Assessment of Appropriate Experimental Parameters for Studying the Kaiser Effect of Rock

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Abstract: The Kaiser effect of rock has been extensively studied due to its wide application in in-situ stress measurement and rock damage quantification. The uniaxial cyclic loading and unloading (UCLU) test is commonly employed to examine the rock Kaiser effect. However, how the two critical parameters, including prescribed stress in the first loading cycle (σA) and loading strain rate (l_{sr}), affect the appearance of the Kaiser effect lacks thorough understanding. We systematically performed UCLU tests on 75 sandstone specimens under 25 combinations of σA and l_{sr}. σA spans from 0.5σc (σc is the uniaxial compressive strength) to 0.9σc, and l_{sr} ranges from 10^{-5}s^{-1} to 10^{-3}s^{-1}, respectively. The acoustic emission characteristics of all the rock specimens are continuously monitored over the entire tests. We find that the Kaiser effect is unanimously observed in the stable crack growth stage, corresponding to the stress levels of 0.5σc to 0.7σc because under a lower stress, the Kaiser effect is easily covered by the acoustic emissions generated by microcrack friction. The loading strain rate also heavily affects the occurrence of the Kaiser effect. When l_{sr} does not exceed 10^{-4}s^{-1}, the Felicity ratio (FR) rises quickly as l_{sr} ascends, whereas FR increases less pronouncedly once l_{sr} exceeds 10^{-4}s^{-1}. Therefore, a relatively high loading strain rate, i.e., l_{sr} higher than 10^{-4}s^{-1}, is suggested to facilitate the appearance of the Kaiser effect.

Keywords: prescribed stress; loading strain rate; sandstone specimens; acoustic emission; Felicity ratio

1. Introduction

An accurate estimation of in-situ geo-stresses is critical for the reliable design and regular operation of underground rock-engineering projects. Various stress measurement approaches in rocks are present, most of which are nevertheless time-consuming and uneconomic, such as hydraulic fracturing and overcoring methods [1–6]. Moreover, these approaches may lack adequate accuracy [7–9]. Recently, a quick and convenient approach based on the Kaiser effect of rock has been considered as a promising alternative from the viewpoint of practice [10–12]. The Kaiser effect is widely documented in rocks and materials under the uniaxial cyclic loading and unloading (UCLU) test [13,14]. It refers to the phenomena that the acoustic emission (AE) activity of rock increases remarkably once the applied stress exceeds the largest previous stress. That is to say, the Kaiser effect denotes the memory of rock to the history of loading.

Extensive experimental studies have been carried out to examine the applicability of the Kaiser effect for history stress measurement [12,15–17]. A widely used experimental configuration to study...
the Kaiser effect is the UCLU test [18–20]. Li and Nordlund [21] carried out UCLU test for eight rock types and revealed the influence of delay time on the Kaiser effect. Lavrov [22] found that the Kaiser effect could be observed only when the follow-up cyclic loading rate was higher than the previous cyclic loading rate in the UCLU test of limestone under different loading rates. Zhang et al. [23] carried out a UCLU test on three rock types: limestone, sandstone, and halite, and analyzed influences of loading rate on Felicity effects of the three rock types.

In the UCLU test, uniaxial stress is applied and raised to a certain level ($\sigma_A$), followed by constant loading for a certain period. Then, the uniaxial stress is unloaded, and then increased again to examine the stress magnitude at which the Kaiser effect appears ($\sigma_{AE}$). The occurrence of the Kaiser effect is affected by several factors, including rock lithology, magnitude of the prescribed stress ($\sigma_A$) in the first loading cycle, duration of the constant loading, and loading strain rate ($l_{sr}$). For instance, when $\sigma_A$ is low, the AE produced by the friction of the microcracks cannot be eliminated, which complicates the identification of $\sigma_{AE}$ [18,24,25]. On the other hand, if $\sigma_A$ is very high, the Kaiser effect vanishes, and due to that, unstable cracking takes place within the rock and AE happens before the maximum history stress is reached [11,26,27]. It has been also reported that the loading strain rate strongly affects the crack evolution and propagation [18,19,28]. However, how these factors, particularly $\sigma_A$ and $l_{sr}$, influence the occurrence of the Kaiser effect are rarely reported.

In this paper, we carried out a series of UCLU tests on specimens of a typical sedimentary rock, red sandstone. Various prescribed stresses in the first loading cycle ($\sigma_A$) from 0.5$\sigma_c$ to 0.9$\sigma_c$, and different loading strain rates ($l_{sr}$) from $10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$ to $10^{-3}$ s$^{-1}$ are employed, respectively. The occurrence of the Kaiser effect is examined based on the acoustic emission characteristics over the uniaxial cyclic loading-unloading.

2. Experiments

A red sandstone block with uniform texture is selected to make cylindrical specimens. The diameter and height of each specimen are 50 mm and 100 mm, respectively. The primary mineralogical components of the red sandstone are feldspar and quartz, and the average grain size is 77.4 µm (Figure 1). After being dried naturally in the room temperature, the average density of the specimen is 2.39 g/cm$^3$. In total, 78 specimens are prepared for test, among which three specimens, numbered 1# to 3#, are used for the uniaxial compressive strength (UCS) test. The average UCS of the specimen ($\sigma_c$) is found to be 62.80 MPa. The other 75 specimens are for UCLU tests.

![Figure 1](image_url)
Figure 1. Mineralogical features of the red sandstone: (a) X-ray Diffraction (XRD) patterns; (b) Microscopic image; (c) Grain size distribution.

Figure 2 shows the experimental equipment for deforming the red sandstone subjected to the UCLU test. The MTS-816 test system, which consists of the loading system, test system, and control system, is employed. The DS5-A acoustic emission test analysis system is used to monitor the acoustic emission over testing. The apparatus is able to store the AE data in waveform with great stability and sensitivity. To guarantee the AE sensors and rock specimens are well contacted, the ceramic end of the acoustic emitting sensor is coated with Vaseline and tightly mounted to the rock specimen by the hot melt glue. Vaseline is uniformly coated between the rock specimen end and the loading platen of the MTS system to mitigate the end friction. The loading system and the AE monitoring system are synchronized from the start to the end of the test.

Figure 2. Experimental configuration of the uniaxial cyclic loading and unloading (UCLU) test of the red sandstone.

We conducted the UCLU tests by using various prescribed stress levels in the 1st loading cycle ($\sigma_A$) and loading strain rates ($\dot{\varepsilon}_{str}$). Figure 3 illustrates the loading path of the UCLU test. The test is performed in two steps. With the stress-controlled loading mode, $\sigma_A$ is first increased at a loading speed of 1.0 MPa/s, and $\sigma_A$ is prescribed from 0.5$\sigma_c$ to 0.9$\sigma_c$ at an increment of 0.1$\sigma_c$, respectively.
The load is kept for 3 min so that the influence of AEs generated by friction and slippage between the microstructural surfaces inside the rock is eliminated [22,23,29–31]. Then the specimen is unloaded to 0.5 MPa at an unloading speed of 1.0 MPa/s. To guarantee full contact between the loading platen and the rock specimen end, the stress is not completely unloaded to zero. This prevents an unfavorable effect generated by the separation of the loading platen from the end face. To avoid that the test is stopped due to unexpected and quick rupture of the rock specimen under the loading mode of stress-control, the displacement-controlled loading mode is used in the 2nd loading stage, and the loading strain rates \( (l_{sr}) \) are \( 10^{-5} \) s\(^{-1} \) to \( 10^{-3} \) s\(^{-1} \), which falls into the region of strain rate from low to medium [18,32,33]. The detailed experimental schemes of the UCLU refer to Table 1.

![Figure 3. Loading path of the UCLU test.](image)

**Table 1.** Experimental schemes of the UCLU test.

| Serial Number of Rock Specimens | Loading Strain Rate \((l_{sr}, \text{s}^{-1})\) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|                                 | \(1 \times 10^{-5}\) | \(5 \times 10^{-5}\) | \(1 \times 10^{-4}\) | \(5 \times 10^{-4}\) | \(1 \times 10^{-3}\) |
| \(\sigma_A\) (MPa)             | 0.5\(\sigma_c\) | 4#, 5#, 6# | 7#, 8#, 9# | 10#, 11#, 12# | 13#, 14#, 15# | 16#, 17#, 18# |
| 0.6\(\sigma_c\)                | 19#, 20#, 21# | 22#, 23#, 24# | 25#, 26#, 27# | 28#, 29#, 30# | 31#, 32#, 33# |
| 0.7\(\sigma_c\)                | 34#, 35#, 36# | 37#, 38#, 39# | 40#, 41#, 42# | 43#, 44#, 45# | 46#, 47#, 48# |
| 0.8\(\sigma_c\)                | 49#, 50#, 51# | 52#, 53#, 54# | 55#, 56#, 57# | 58#, 59#, 60# | 61#, 62#, 63# |
| 0.9\(\sigma_c\)                | 64#, 65#, 66# | 67#, 68#, 69# | 70#, 71#, 72# | 73#, 74#, 75# | 76#, 77#, 78# |

### 3. Results

Figure 4 illustrates the AE evolution of the UCS test of the red sandstone. The AE evolution is characterized by four stages, including quiet stage (OA), transition stage (AB), active stage (BC), and attenuation stage (CD), corresponding to the four stages of the stress-strain curve, namely, compaction stage, elastic stage, yield stage (stable crack growth and unstable cracking, respectively), and failure stage. In the quiet stage (I), the original microcracks and fissures within the rock specimen are closed upon the stress appliance. The friction between microcracks leads to low-energy, low-quantity AE events (abbreviated as AEs hereafter) with high variations. The stress acting on the rock specimen in the transition stage (II) is insufficiently high to develop new microcracks, whereas some closed microcracks slip, generating some low-energy AEs. In the active stage (III), yielding occurs, and the microcracks are continuously produced and developed with increasing volumetric strain and dilatancy. AE commences activation and the AE number grows. In the attenuation stage (IV), microcracks are interconnected, resulting in the formation of macroscopic ruptures. AE becomes extremely active and the number of AEs peaks. Over the rapid stress drop, the AE number gradually reduces.

Figures 5–9 show the AE characteristics of the uniaxial cyclic loading-unloading test. Segment FG corresponds to the first-cycle loading strain rate with a few number of AEs. The AEs increase as the stress increases. Segment GH is the constant loading in the first loading cycle. Some closed microcracks undergo slippage, which continuously generates AEs. Segment HI is the unloading stage in the 1st
cycle, in which existing microcracks cannot be further expanded and no new microcracks are generated. Segment II is the loading in the 2nd loading cycle. Few AEs are observed under the low initial stress, indicating that the 1st cycle of loading effectively inhibits the occurrence of the friction-type AE and promotes the discrimination of stress magnitude of the Kaiser effect in the following loading stage. $\sigma_A$ strongly affects the AE in the 2nd loading cycle. When $\sigma_A$ is low, remarkable AEs occur when the loading stress exceeds $\sigma_A$, i.e., $\sigma_{AE}$ is higher than $\sigma_A$ and the Kaiser effect is obvious. However, when $\sigma_A$ is sufficiently large, significant AEs take place when the loading stress is smaller than $\sigma_A$, that is, the Kaiser effect vanishes and the Felicity effect appears.

![Figure 4. Acoustic emission (AE) characteristics of the uniaxial compression test of red sandstone.](image)

![Figure 5. Cont.](image)
Figure 5. AE curves of the UCLU tests when $\sigma_{A} = 0.5\sigma_{c}$: (a) $l_{sr} = 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$; (b) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$; (c) $l_{sr} = 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$; (d) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$; (e) $l_{sr} = 10^{-3}$ s$^{-1}$.

Figure 6. Cont.
Figure 6. AE curves of the UCLU tests when $\sigma_A = 0.6\sigma_c$: (a) $l_{st} = 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$; (b) $l_{st} = 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{ s}^{-1}$; (c) $l_{st} = 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$; (d) $l_{st} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1}$; (e) $l_{st} = 10^{-3} \text{ s}^{-1}$.

Figure 7. Cont.
Figure 7. AE curves of the UCLU tests when $\sigma_A = 0.7\sigma_c$: (a) $l_{sr} = 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$; (b) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$; (c) $l_{sr} = 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$; (d) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$; (e) $l_{sr} = 10^{-3}$ s$^{-1}$.

Figure 8. Cont.
Figure 8. AE curves of the UCLU tests when $\sigma_A = 0.8\sigma_c$: (a) $l_{sr} = 10^{-5} \text{s}^{-1}$; (b) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{s}^{-1}$; (c) $l_{sr} = 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1}$; (d) $l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1}$; (e) $l_{sr} = 10^{-3} \text{s}^{-1}$.

Figure 9. Cont.
Figure 9. AE curves of the UCLU tests when \( \sigma_A = 0.9 \sigma_c \): (a) \( l_{sr} = 10^{-5} \text{s}^{-1} \); (b) \( l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-5} \text{s}^{-1} \); (c) \( l_{sr} = 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1} \); (d) \( l_{sr} = 5 \times 10^{-4} \text{s}^{-1} \); (e) \( l_{sr} = 10^{-3} \text{s}^{-1} \).

4. Discussion

Substantial experiments have shown that the rock Kaiser effect can breakdown or disappear over the cyclic loading process [21,22,34]. The Felicity effect occurs when the Kaiser effect vanishes. The Felicity effect, which is also termed the counter-Kaiser effect, denotes that AEs start to appear noticeably when the applied stress is lower than its highest value of the stress history in the previous stage [21,34]. The Felicity effect is quantifiable by the Felicity ratio (FR), which usually represents the degree of rock damage. As the FR is decreased, the rock damage degree becomes higher. Given that the FR is larger than 1.0, the Kaiser effect is pronounced and the rock damage degree is low or even no damage. When FR < 1.0, the Kaiser effect disappears, which indicates remarkable damage due to unstable crack expansion. The Felicity ratio (FR) is measured by the stress magnitude of the Kaiser effect (\( \sigma_{AE} \)) and the highest stress in the previous loading stage (\( \sigma_m \)):

\[
FR = \frac{\sigma_{AE}}{\sigma_m}. \tag{1}
\]

The FR values of the red sandstone under 25 combinations of \( \sigma_A \) and the loading strain rate are calculated using Equation (1). Table 2 and Figure 10 shows variations of FR under different \( \sigma_A \) and \( l_{sr} \). In the following, we examine the effects of \( \sigma_A \) and \( l_{sr} \) on the appearance of both the Kaiser and the Felicity effects.

| \( \sigma_A \) (MPa) | \( \sigma_{AE} \) (MPa) | Loading Strain Rate (\( l_{sr}, \text{s}^{-1} \)) | \( 1 \times 10^{-5} \) | \( 5 \times 10^{-5} \) | \( 1 \times 10^{-4} \) | \( 5 \times 10^{-4} \) | \( 1 \times 10^{-3} \) |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 0.5\( \sigma_c \)     | 1.08, 1.03, 1.07      | 1.14, 1.11, 1.13                | 1.21, 1.23, 1.19| 1.29, 1.27, 1.25| 1.32, 1.38, 1.35|
| 0.6\( \sigma_c \)     | 0.86, 0.88, 0.85      | 0.95, 0.90, 0.92                | 1.05, 1.00, 0.99| 1.10, 1.15, 1.14| 1.19, 1.18, 1.21|
| 0.7\( \sigma_c \)     | 0.55, 0.61, 0.53      | 0.83, 0.84, 0.82                | 0.87, 0.86, 0.86| 0.91, 0.90, 0.91| 0.95, 0.94, 0.93|
| 0.8\( \sigma_c \)     | 0.45, 0.46, 0.46      | 0.71, 0.69, 0.67                | 0.73, 0.74, 0.73| 0.78, 0.77, 0.80| 0.82, 0.80, 0.81|
| 0.9\( \sigma_c \)     | 0.37, 0.39, 0.36      | 0.60, 0.59, 0.57                | 0.64, 0.63, 0.63| 0.67, 0.66, 0.67| 0.70, 0.69, 0.70|
Figure 10. Felicity rate variations under various prescribed stresses and loading strain rates, respectively: (a) Felicity rate variations under different prescribed stress levels (relative to $\sigma_c$); (b) Felicity rate variations under different loading strain rates.

4.1. Dependence of the Kaiser Effect on the Prescribed Stress

Figure 10a demonstrates that when $\sigma_A = 0.5\sigma_c$, i.e., the prescribed stress is located in the region of the compaction stage to the elastic stage, AEs appear extensively if the stress is larger than $\sigma_A$, and the Kaiser effect is obvious. When $FR > 1.0$ in the re-loading stage, the Kaiser effect occurs, and the loading strain rate poses a minor impact on the Kaiser effect. Once $FR > 1.0$ in the reloading stage, the Kaiser effect occurs, and the loading strain rate poses a minor impact on the Kaiser effect. When $FR < 1.0$ and $l_{sr} < 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, the Kaiser effect appears in the re-loading stage and the Kaiser effect disappears. When $FR > 1.0$ and $l_{sr} \geq 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, the Kaiser effect appears over the re-loading. When $\sigma_A \geq 0.7\sigma_c$, i.e., ranging from the stable crack growth stage to the unstable cracking stage, for $FR < 1.0$, substantial AE events happen at the low loading stress level. That is to say, the Kaiser effect vanishes, accompanied with the occurrence of the Felicity effect. The Kaiser effect breaks down, the Felicity effect emerges.

4.2. Dependence of the Kaiser Effect on the Loading Strain Rate

Figure 10b shows that when the loading strain rate grows from $10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$ to $10^{-3}$ s$^{-1}$, the $FR$ increases from 1.06, 0.86, 0.56, 0.46, and 0.37, to 1.35, 1.19, 0.94, 0.81, and 0.70 under $\sigma_A = 0.5\sigma_c$, $\sigma_A = 0.6\sigma_c$, $\sigma_A = 0.7\sigma_c$, $\sigma_A = 0.8\sigma_c$, and $\sigma_A = 0.9\sigma_c$ with the increased proportion of 27.36%, 38.37%, 67.86%, 76.09%, and 89.19%, respectively. Taking $\sigma_A = 0.5\sigma_c$ for example, the $FR$ increases from 1.06 to 1.21 with the increased proportion of 21.00% as the loading strain rate increases from $10^{-5}$ s$^{-1}$ to $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. When the loading strain rate grows to $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, the $FR$ increases to 1.35 with an increased proportion of 11.57%. That is to say, the $FR$ increases as the loading strain rate increases. The Kaiser effect easily appears, and how the loading strain rate influences the Kaiser effect is greatly affected by $\sigma_A$. Moreover, the loading strain rate significantly affects $FR$ when $l_{sr} < 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. The $FR$ rapidly increases as the loading strain rate increases. When $l_{sr} \geq 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, the loading strain rate has a minor influence on the $FR$.

The impact of loading strain rate on the rock AE features is mainly manifested by the change of AE rate (quantity of AEs generated per second). The higher the AE rate is, the faster the rock specimen is damaged. When the loading strain rate is low ($l_{sr} < 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$), internal microcracks are generated and
expanded for a longer time with a lower AE rate. When the loading strain rate is high \((l_{sr} \geq 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1})\), additional energy supplies and the internal microcracks of the rock are untimely to be closed, which lowers the resistance needed in the cracking process. This accelerates crack expansion and releases more energies with a higher AE rate. Figure 11 shows that the variation of the cumulative number of AEs versus monitoring time under different loading strain rates is generally similar. The cumulative number of AEs of the rock specimen exhibit nonlinear growth. In the first cyclic loading, new cracks are continuously formed inside the rock and original cracks are expanded and connected. The AEs tend to be active with a gradually increasing number. In the constant loading stage of the 1st cycle, some closed cracks experience slippage inside the rock, which would continuously generate a certain quantity of AEs. However, the active degree of AEs in this stage is related to \(\sigma_A\). When \(\sigma_A\) is low \((\sigma_A < 0.7\sigma_c)\), AEs in this stage are inactive with a small quantity. Consequently, the cumulative quantity of acoustic emissions does not increase. When \(\sigma_A\) is high \((\sigma_A \geq 0.7\sigma_c)\), the AE is relatively active with a relatively larger quantity. The cumulative quantity of AEs slowly increases. In the unloading stage of the 1st cycle and the initial loading stage of the 2nd cycle, few AEs occur. The quantity of AEs basically does not change or slowly increases. In the later loading stage of the 2nd cycle, the AE becomes active. The cumulative quantity of the AEs rapidly increases. Overall, when the loading strain rate is low \((l_{sr} < 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1})\), the AE rate of the rock is low, and the cumulative quantity of the AEs slowly increases. The slope of the cumulative quantity of the AEs versus monitoring time is small and increases steadily. When the loading strain rate is high \((l_{sr} \geq 10^{-4} \text{ s}^{-1})\), the AE rate is higher, and the AE number increases abruptly in a short time. The slope of the cumulative quantity of AEs-monitoring time relationship is large and increases rapidly.

The reasons for the effect of loading strain rate on the Kaiser effect can be explained as follows. First, as the loading strain rate ascends, growth of the existing microcracks and new cracks are accelerated, accompanied by gradually enlarged internal damage. More AEs are generated and a higher AE rate is induced. Additionally, a large quantity of AEs occurs earlier, which facilitates the appearance of the Kaiser effect. Second, the red sandstone is compactly structured. Under a low loading strain rate, the stress between the internal particles is continuously transferred and adjusted so that initial damage and microcracks within the rock could be sufficiently developed, which gives rise to a low strength of the rock specimen. With a high loading strain rate, it is found that the stress between the particles inside the rock specimen cannot be quickly transferred and adjusted in the yielding process. Thus, the rock strength is increased as the loading strain rate increases [35–37]. Consequently, both \(\sigma_{AE}\) and the FR increase, which promotes the possible appearance of the Kaiser effect.

![Figure 11. Cont.](image-url)
Figure 11. Cumulative number of acoustic emissions-monitoring time curves of red sandstones under different loading strain rates: (a) $\sigma_A = 0.5\sigma_c$; (b) $\sigma_A = 0.6\sigma_c$; (c) $\sigma_A = 0.7\sigma_c$; (d) $\sigma_A = 0.8\sigma_c$; (e) $\sigma_A = 0.9\sigma_c$.

5. Conclusions

We examined the AE evolution of 75 red sandstone specimens submitted to UCLU tests with different prescribed stress levels in the first loading cycle ($\sigma_A$) and loading strain rates ($l_{sr}$). The stress level of the Kaiser effect ($\sigma_{AE}$) during the re-loading stage was assigned. Influences of $\sigma_A$ and $l_{sr}$ on the rock Kaiser effect were revealed. The main conclusions are:

1. The Kaiser effect is greatly influenced by $\sigma_A$. Internal damage of the rock was gradually intensified as $\sigma_A$ grows. Consequently, the Felicity ratio (FR) reduces and the Kaiser effect slowly vanishes, followed by appearance of the Felicity effect. The FR increases as the loading strain rate increases, and this, in turn, increases the possible appearance of the Kaiser effect.

2. For the red sandstone specimen, the Kaiser effect is always observed when $\sigma_A$ is between $0.5\sigma_c$ to $0.7\sigma_c$, corresponding to the stable crack grow stage in the stress-strain relationship.

3. When $\sigma_A < 0.5\sigma_c$, a large number of AEs appear in the rock specimen during the re-loading stage only after $\sigma_A$ is exceeded, suggesting an apparent Kaiser effect. When $\sigma_A = 0.6\sigma_c$, the appearance of the Kaiser effect is closely related to the loading strain rate. For $l_{sr} < 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, the Felicity effect appears in the re-loading stage, whereas the Kaiser effect appears in the re-loading process if $l_{sr} \geq 10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. When $\sigma_A \geq 0.7\sigma_c$, remarkable AEs are generated in the initial re-loading stage, indicating that the Kaiser effect vanishes and the Felicity effect occurs.

4. The FR ascends and the Kaiser effect appears readily as $l_{sr}$ is increased. The FR grows quickly when $l_{sr}$ increases, but is no larger than $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$, whereas the increase rate of the FR becomes less remarkable after $l_{sr}$ exceeds $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$. Therefore, a relative high loading strain higher than $10^{-4}$ s$^{-1}$ possibly favors the determination of the stress level of the Kaiser effect.
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