

# Fire Resistance of Reinforced Concrete Structures

**Eight Alexandria International  
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Geotechnical Engineering**

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Associate Professor

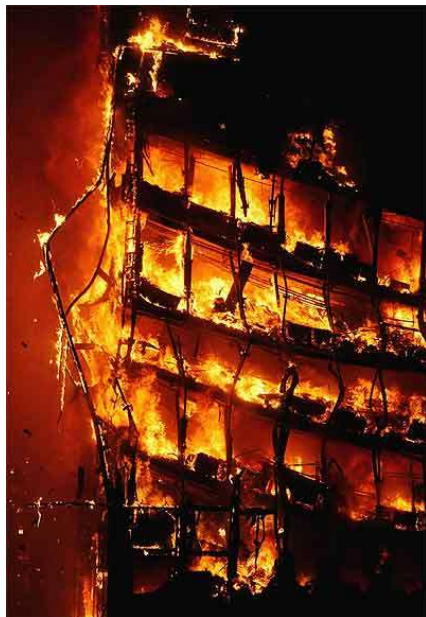
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## Fire Safety

- Annual fire occurrence in high-rise buildings exceeds 10,000 incidents in US.
- Fire Safety:
  - Automatic fire sprinklers
  - Systems for fire detection
  - Safe travel (Egress) paths
  - Barriers to control the fire spread, and
  - Fire-resistant structures



## Outline

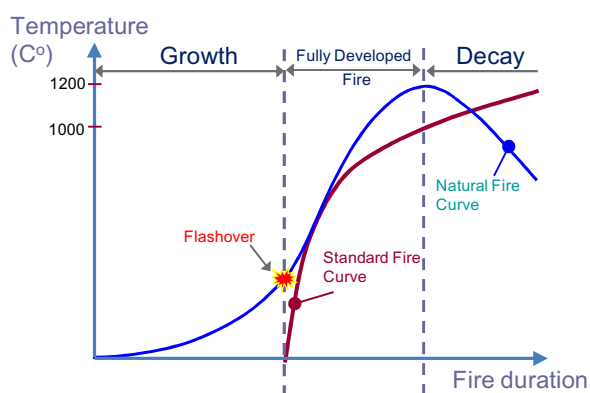
- Fire Modeling.
- Design for Fire.
- Constitutive Models at Elevated Temperatures
- Analysis Tools
- Simplified Analysis
- Design Tools for Flexural and Shear

## Fire Stages



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## Fire Modeling



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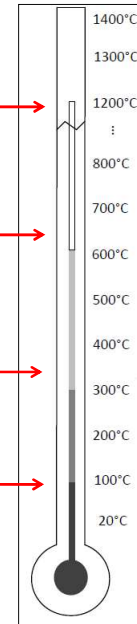
## Effect of Fire on Concrete

- Melting starts.

- Calcium carbonate dissociates.
- Total loss of water hydration.

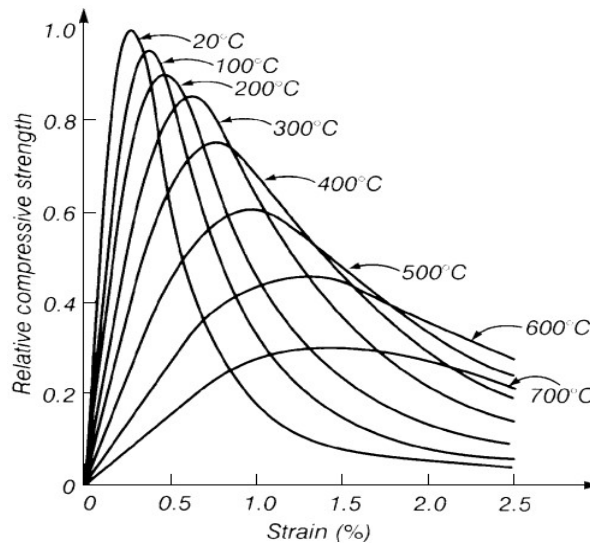
- Calcium hydroxide dissociates.
- Gravels breaks up.

- Free water lost.
- Permeability increases.



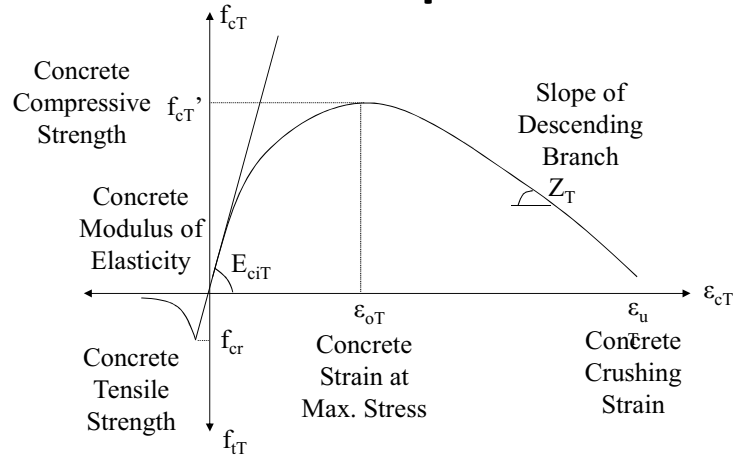
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## Concrete Stress-Strain Relationship at Elevated Temperatures



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## Concrete Stress-Strain Model at Elevated Temperatures



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## Chosen Models

Property	Selected Model	Advantages
Compressive Strength	Hertz (2005)	A, L
Modulus of Elasticity	Anderberg (1976)	A, L
Transient Creep Strain	Terro (1998)	A, L, $V_A$
Strain at Peak Stress	Terro (1998)	L
Tensile Strength	Terro (1998)	A
Free thermal strain	Eurocode (1992)	A

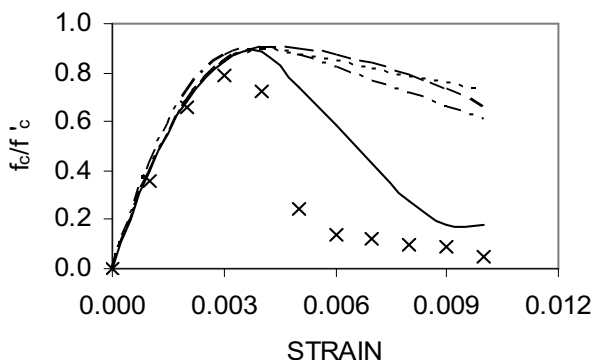
A = Accounts for Aggregate Type

$V_A$  = Accounts for Volume of Aggregates

L = Accounts for Preloading Compressive Stresses

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## Youssef and Moftah's Model



Accounts for:

- Temperature,
- Preloading,
- Transient Creep strain,
- Cracking,
- Confinement.

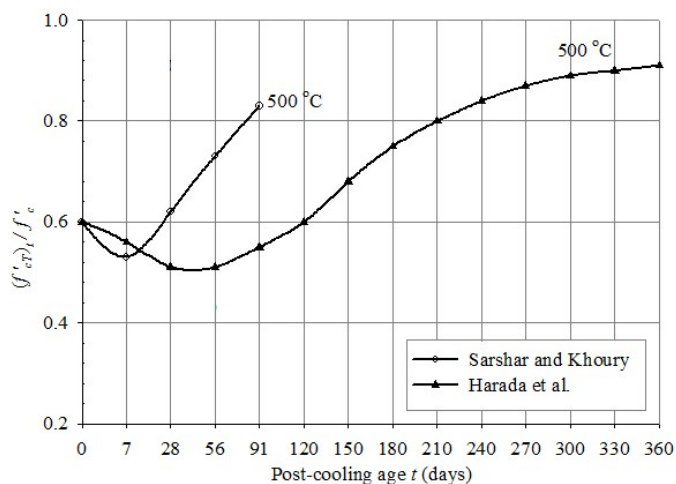
x Schneider (Test) [55]

- ..... Anderberg and Thelandersson (Model) 1976
- Youssef and Moftah's Model 2007
- Lie and Lin (Model) 1985
- . - . - Terro Model 1989

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## Residual Concrete Compressive Strength

Concrete continues losing strength following the fire



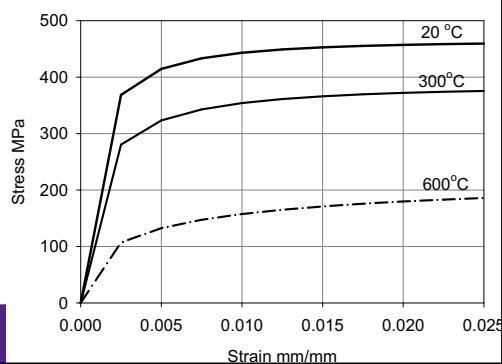
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## Steel Stress-Strain Relationship at Elevated Temperatures

$$f_{yT} = \left[ 1 + \frac{T}{900 \ln(T/1750)} \right] \times f_y \quad 0 < T \leq 600^\circ C$$

$$f_{yT} = \left[ \frac{340 - 0.34T}{T - 240} \right] \times f_y \quad T > 600^\circ C$$

Lie's model



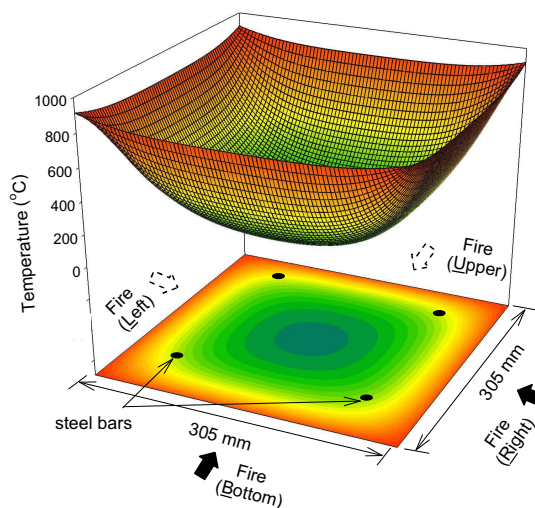
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## Heat Transfer Analysis

- Finite Element.
- Finite Difference.
- Approximate

Example:

Wickstrom's method



$$T_{xy} = \left[ \eta_w (\eta_x + \eta_y - 2\eta_x \cdot \eta_y) + \eta_x \cdot \eta_y \right] T_f$$

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## Design for Fire

- Prescriptive Methods:
  - Simple and empirical but limited in applicability.
- Performance Based Design (PBD) evaluates the performance of the structure under realistic fire loads. It has many advantages:
  - allow engineers to achieve innovative solutions.
  - cost-effectiveness and flexibility in design
  - harmonization between regulations/codes
  - changes in construction technology

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## Potential Methods to Achieve PBD

- Fire Tests (costly, limits).
- Nonlinear Finite Element Analysis  
(can be accurate, computationally expensive and complex)



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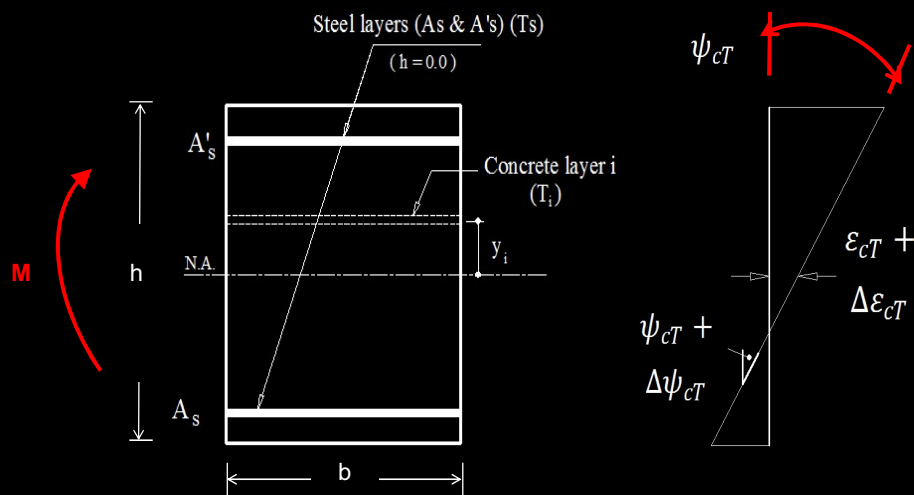


## Simplified Tools for PBD of Structures Exposed to Fire

- Flexural Analysis of RC Beams Exposed to Fire.
- Stress-Block Parameters of RC Beams Exposed to Fire.
- Interaction Diagrams of RC Columns Exposed to Fire.
- Analysis of RC Frames Exposed to Fire.
- Shear Capacity of RC Beams Exposed to Fire.

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## Sectional Analysis at Ambient Temperature

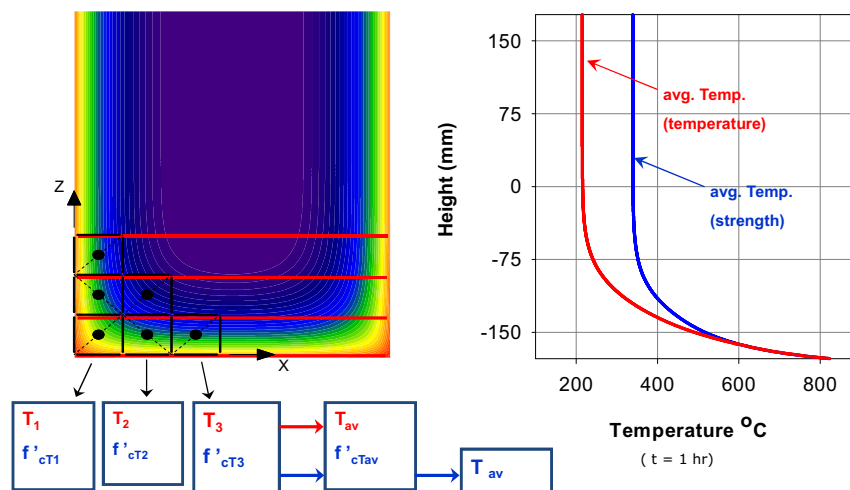


## Sectional Analysis at Elevated Temperatures

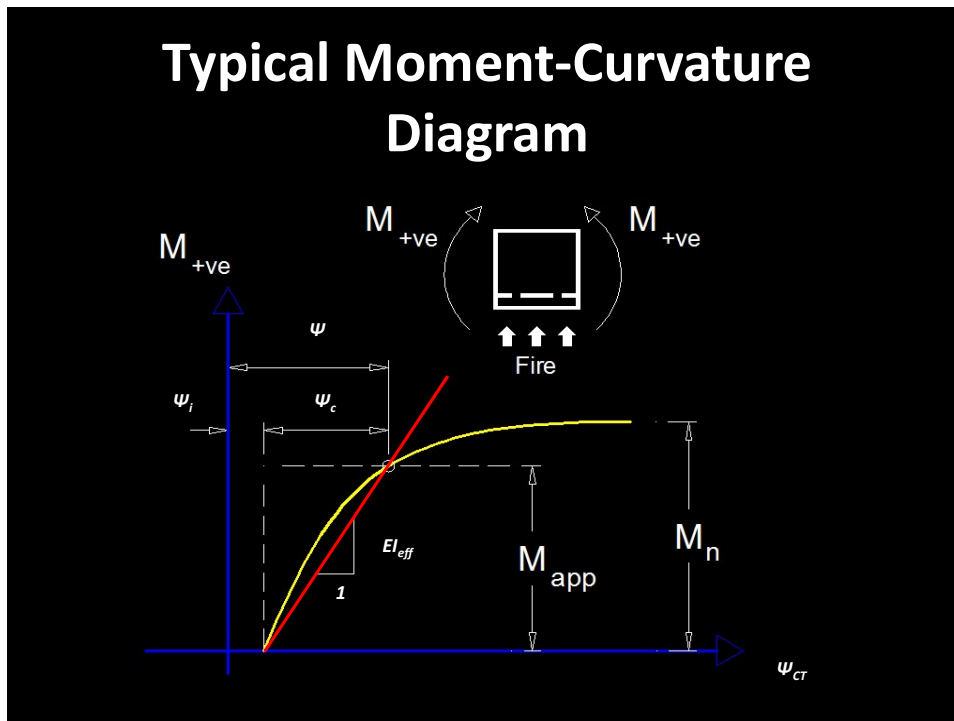
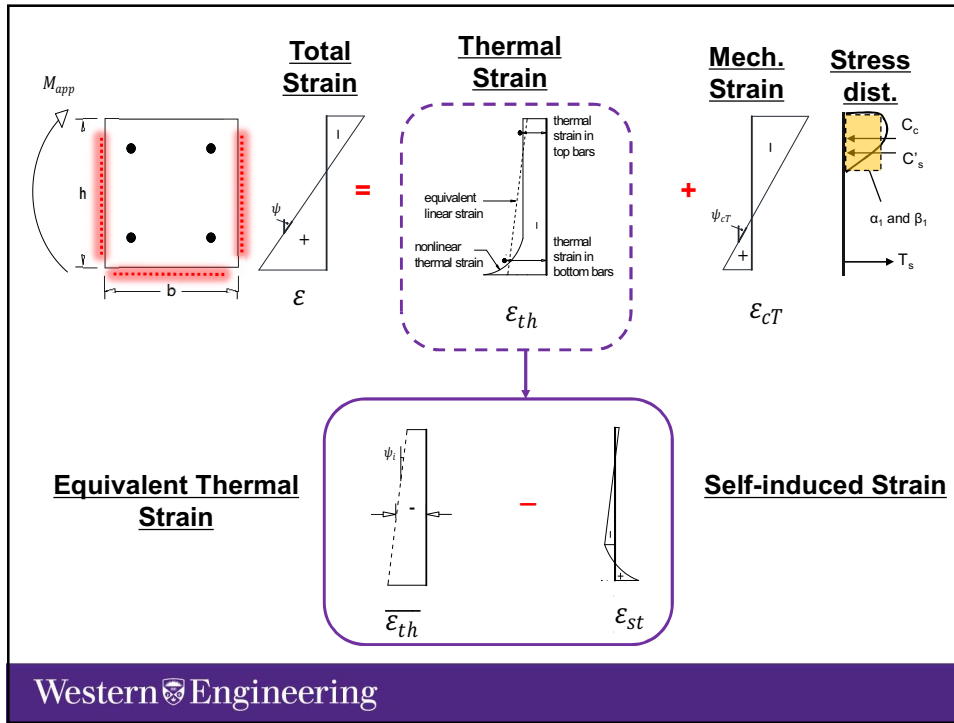
- Thermal Strains.
- Transient Creep Strains.
- Temperature Distribution.
- Temperature-dependent material properties.

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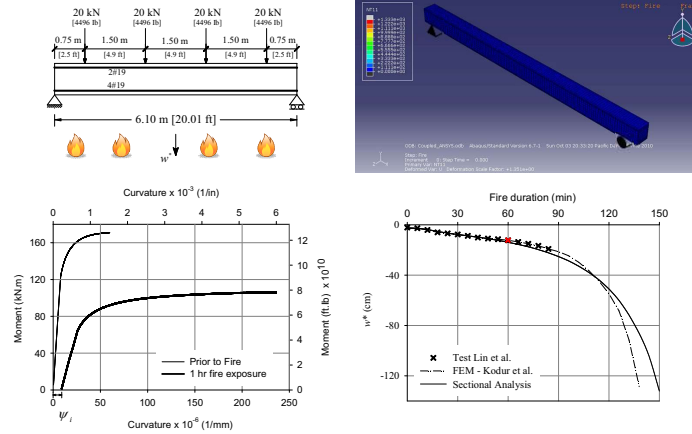
## Temperature Distribution



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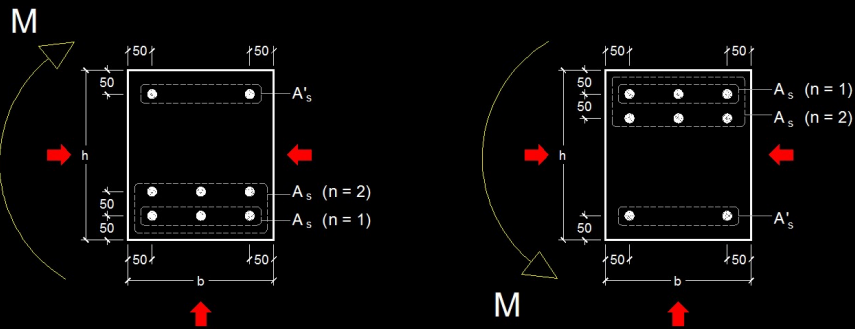
# Validation



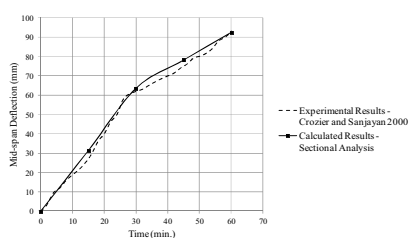
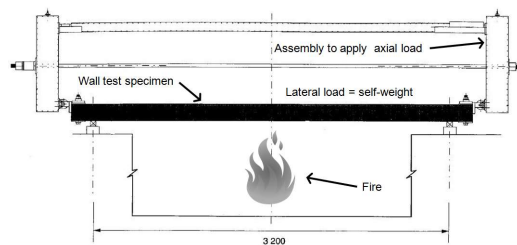
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# Parametric Study

- Moment-Curvature diagrams are studied for **35 beams** heated up to 2.5 hrs ASTM-E119
- Studied **parameters** (b, h,  $A_s$ ,  $A'_s$ , Aggregate Type)

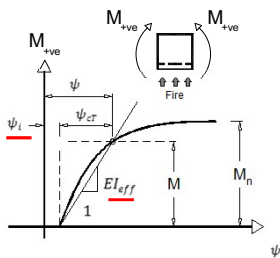


## Validation for RC Walls



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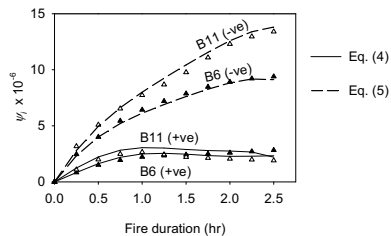
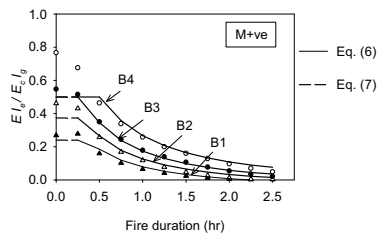
## Initial Thermal Curvature and Effective EI



### Proposed Equations

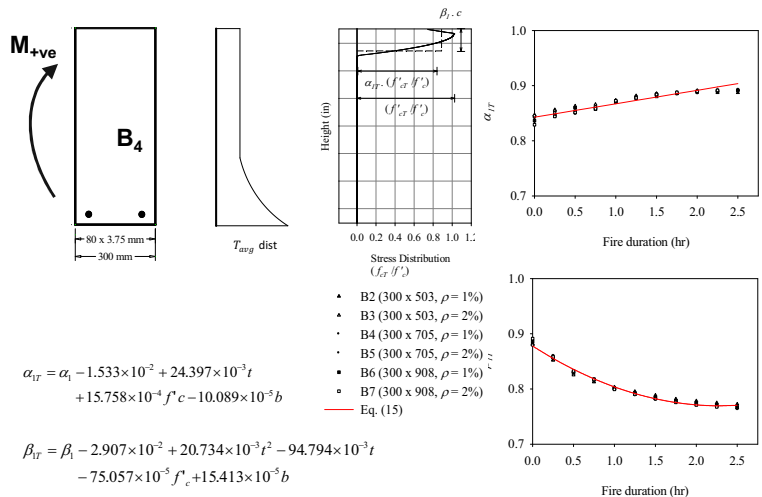
$$\psi_i = f(\dots t, b, A_s, A's, n, Agg \dots)$$

$$EI_{eff} = f(\dots t, \lambda, A_s, A's, Agg \dots)$$



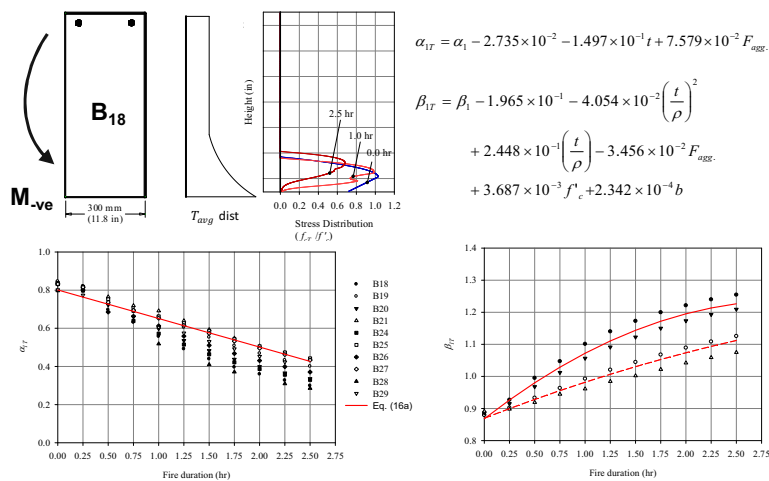
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## Stress Block Parameters (+ve Bending)



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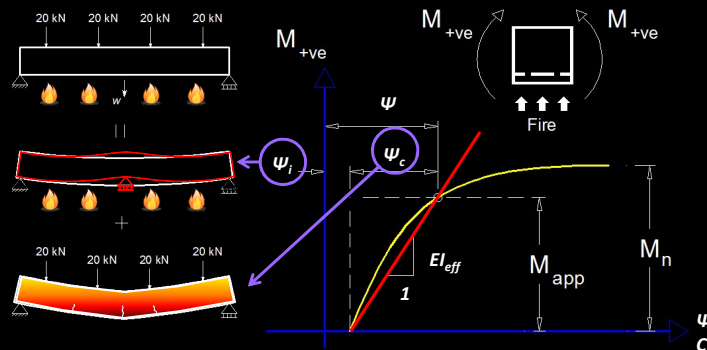
## Stress Block Parameters (-ve Bending)



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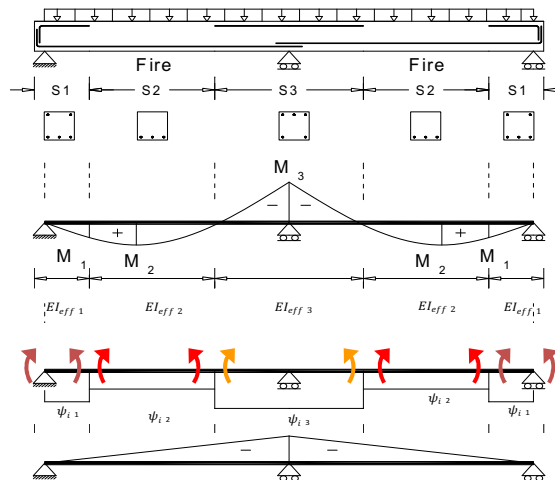
# Restrain Action

Total curvature ( $\psi$ ) = thermal curvature ( $\psi_t$ ) + mechanical curvature ( $\psi_c$ )



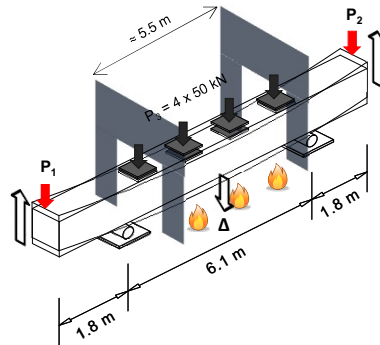
# Proposed Method

- ❑ The beam is divided into segments
- ❑  $Ei_{eff}$  is calculated based on the primary BMD
- ❑ Thermal curvatures are simulated by concentrated moments
- ❑ Secondary moments are generated



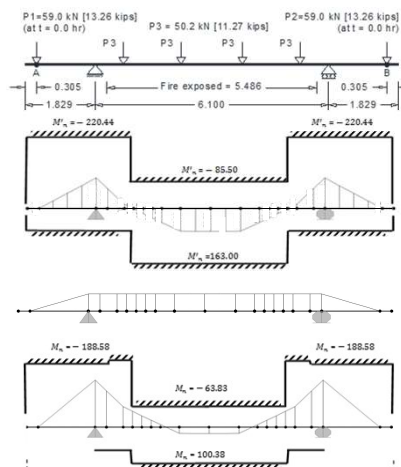
## Validation

1. Loaded prior to test
2. Ends restrained in VI. dir.
3. ASTM-E119 (5.5 m only)
4.  $\Delta$ ,  $P_1$ , and  $P_2$  were monitored during fire



## Validation Analysis

- Primary BMD
- +
- Secondary BMD
- =
- Total BMD

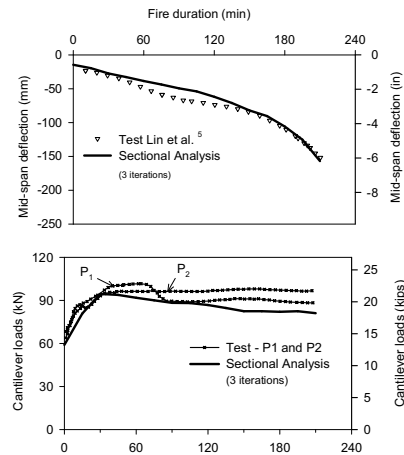




## Validation Results

### TEST RESULTS

- Theoretically fail after 160 min
- Load redistribution extended the failure > 180 min
- Good agreement with test results

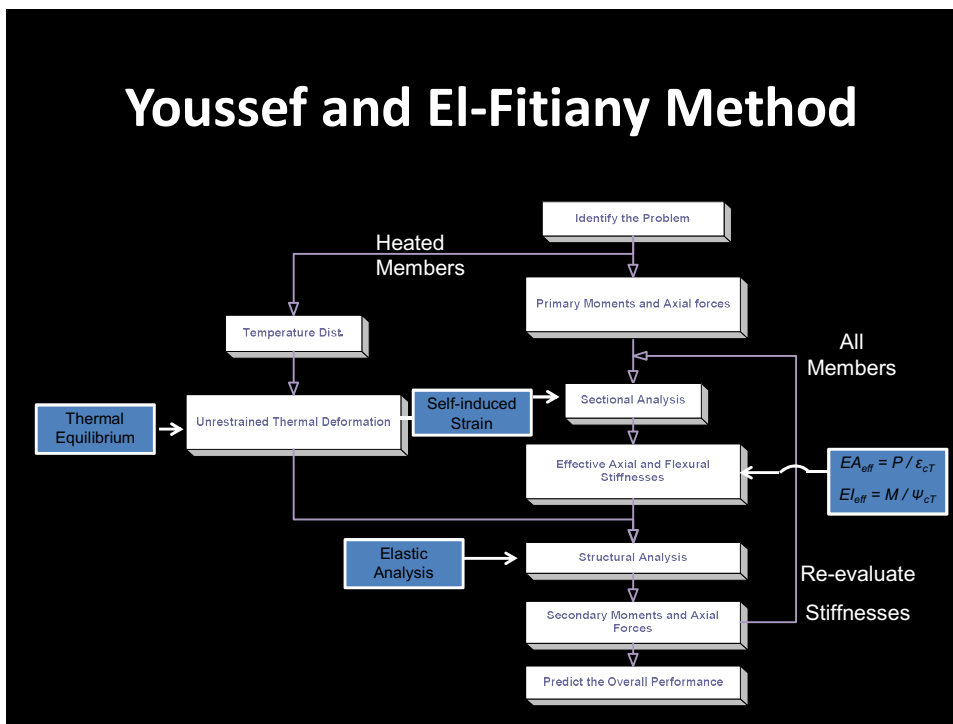


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## Frame Analysis (Challenges)

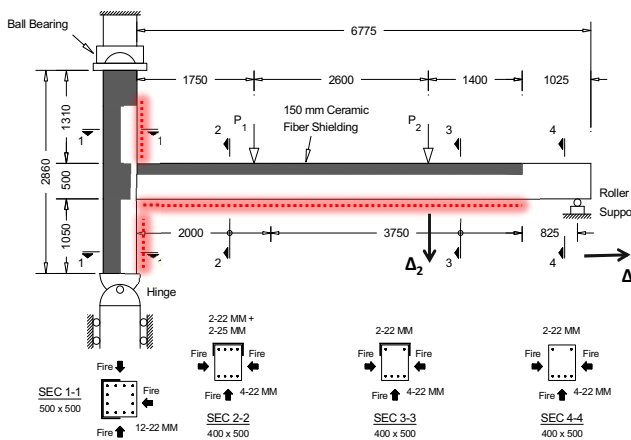


# Youssef and El-Fitiary Method



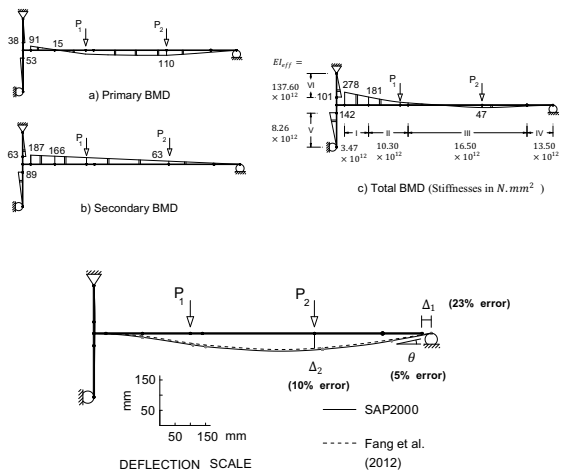
## Validation 1

- ❑ Axial load on column = 1727 kN
- ❑ VI. loads on the beam = 78 & 49 kN
- ❑ 3 hrs ISO834
- ❑ The top 150 mm was shielded t (floor slab)
- ❑  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  were monitored during the fire test



## Validation 1 Results

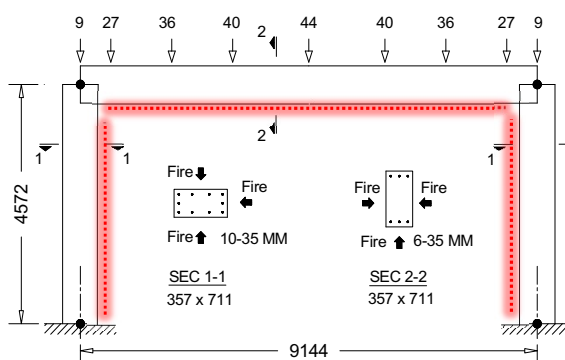
- SAP2000
- Rigid links at the joints
- Unrestrained thermal deformation → Linear temperature loading
- The reduced flexural stiffness is assigned to each segment based on the applied moment



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## Validation 2

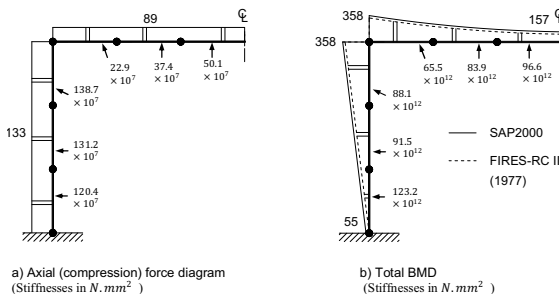
- A comprehensive FE software developed at University of California, Berkeley
- 1 hr ASTM-E119



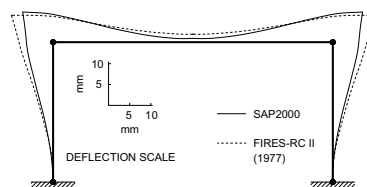
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## Validation 2 Results

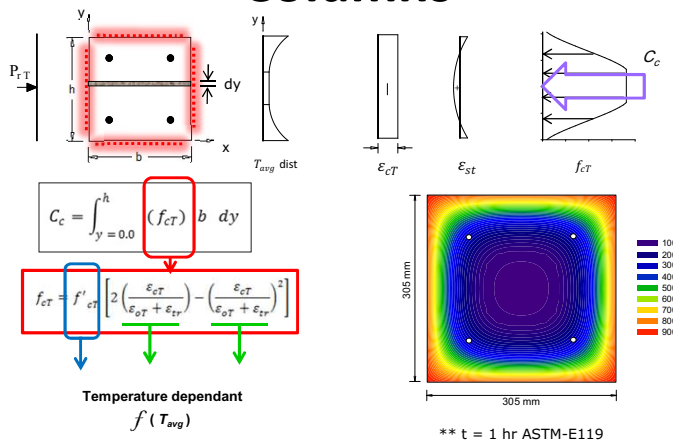
- External forces / moments  
(1 hr ASTM-E119)



- RC frame deflection  
(1 hr ASTM-E119)



## Axial Capacity of Fire-Exposed RC Columns



# Temperature Boundaries

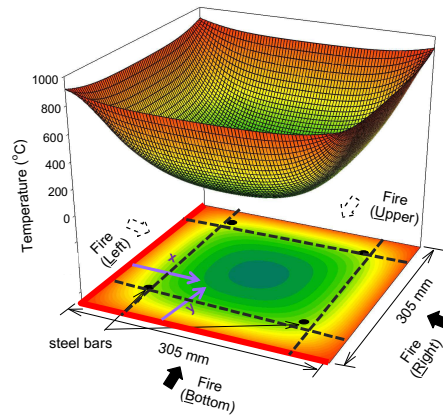
Wickstrom's Simple Method (1986)

$$T_{xy} = [n_w (n_x + n_y - 2n_x \cdot n_y) + n_x \cdot n_y] T_f$$

= 0.0

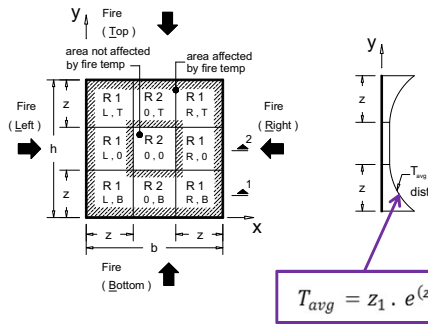
$$z = \sqrt{e^{-4.5} t}$$

(e.g. t = 1 hr → z = 0.105 m)



# Average Temperature Distribution

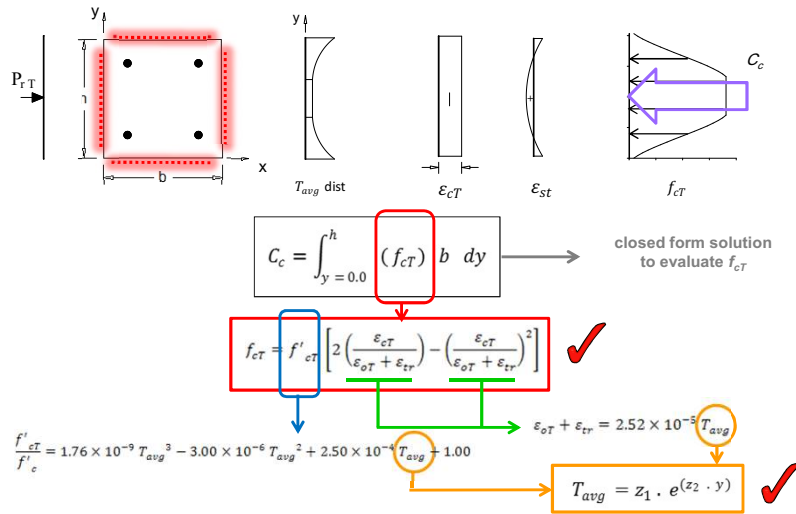
- Identify heated regions  
R1, R2, R3
- Calculate  $T_{avg R}$  for each region
- $T_{avg}$  dist. is the weighted average



$$T_{avg 1} = [0.18 n_w - 0.36 n_w \cdot n_y + 0.18 n_y] \left[ x_2 \ln \left( \frac{t}{x_2^2} \right) - x_1 \ln \left( \frac{t}{x_1^2} \right) \right] \frac{T_f}{(x_2 - x_1)} - 0.45 T_f \cdot n_w + 1.9 T_f \cdot n_w \cdot n_y - 0.45 T_f \cdot n_y \quad x = x_1 \rightarrow x_2$$

$$T_{avg 2} = T_f \cdot n_w \cdot n_y$$

## Closed Form Solution



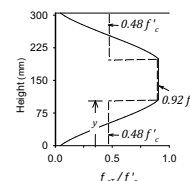
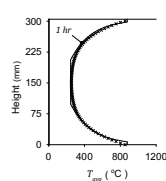
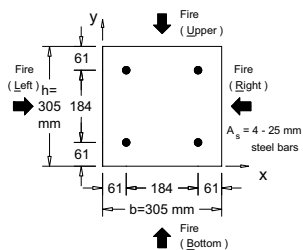
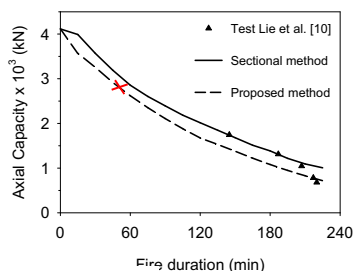
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## Axial Capacity of Fire-Exposed RC Columns

1. The heated section is divided into variable and constant temperature regions.
2. Average temperatures are evaluated.
3. The failure strain for the section is identified.
4. The average concrete stresses are predicted.
5. The axial capacity is evaluated.

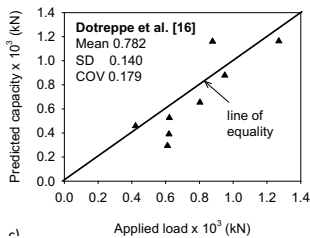
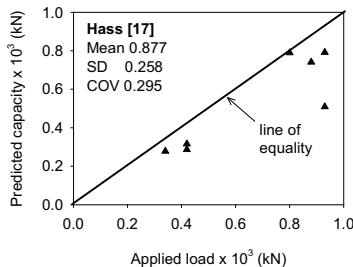
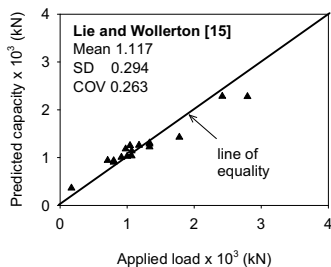
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# Validation



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# Validation (33 columns)



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## Interaction Diagrams at Elevated Temperatures

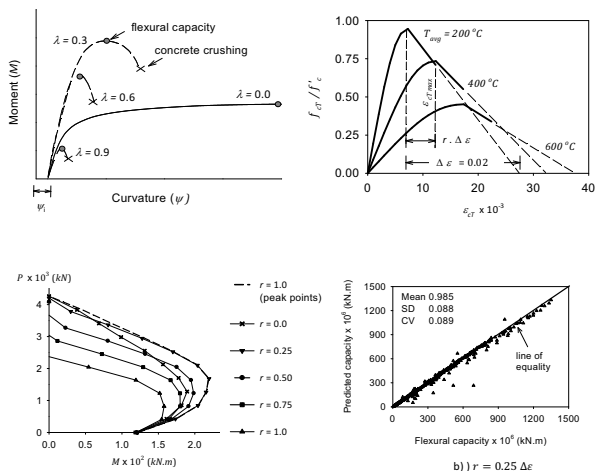
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## Strain Defining Moment Capacity of the Section

□  $\epsilon_{c \max}$  : concrete strain corresponds to Moment of Resist.  $M_R$

□ A parametric study is conducted to evaluate  $\epsilon_{c \max}$  at elevated temp

□ Reasonable predictions are obtained at  $r = 0.25$



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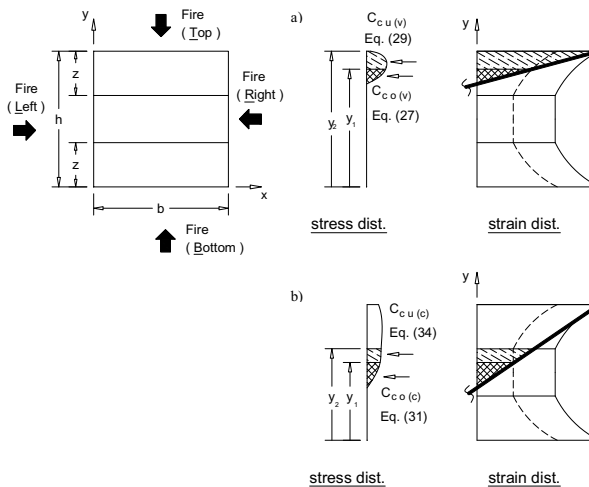
## Internal Concrete Forces

□ Variable  $T_{avg}$

- $\epsilon_{cT} < \epsilon_{oT} + \epsilon_{tr}$
- $\epsilon_{cT} > \epsilon_{oT} + \epsilon_{tr}$

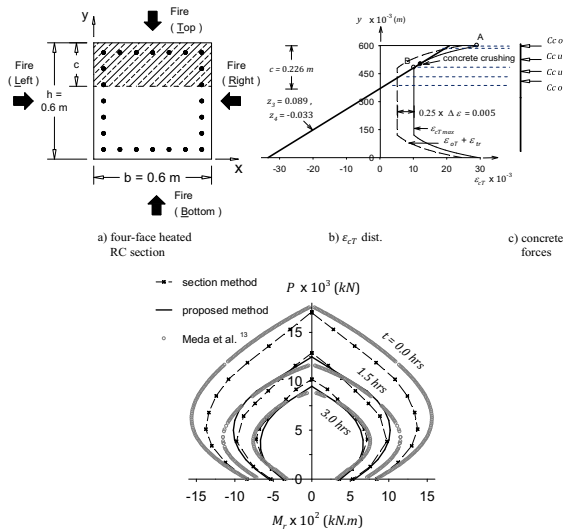
□ Constant  $T_{avg}$

- $\epsilon_{cT} < \epsilon_{oT} + \epsilon_{tr}$
- $\epsilon_{cT} > \epsilon_{oT} + \epsilon_{tr}$



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## Validation



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# Shear Capacity of Fire-Exposed RC Sections

## Average Temperature of Shear Reinforcement

$$Temp (shear RFT) = \frac{A(y_v) - A(c) + B}{h - 2c}$$

$$A = f(c, t)$$

$$B = f(h, c, t)$$

## Average Temperature of Concrete

$$Temp (Conc) = \frac{A'(x_v)(h - y_v) + B' + (0.5b - x_v)A'(y_v)}{(b)(h)/2}$$

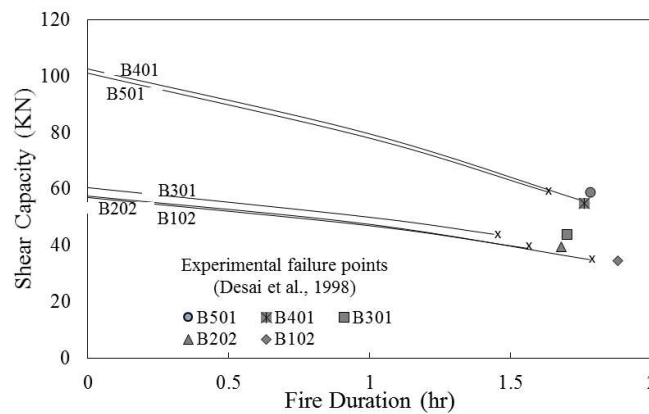
$$A' = f(t)$$

$$B' = f(h, b, t)$$

h = beam height (m)  
b = beam width (m)

c = cover (m)  
t = fire duration (hr)

# Validation



- **For additional details, please refer to:**
- El-Fitiany S.F., Youssef M.A., in-press, "Interaction Diagrams for Fire-Exposed Reinforced Concrete Sections", *Engineering Structures*, accepted March 2014.
- El-Fitiany S.F., Youssef M.A., 2014, "Simplified Method to Analyze Continuous Reinforced Concrete Beams during Fire Exposure", *ACI Structural Journal*, Vol. 111, No. 1, pp. 145-155.
- El-Fitiany S.F., Youssef M.A., 2011, "Stress-Block Parameters for Reinforced Concrete Beams during Fire Events", *ACI SP-279: Innovations in Fire Design of Concrete Structures*, ACI-TMS Committee 216: Fire Resistance and Fire Protection of Structures, Paper No. 1, pp. 1-39.
- El-Fitiany S.F., Youssef M.A., 2009, "Assessing the Flexural and Axial Behaviour of Reinforced Concrete Members at Elevated Temperatures using Sectional Analysis", *Fire Safety Journal*, Vol. 44, No. 5, pp. 691-703.
- Youssef M.A., El-Fitiany S.F., Elfeki M., 2008, "Flexural Behavior of Protected Concrete Slabs after Fire Exposure", *ACI SP-255: Designing Concrete Structures for Fire Safety*, ACI-TMS Committee 216: Fire Resistance and Fire Protection of Structures, Paper No. 3, pp. 47-74.
- Youssef M.A. and Mofteh M., 2007, "General Stress-Strain Relationship for Concrete at Elevated Temperatures", *Engineering Structures*, Vol. 29, No. 10, pp. 2618-2634.

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## Thank You !!



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