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An example of finite element modelling of progressive collapse

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Selected building:

- existing 8-story (33 m) building
- built for fire tests
- located at the Cardington Large Building Test Facility in the UK
- well documented
- representative example of a modern multistory office building
- steel framed structure with composite light concrete slab cast onto profiled steel decking and supported on a network of secondary and primary steel beams







FE model development

Challenges:

- column removal
- material models concrete, damage and failure, element erosion
- joints local effects, mesh resolution, contact, bolts
- slabs solid vs. shell elements, multilayered composite, reference surface

FE model development

Geometry, mass and stiffness distribution:

- only the steel framework and concrete slabs have been modeled
- walls built of hollow blocks in the stage 4 of the construction are neglected
- columns, spine members, ribs, trimmers 3D shell element models
- composite concrete steel slabs multilayer shell elements with user defined through thickness integration
- bracing truss elements





























Verification & Validation

Construction stage	1. Steel frame		3. Frame plus composite floors	
	[40]	FE	[40]	FE
1st frequency	0.98*	0.998	0.69	0.694
mode	EW1	EW1	EW1	EW1
2nd frequency	1.22*	1.263	0.83	1.271
mode	NS1	EW2	NS1	NS1
3rd frequency	1.71*	1.550	0.89	1.357
mode	θ1	NS1	θ1	θ1
4th frequency	3.30*	1.551	2.10	2.500
mode	EW2	θ1	EW2	EW2
Weight [t]	325	384	2302	1824
Number of elements	NA	723,816	NA	1,823,696
EW East-West direction NS North-West direction		θ Rotation 2 second ordered mode		* experimentally tested framework with four lower steel decks

Comparison of weights and natural frequencies











Final remarks

- Composite concrete-steel slabs shell multilayer model, reference plane, catenary and arching action
- Need for designed validation tests especially on subsystem level
- Deterministic approach, bracket cases, resistance margins
- Beam vs. Shell element models (which one is complex?)
- Computational time, cost, limitations

Faculty of Civil Engineering WUT – computational cluster

Florida State University High-Performance Computing