fig. 13.** Comparison of the mean and STD of corrosion current density

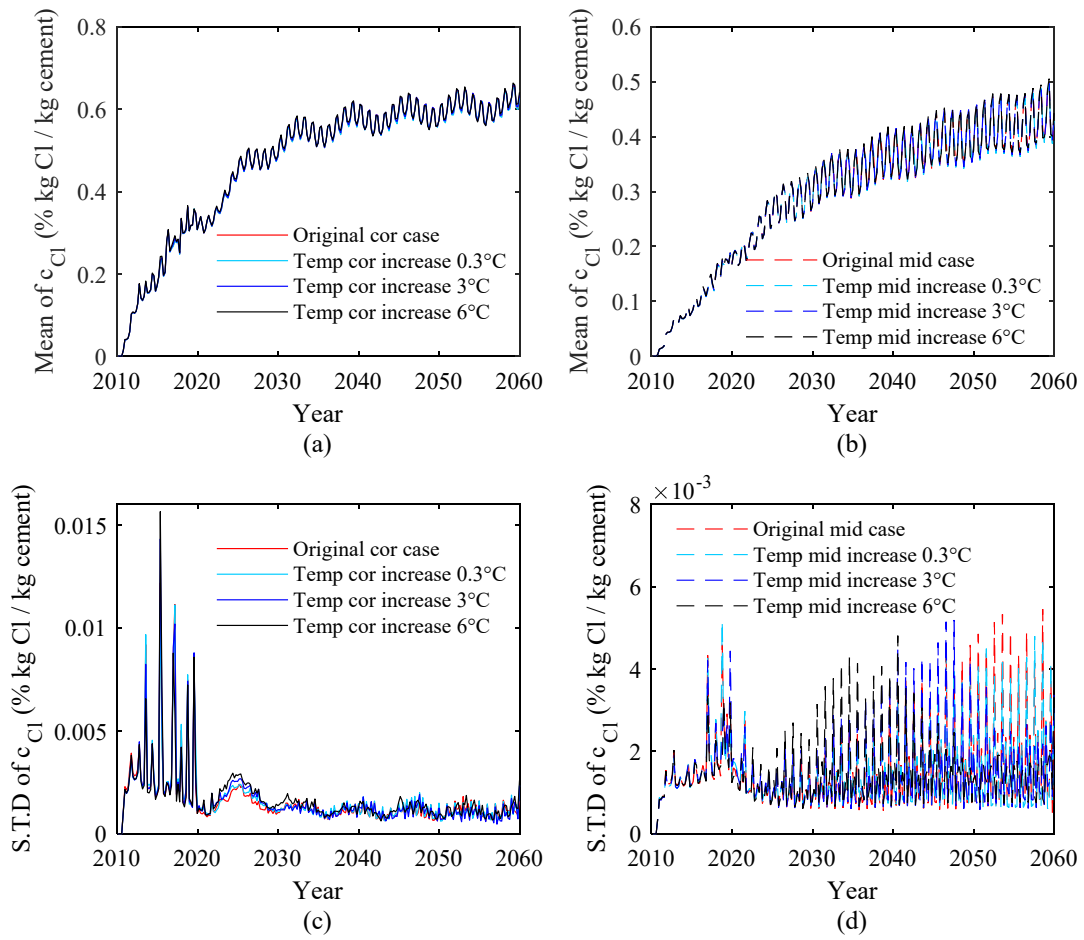




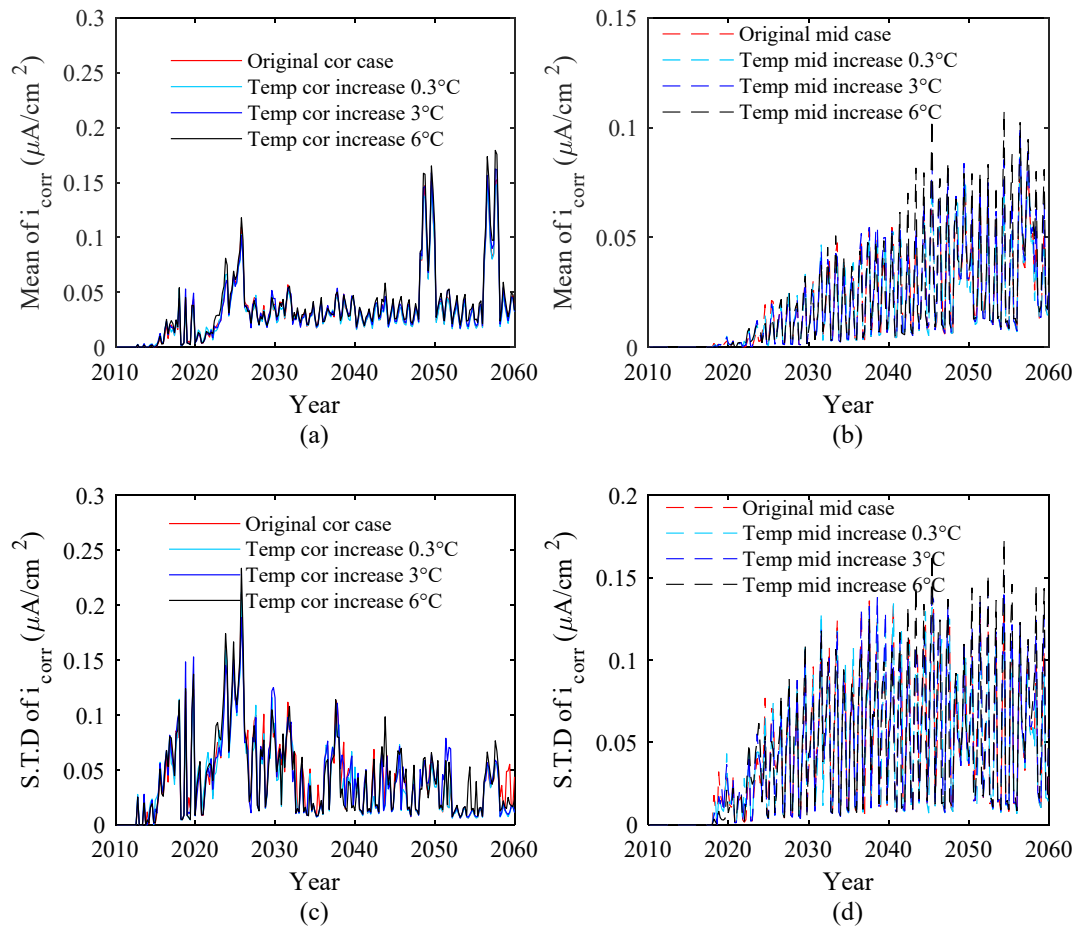
**Fig. 14.** Comparison of the mean and STD of the average loss of reinforcement radius  $\Delta r$  under Cases 1~8



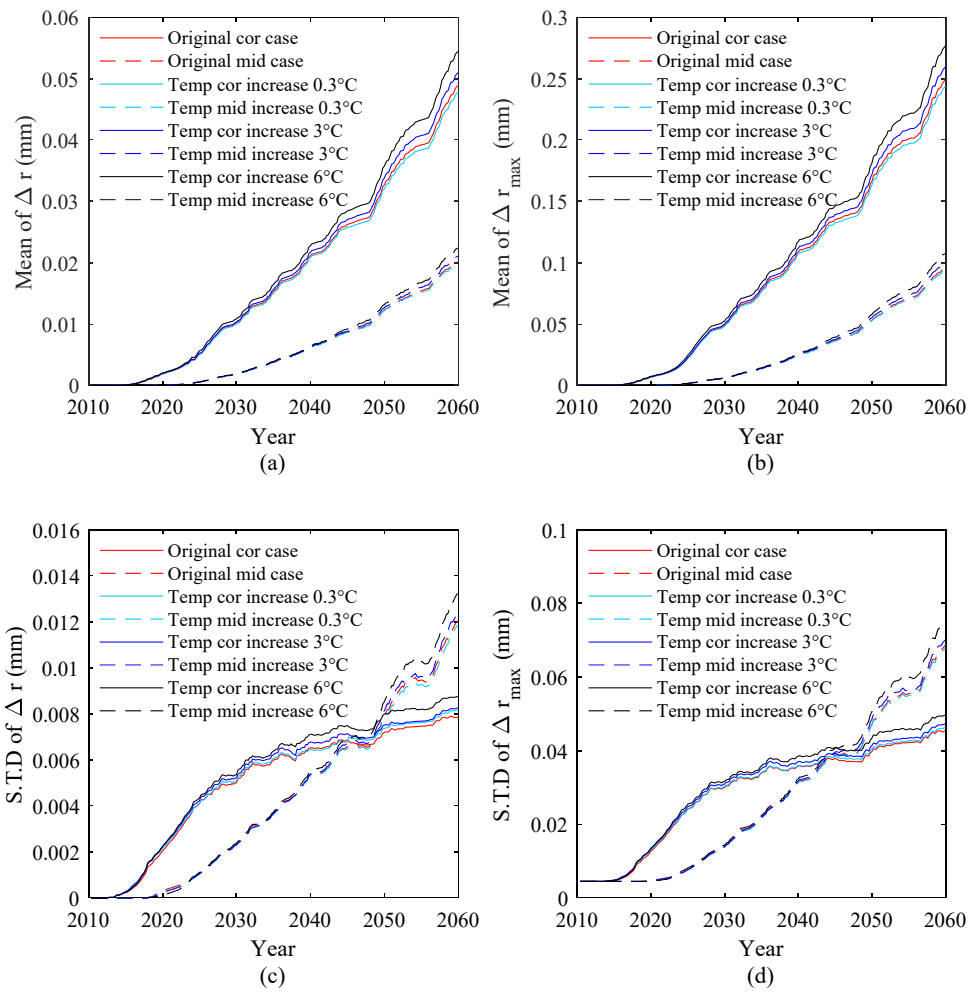
**Fig. 15.** Comparison of the mean and STD of maximum loss of reinforcement radius  $\Delta r_{\max}$  under Case 1~8



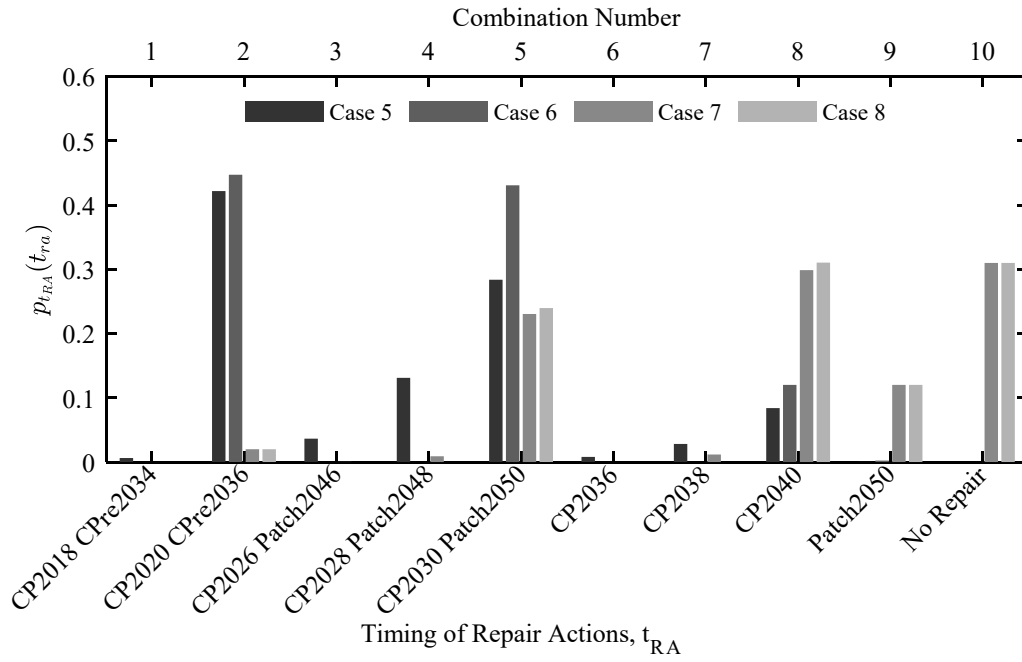
**Fig. 16.** Comparison of the mean and STD of chloride concentration on the steel bar surface under different  $\Delta T_{50}$



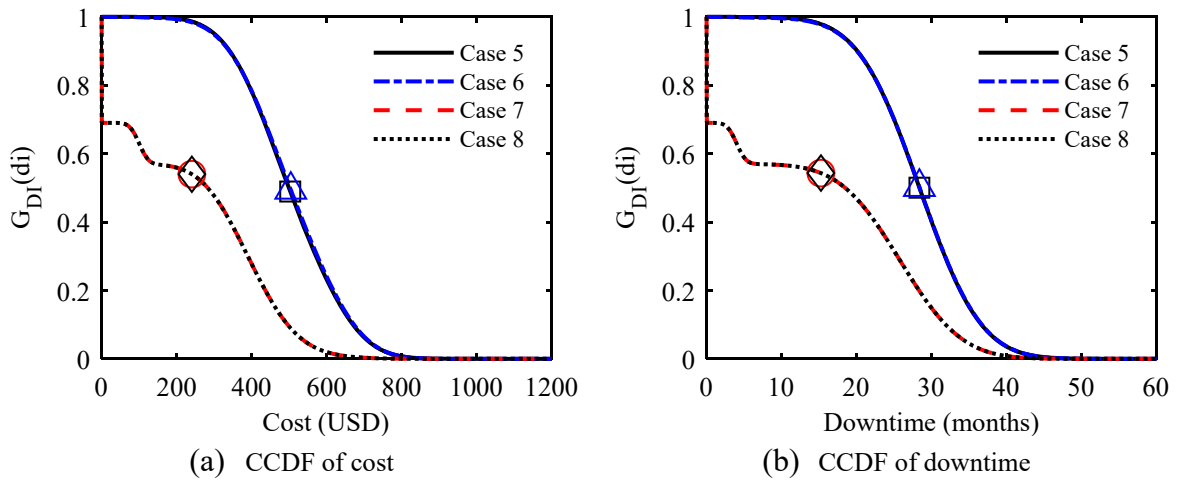
**Fig. 17.** Comparison of the mean and STD of corrosion current density under different  $\Delta T_{50}$



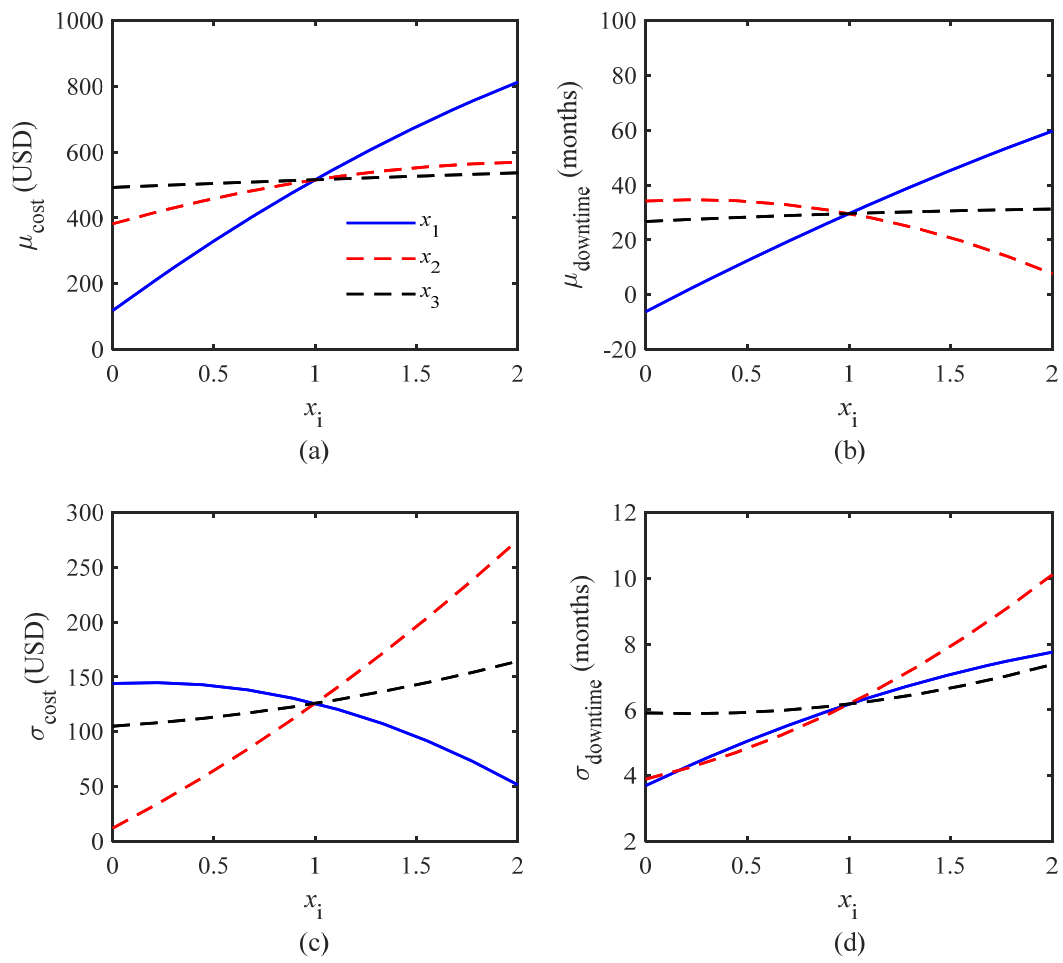
**Fig. 18.** Comparison of the mean and STD of radius loss  $\Delta r$  and  $\Delta r_{\max}$  under different  $\Delta T_{50}$



**Fig.19.** PMF of repair combinations, e.g., ‘CP2018 CPre2034’ denotes the CP was activated at 2018 and CPre was activated at 2034



**Fig. 20.** CCDF of lifetime decision information



**Fig. 21.** Relationship between  $x_1$  and the distribution parameters of decision information under Case 5

**Table 1.** Investigated eight cases

	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3	Case 4	Case 5	Case 6	Case 7	Case 8
Repair action	Unapplied	Unapplied	Unapplied	Unapplied	Applied	Applied	Applied	Applied
Chloride transport	2D	2D	1D	1D	2D	2D	1D	1D
Non-uniform corrosion	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No

**Table 2.** Related parameters and values

Parameter name	Value	Recourse
$D_{c,ref}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	$6 \times 10^{-12}$	[17]
$D^{dry}_{h,ref}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	$3 \times 10^{-10}$	[42]
$D^{wet}_{h,ref}$ (m <sup>2</sup> /s)	$15 \times 10^{-10}$	[42]
$T_{ref}$ (K)	296	[28]
$t_{ref}$ (d)	28	[28]
$h_c$	0.75	[37]
$m$	0.15	[37]
$n$	11	[37]
$\alpha_0$	0.05	[37]
$R_{gas}$ (Jmol <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> )	8.314	[28]
$\rho_c$ (kg/m <sup>3</sup> )	2401	[17]

**Table 3.** Parameters used in the environmental model

Parameters	Temperature	Humidity	Surface chloride content
$a_1$	-12.02	0.13	0.052
$a_2$	1.35	-0.03	-
$ec$	1.10	-	-
$a_{ec}$	0.0317	-	-
$b_1$	2.27	5.43	-0.056
$b_2$	-5.39	-0.29	-
$n_{ec}$	0.7279	-	-
$bam$	12.78	0.76	0.099
$w_1$	6.33	6.84	-
$t_{ref}$ (day)	149	149	-
$a_{01}$	0.1326	-0.0942	-
$a_{11}$	2.111	5.866	-
$b_{11}$	1.012	-8.576	-
$w_{11}$	0.2333	0.5206	-
$a_{21}$	2.188	6.334	-
$b_{21}$	0.3616	-2.548	-



**Table 4.** The ratio of mean and STD of  $C_{Cl}$ ,  $i_{corr}$ ,  $\Delta r$  and  $\Delta r_{max}$  under different scenarios to Case 1

Bar Type	Data Type	$\Delta T_{50}$	$C_{Cl}$	$i_{corr}$	$\Delta r$	$\Delta r_{max}$
Corner bar	Mean	0.3	0.995	0.883	0.977	0.978
		3	1.006	0.889	1.042	1.042
		6	1.017	0.913	1.114	1.111
	STD	0.3	1.490	0.256	1.042	1.018
		3	1.484	0.256	1.055	1.042
		6	1.650	0.529	1.115	1.093
Middle bar	Mean	0.3	0.998	0.918	0.976	0.978
		3	1.012	1.491	1.040	1.044
		6	1.030	2.117	1.105	1.114
	STD	0.3	1.224	0.376	0.984	0.989
		3	1.301	1.771	1.024	1.022
		6	1.375	2.483	1.098	1.092

**Table 5.**  $\beta_k$  ( $k = 0, 1, \dots, 9$ ) coefficient within RSM function

	$\mu_{cost}$ (USD)	$\mu_{downtime}$ (Months)	$\sigma_{cost}$ (USD)	$\sigma_{downtime}$ (Months)
$\beta_0$	-74.31	-7.31	29.04	1.76
$\beta_1$	455.29	40.67	33.01	3.20
$\beta_2$	207.07	6.40	49.10	0.28
$\beta_3$	55.24	4.73	-3.01	-0.53
$\beta_4$	-50.42	-2.82	-28.08	-0.45
$\beta_5$	-4.48	-1.58	4.60	0.29
$\beta_6$	-2.88	-0.50	-27.62	-0.56
$\beta_7$	-40.40	-8.69	17.43	0.83
$\beta_8$	-28.30	-0.69	42.65	0.88
$\beta_9$	-0.99	-0.63	8.78	0.47