

There's always a solution in steel.

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Course Description

Get Fired Up: What Structural Engineers Should Know About Fire Design

February 22, 2017

Typically, fire protection is the responsibility of the architect, but it is becoming more common today that the structural engineer is involved when the prescriptive approach is inadequate and fire engineering becomes desirable. The presentation begins with a background on the current state of fire design including governing standards and the impact of historical fires. Then, the behavior of steel structures in fire conditions is discussed including beams and columns, connections, tensile membrane action and web-buckling. This lecture will focus on what the structural engineer needs to know about fire protection and design and what benefits and advantages steel structures offer in fire resistance.



Learning Objectives

- Identify key differences between prescriptive fire protection and structural fire engineering.
- Identify codes and standards that address fire design
- Describe how historical fires have shaped current codes and practice
- Understand behavior of steel structures in fire conditions including beams and columns, connections, tensile membrane action and web-buckling



There's always a solution in steel.

Get Fired Up: What Structural Engineers Should Know About Fire Design



Maria E. Moreyra Garlock, PhD, PE
Associate Professor
Dept. Civil & Environmental Engineering
Princeton University
Princeton, NJ





“Big picture” message:
You do not need to forgo efficiency, economy, and elegance in steel structures for fire protection reasons...

SEE Project: BuroHappold
Image: Roger Strike Harbour



1 BACKGROUND
— Fires that transformed USA history

10

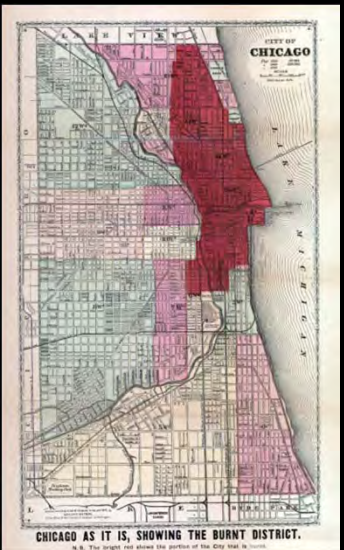


① BACKGROUND / Fires That Transformed USA History /

Great Chicago Fire of 1871







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① BACKGROUND / Fires That Transformed USA History /

Great Chicago Fire of 1871







12



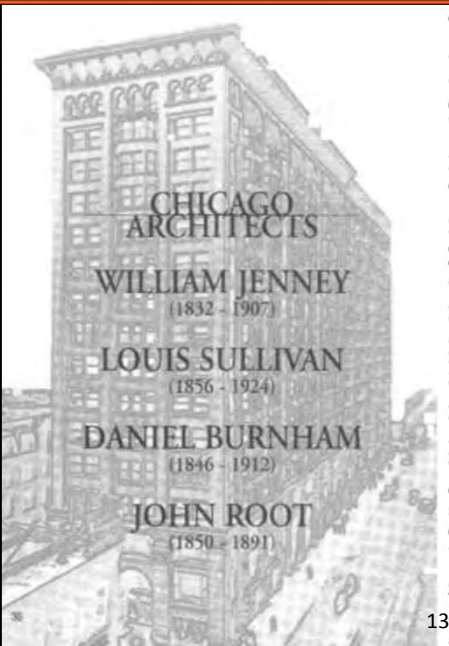
① BACKGROUND / Fires That Transformed USA History /

Great
Chicago Fire
of 1871

Transformation of:

- Building codes
- Architecture





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① BACKGROUND / Fires That Transformed USA History /

NYC, 1911
Triangle
Shirtwaist Co.

Transformation of...

- politics & labor laws
- bldg. fire safety





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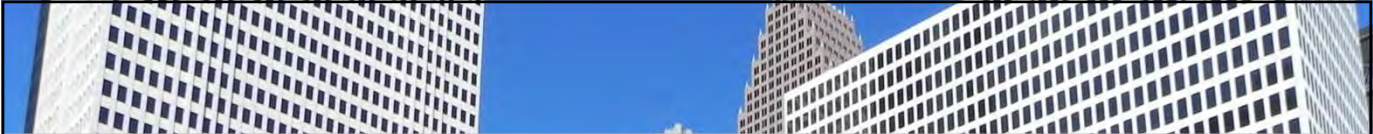
① BACKGROUND / Fires That Transformed USA History /

NYC: Sept. 11, 2001
(WTC 1, 2, 5, 7)

Transformation of...
the way we think
about fire design of
structures



Figure 2. Internal Collapse Area in WTC 5 (World Trade..., 2002).



QUESTION:

Do concrete structures perform better in fire than steel structures?





QUESTION:

Do concrete structures perform better in fire than steel structures?

ANSWER:

ALL materials have some form of weakness in fire.



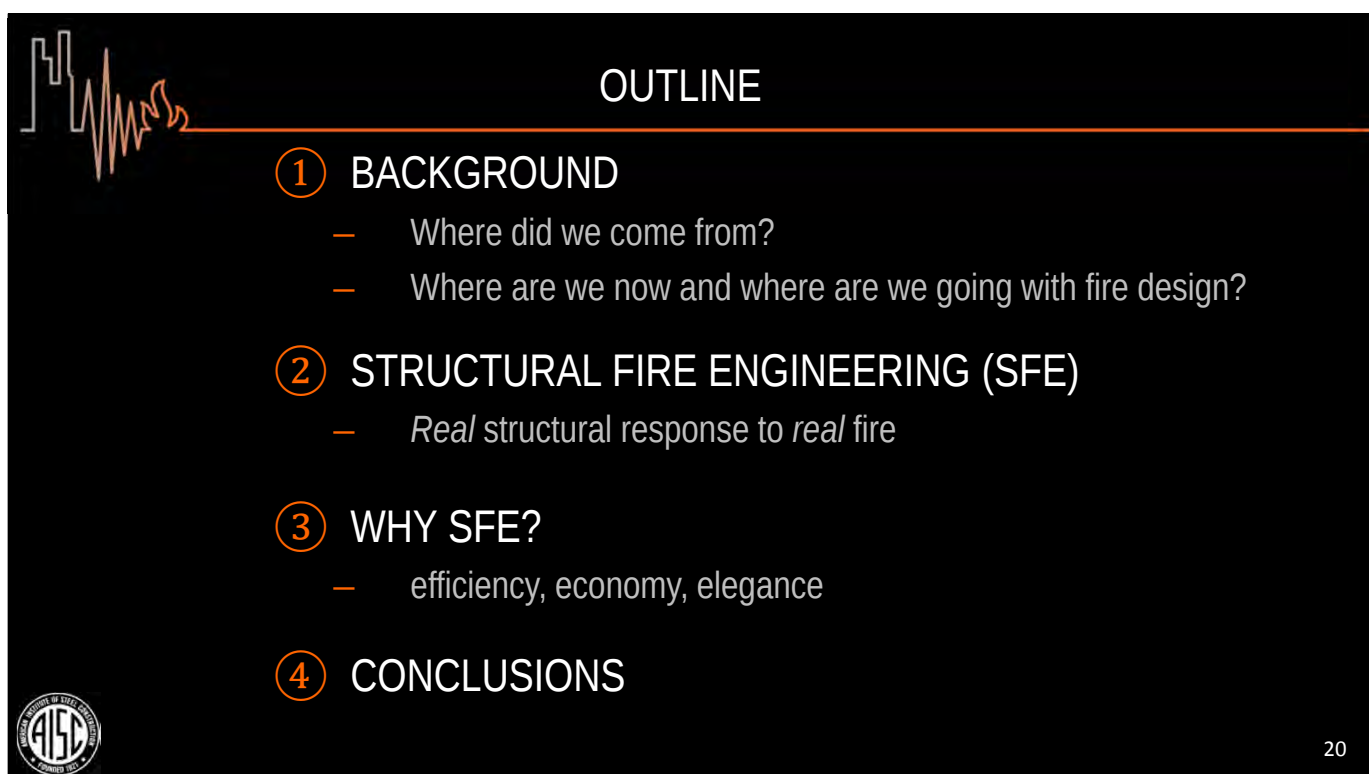
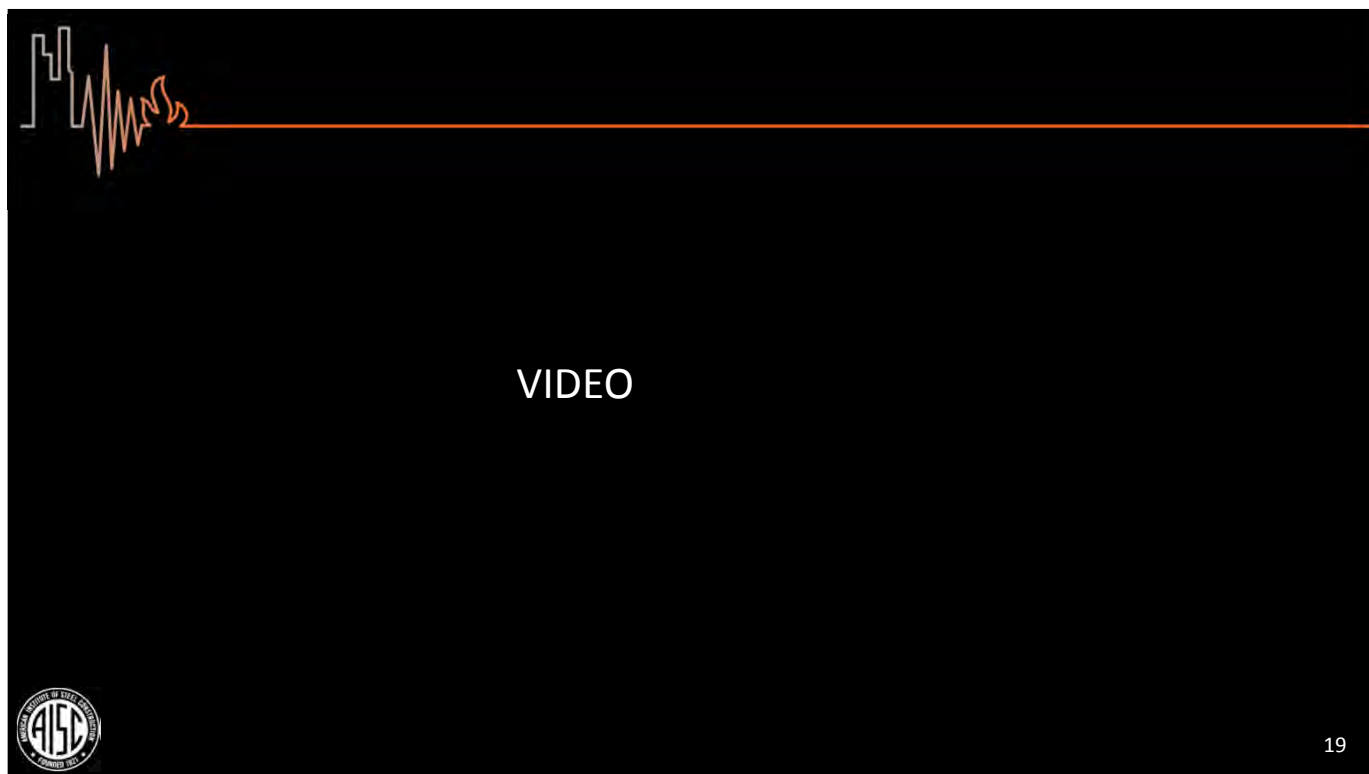


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwQfpMnSh90>





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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA /

How is fire resistance traditionally determined?

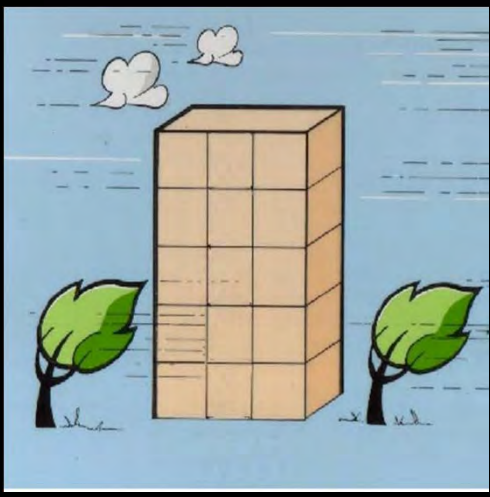


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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA /

How is fire resistance traditionally determined?



How does a building resist wind?



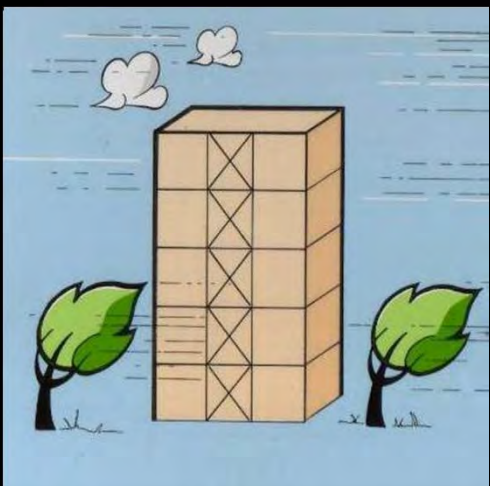
slide credit: Jeff Robison, British Steel

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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA /

How is fire resistance traditionally determined?





One solution is to design the building to resist wind using bracing.

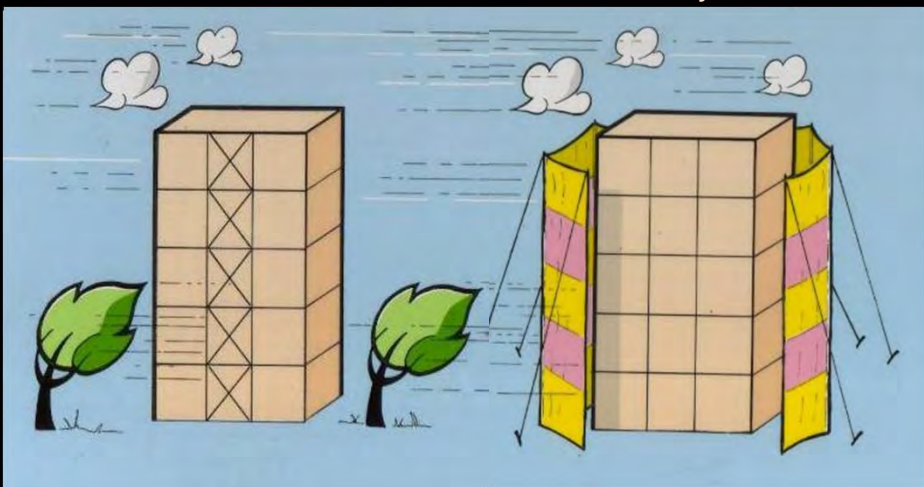
slide credit: Jeff Robison, British Steel

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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA /

How is fire resistance traditionally determined?





One solution is to design the building to resist wind using bracing.

An alternative is to protect the building from wind.

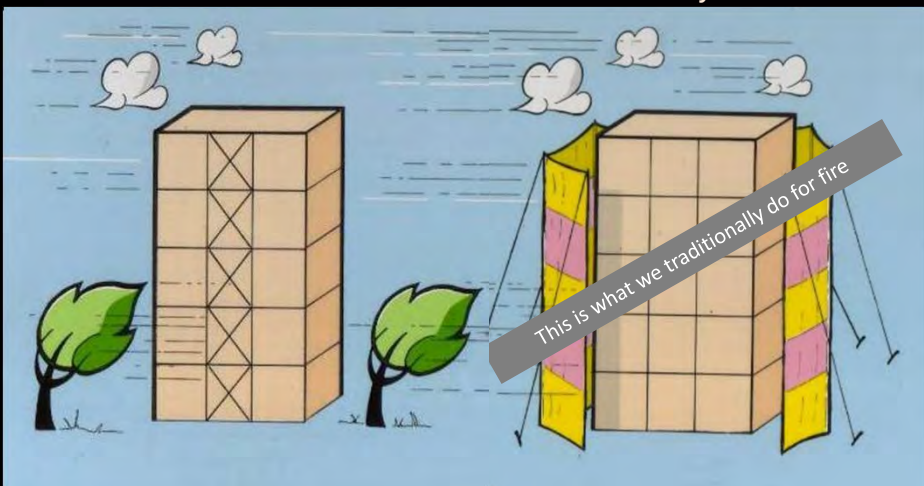
slide credit: Jeff Robison, British Steel

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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA /

How is fire resistance traditionally determined?



One solution is to design the building to resist wind using bracing.

An alternative is to protect the building from wind.

slide credit: Jeff Robison, British Steel



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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA / Prescriptive



Designers select materials and assemblies to meet fire resistance using “**approved methods**”:

- qualification testing (ASTM E119)
- computational methods that show ASTM E119 equivalence

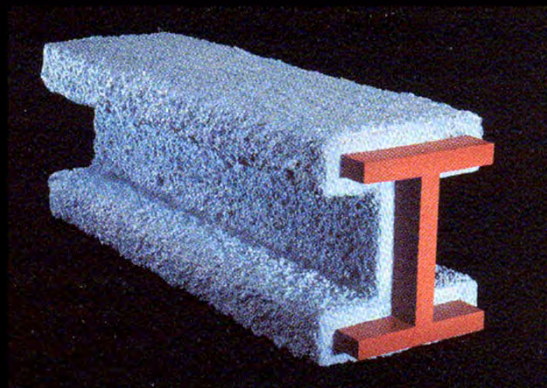


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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA / *Prescriptive* Protection Systems for Steel

- Board Systems
- Spray on Systems
- Intumescent Paint
- Concrete Encasement
- Concrete Filling
- ... etc ...

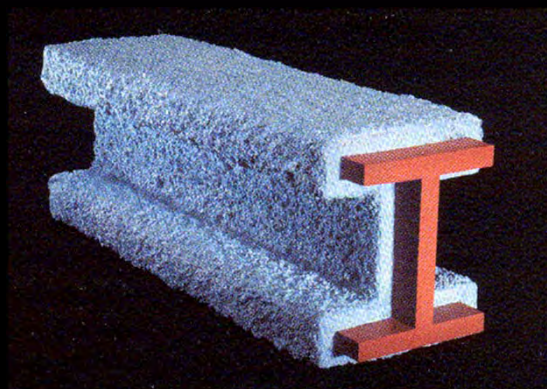


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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA / *Prescriptive* Protection Systems for Steel

- Board Systems
- Spray on Systems
- Intumescent Paint
- Concrete Encasement
- Concrete Filling
- ... etc ...



Regardless of the system used, an **engineered approach** to fire safety will lead to more efficient, economical, and elegant solutions



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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA / *Prescriptive*



QUESTION:

Does the fire resistive rating imply the *time* that the structural integrity is maintained?

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① BACKGROUND / Current Practice in USA / *Prescriptive*



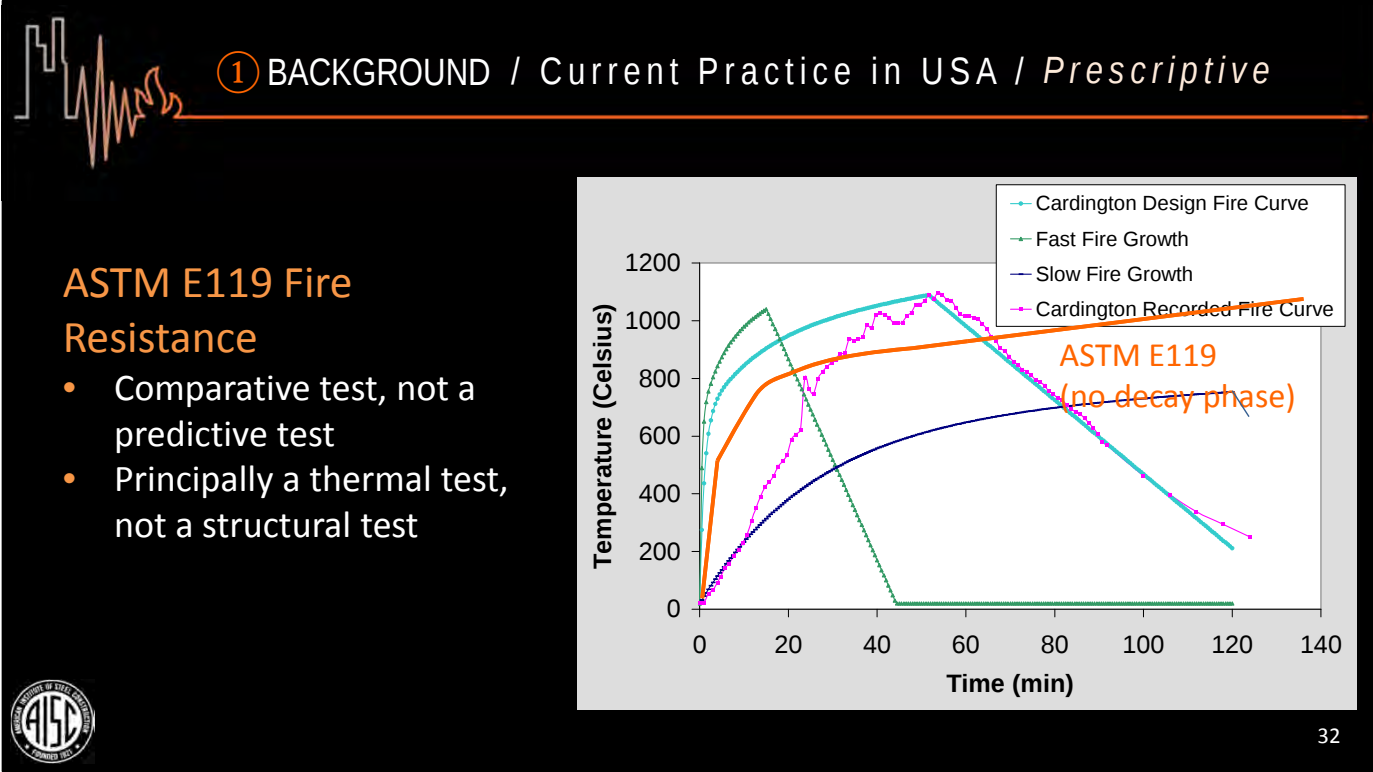
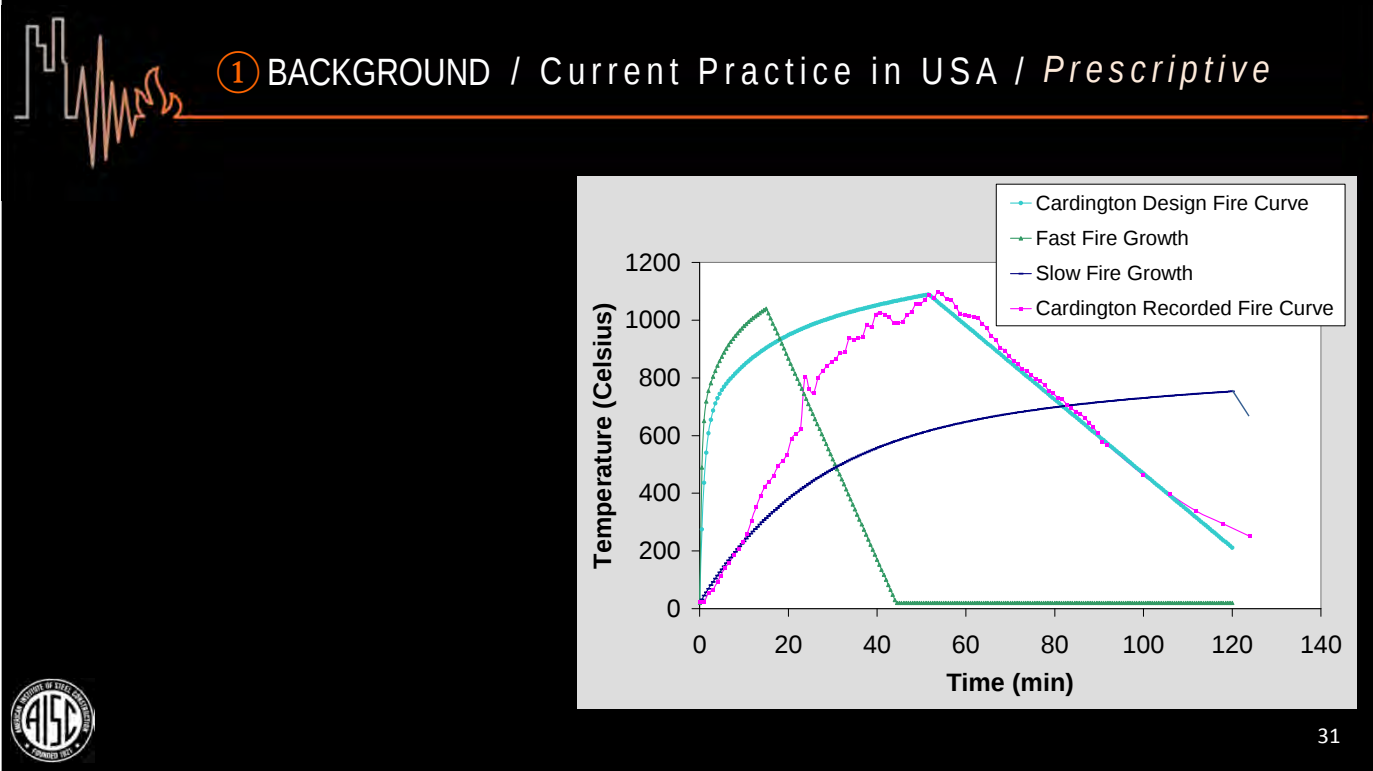
QUESTION:

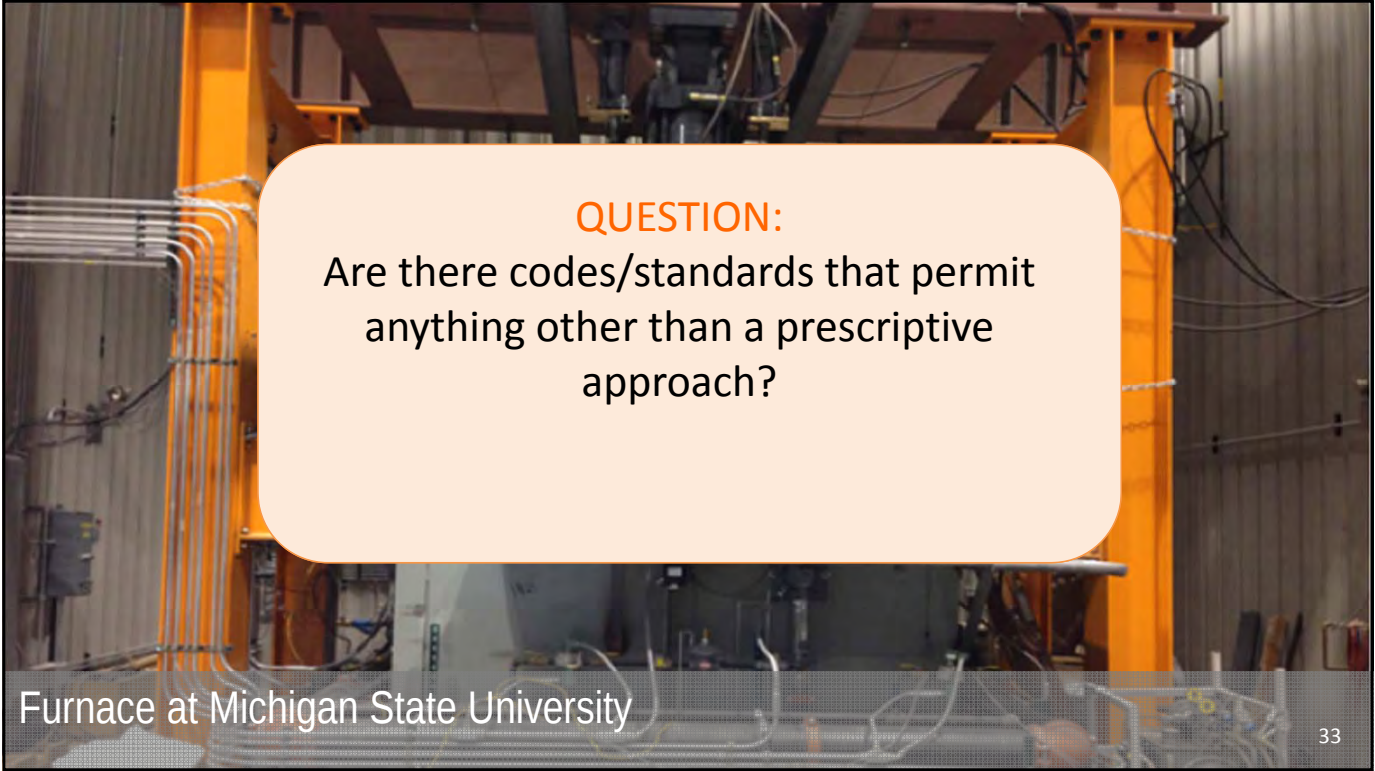
Does the fire resistive rating imply the *time* that the structural integrity is maintained?

SHORT ANSWER:

no

30

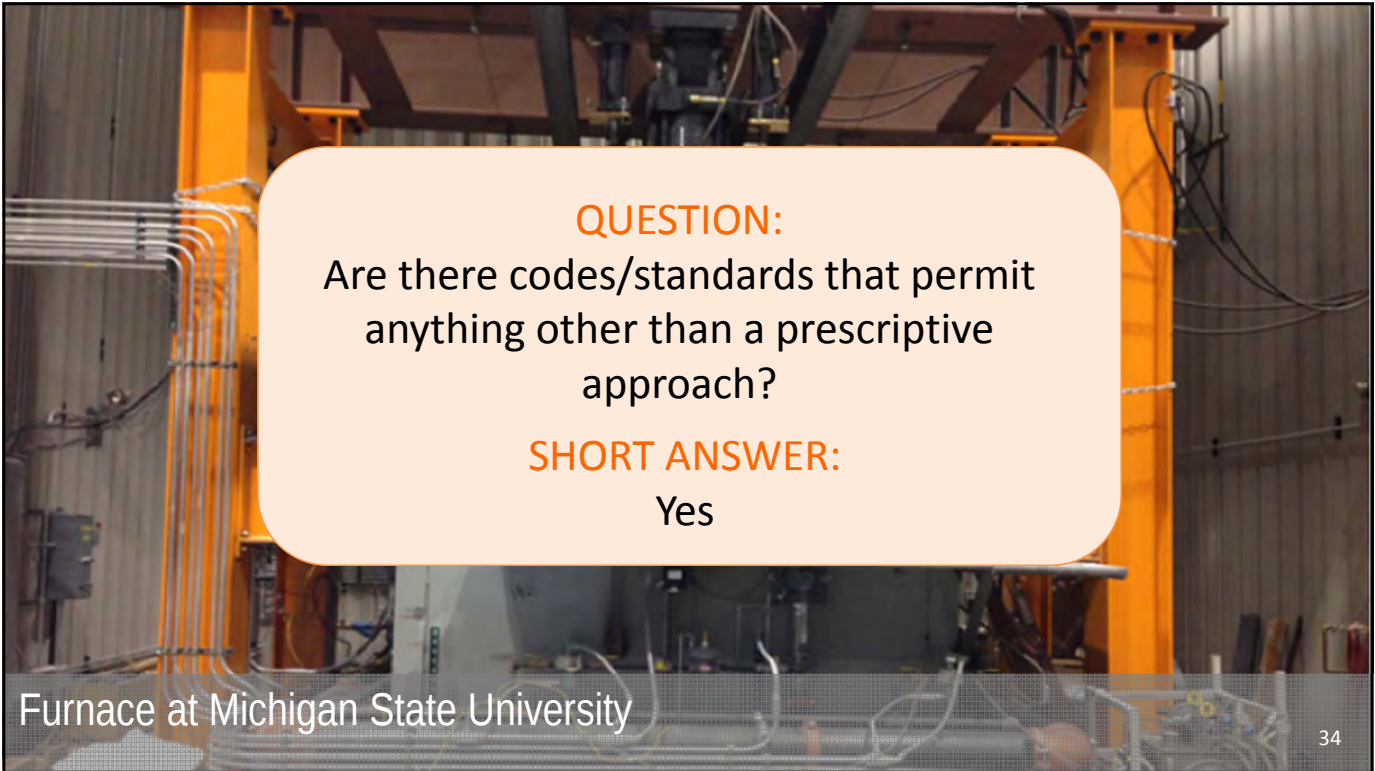




QUESTION:
Are there codes/standards that permit anything other than a prescriptive approach?

Furnace at Michigan State University

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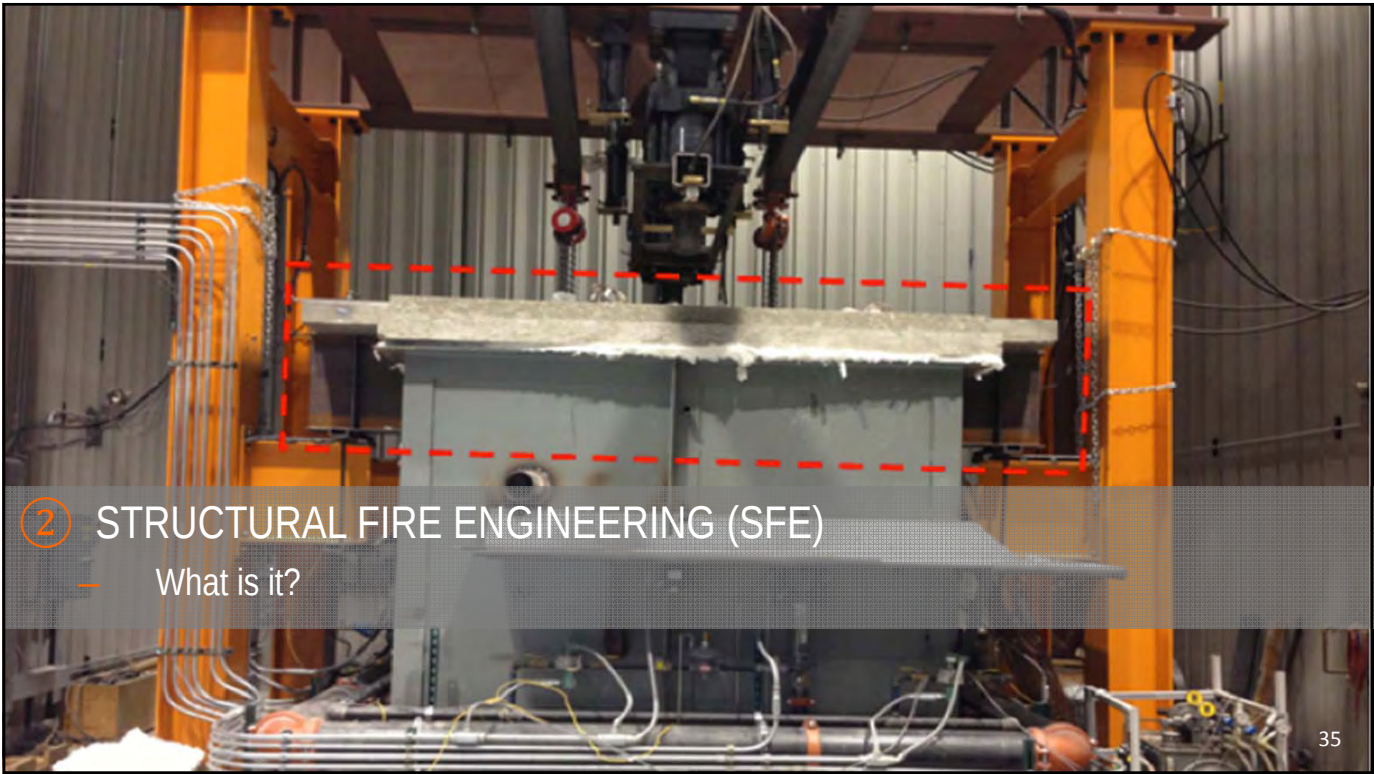
QUESTION:
Are there codes/standards that permit anything other than a prescriptive approach?

SHORT ANSWER:
Yes

Furnace at Michigan State University

34

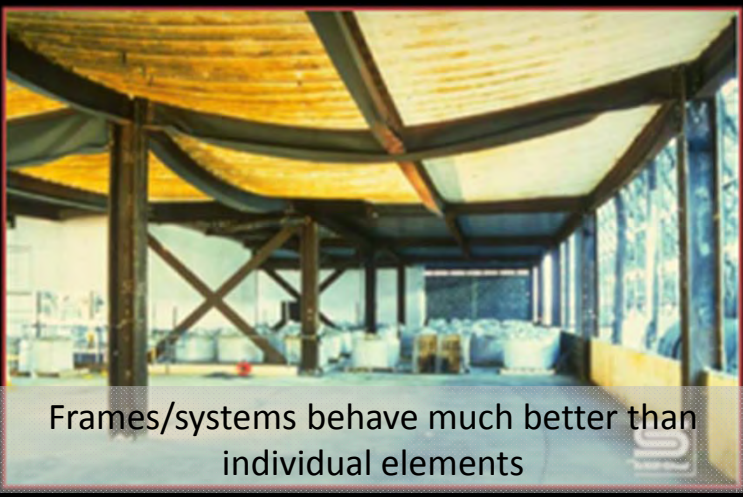






② SFE / What is it? /

Structural Fire Engineering (SFE) → Performance based design for fire



Frames/systems behave much better than individual elements



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② SFE / What is it? /

Structural Fire Engineering (SFE) → Performance based design for fire

- Fire is treated as a “load” (like wind, earthquake, etc...)
- Can evaluate **systems** and components.
- *Where possible*, design the structure to **withstand fire** rather than protect against it.



Frames/systems behave much better than individual elements



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② SFE / What is it? / *Difference with Prescriptive?*

	Prescriptive	SFE
States how a building is to....	... be constructed	... perform



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② SFE / What is it? / *Difference with Prescriptive?*

	Prescriptive	SFE
States how a building is to....	... be constructed	... perform
Knowledge of structural behavior needed?	NO	YES



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② SFE / What is it? / *Difference with Prescriptive?*

	Prescriptive	SFE
States how a building is to....	... be constructed	... perform
Knowledge of structural behavior needed?	NO	YES
Primary role in domain of...	architect (non-engineered)	engineer (engineered)



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② SFE / What is it? / *Analysis Steps*

- FIRST STEP: Define Performance Objectives



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② SFE / What is it? / *Analysis Steps*

- FIRST STEP: Define Performance Objectives

Room Geometry
Fuel Load

FIRE
MODEL



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② SFE / What is it? / Analysis Steps

- FIRST STEP: Define Performance Objectives

Room Geometry
Fuel Load

Section Geometry
Thermal Properties
Boundary Layer

FIRE
MODEL

→

HEAT
TRANSFER
MODEL



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② SFE / What is it? / Analysis Steps

- FIRST STEP: Define Performance Objectives

Room Geometry
Fuel Load

Section Geometry
Thermal Properties
Boundary Layer

Member Geometry
Applied Loading
Mechanical Properties

FIRE
MODEL

→

HEAT
TRANSFER
MODEL

→

STRUCTURAL
MODEL



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② SFE / What is it? / Codes and Standards

Natl. bldg. codes include SFE:

- NFPA 5000 (2012)
- IBC (2012)

2012 IBC Section 101.3 Intent: “To establish minimum requirements to **safeguard public health, safety, and general welfare through structural strength**, means of egress facilities, stability, sanitation, adequate light and ventilation, energy conservation, **and safety to life and property from fire** and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.”



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② SFE / What is it? / Codes and Standards

Natl. bldg. codes include SFE:

- NFPA 5000 (2012)
- IBC (2012)

Advances in Building
Standards in USA since 9/11

- **AISC 360 (two types of analyses)**

User Note: Design by qualification testing is the prescriptive method specified in most building codes. Traditionally, on most projects where the architect is the prime professional, the architect has been the responsible party to specify and coordinate fire protection requirements. Design by analysis is a new engineering approach to fire protection. Designation of the person(s) responsible for designing for fire conditions is a contractual matter to be addressed on each project.



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② SFE / What is it? / Codes and Standards

Natl. bldg. codes with SFE:

- NFPA 5000 (2012)
- IBC (2012)

Advances in Building
Standards in USA since 9/11

- AISC 360
- ASCE DOCUMENTS

WHAT

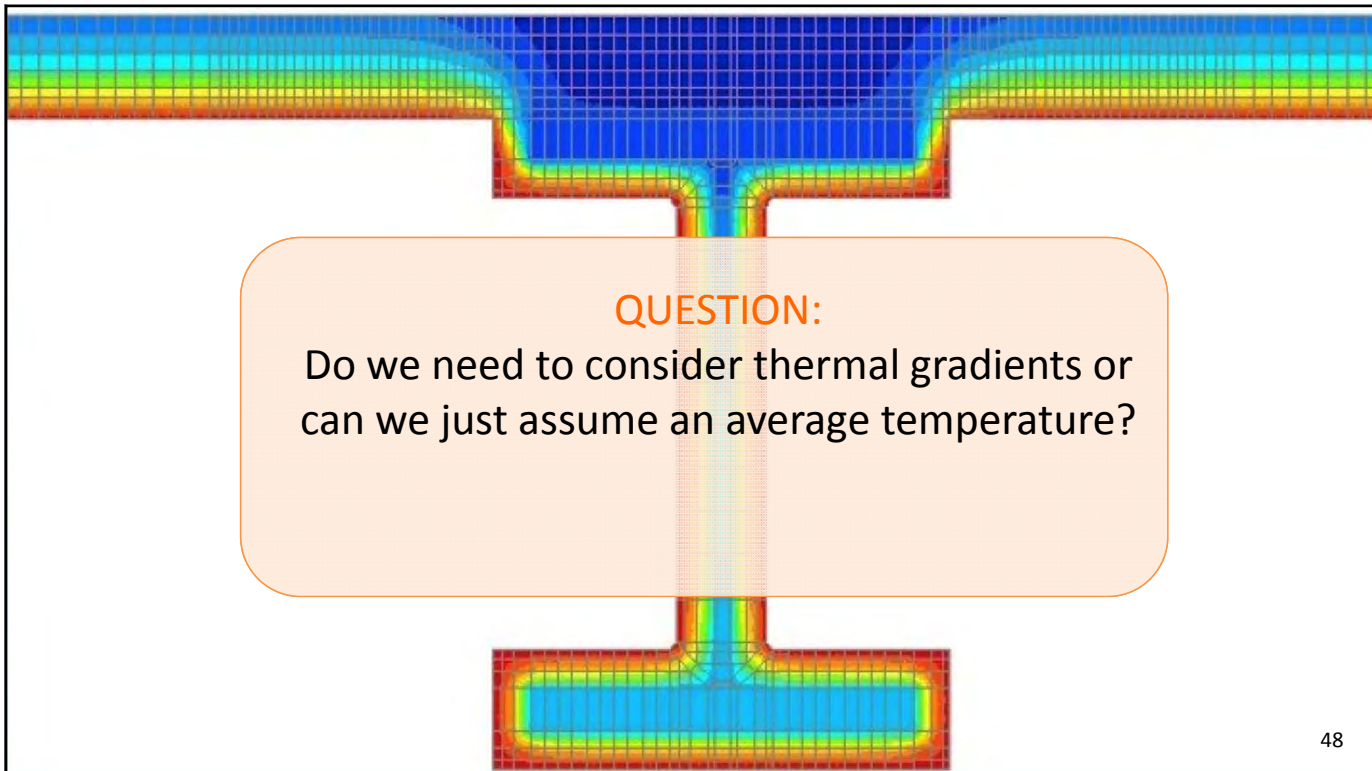
*ASCE 7-16: Performance-based Design
Procedures for Fire Effects on Structures*

HOW

*ASCE/SEI Guideline:
Structural Fire Engineering (in progress)*

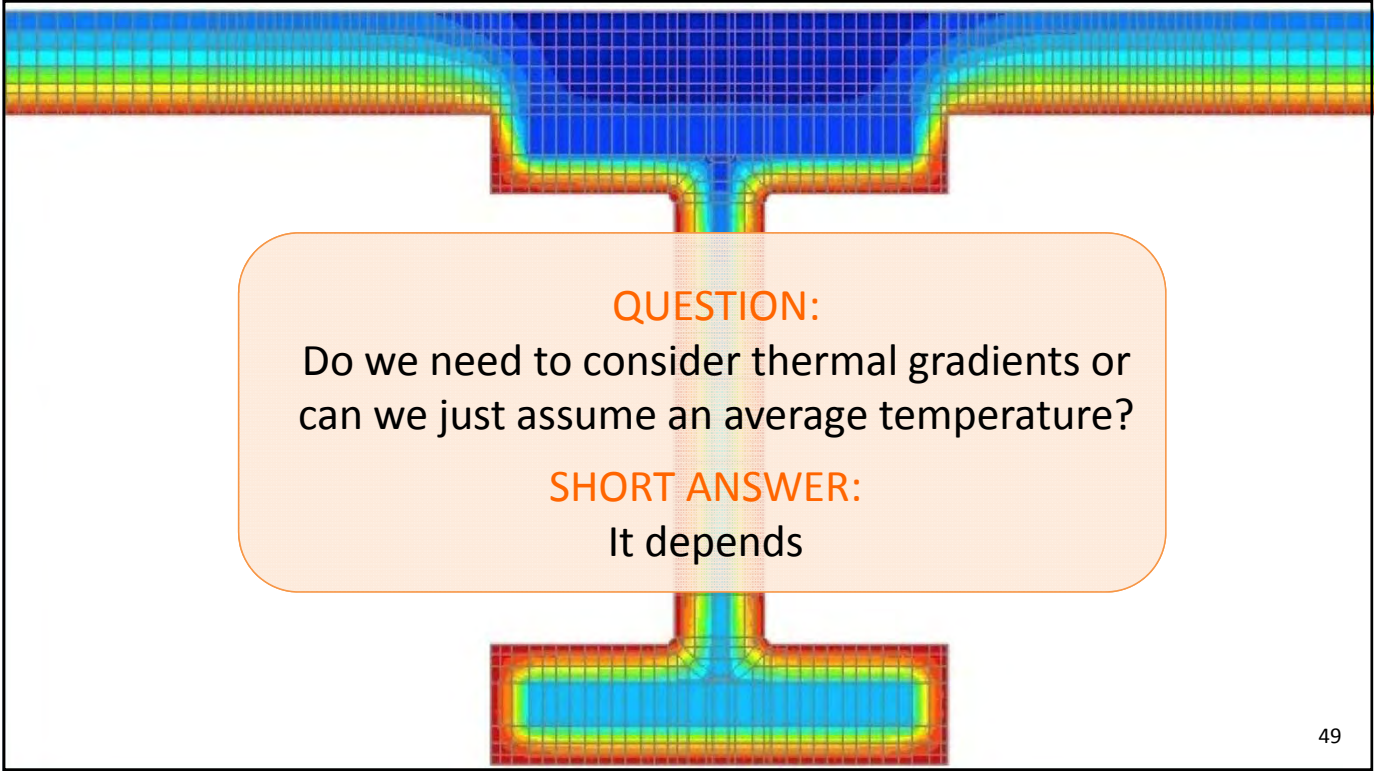


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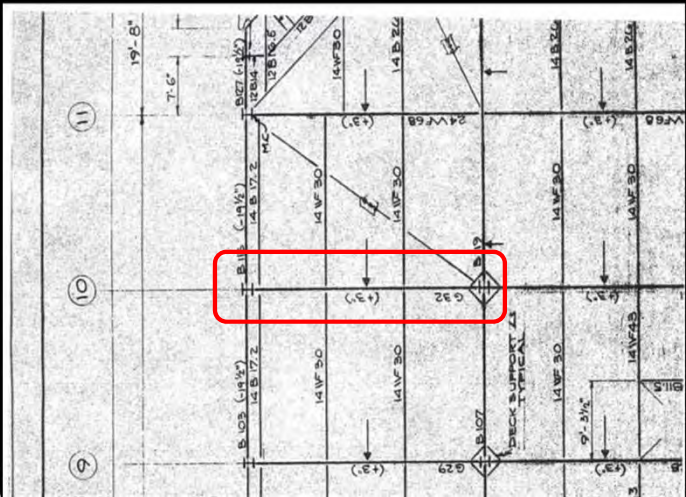
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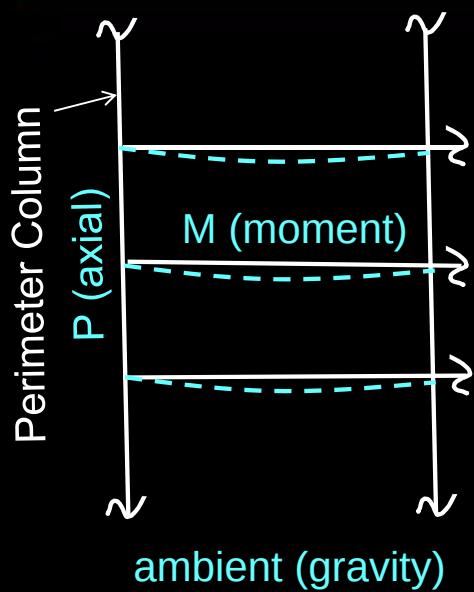
② SFE / Beam-Columns/







② SFE / Beam-Columns/



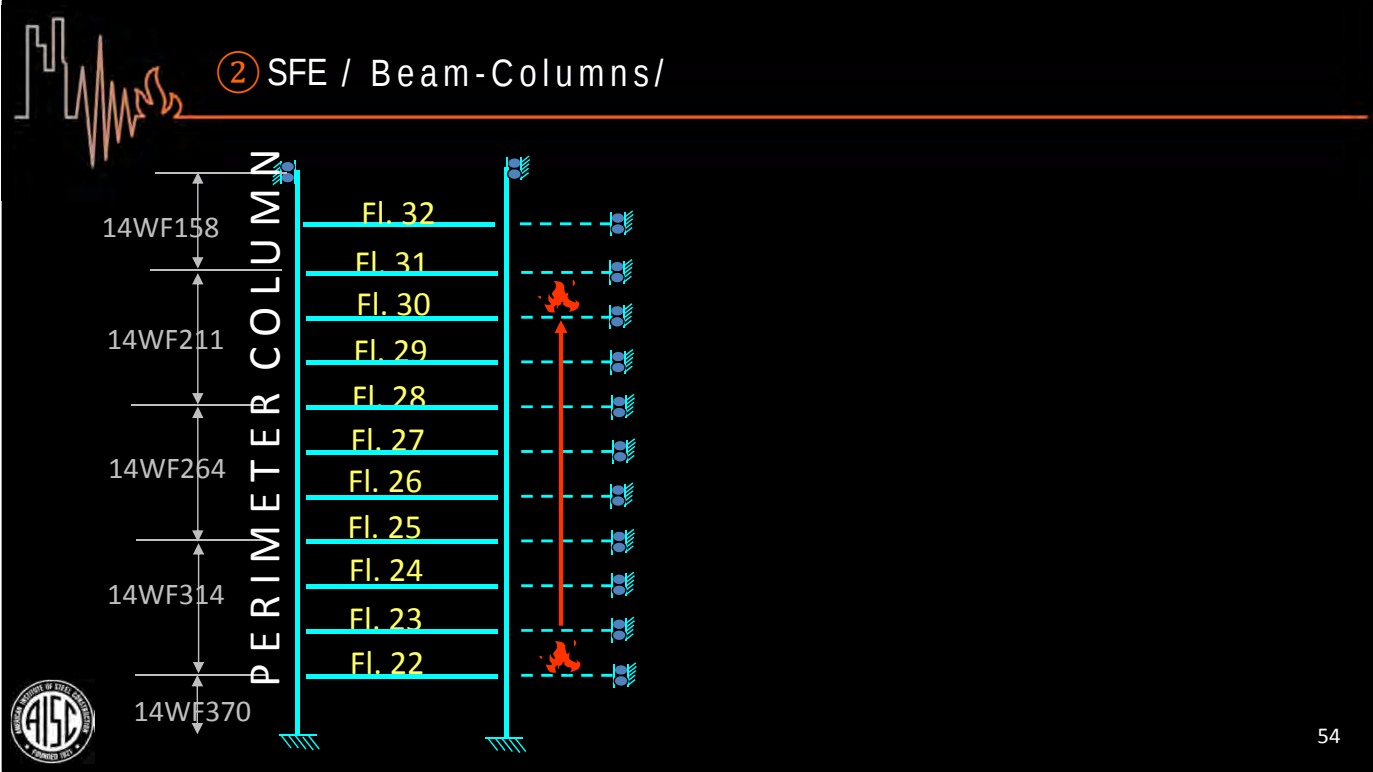
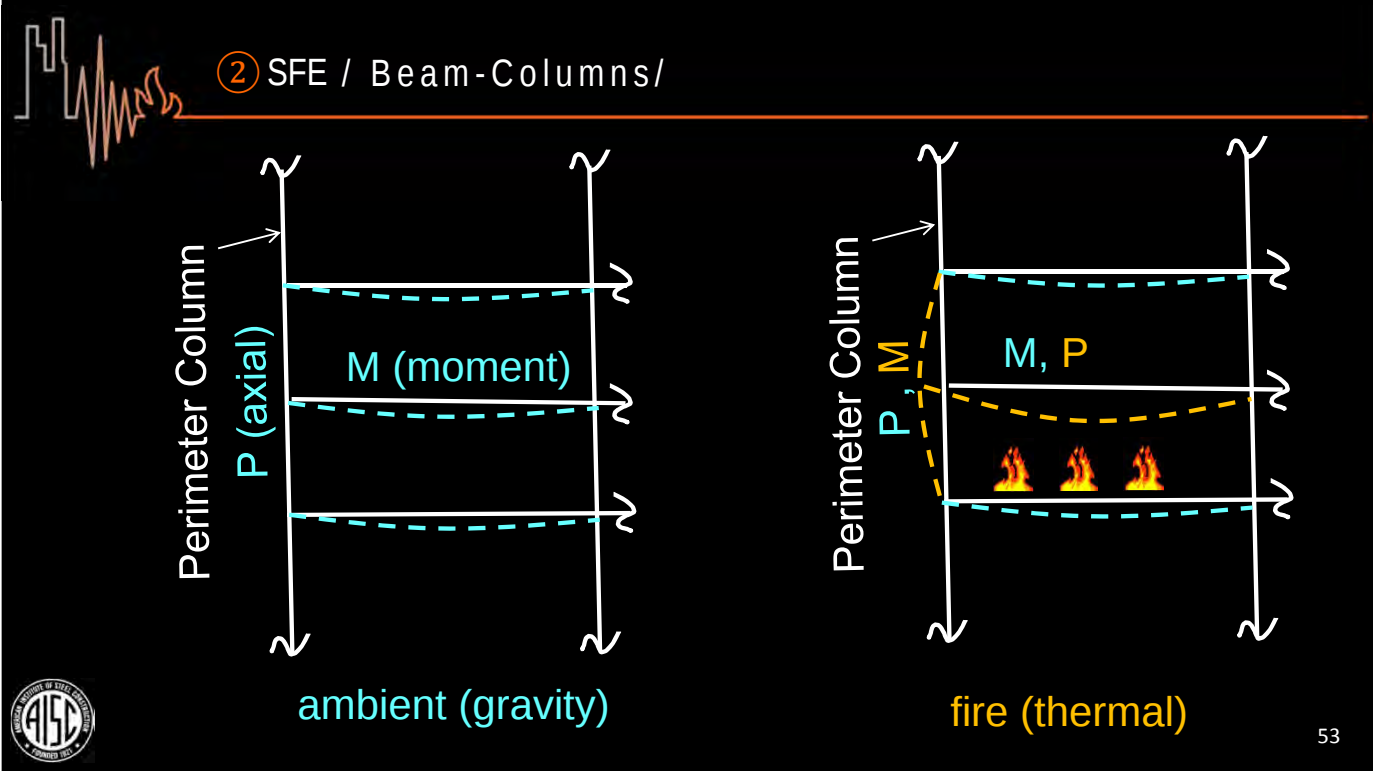
Perimeter Column

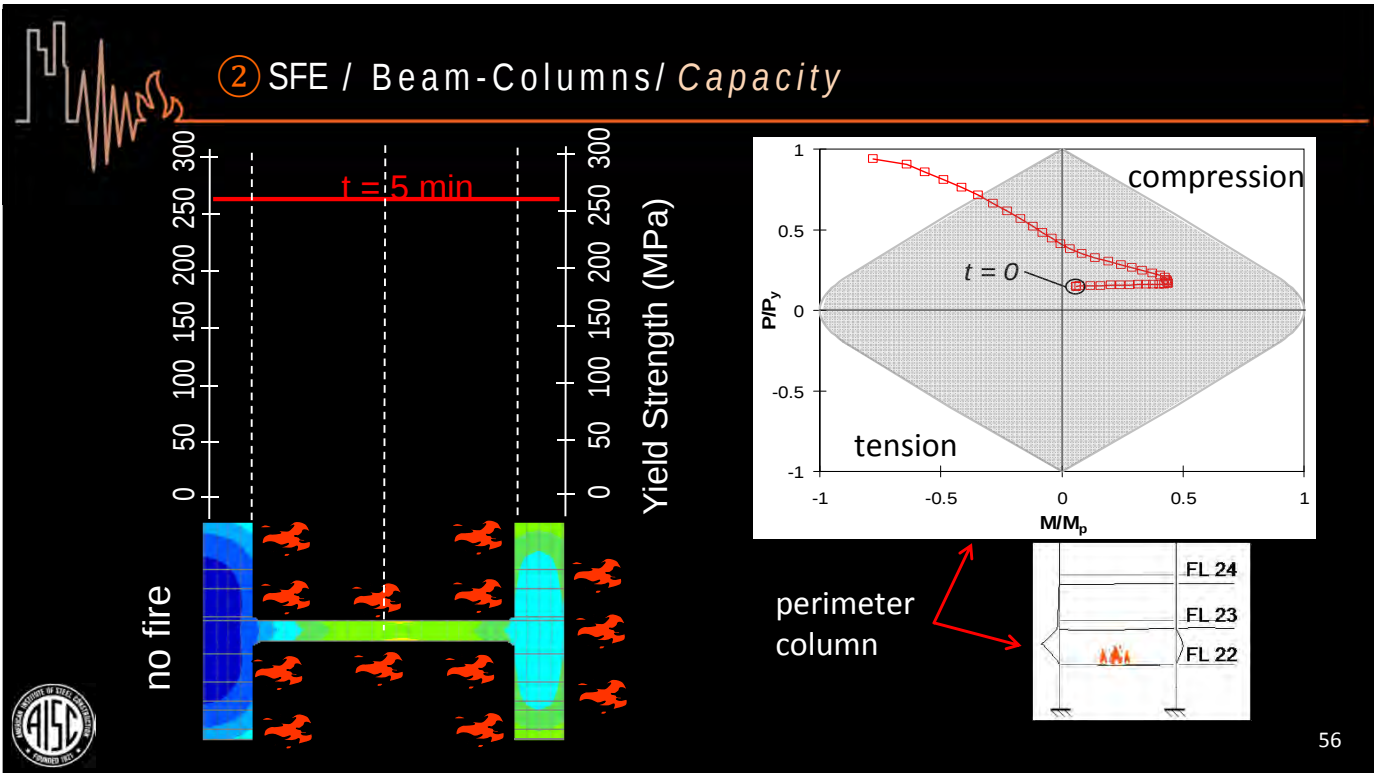
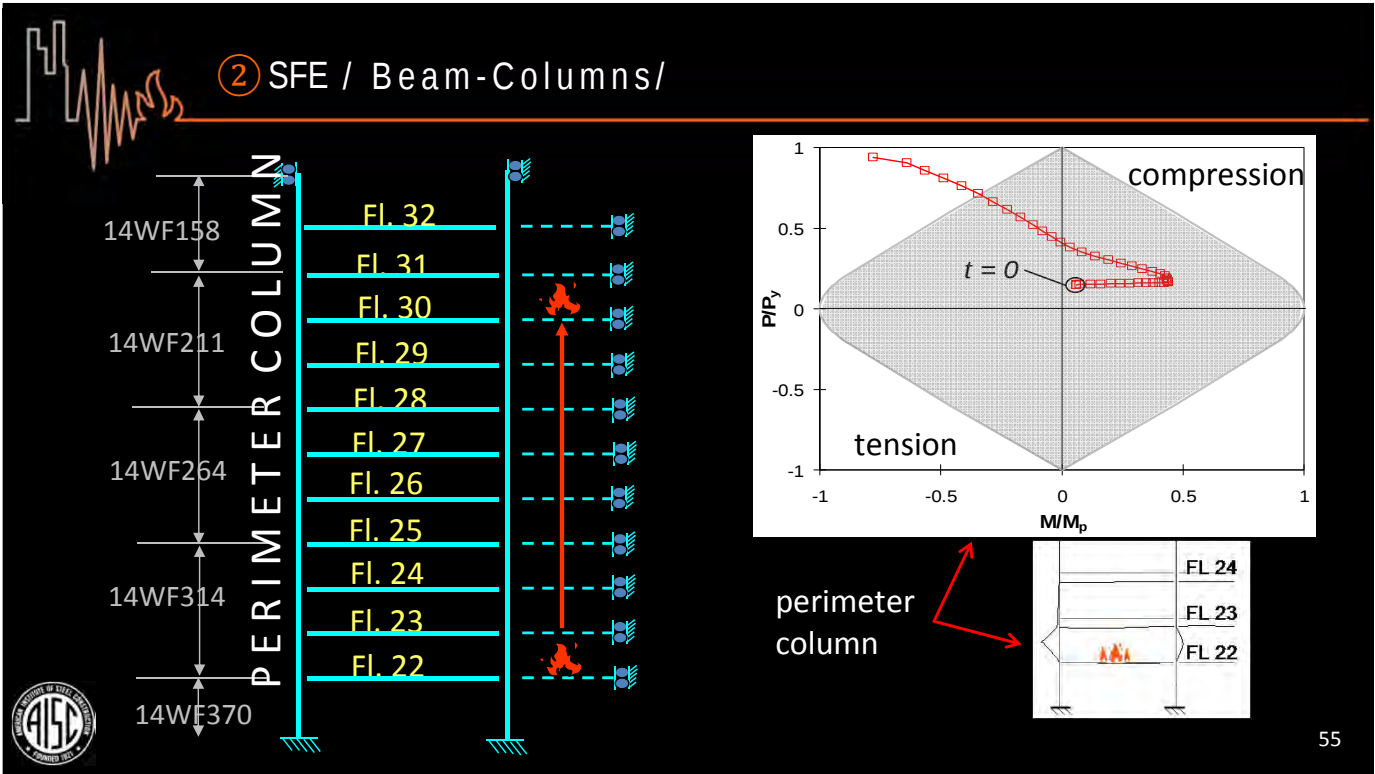
P (axial)

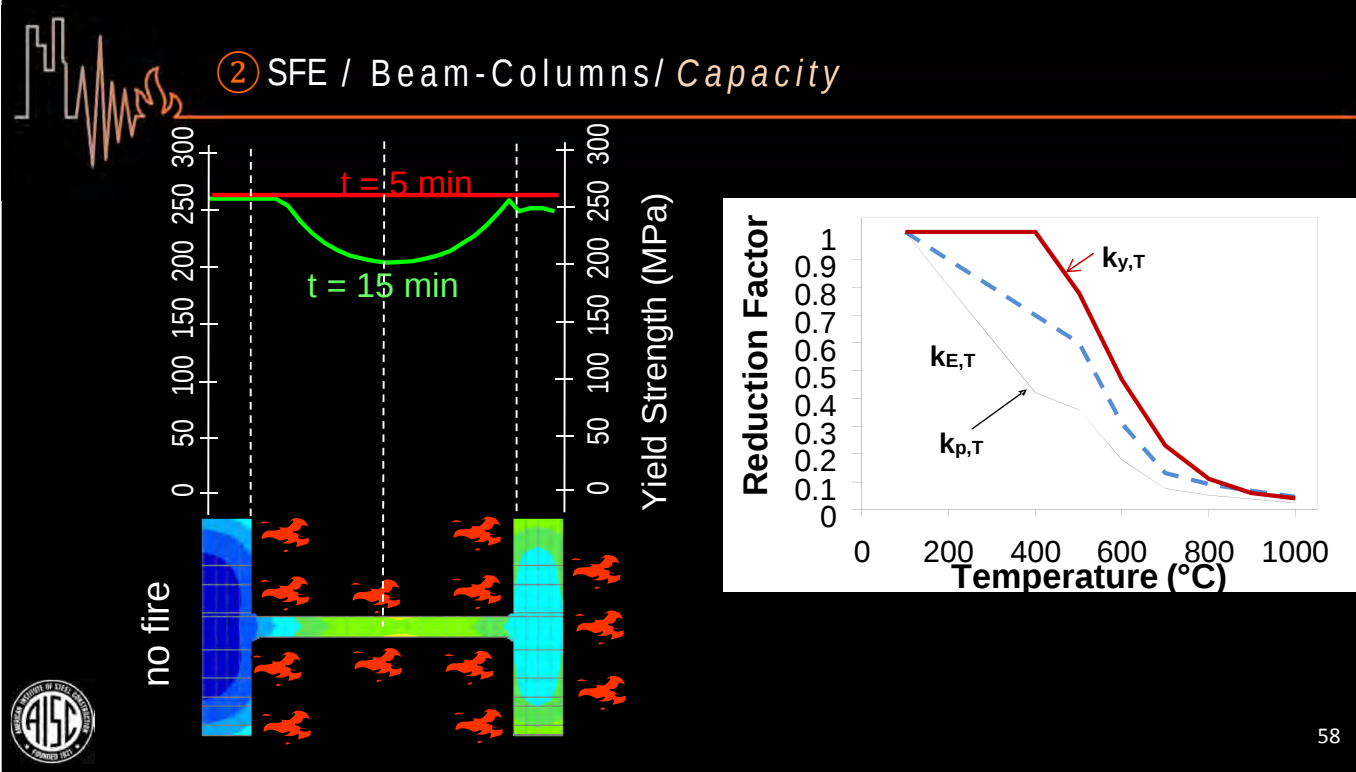
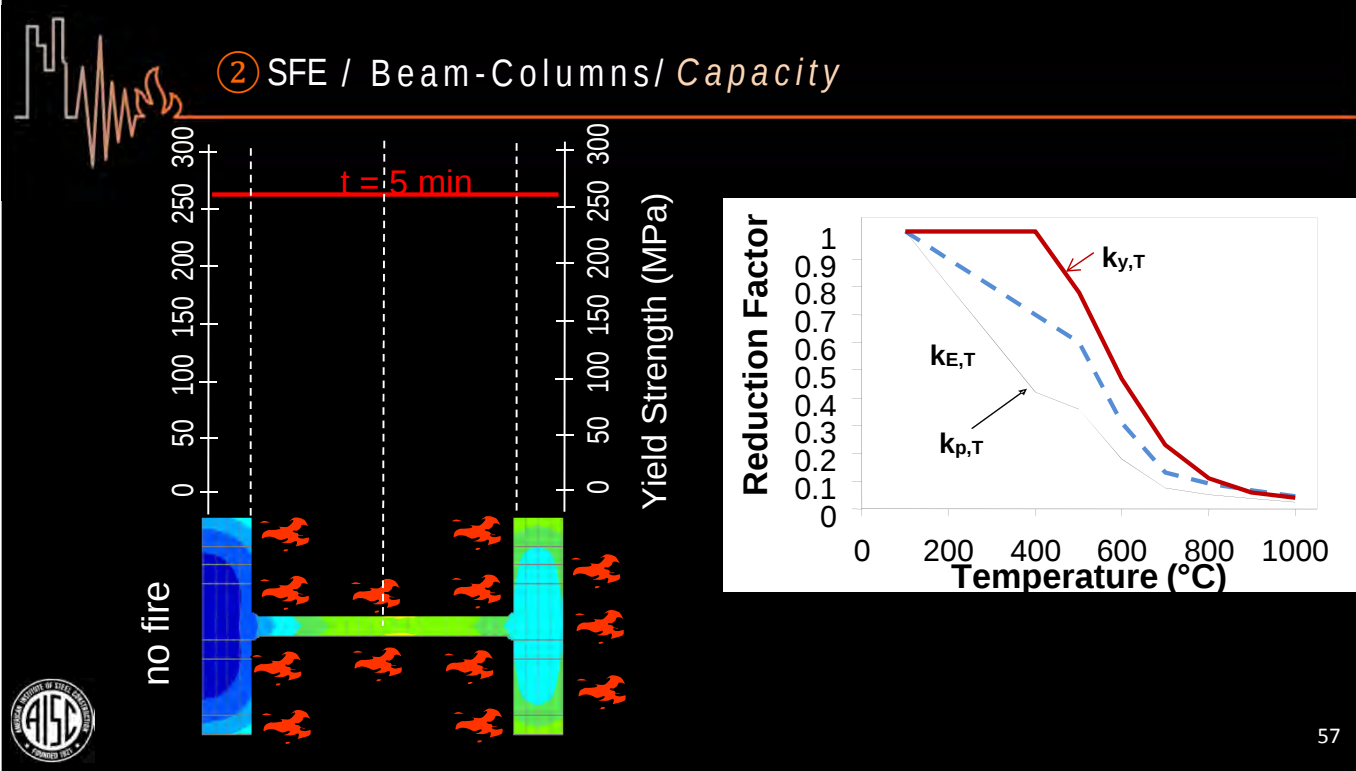
M (moment)

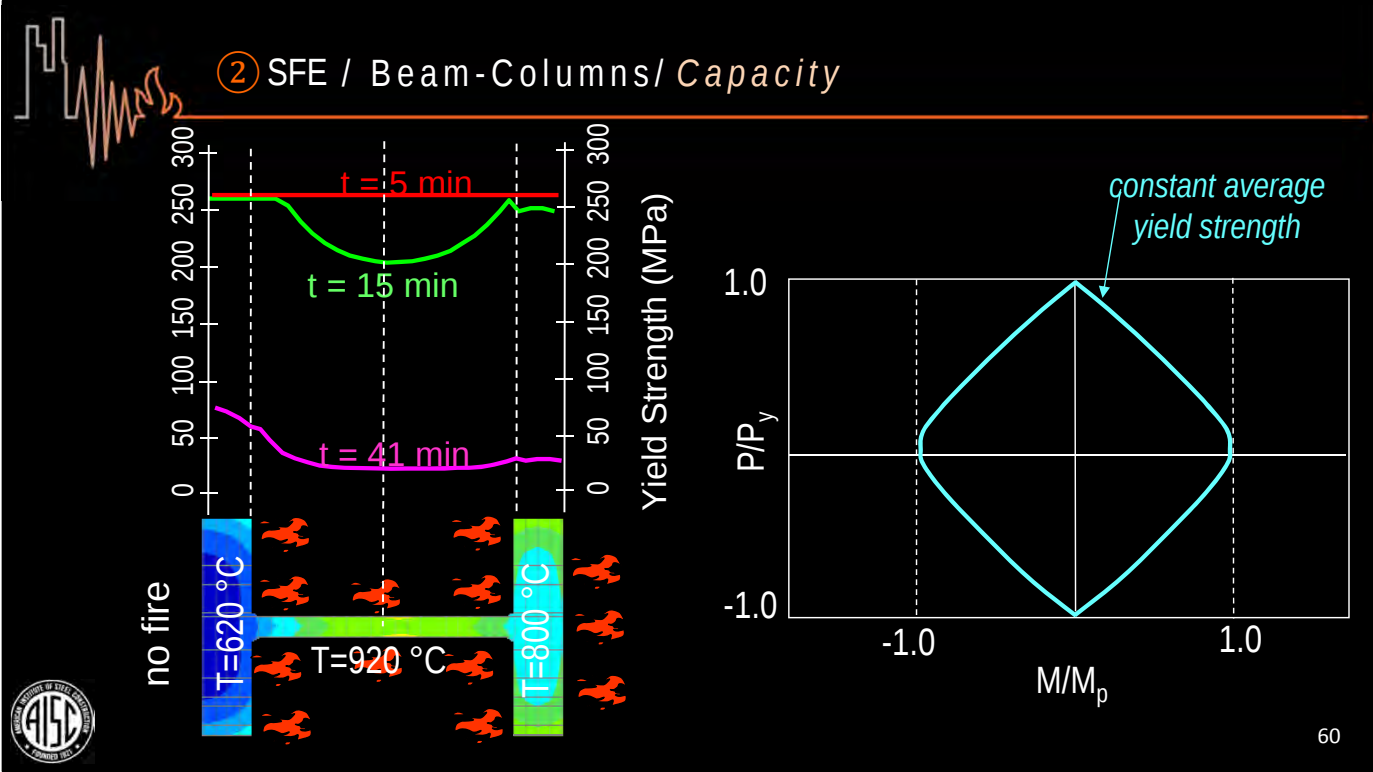
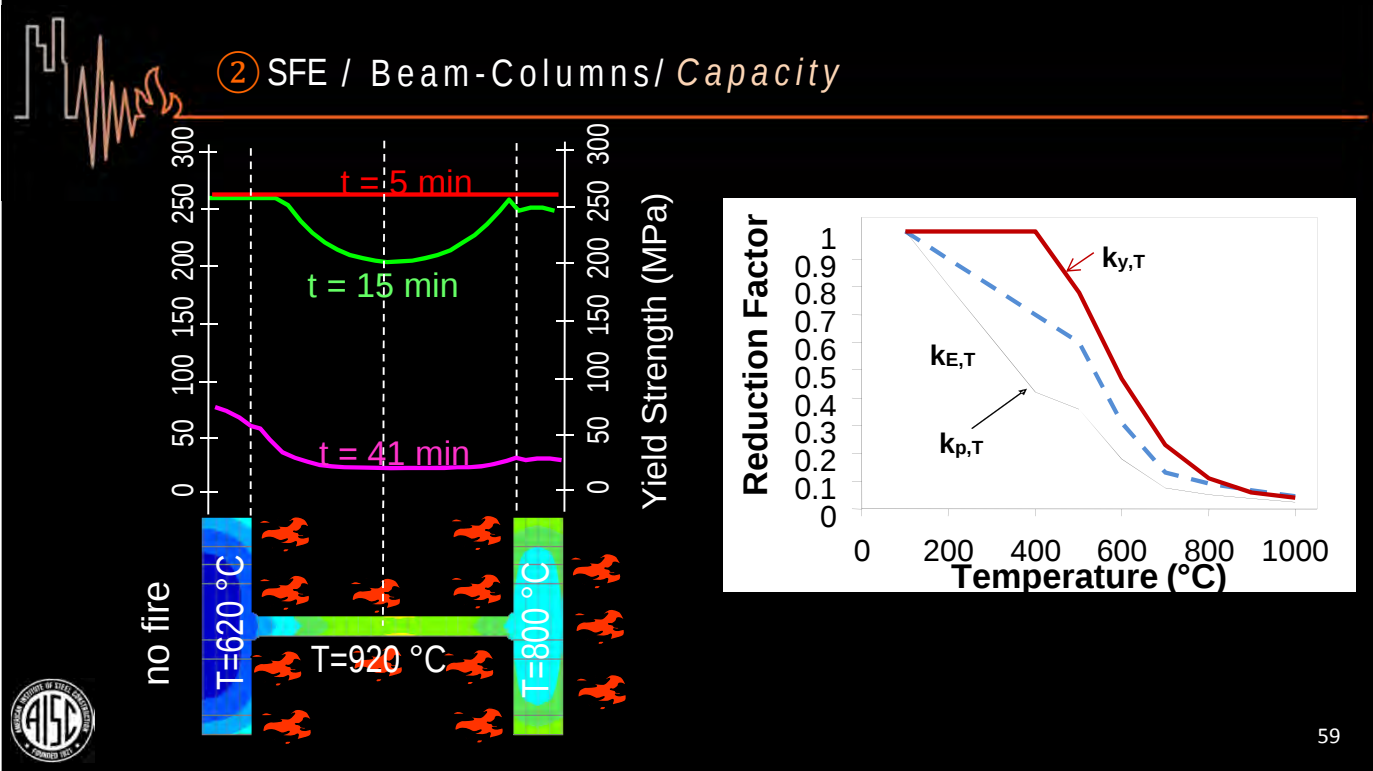
ambient (gravity)

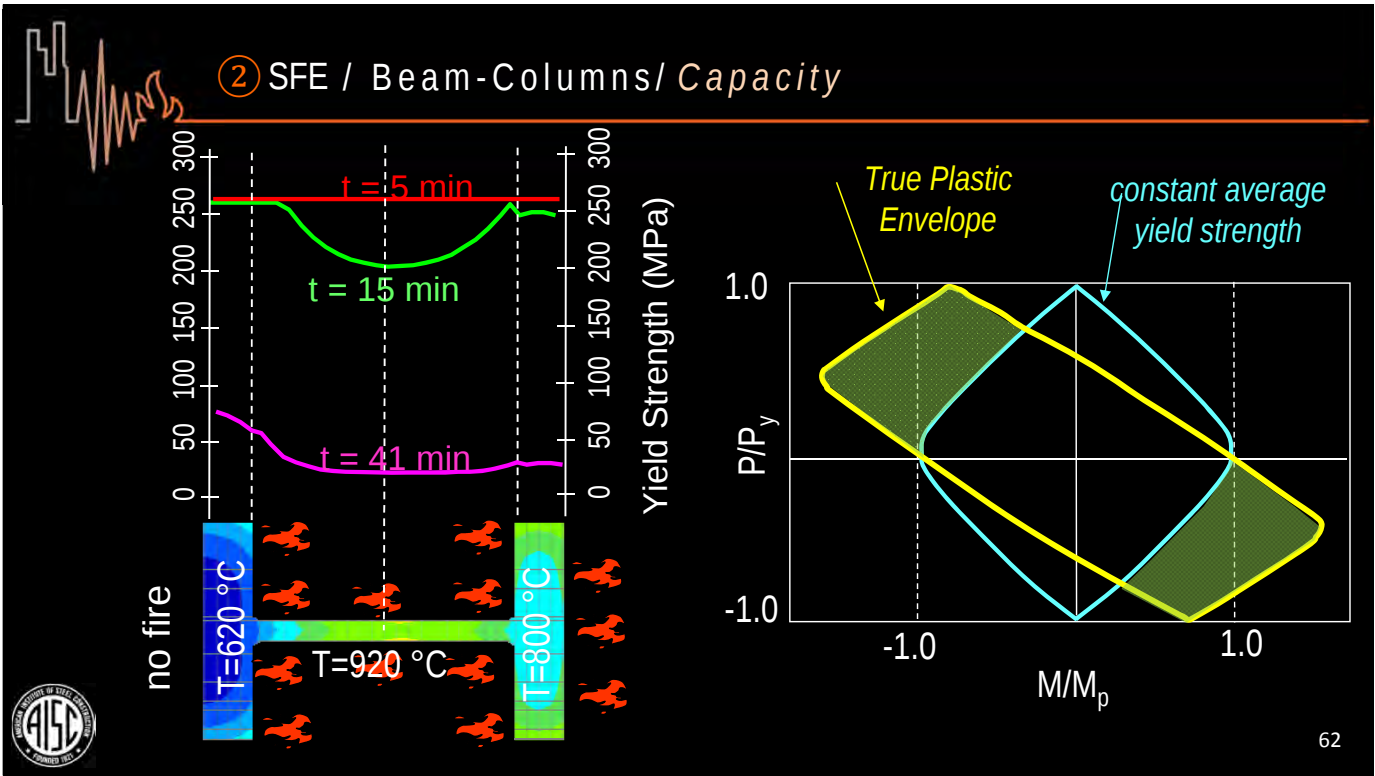
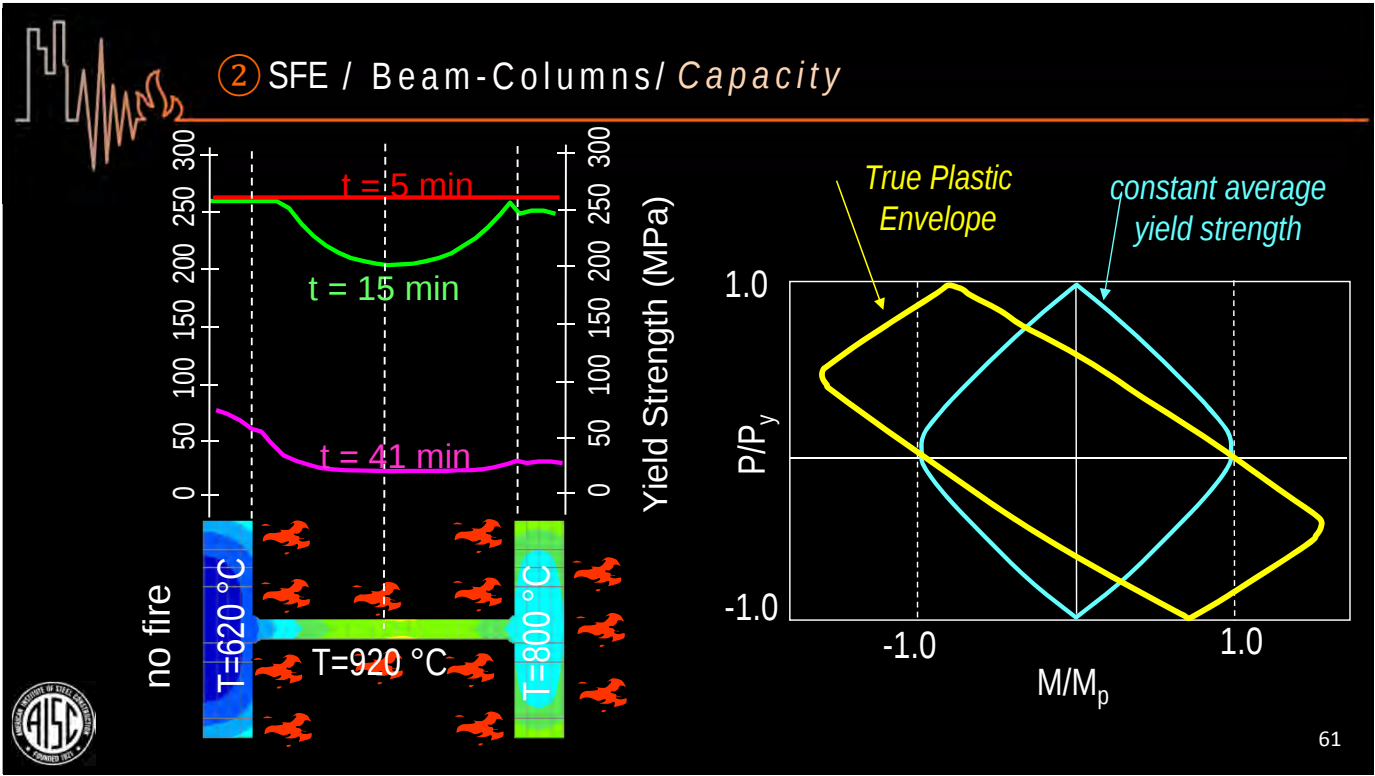


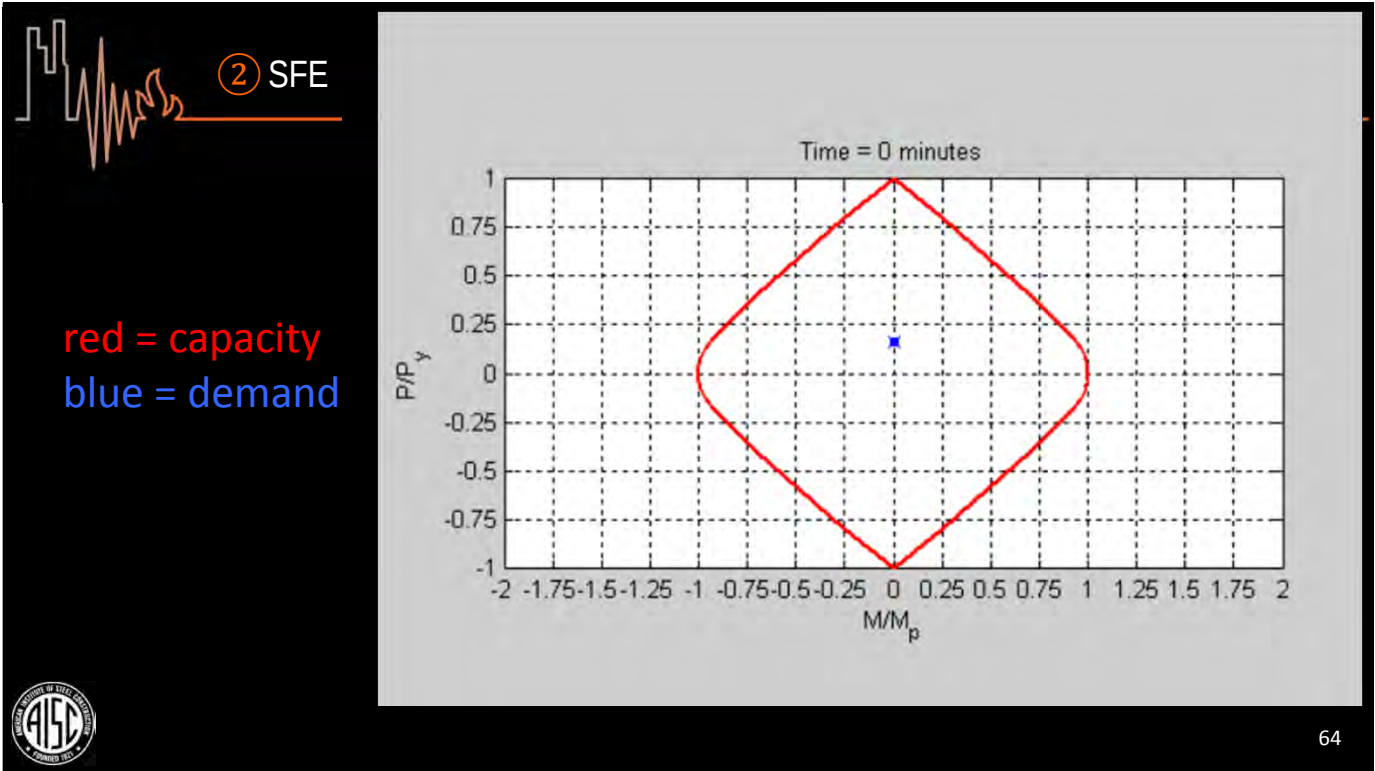
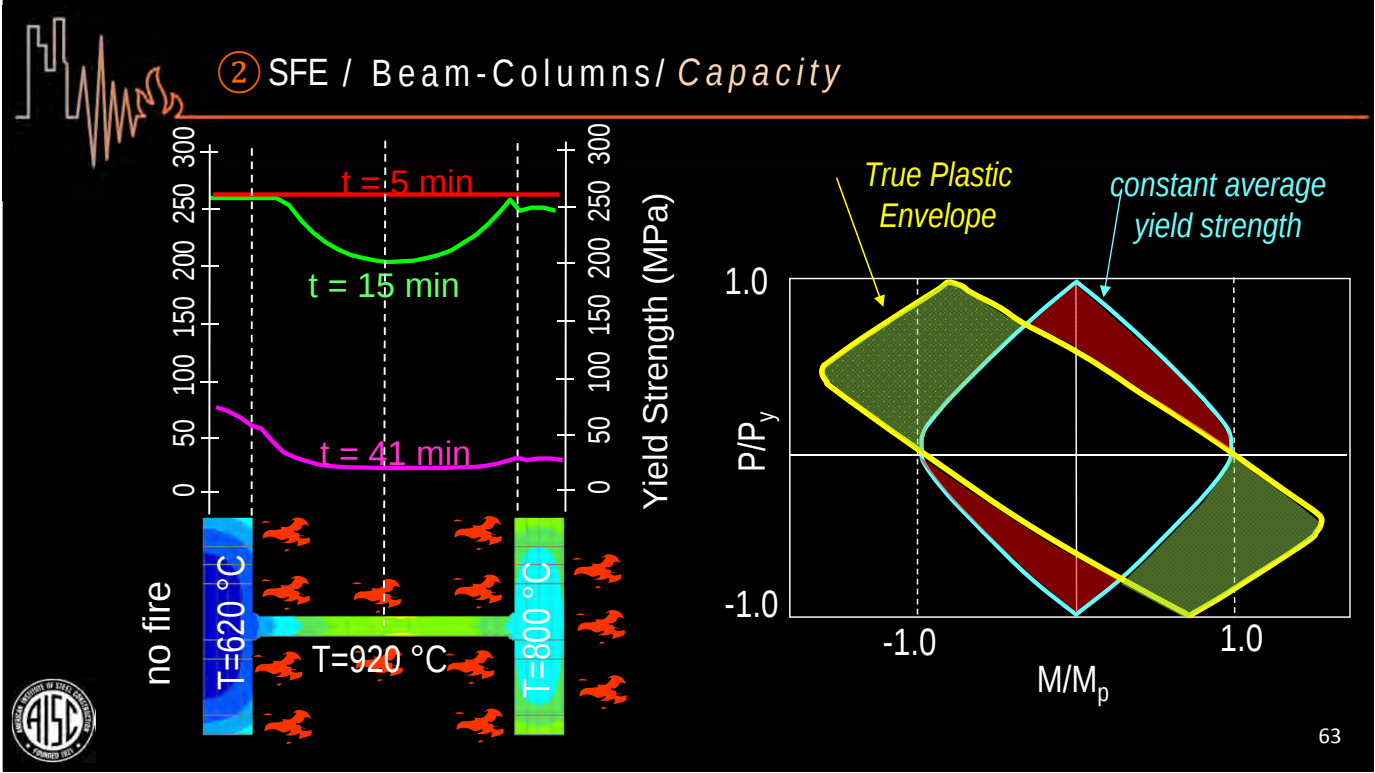










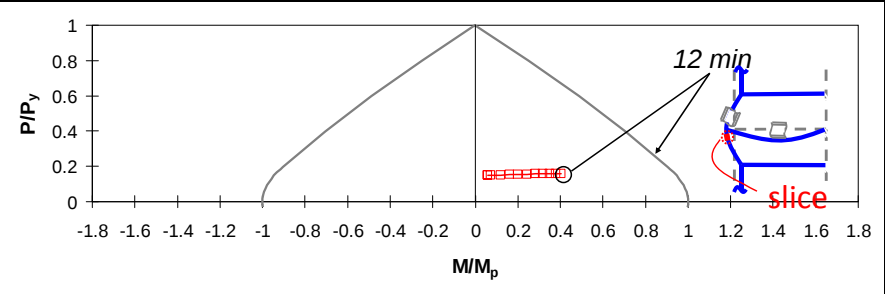
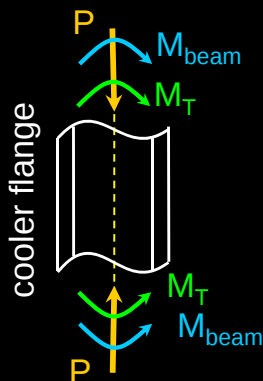


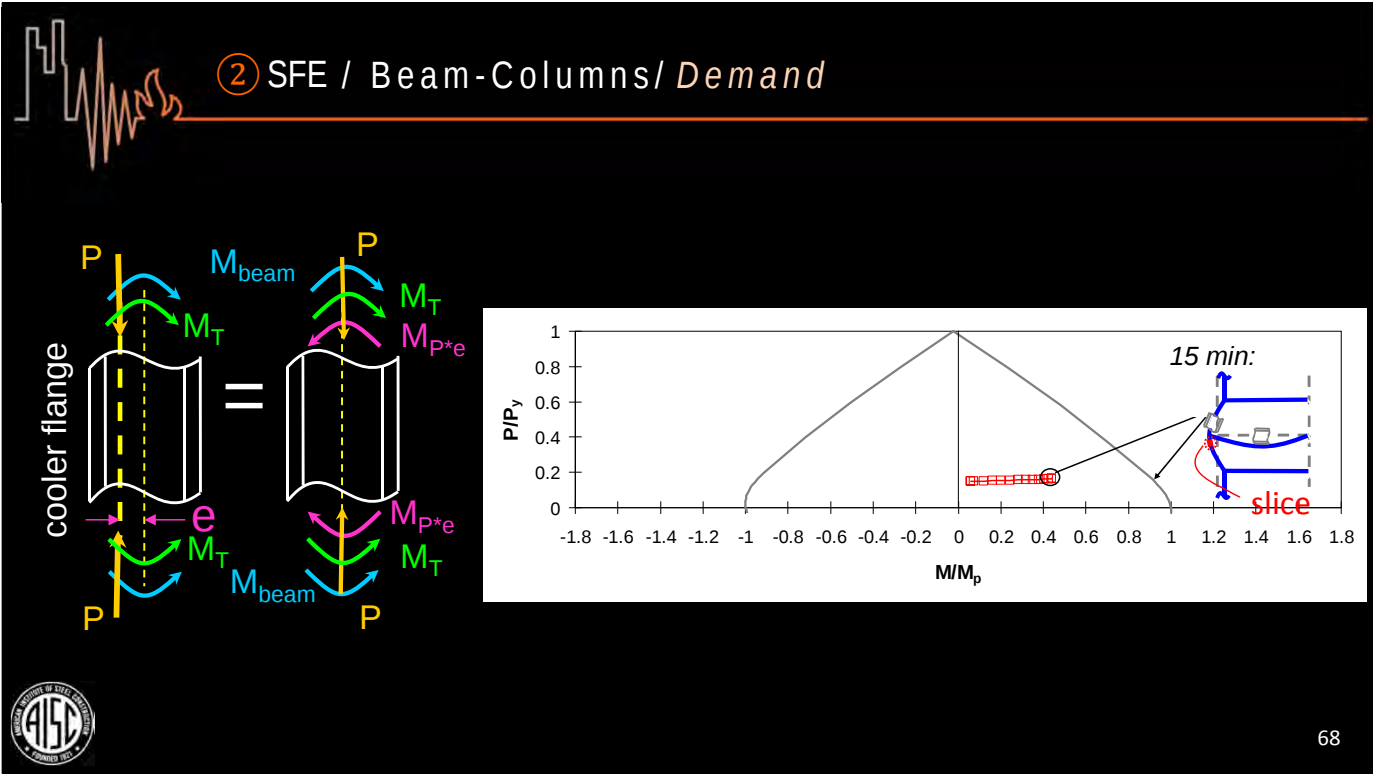
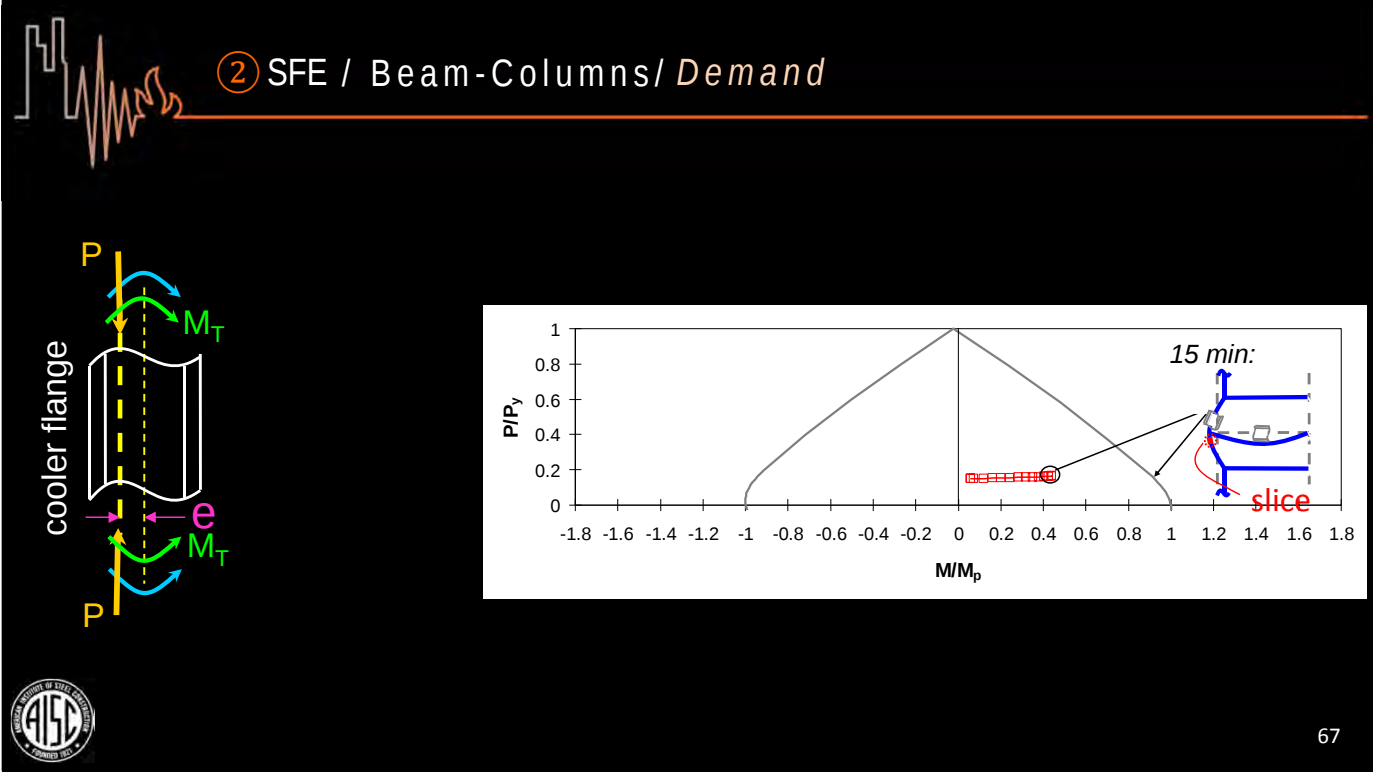


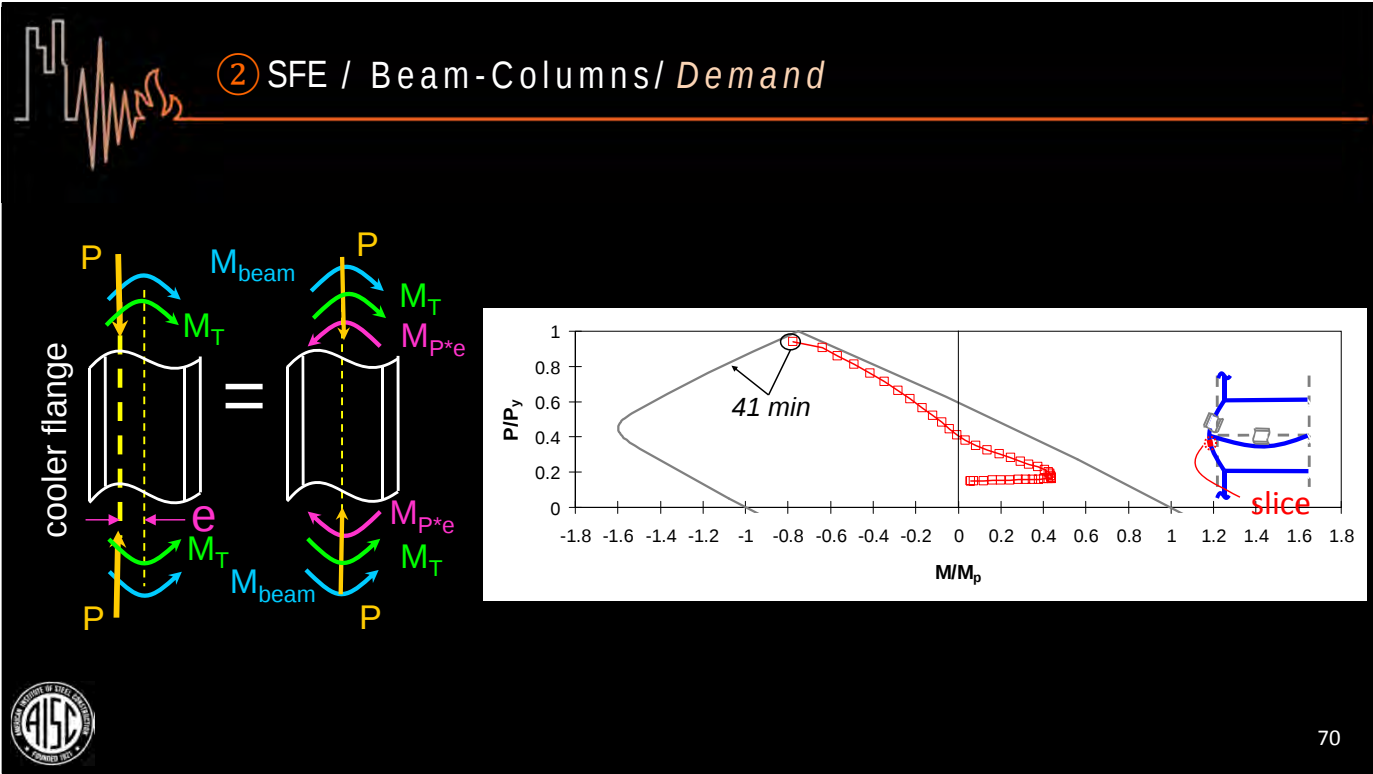
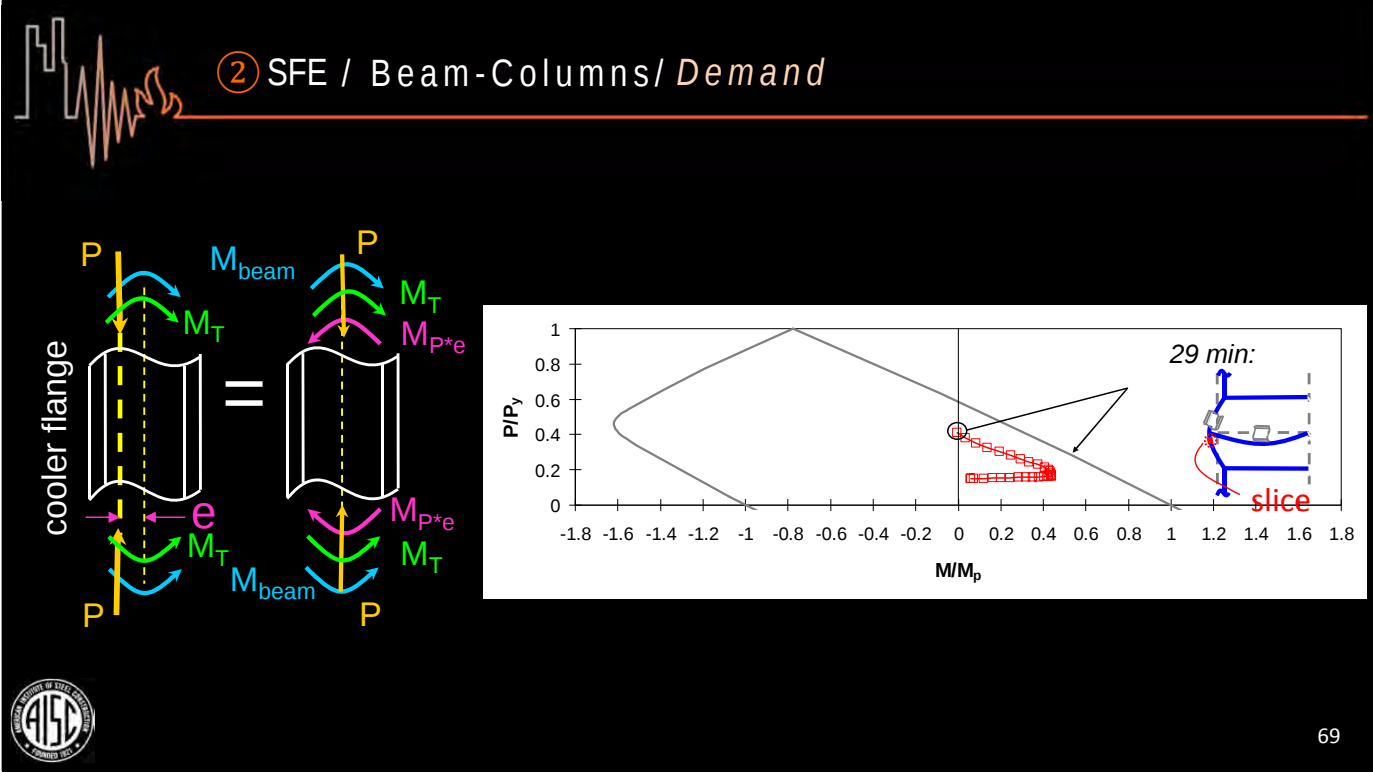
VIDEO



② SFE / Beam-Columns/ Demand





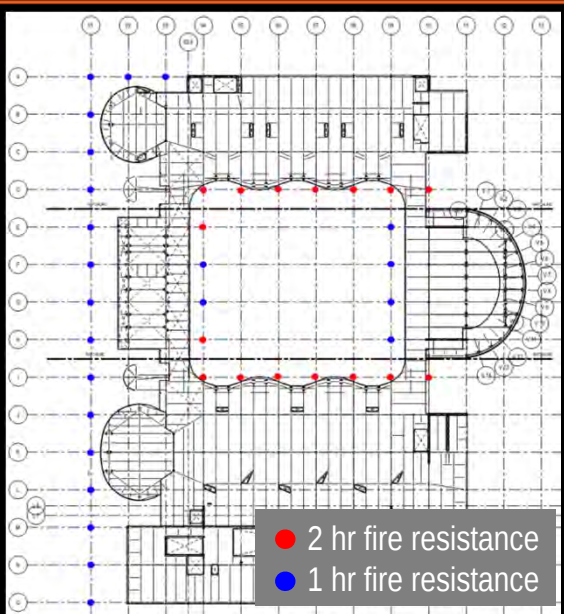




② SFE / Beam-Columns/*case study*

University Building (SFE: BuroHappold)

- Estimated cost of fire protection per column: \$20,000 (2 hours)
- SFE: assuming average temperature was NOT conservative
- Did not need to fire protect columns



● 2 hr fire resistance
● 1 hr fire resistance



slide credit: F. Block, BuroHappold

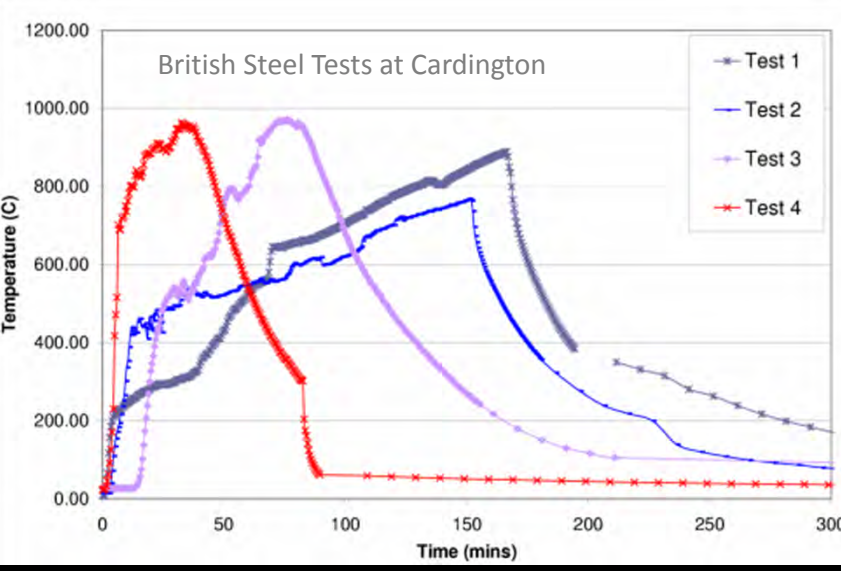
71



② SFE

QUESTION:

Do structural failures *always* happen during the heating phase?



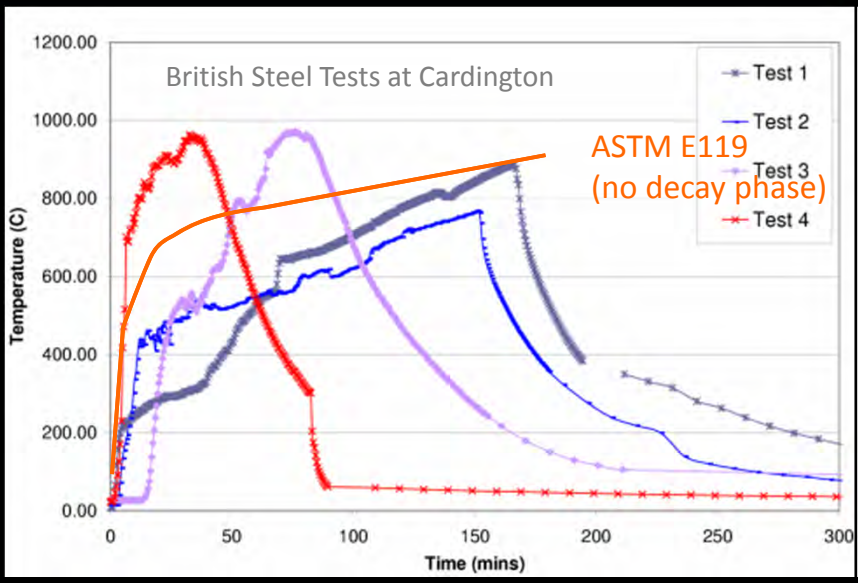


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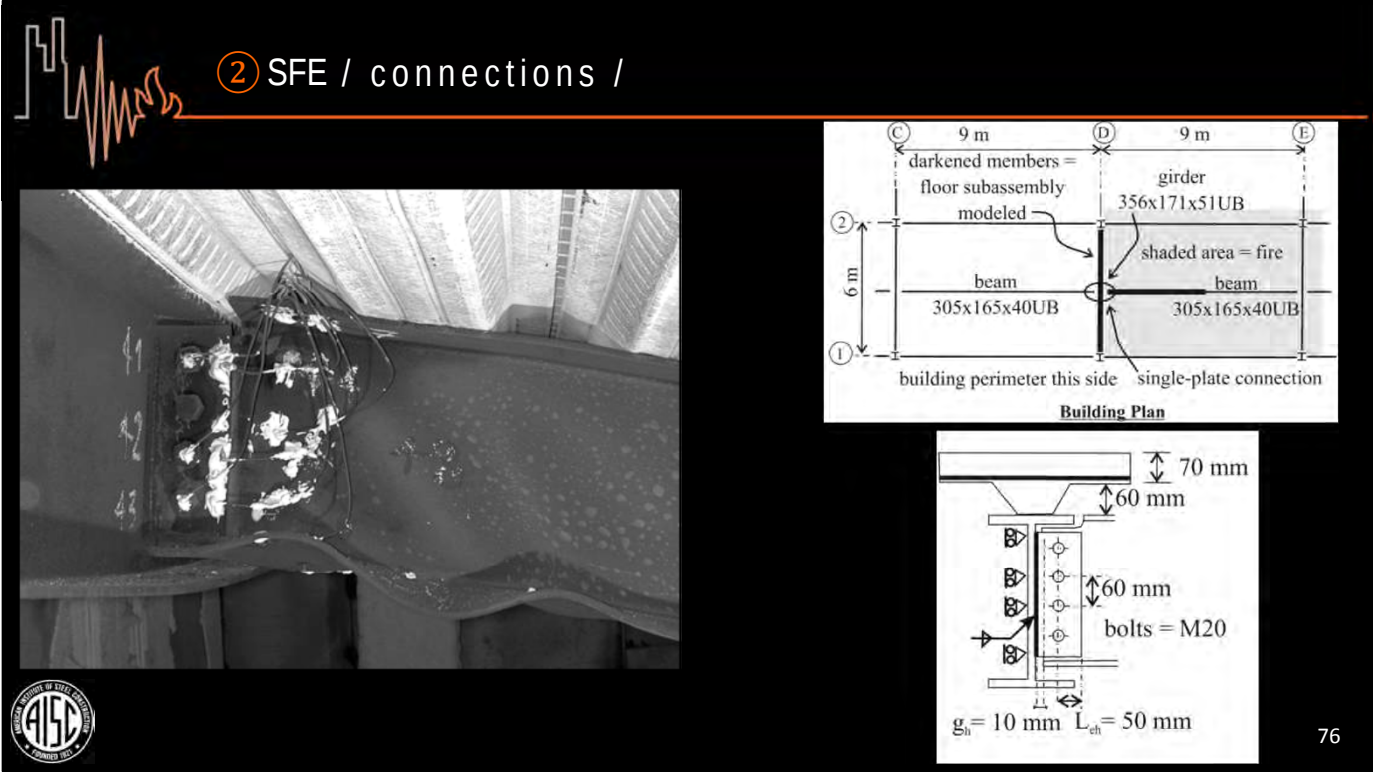
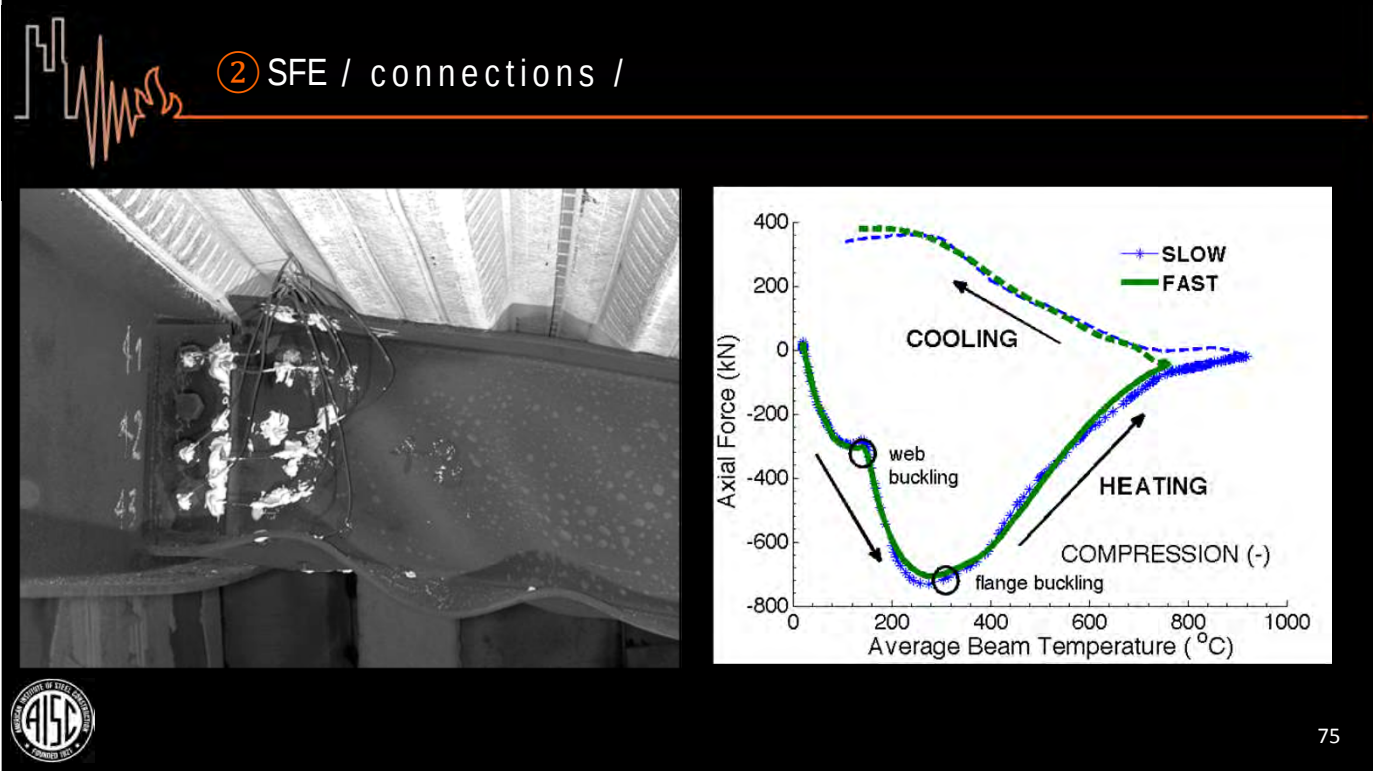
QUESTION:
Do structural failures *always* happen during the heating phase?

SHORT ANSWER:
no



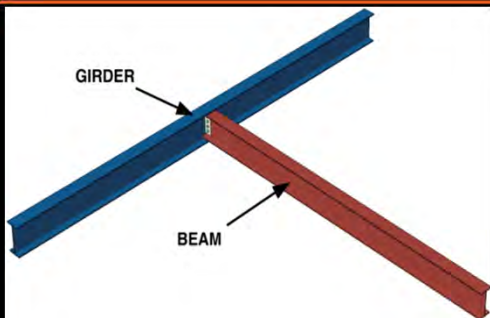
2 STRUCTURAL FIRE ENGINEERING (SFE)
— Connections



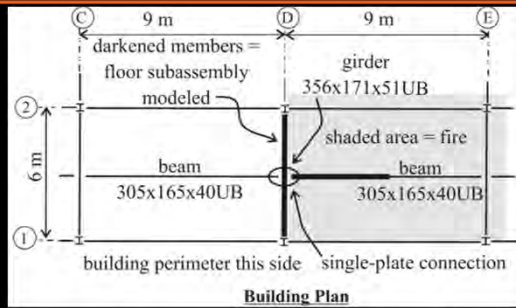




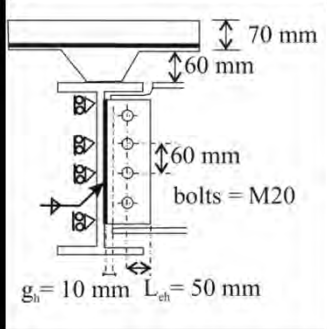
② SFE / connections /



GIRDER
BEAM



9 m 9 m
darkened members = floor subassembly modeled
girder 356x171x51UB
shaded area = fire
beam 305x165x40UB
6 m
building perimeter this side
single-plate connection
Building Plan



70 mm
60 mm
60 mm
bolts = M20
 $g_h = 10\text{ mm}$ $L_{eh} = 50\text{ mm}$

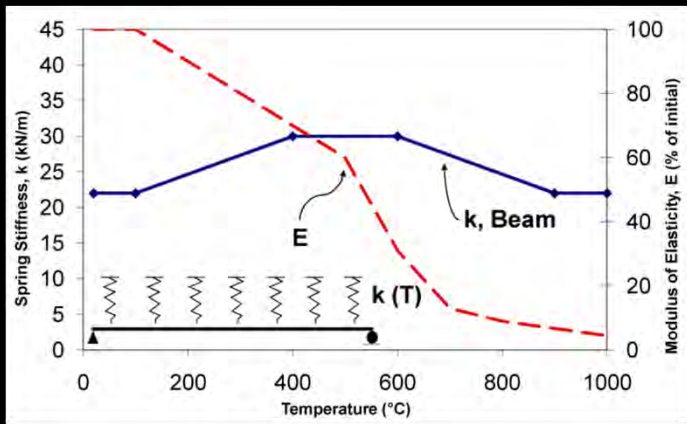


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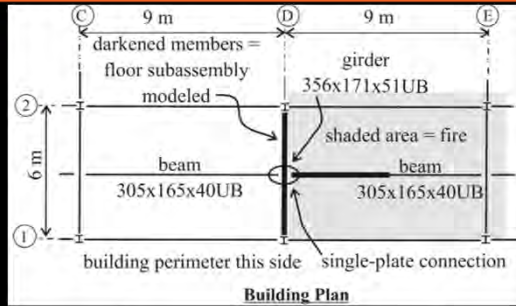
② SFE / connections /

- heat sink effects
- slab membrane action

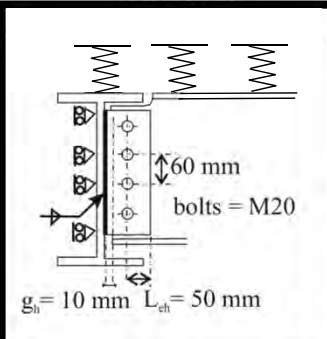


Spring Stiffness, k (kN/m)
Modulus of Elasticity, E (% of initial)
Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)
 $k(T)$
 E
 k , Beam

Temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Spring Stiffness k (kN/m)	Modulus of Elasticity E (% of initial)
0	22	100
200	22	95
400	30	80
600	30	40
800	25	10
1000	22	5



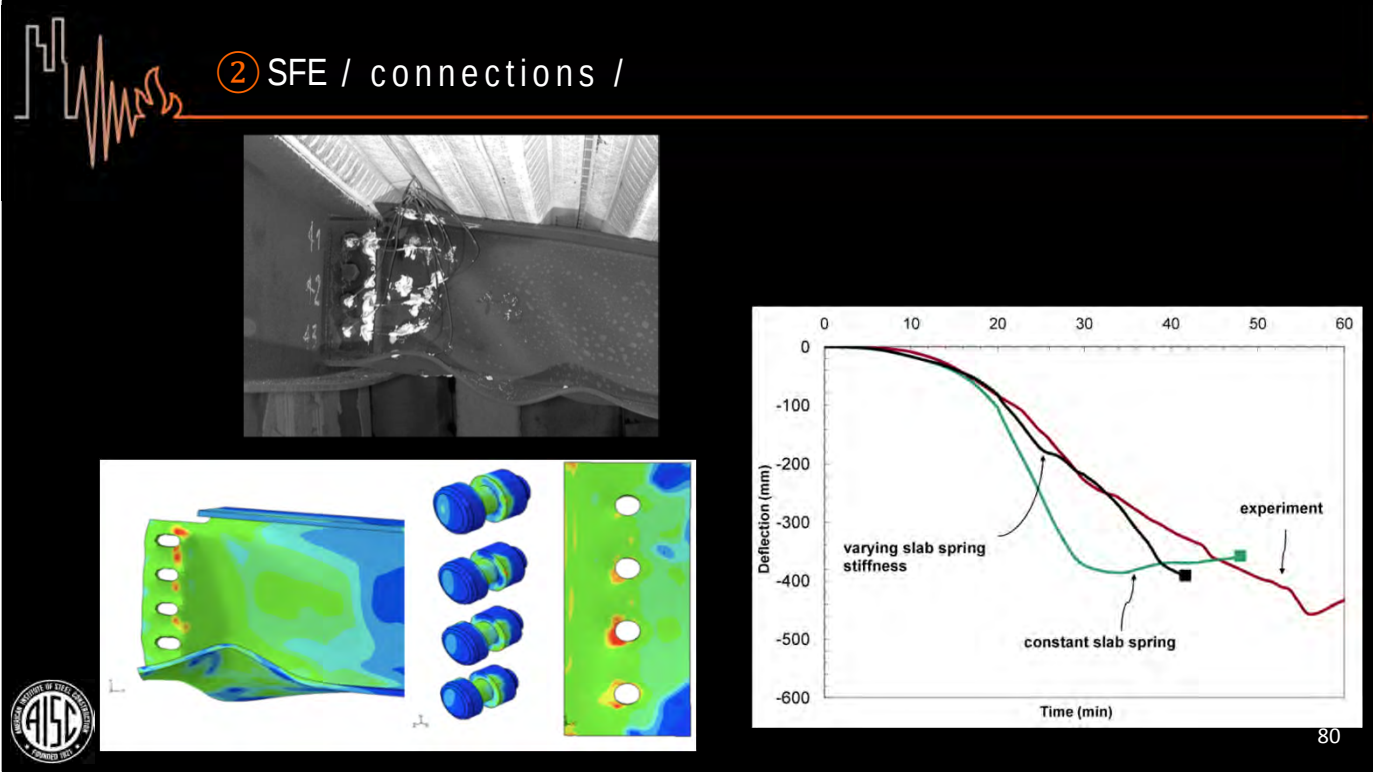
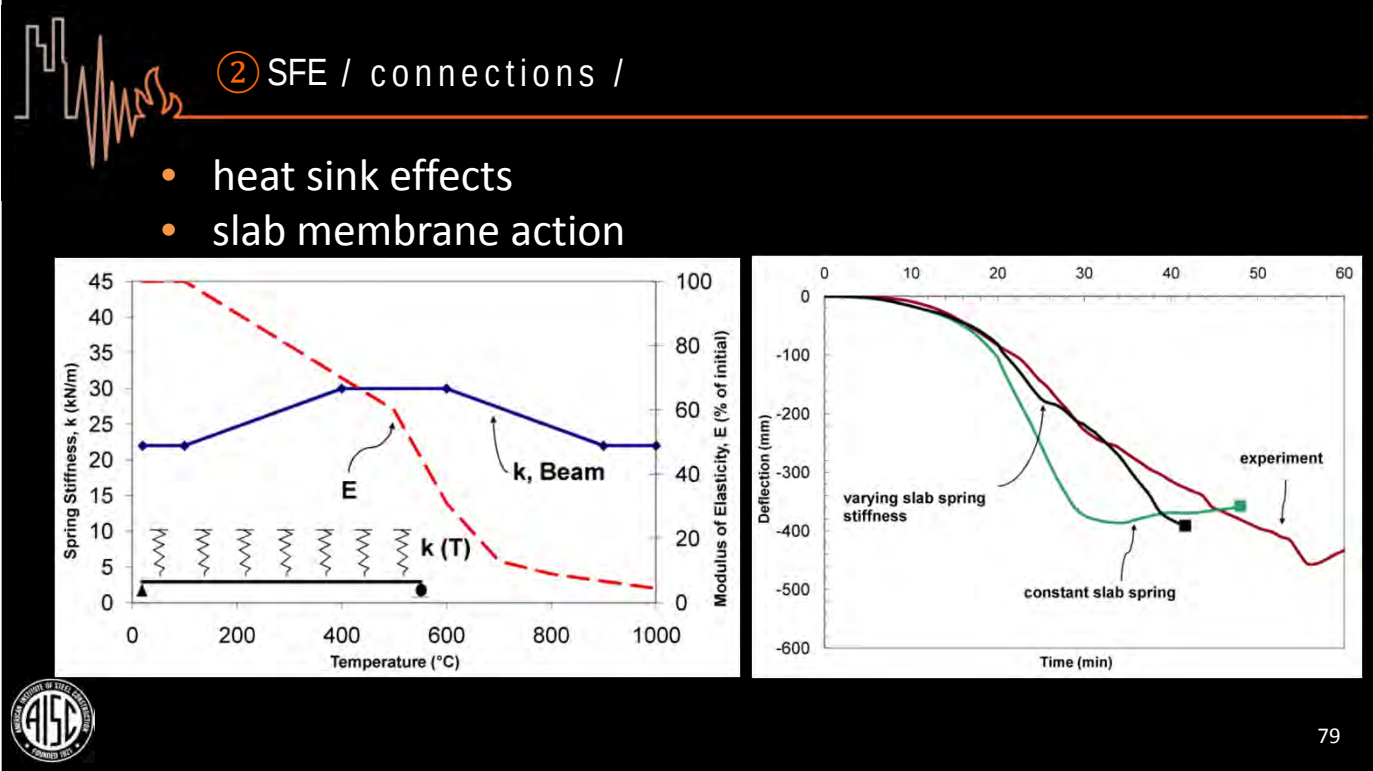
9 m 9 m
darkened members = floor subassembly modeled
girder 356x171x51UB
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beam 305x165x40UB
6 m
building perimeter this side
single-plate connection
Building Plan



60 mm
bolts = M20
 $g_h = 10\text{ mm}$ $L_{eh} = 50\text{ mm}$



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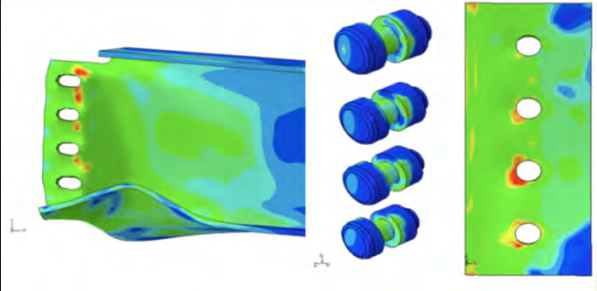




② SFE / connections /



- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h



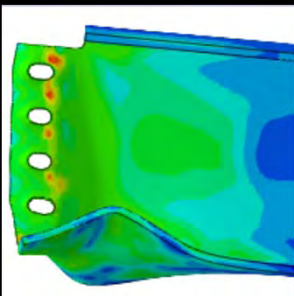


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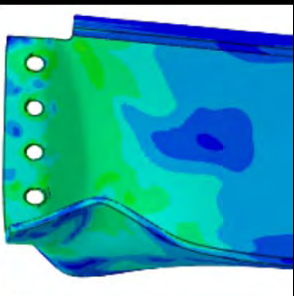
② SFE / connections /

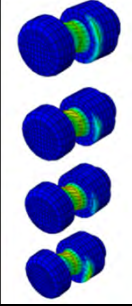
Grade 8.8
(Cardington)





Grade 5.6





- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h

Cardington:

- End time: 123 min
- Max Tension: 359 KN

Modification:

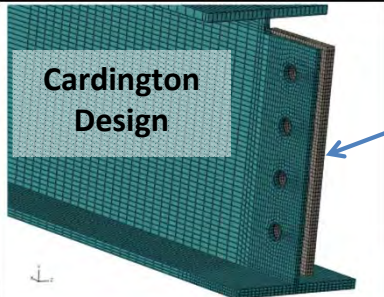
- End time: 101 min
- Max Tension: 192 KN



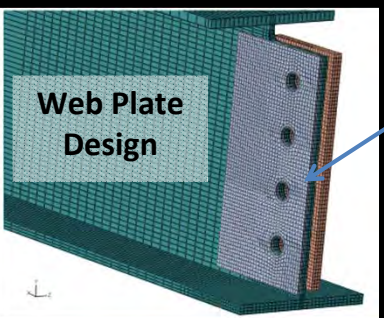
82



② SFE / connections /



Cardington Design



Web Plate Design

10 mm Shear tab

4 mm Web reinf. plate

- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h

Cardington:

- End time: 123 min
- Max Tension: 359 KN

Modification:

- End time: 202 min **
- Max Tension: 622 KN

** = no failure

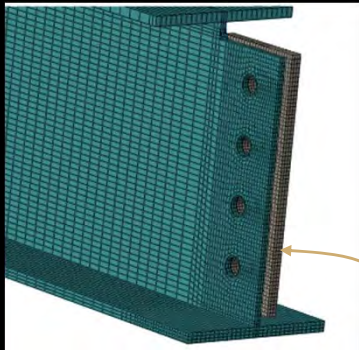


83



② SFE / connections /

Web thickness = 6 mm



Shear tab
original: 10 mm
modified: 6 mm

- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h

Cardington:

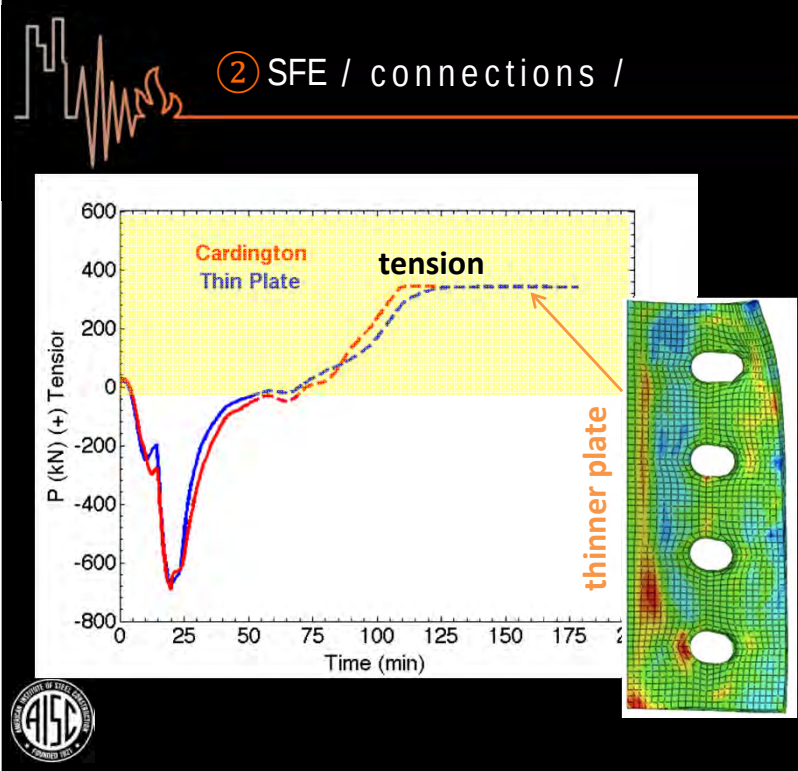
- End time: 123 min
- Max Tension: 359 KN

Modification:

- End time: 178 min
- Max Tension: 348 KN



84



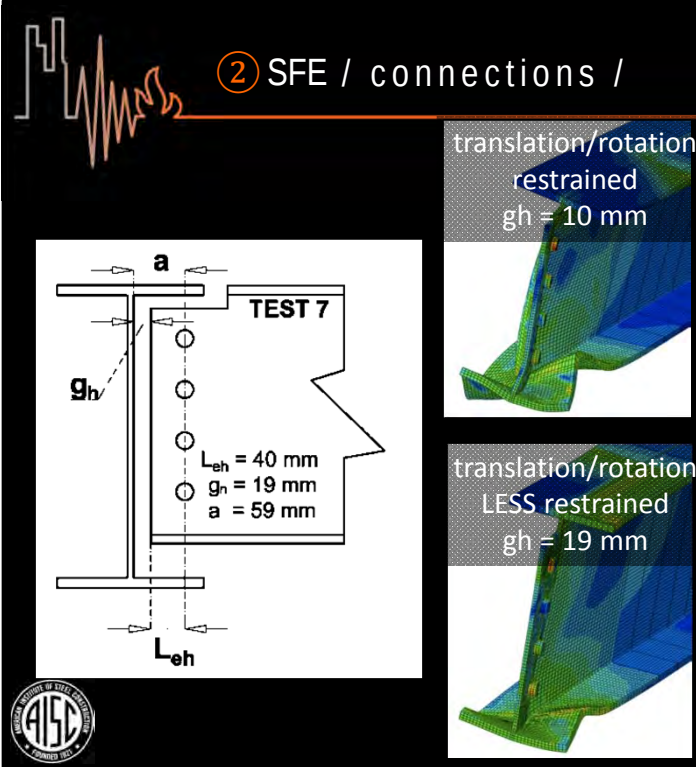
- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h

Cardington:

- End time: 123 min
- Max Tension: 359 KN

Modification:

- End time: 178 min
- Max Tension: 348 KN



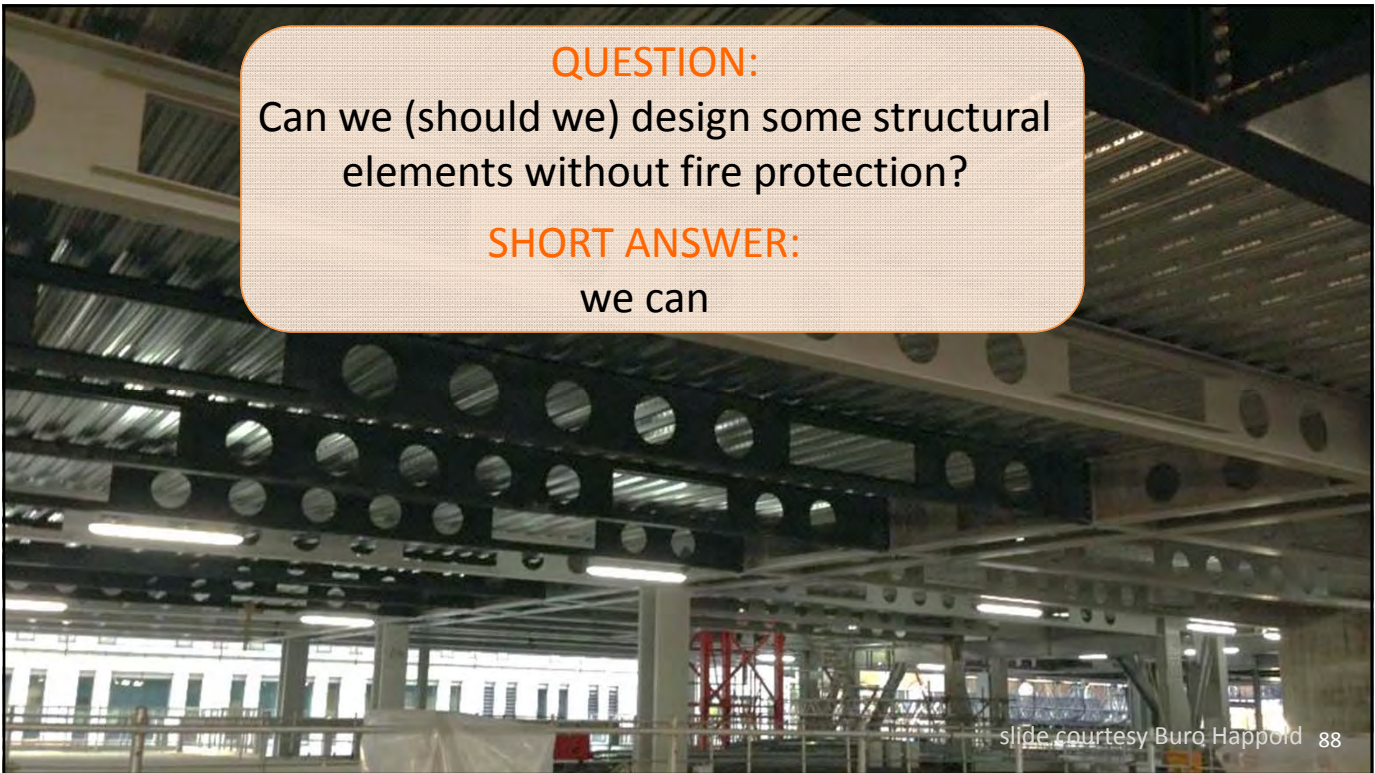
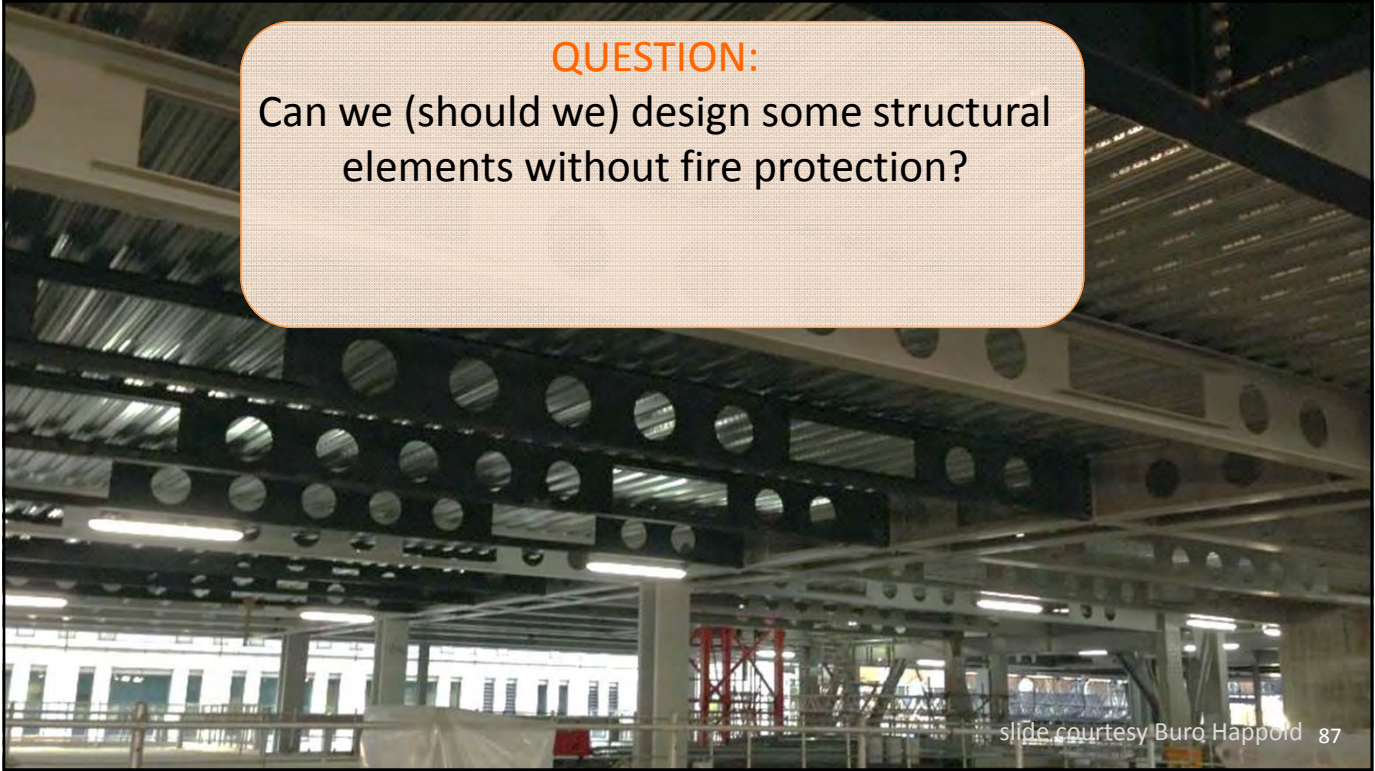
- Bolt grade
- Web reinforcing plate
- Shear tab thickness
- g_h

Cardington:

- End time: 123 min
- Max Tension: 359 KN

Modification:

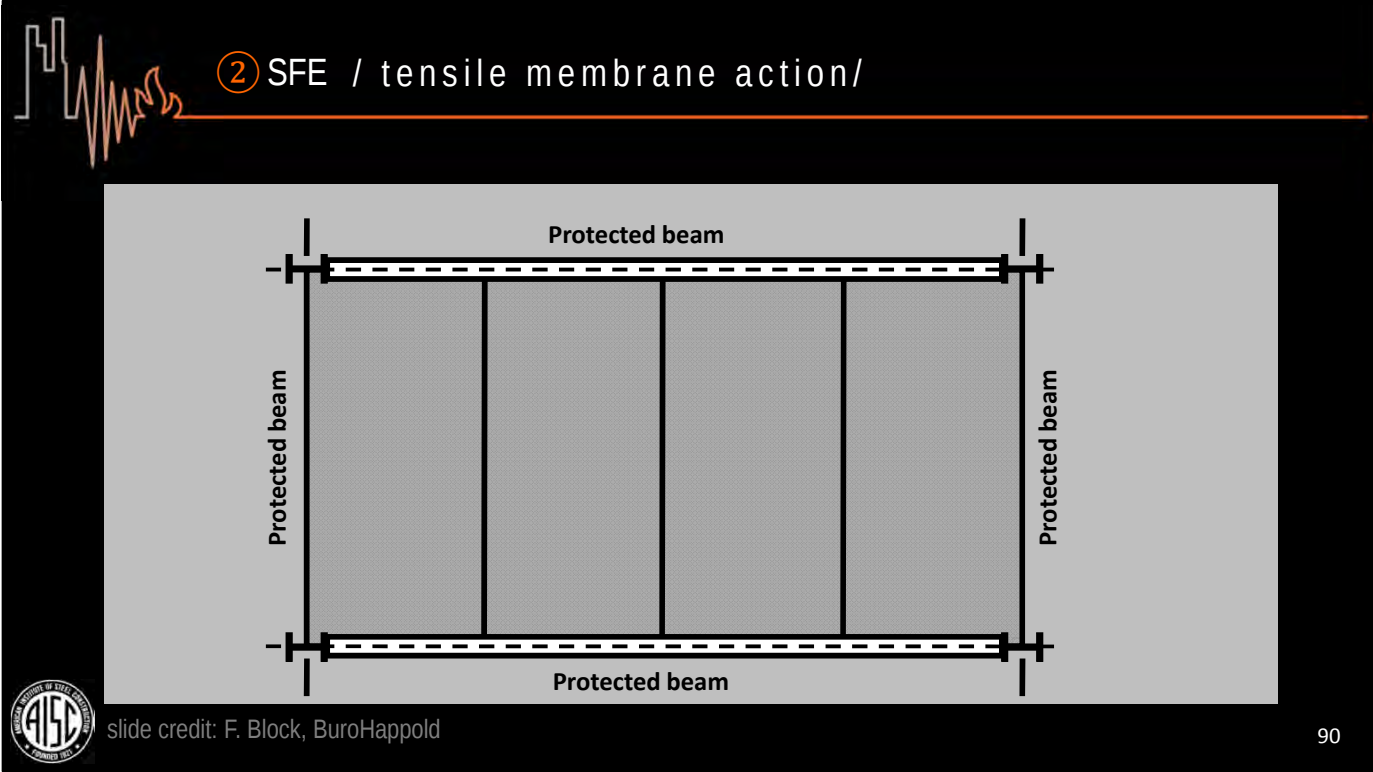
- End time: 165 min
- Max Tension: 407 KN



② STRUCTURAL FIRE ENGINEERING (SFE)
— Tensile Membrane Action



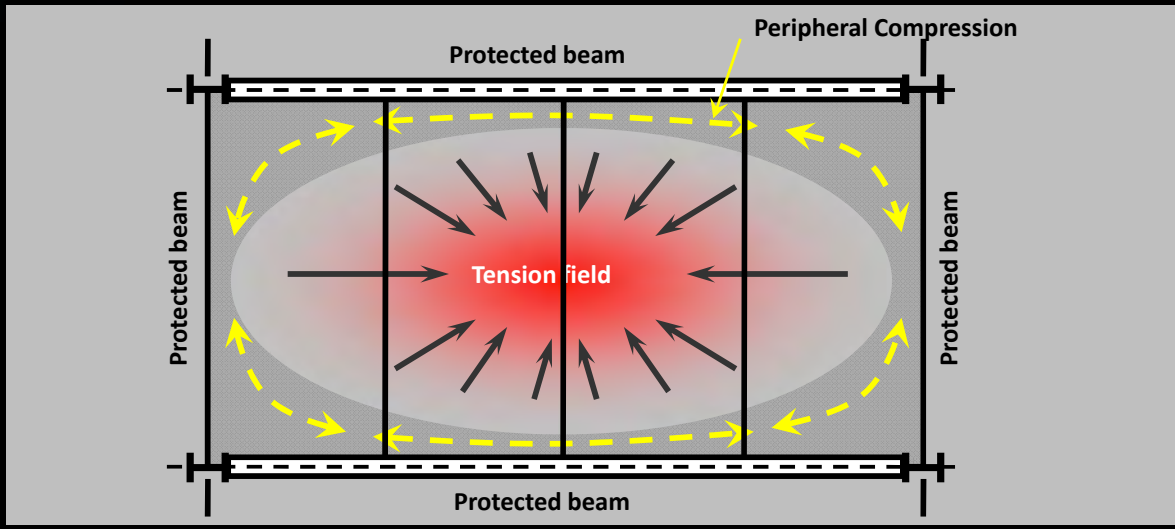
89



90



② SFE / tensile membrane action/



 slide credit: F. Block, BuroHappold

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② SFE / tensile membrane action/

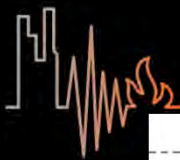
5 Broadgate, UK
(SFE: BuroHappold)

- Accept local damage as long as stability of the overall building is maintained
- Utilize tensile membrane action (TMA)



 image credit: Make Architects

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② SFE / tensile membrane action/

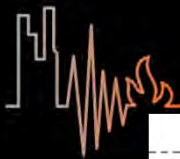


green = unprotected beams



slide credit: F. Block, BuroHappold

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② SFE / tensile membrane action/



green = unprotected beams

TMA allows to **save ~40%** of the fire protection cost



slide credit: F. Block, BuroHappold

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② SFE

/ unprotected steel /

Hotel Arts, Barcelona (SFE: SOM)

- unfireprotected exoskeleton steel-braced megaframe







② SFE

QUESTION:

Can we (should we) design some structural elements without fire protection?







② SFE

QUESTION:
Can we (should we) design some structural elements without fire protection?

SHORT ANSWER:
sometimes, no choice





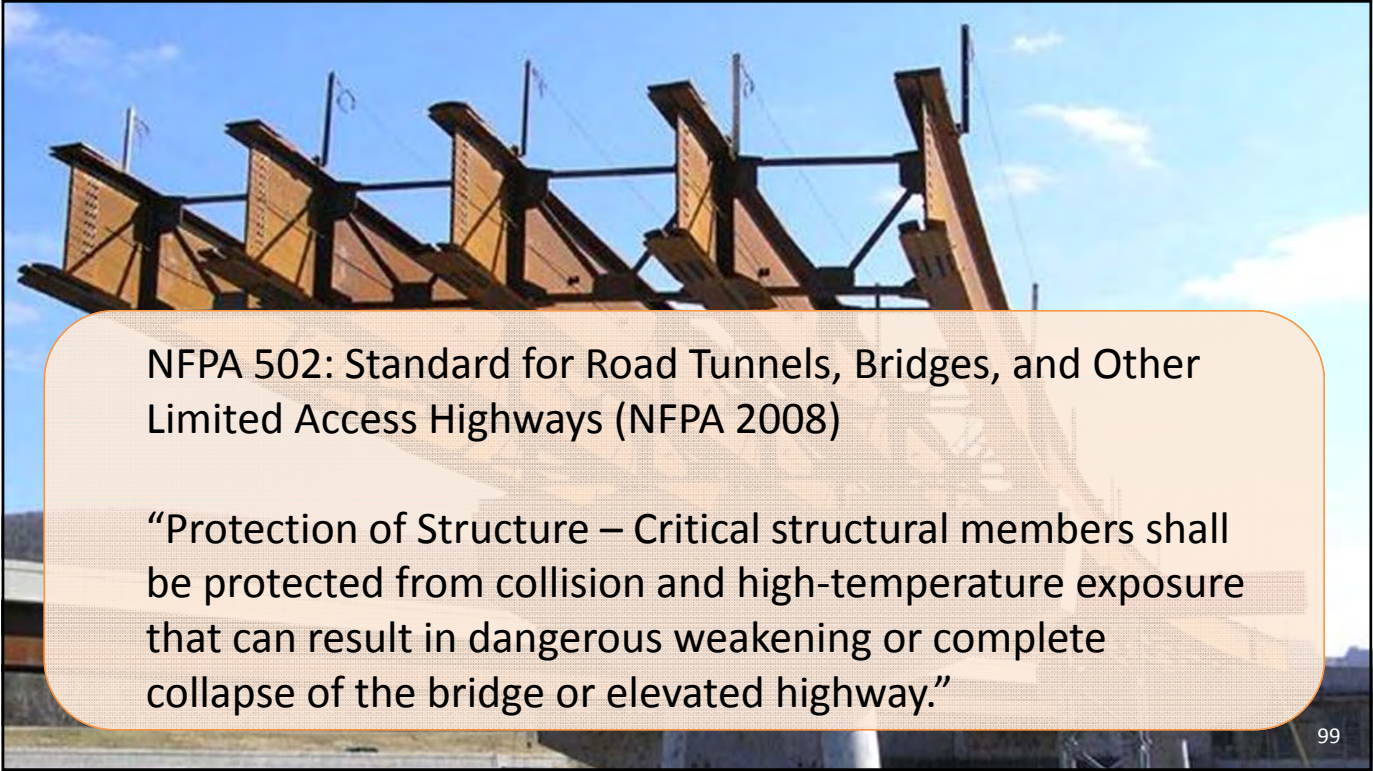
97



② STRUCTURAL FIRE ENGINEERING (SFE)

— Bridges and web buckling

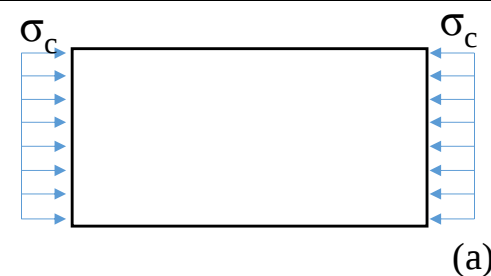
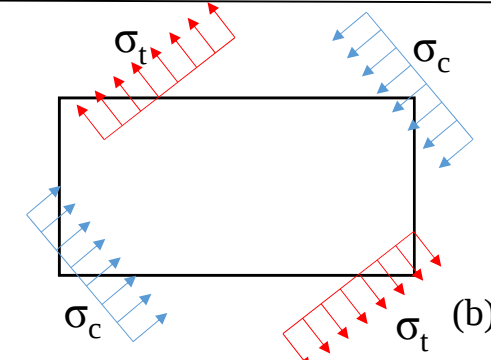
98



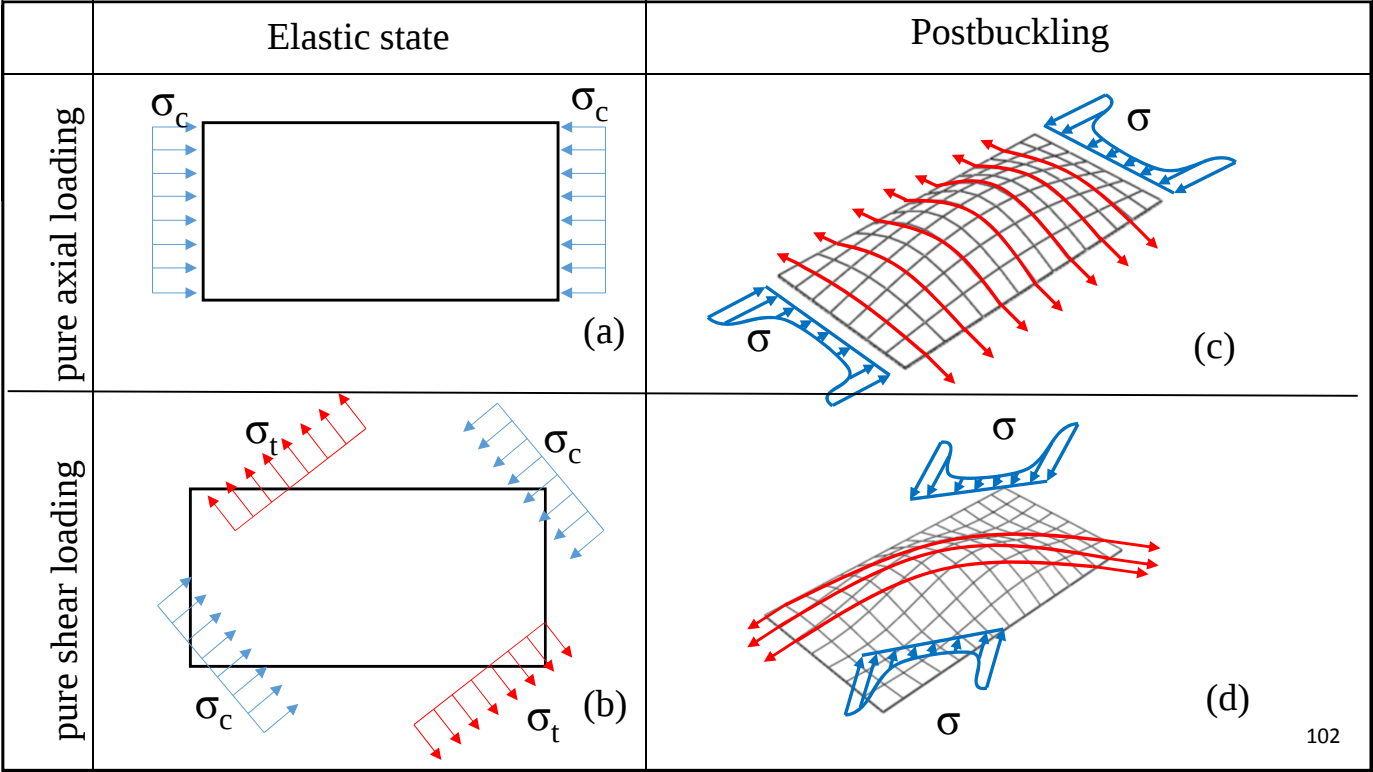
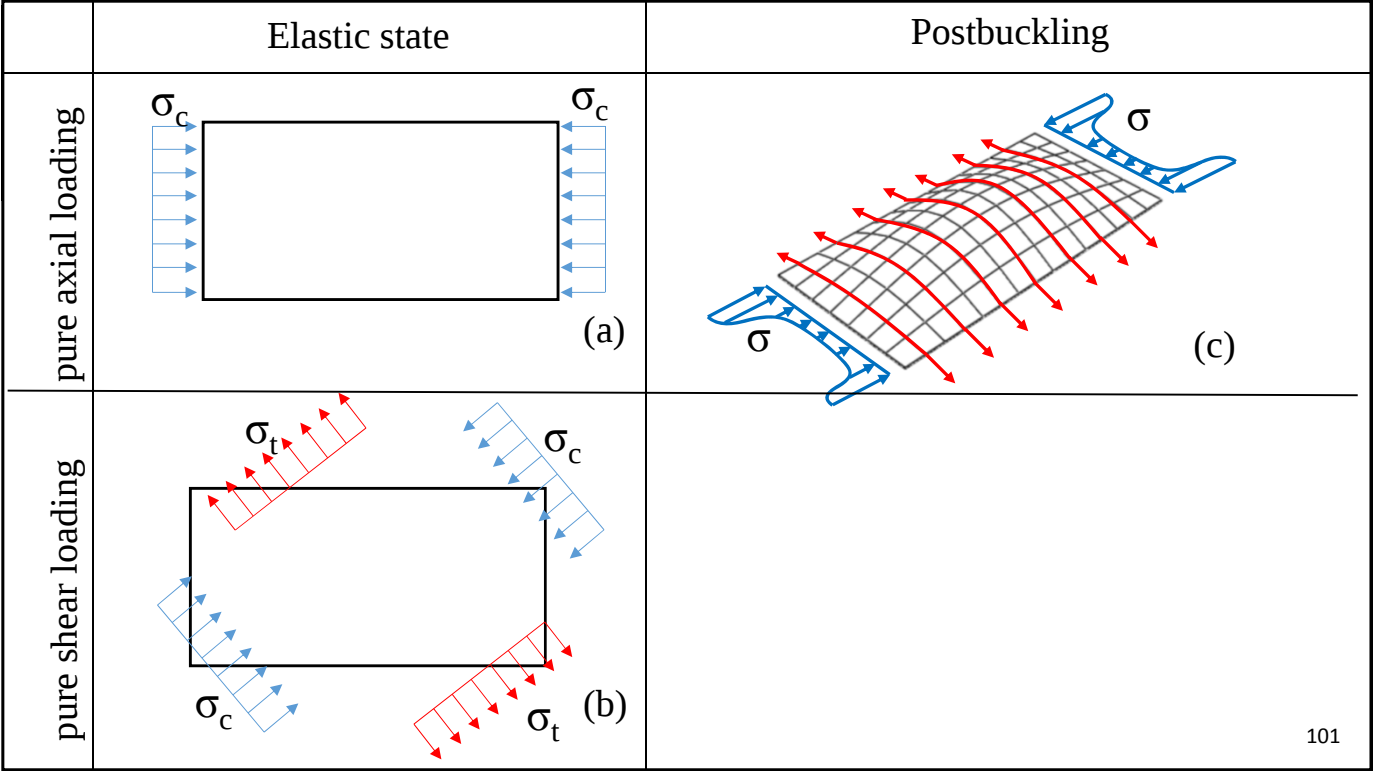
NFPA 502: Standard for Road Tunnels, Bridges, and Other Limited Access Highways (NFPA 2008)

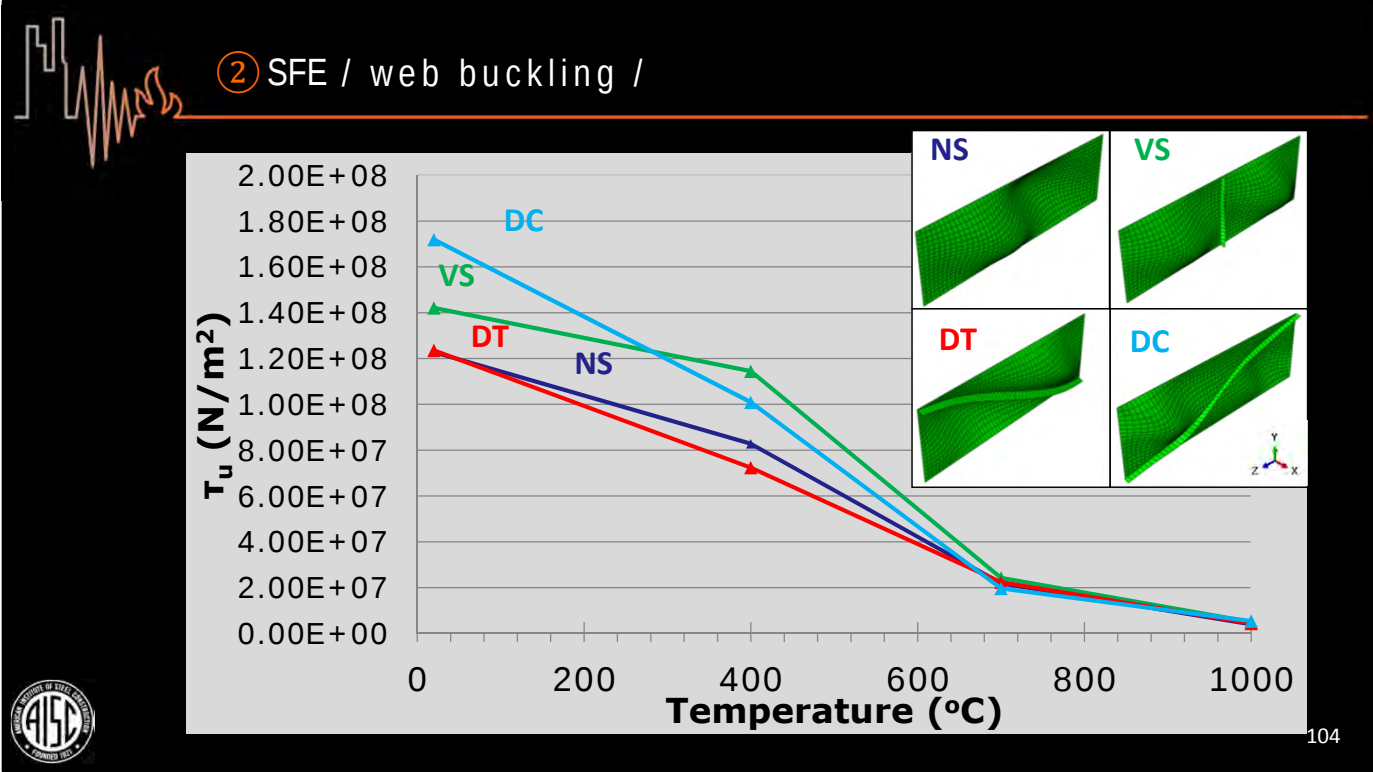
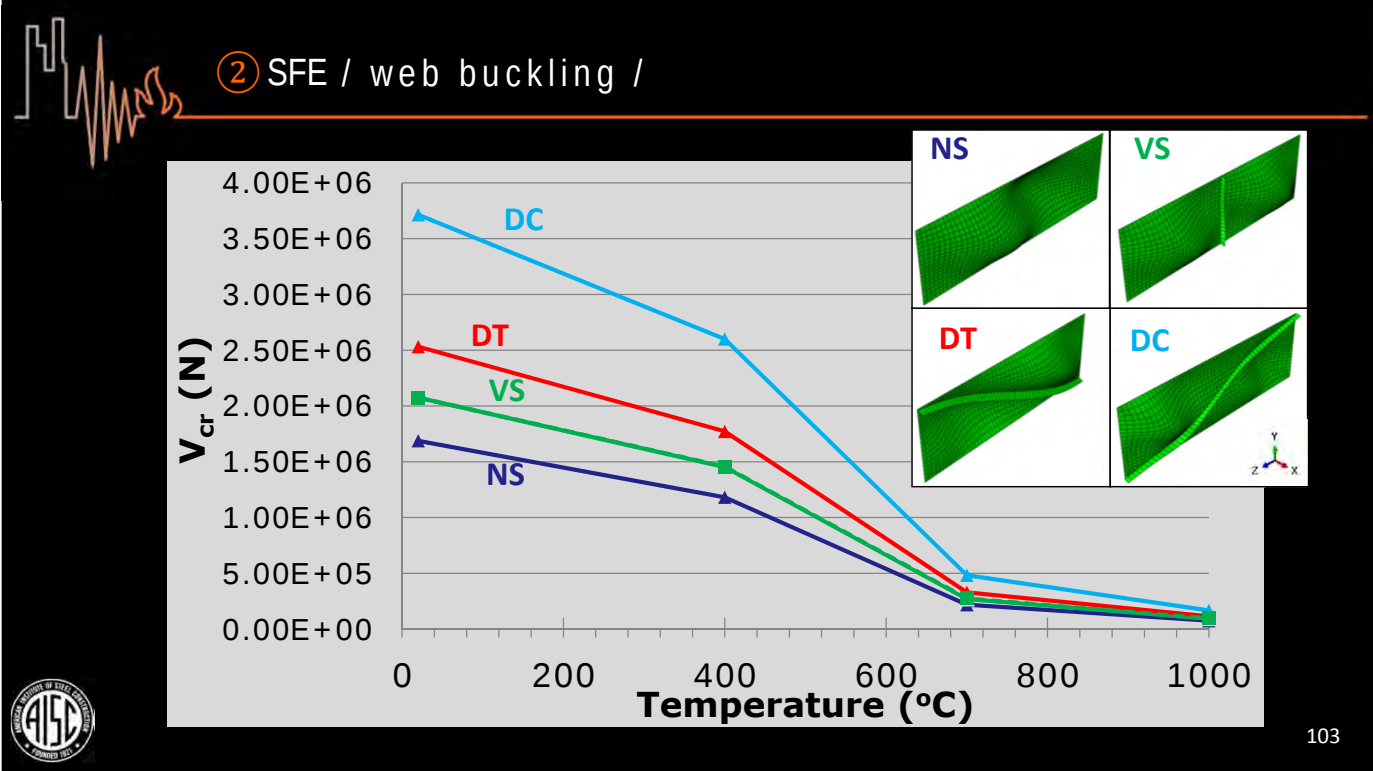
“Protection of Structure – Critical structural members shall be protected from collision and high-temperature exposure that can result in dangerous weakening or complete collapse of the bridge or elevated highway.”

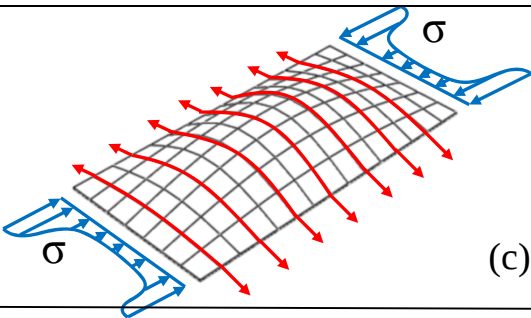
99

	Elastic state	
pure axial loading	 (a)	
pure shear loading	 (b)	

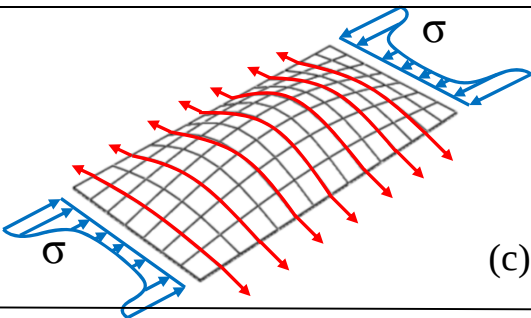
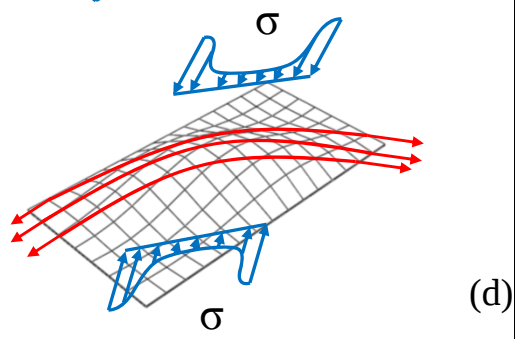




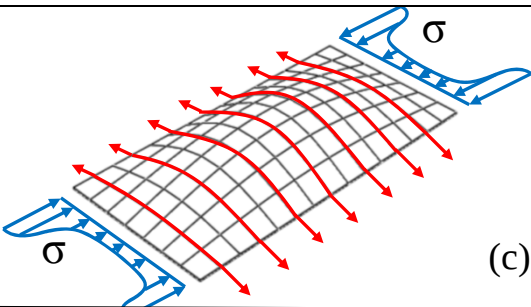
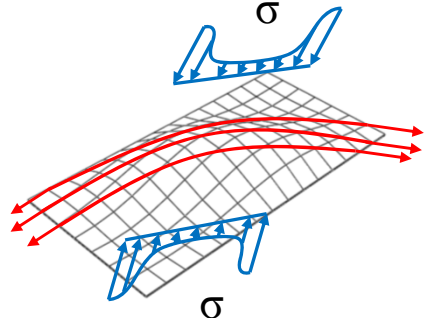
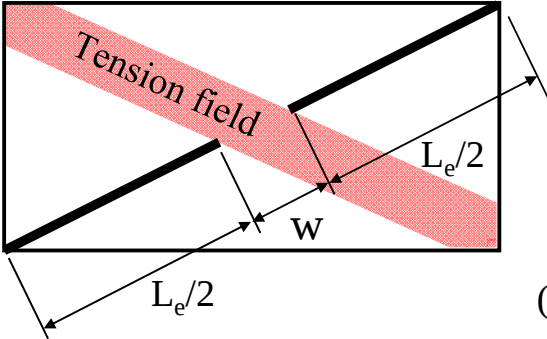


	Postbuckling	Equivalence condition at postbuckling stage
pure axial loading	 (c)	 (e)
pure shear loading		

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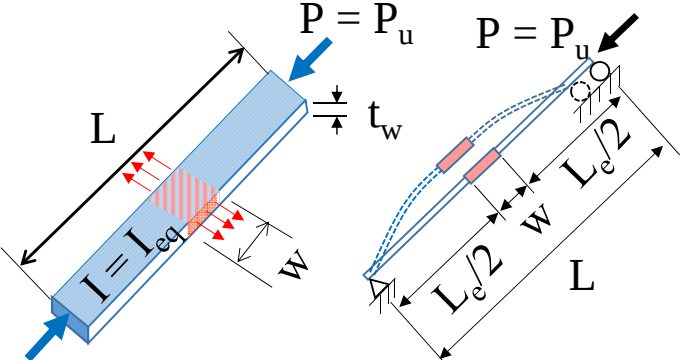
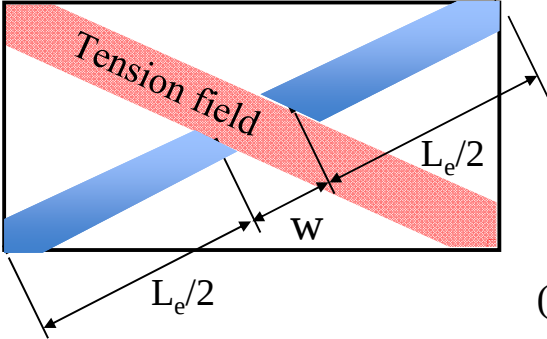
	Postbuckling	Equivalence condition at postbuckling stage
pure axial loading	 (c)	 (e)
pure shear loading	 (d)	

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	Postbuckling	Equivalence condition at postbuckling stage
pure axial loading	 (c)	 (e)
pure shear loading	 (d)	 (f) 107



② SFE
/ web buckling /



(f) 108

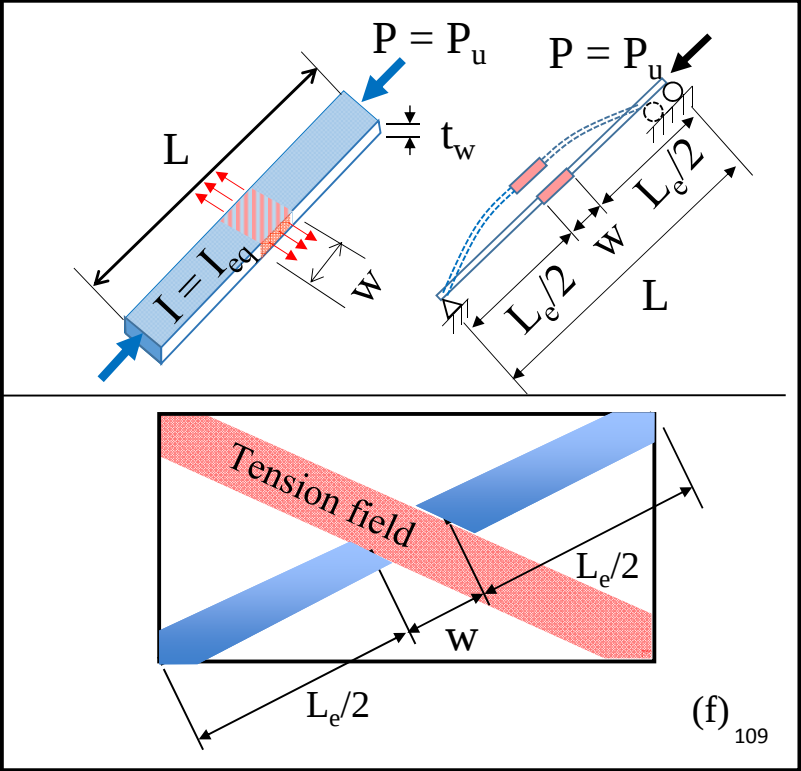


② SFE
/ web buckling /

The challenge is then to predict:

- 1) the width of the tension field, w
- 2) the axial load on this equivalent column, and
- 3) convert that axial load to a shear load.





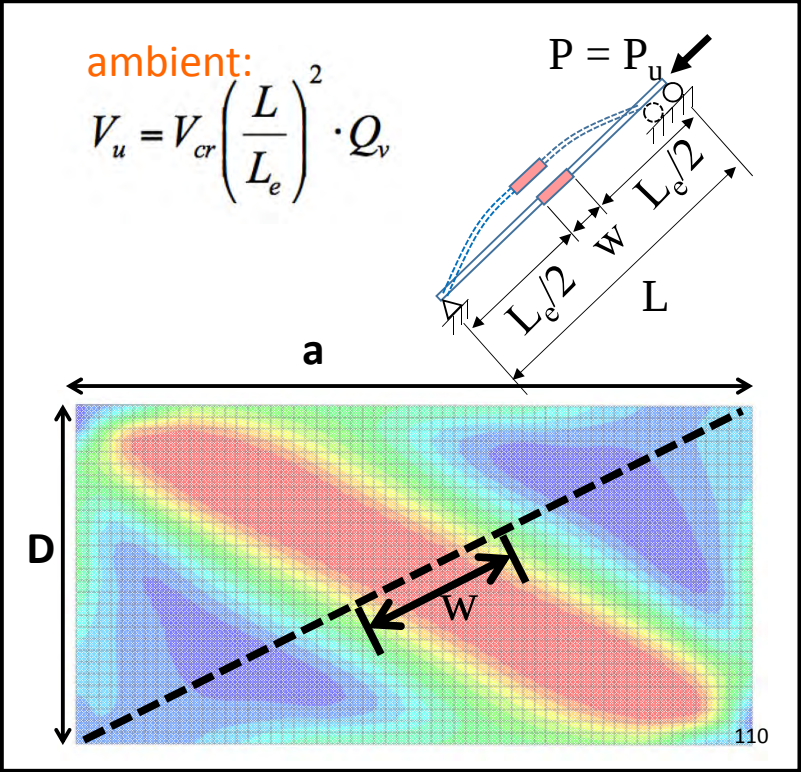


② SFE
/ web buckling /

Finding w :

- calibrated with 60 FE models
- considers slenderness (D/t_w), aspect ratio (a/D) and scale (D)







Finding w :

- calibrated with 60 FE models
- considers slenderness (D/t_w), aspect ratio (a/D) and scale (D)
- validated with 84 test specimens at ambient temperature



ambient:

$$V_u = V_{cr} \left(\frac{L}{L_e} \right)^2 \cdot Q_v$$

Set	V_u/V_u^{Exp}	
	Mean	Std. Dev.
A (n=27)	1.04	0.08
B (n =57)	1.20	0.41
A+B (n=84)	1.15	0.35

- Set A:
- $26 \text{ ksi} \leq \sigma_y \leq 61 \text{ ksi}$
 - $100 \leq D/t_w \leq 300$; $1.0 \leq a/D \leq 3.0$
 - $t_f/t_w \leq 5$



- same w as ambient
- β considers material effects:
 - ✓ 1.2 for $\sigma_y = 250 \text{ MPa}$
 - ✓ 1.15 for $\sigma_y = 345 \text{ MPa}$
- $\sqrt{K_{E,T}/k_{y,T}}$ considers temperature effects



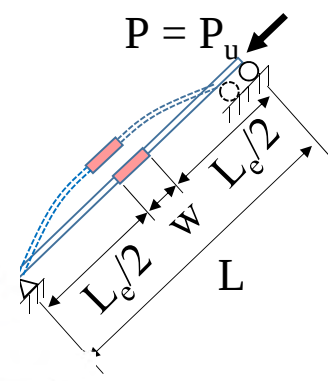
ambient:

$$V_u = V_{cr} \left(\frac{L}{L_e} \right)^2 \cdot Q_v$$

elev. temp:

$$V_u^T = V_{cr}^T \left(\frac{L}{L_e^T} \right)^2 \cdot Q_v^T$$

$$L_e^T = (L - w) \cdot \beta \cdot \sqrt{\frac{k_{E,T}}{k_{y,T}}}$$



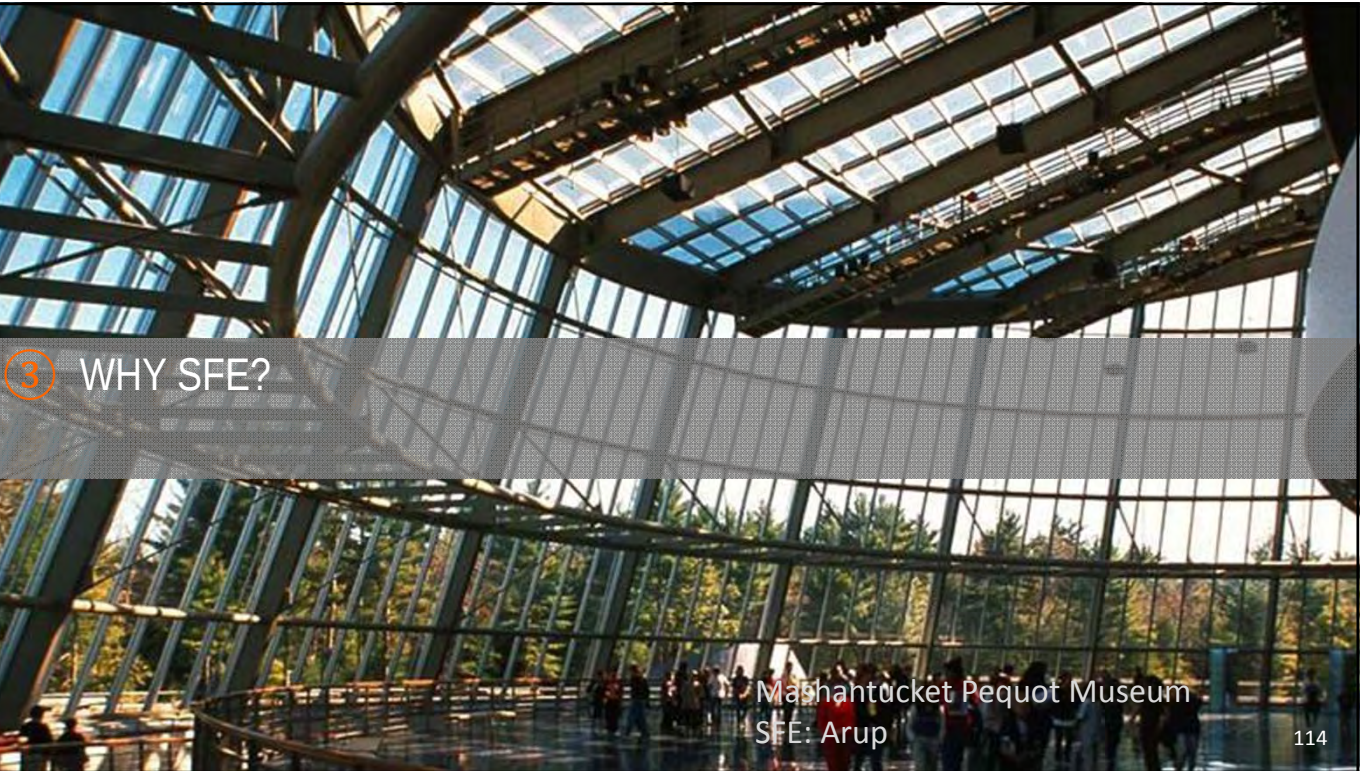


② SFE / web buckling /

Specimen	a/D	D/t _w	D (m)	T (°C)	σ _y (MPa)	V _u ^T (kN)	V _u ^{Exp} (kN)	V _u ^T /V _u ^{Exp}
TG3	1.0	153	0.305	20	288	82.4	79.85	1.03
				400	288	59.2	67.63	0.87
				565	166	34.2	34.34	0.99
				700	66	13.6	17.15	0.79
TG4	1.0	113	0.305	20	233	109.4	111.8	0.98
				400	233	74.8	77.1	0.97
				700	54	17.2	15.94	1.08



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③ WHY SFE?

Mashantucket Pequot Museum
SFE: Arup

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WHY SFE?

SAFETY (*efficiency*)

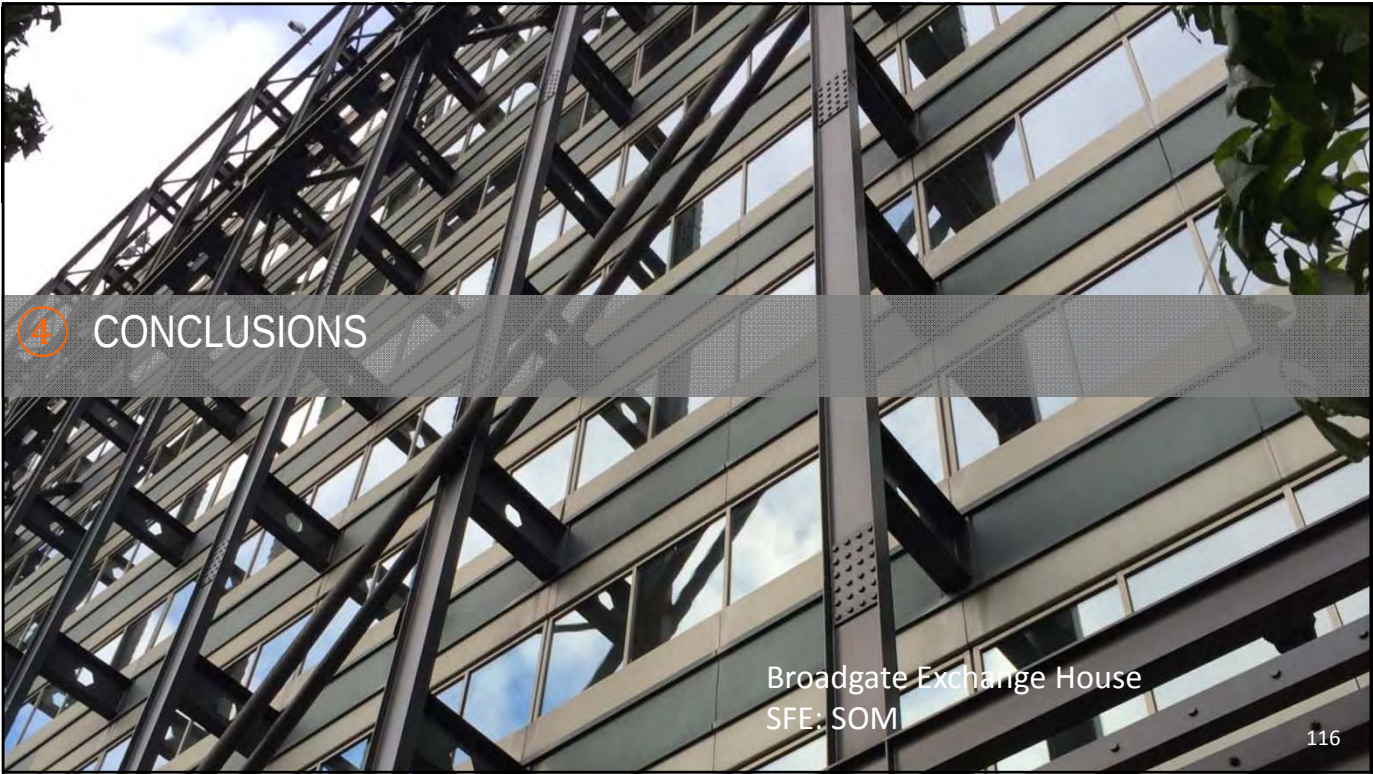
COST (*economy*)

ENCOURAGE INNOVATION (*elegance*)



Lewis Library, Princeton University
Architect: Frank Gehry

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④ CONCLUSIONS

Broadgate Exchange House
SFE: SOM

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4 CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do concrete structures perform better in fire than steel structures?	ALL materials have some form of weakness in fire.



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4 CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do concrete structures perform better in fire than steel structures?	ALL materials have some form of weakness in fire.
Does the fire resistive rating imply the <i>time</i> that the structural integrity is maintained?	no



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④ CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do concrete structures perform better in fire than steel structures?	ALL materials have some form of weakness in fire.
Does the fire resistive rating imply the <i>time</i> that the structural integrity is maintained?	no
Are there codes/standards that permit anything other than a prescriptive approach?	yes: NFPA 5000 (2012) IBC (2012)



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④ CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do we need to consider thermal gradients or can we just assume an average temperature?	It depends (beam-columns)



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4 CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do we need to consider thermal gradients or can we just assume an average temperature?	It depends (beam-columns)
Do structural failures <i>always</i> happen during the heating phase?	no (connections)



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4 CONCLUSIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Do we need to consider thermal gradients or can we just assume an average temperature?	It depends (beam-columns)
Do structural failures <i>always</i> happen during the heating phase?	no (connections)
Can we (should we) design some structural elements without fire protection?	• we can (TMA) • sometimes no choice (bridges)



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④ CONCLUSIONS

- Typical design for fire (prescriptive) does not consider the structural response
- Performance based design for fire, aka structural fire engineering (SFE), considers the *real* fire and the *real* response of the structure to that fire
- SFE offers opportunities to design steel structures that are efficient, economical, and elegant



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My CRUE:

- Spencer Quiel (Lehigh U)
- Serdar Selamet (Bogazici U)
- Jonathan Glassman (Exponent)
- Negar Elhami Khorasani (U Buffalo)

Sponsors:

- NSF
- NIST
- AISC

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THANK YOU

Questions?

<https://garlock.princeton.edu>



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Polling Question

Which of the following is false regarding Structural Fire Engineering (SFE)?

- A. In SFE, fire is treated as a “load”
- B. SFE is based on standard fire tests such as ASTM E119
- C. In SFE one sets 'performance objectives' regarding how the structure should perform.
- D. SFE depends on structural behavior and thus it is an engineered approach to fire design



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PDH Certificates

Within 2 business days...

- You will receive an email on how to report attendance from: registration@aisc.org.
- Be on the lookout: Check your spam filter! Check your junk folder!
- Completely fill out online form. Don't forget to check the boxes next to each attendee's name!



PDH Certificates

Within 2 business days...

- Reporting site (URL will be provided in the forthcoming email).
- Username: Same as AISC website username.
- Password: Same as AISC website password.



There's always a solution in steel.

Thank You

Please give us your feedback!
Survey at conclusion of webinar.

