



TECHNICAL REPORT

Calculation Method for the  
Performance of Anchor Channels  
under Fatigue Loading

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## 1 INTRODUCTION

This Technical Report contains a design method for anchor channels under fatigue tension loading which have been awarded an ETA in accordance with EAD Anchor channels [3].

*Note: This Technical Report is intended to provide a design method for anchor channels under fatigue tension loading and shall be used in conjunction with the static provisions of EN 1992-4 [2] or EOTA Technical Report 047 [4]. EOTA Technical Report 047 [4] will be withdrawn when EN 1992-4 [2] is published.*

*This document has been written to represent current best practice. However, users should verify that applying its provisions allows local regulatory requirements to be satisfied.*

## 2 SCOPE

### 2.1 General

This Technical Report provides a design method for anchor channels under tension fatigue loading in combination with or without static or quasi-static loads in concrete members (connection between structural elements and attachment of non-structural elements to structural components). The anchor channel is used to transmit only tensile loads into the concrete. No static or quasi-static shear or fatigue shear load may be applied in concomitance with a fatigue tension load.

This Technical Report provides a design method for anchor channels installed in members made of compacted normal weight concrete of strength classes in the range C20/25 to C90/105 all in accordance with EN 206-1 [5]. The anchor channel is intended to be used in cracked and non-cracked concrete.

This Technical Report is intended for safety related applications in which the failure of anchor channels may result in collapse or partial collapse of the structure, cause risk to human life or lead to significant economic loss. In this context it also covers non-structural elements.

The design rules in this Technical Report are only valid for anchor channels with a European Technical Assessment (ETA).

The transfer of the loads applied to the anchor channel to the supports of the concrete member shall be shown for both, ultimate limit state and serviceability limit state according to EN 1992-1-1 [1].

This Technical Report does not cover the design of the fixture. The design of the fixture shall be carried out to comply with the appropriate Standards and fulfil the requirements on the fixture as given in this Technical Report.

This document relies on characteristic resistances and distances which are stated in an ETA and referred to in this Technical Report.

### 2.2 Type, dimensions and materials of anchor channels

This Technical Report applies to anchor channels with rigid connection (e.g. welded, forged, bolted) between anchor and channel. The anchor channels shall have an established suitability for the specified application in concrete, which is stated in the relevant ETA.

The effective embedment depth shall be  $h_{ef} \geq 40$  mm.

This Technical Report covers anchor channels made of either carbon steel or stainless steel. The surface of the steel may be coated or uncoated. This Technical Report is valid for anchor channels with a nominal steel tensile strength  $f_{uk} \leq 1000$  N/mm<sup>2</sup>.

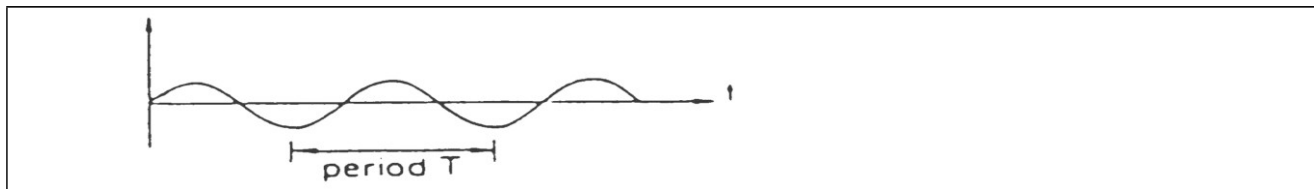
### 2.3 Anchor channel loading

In general all types of actions occurring during the period of intended use of an anchor channel shall be taken into account for the design. Typically harmonic and/or periodic actions (Fig. 2.1 and Fig. 2.2)

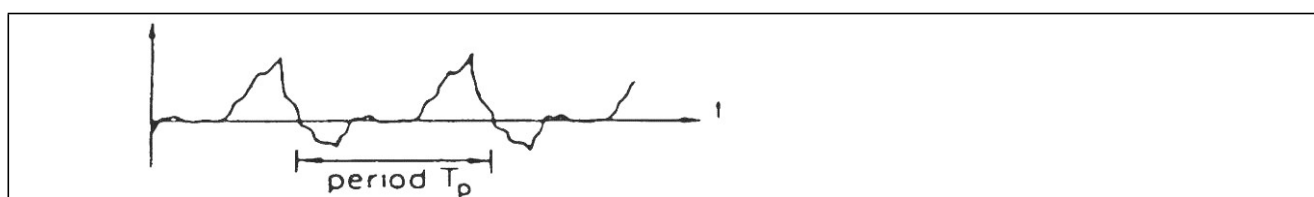


including different (peak-to-peak) amplitudes and algebraic signs are considered in the context of fatigue loading. Harmonic and periodic actions can consist of:

- oscillations touching zero
- oscillations with the same algebraic sign
- oscillations with a changing algebraic sign – alternating sign

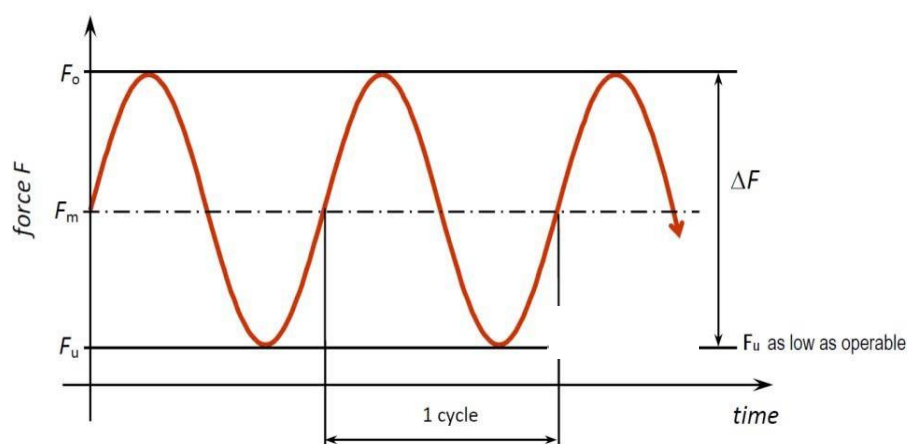


**Figure 2.1** Oscillations with an alternating sign



**Figure 2.2** Periodic actions considered as harmonic load

Cyclic loads may consist of a single constant or different amplitudes. When different amplitudes need to be taken into account, the sequence of loading may be converted into a collective action of one load level with an equivalent grade of damage by using the Miner’s Rule [6]. An example of such a resulting collective action or a single constant amplitude load cycle is given in Fig. 2.3. For the overall fatigue design process, the knowledge of the S-N-curve or, at a minimum, the fatigue limit resistance, is required and the design methods I and/or II as shown in Section 5 of this document can be used.



**Figure 2.3** Definition of force of load cycle ( $F_0$ =maximum (upper) cyclic load;  $F_u$ =minimum (lower) cyclic load,  $F_m$ =mean load,  $\Delta F$ =cyclic (peak-to-peak range) load)

### 3 NOTATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

#### 3.1 Indices

- E static action / quasi-static action
- R resistance
- M material

n	number of load cycles or oscillations
k	characteristic value
d	design values
s	steel
c	concrete cone
p	concrete pull-out

### 3.2 Actions and resistances

$N_{Eud}$	design value of lower cyclic load
$\Delta N_{Ed}$	design value of (cyclic) fatigue relevant load
$N_{Eod}$	= $N_{Eud} + \Delta N_{Ed}$ , design value of upper cyclic load
$N_{Ed}$	design value of static or quasi-static action
$N_{Ed,eq}$	equivalent static design action calculated in accordance with EN 1992-4 [2] or Technical Report 047 [4]
$\Delta N_{Ed,eq}$	equivalent design value of fatigue relevant load
$N_{Rk}$	characteristic value of static resistance
$N_{Rd}$	design value of static resistance
$\Delta N_{Rk}$	characteristic value of fatigue resistance
$\Delta N_{Rd}$	design value of fatigue resistance
$\Delta N_{Rk;0;n}$	characteristic value of fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,s;0;n}$	characteristic value of tensile steel fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,p;0;n}$	characteristic value of concrete pullout fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,c;0;n}$	characteristic value of concrete cone fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk;0;\infty}$	characteristic value of fatigue limit resistance with limit $N_{Eud} = 0$ taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,s;0;\infty}$	characteristic value of tensile steel fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,p;0;\infty}$	characteristic value of concrete pullout fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rk,c;0;\infty}$	characteristic value of concrete cone fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ taken from the European Technical Product Specification
$\Delta N_{Rd,E;n}$	design value of fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$ and n load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,s,E;n}$	design value of tensile steel fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$ and n load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,p,E;n}$	design value of concrete pullout fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$ and n load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,c,E;n}$	design value of concrete cone fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$ and n load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,E;\infty}$	design value of fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,s,E;\infty}$	design value of tensile steel fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,p,E;\infty}$	design value of concrete pullout fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,c,E;\infty}$	design value of concrete cone fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} > 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd;0;n}$	design value of fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,s;0;n}$	design value of tensile steel fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and n load cycles

$\Delta N_{Rd,p;0;n}$	design value of concrete pullout fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and $n$ load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd,c;0;n}$	design value of concrete cone fatigue resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$ and $n$ load cycles
$\Delta N_{Rd;0;\infty}$	design value of fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,s;0;\infty}$	design value of tensile steel fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,p;0;\infty}$	design value of concrete pullout fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$
$\Delta N_{Rd,c;0;\infty}$	design value of concrete cone fatigue limit resistance with $N_{Eud} = 0$

#### 4 COMBINATION OF STATIC AND CYCLIC LOADS AND INFLUENCE RANGES

This Technical Report covers only combinations of static and cyclic tension loads perpendicular to the concrete surface. Load combinations including static and cyclic shear loads acting alone or in combination with any type of tension load are not covered in this Technical Report.

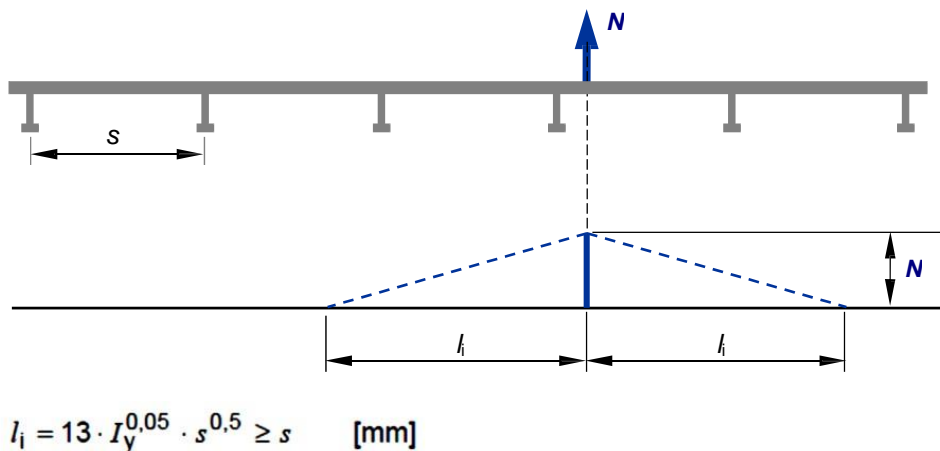
The range of influence of a single static tension load shall be taken into account according to Technical Report 047 [4] as shown in Figure 4.1.

The range of influence of a cyclic tension load is assumed to be different and is shown in Figure 4.2.

As shown in Figure 4.3, the equivalent static action,  $N_{Ed,eq}$ , and the equivalent fatigue action,  $\Delta N_{Ed,eq}$ , are calculated using linear superposition. This is applicable for single loads or multiple loads acting simultaneously on the anchor channel.

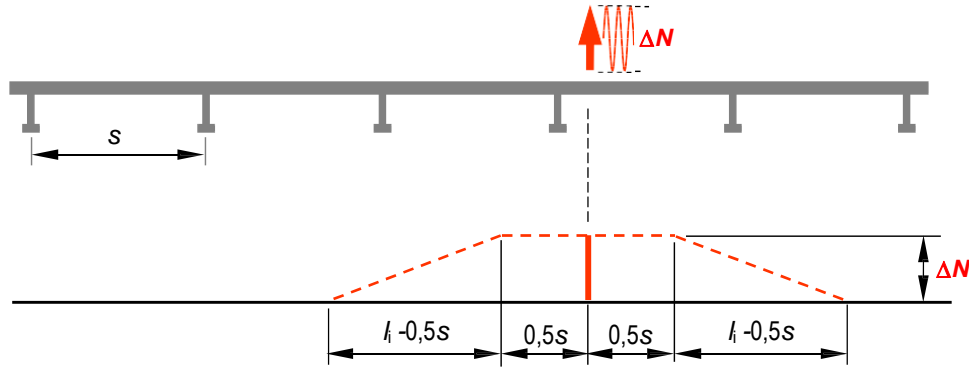
For the sake of simplicity, the equivalent static action,  $N_{Ed,eq}$ , and the equivalent fatigue action,  $\Delta N_{Ed,eq}$ , are assumed to be acting at the same location.

Based on the distribution of the equivalent static and fatigue actions, the corresponding static and fatigue load for the anchor under consideration can therefore be determined.



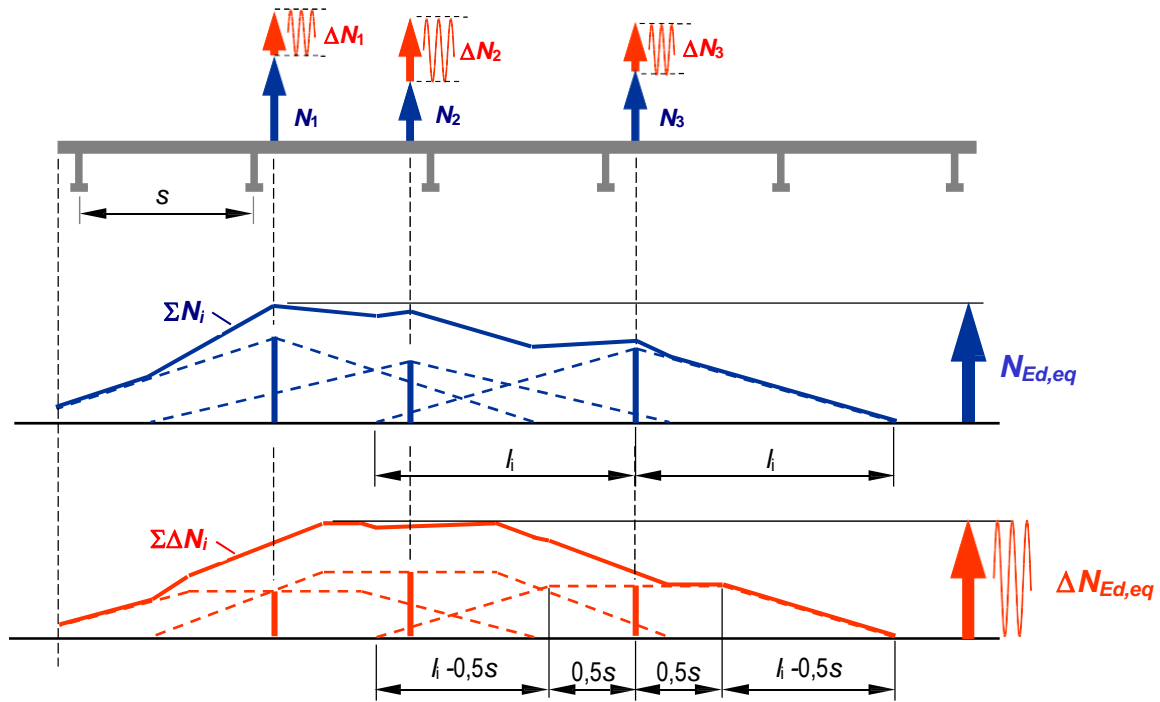
**Figure 4.1** Range of influence of a single static load





$$l_i = 13 \cdot I_y^{0,05} \cdot s^{0,5} \geq s \quad [\text{mm}]$$

Figure 4.2 Range of influence of a single cyclic load



$$l_i = 13 \cdot I_y^{0,05} \cdot s^{0,5} \geq s \quad [\text{mm}]$$

Figure 4.3 Example of multiple static and cyclic loads acting simultaneously

## 5 FATIGUE DESIGN OF ANCHOR CHANNELS

### 5.1 General

- (1) For the design of anchor channels under fatigue loading the concept of partial safety factors shall be applied. It shall be shown that the values of the design actions,  $\Delta E_d$ , do not exceed the design resistance,  $\Delta R_d$ :

$$\Delta E_d \leq \Delta R_d \tag{1}$$

- (2) For the determination of the design value of actions, the following procedure shall be applied:

$$E_d = \gamma_{fat} \cdot \Delta E_k \tag{2}$$

(3) The following partial safety factors for actions are recommended in absence of other national regulations.

(4) Action: If there is a collective load with different levels of actions and the maximum value of actions,  $\Delta N_{max}$ , is assumed for the design, the recommended partial safety factor is:

$$\gamma_{fat} = 1.0$$

(5) Action: If the effective (actual) collective action is converted by using the Miner's Rule [6] to a collective of one level with an equivalent level of damage, the recommended partial safety factor is:

$$\gamma_{fat} = 1.2$$

(6) Action: If the effective (actual) collective action is a collective of one load level, the recommended partial safety factor is:

$$\gamma_{fat} = 1.2$$

(7) The following partial safety factors for resistances are recommended for anchor channels under fatigue loading.

The values of the partial factors for anchor channels under fatigue loading for use in a Country may be found in its National Annex of EN 1992-4 [2]. For the determination of the design value of the fatigue limit resistance it is recommended to take the partial factor for material as  $\gamma_{M,fat} = 1.35$  for all modes of failure.

For the transition zone from the static bearing capacity ( $\gamma_M$ ) up to the fatigue limit resistance ( $\gamma_{M,fat}$ ), the partial safety factors are calculated as follows:

$$\gamma_{M,fat,n} = \gamma_{M,fat} + (\gamma_M - \gamma_{M,fat}) \cdot (\Delta N_{Rk,n} - \Delta N_{Rk,\infty}) / (N_{Rk} - \Delta N_{Rk,\infty}) \tag{3}$$

(8) Resistance: For the determination of the design value of fatigue limit resistance, the characteristic value determined by tests shall be divided with the partial safety factor  $\gamma_{M,fat}$  (i.e.,  $\Delta N_{Rd} = \Delta N_{Rk} / \gamma_{M,fat}$ ).

For the transition zone from the static bearing capacity up to the fatigue limit resistance, the characteristic value determined by tests shall be divided with the partial safety factor  $\gamma_{M,fat,n}$  (i.e.,  $\Delta N_{Rd,s,0,n} = \Delta N_{Rk,s,0,n} / \gamma_{M,fat,n}$ ).

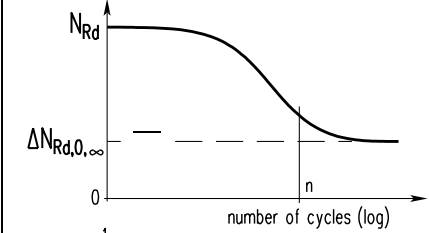
(9) The general form of the ultimate limit state verification with fatigue influence is as follows:

$$(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd}) \leq 1 \tag{4}$$

(10) Each failure mode (steel failure, concrete cone failure, and pull-out) shall be verified separately.

(11) The design of anchor channels with fatigue influence shall be conducted in accordance with the concept provided in Table 1. The equations in Section 5.2.3 – design method I - and Section 0 – design method II – shall be used.

**Table 1** Concept for design of anchor channels with fatigue influence

Step	Result	Note
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>S-N-curves for design fatigue resistances developed with zero or low minimum (lower) cyclic load</p>		<p>S-N-curves can be determined for each failure mode. At a minimum, the value of the fatigue limit resistance, <math>\Delta N_{Rd,0,\infty}</math>, shall be determined</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>Goodman-diagram developed for a selected number of load cycles, <math>n</math></p>		<p>The Goodman diagram allows to establish the fatigue resistance, <math>\Delta N_{Rd,E;n}</math>, in relation to the lower cyclic load, <math>N_{Eud}</math>, for a given number of load cycles, <math>n</math></p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Converted S-N-curves under pulsating stress (<math>N_{Eud} &gt; 0</math>)</p>		<p>The conversion of the S-N-curves developed with zero or low minimum (lower) cyclic load (see step 1) into S-N-curves including different (<math>N_{Eud} &gt; 0</math>) lower cyclic loads is achieved by means of the Goodman-diagram (see step 2) for given number(s) of load cycles, <math>n</math></p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Design verifications: Steel failure Pull-out failure Concrete cone failure</p>	$\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,s;E;n} \leq 1,0$ $\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,p;E;n} \leq 1,0$ $\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,c;E;n} \leq 1,0$	<p><math>\Delta N_{Ed}</math> – design value of the applied load range</p>

## 5.2 Design method I – Complete method

### 5.2.1 Conditions of applicability

- a) a precise allocation of the design value of the lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , is possible and/or
- b) an upper limit of load cycles,  $n$ , during working life is known.

Based on (a) and (b), the following values shall be used for design:

Design Case 1: Only condition (a) is met:

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;n} = \Delta N_{Rd;E;\infty}$$

The fatigue resistance used in the design verification is determined using the Goodman diagram assuming an infinite number of cycles,  $n = \infty$ , and the appropriate value of the lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , in accordance with Section 5.2.2, Eq. (6).

and

$$\Delta N_{Ed} = N_{Eod} - N_{Eud}$$

Only the design value of the fatigue relevant load is taken into account.

Design Case 2: Only condition (b) is met:

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;n} = \Delta N_{Rd;0;n}$$

The fatigue resistance used in the design verification is taken from the S-N curve for the given number of load cycles,  $n$ .

and

$$\Delta N_{Ed} = \Delta N_{Eod}$$

All acting loads are assumed to be fatigue-relevant.

Design Case 3: Conditions (a) and (b) are both met:

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;n}$$

The fatigue resistance used in the design verification is determined using the Goodman diagram for the given number of load cycles,  $n$ , and the appropriate value of the lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , in accordance with Section 5.2.2, Eq. (5).

and

$$\Delta N_{Ed} = N_{Eod} - N_{Eud}$$

Only the design value of the fatigue relevant load is taken into account.

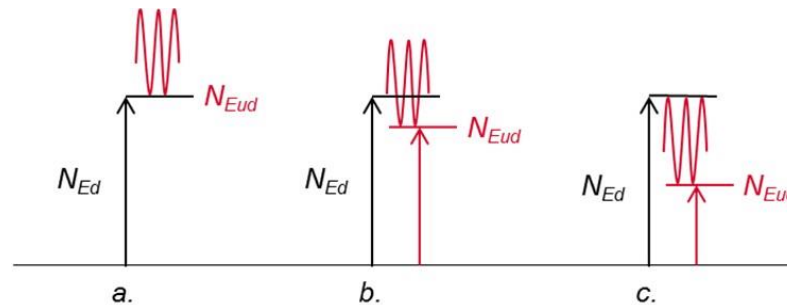
### 5.2.2 Calculation of fatigue resistance, $\Delta N_{Rd;E;n}$ , in relation to the lower cyclic load, $N_{Eud}$

The fatigue resistance diagram (also known as S-N curve) is determined experimentally with cyclic load tests where a constant minimum lower load as low as possible is used (i.e., the contribution or influence of the lower cyclic load to the total applied load is minimized). This procedure allows the determination of the characteristic fatigue resistance,  $\Delta N_{Rk;0;n}$ , for a given number of load cycles,  $n$ , and for each failure mode.

In cases where actions consist of a combination of a non-negligible lower cyclic load and a fatigue (cyclic) relevant part, it is necessary to determine the influence of the lower cyclic load on the fatigue resistance. This is achieved by using the Goodman diagram, which allows the determination of the fatigue resistance as a function of the magnitude of the applied lower cyclic load. The fundamental principles of the Goodman diagram are valid for every type of failure mode.

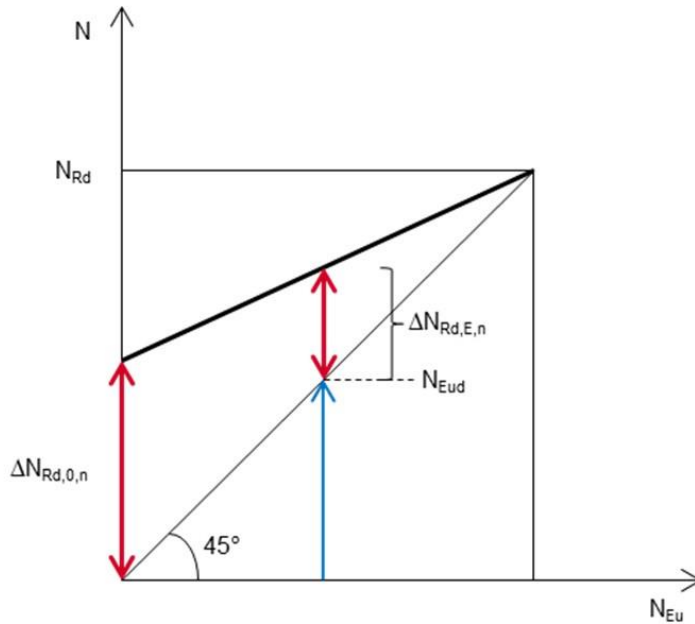
*Note 1: The definition of the lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , depends on the following cases (see also Figure 5.1):*

- the static load,  $N_{Ed}$ , is amplified by the cyclic load,  $\Delta N_{Ed}$ , meaning that  $N_{Eud}$  corresponds to  $N_{Ed}$ ;
- the static load,  $N_{Ed}$ , is superimposed with the cyclic load resulting in  $N_{Eud}$  being smaller than  $N_{Ed}$ ;
- the static load,  $N_{Ed}$ , is reduced by the cyclic load, meaning that  $N_{Eud}$  corresponds to  $N_{Ed} - \Delta N_{Ed}$ .



**Figure 5.1** Superimposition of static and cyclic (fatigue) loads

**Fehler! Verweisquelle konnte nicht gefunden werden.** shows the Goodman-diagram for a selected number of oscillation cycles  $n$ .  $N_{Eud}$  is the lower cyclic load and  $\Delta N_{Rd;E;n}$  is the corresponding fatigue resistance. The design value of the fatigue resistance,  $\Delta N_{Rd;0;n}$ , with lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , equal to zero for  $n$  load cycles and the static resistance,  $N_{Rd}$ , can be derived by applying the appropriate material partial safety factors to the characteristic values.



**Figure 5.2** Goodman diagram. Example for the determination of the fatigue resistance as a function of the lower cyclic load ( $N_{Eud} \geq 0$ )

*Note 2: For oscillations with the same algebraic sign the design value of the fatigue resistance for n cycles,  $N_{Rd,E,n}$ , and the fatigue limit resistance,  $N_{Rd,E,\infty}$ , is calculated according to Equations (5) and (6), respectively.*

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;n} = \Delta N_{Rd;0;n} \cdot \left( \left| 1 - \frac{N_{Eud}}{N_{Rd}} \right| \right) \quad (5)$$

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;\infty} = \Delta N_{Rd;0;\infty} \cdot \left( \left| 1 - \frac{N_{Eud}}{N_{Rd}} \right| \right) \quad (6)$$

### 5.2.3 Required verifications for design

#### Design case 1:

Steel failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,s;E;\infty}) \leq 1,0$  (7)

Pull-out:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,p;E;\infty}) \leq 1,0$  (8)

Concrete failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,c;E;\infty}) \leq 1,0$  (9)

#### Design case 2:

Steel failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,s;0;n}) \leq 1,0$  (10)

Pull-out:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,p;0;n}) \leq 1,0$  (11)

Concrete failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,c;0;n}) \leq 1,0$  (12)

#### Design case 3:

Steel failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,s;E;n}) \leq 1,0$  (13)

Pull-out:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,p;E;n}) \leq 1,0$  (14)

Concrete failure:  $(\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,c;E;n}) \leq 1,0$  (15)

## 5.3 Design Method II – Simplified Method

### 5.3.1 Conditions of applicability

A precise allocation of the design value of the lower cyclic load,  $N_{Eud}$ , is not possible and an upper limit to the number of load cycles,  $n$ , over the working life of the anchor channel cannot be predicted.

Therefore, the following values shall be used for design:

$$\Delta N_{Rd;E;n} = \Delta N_{Rd;0;\infty}$$

The fatigue resistance used in the design verification is the design value of fatigue limit resistance with  $N_{Eud} = 0$ .

and

$$\Delta N_{Ed} = \Delta N_{Eod}$$

All acting loads are assumed to be fatigue-relevant.

### 5.3.2 Required verifications for design

$$\text{Steel failure:} \quad (\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,s;0;\infty}) \leq 1.0 \quad (16)$$

$$\text{Pull-out:} \quad (\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,p;0;\infty}) \leq 1.0 \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Concrete failure:} \quad (\Delta N_{Ed} / \Delta N_{Rd,c;0;\infty}) \leq 1.0 \quad (18)$$

## 6 CONSTRUCTIVE ADVICES

The construction of the anchor channel system is vitally important for its load bearing capacity and serviceability. Constructive measures are recommended to minimize influences on the load bearing behavior by unexpected displacements.

Uncontrolled displacements have to be limited to fulfil the increased serviceability requirements in particular at pulsating cyclic loading. Slip has to be generally avoided.

## 7 REFERENCES

- [1] EN 1992-1-1:2004 Eurocode 2: Design of concrete structures – Part 1-1: General rules and rules for buildings, European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Brussels, Belgium, 2004
- [2] EN 1992-4 Eurocode 2: Design of concrete structures; Part 4: Design of fastenings for use in concrete, European Committee for Standardization (CEN), Brussels, Belgium, in Formal Vote process
- [3] EAD 330008-02-0601 Anchor channels, 2015
- [4] EOTA TR 047 Technical Report 047, Calculation method for the performance of anchor channels, 2015
- [5] EN 206-1+A1+A2 Concrete. Part 1: Specification, performance, production and conformity
- [6] Miner, M., A. Cumulative Damage in Fatigue, Journal of Applied Mechanics, 12 (1945), 159-164