



# Effect of Unprotected Interior Beams on Membrane Behaviour of Composite Floor Systems in Fire

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## Content

- Benchmarking numerical models
- Literature review on Membrane Behaviour of Composite Slabs in fire
- Objectives
- Test Setup
- Test Results
- Finite Element Analysis
- Discussions
- Conclusion



## Benchmarking numerical models



- Limitations of structural tests, scaling effect, objective of tests, boundary conditions, and loading
- Modelling thermal response – such as radiation, convection and conduction
- Structural behaviour:
  - Sensitivity of mesh study
  - choice of finite elements
  - Loading conditions
  - Use of symmetry
- Material behaviour:
  - Range of possible values

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## Benchmarking numerical models



- Motivations of numerical modeling
  - Understanding the limitations of numerical modelling
  - Test measurements are not continuous
  - Details of stresses and strains at interesting locations are not measured
  - Complex interactions between various components (beams, slabs and columns) cannot be known
  - Triggering sources of failure cannot be clearly observed
  - Failure criteria
  - Collapse mechanisms cannot be clearly defined

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## Benchmarking numerical models



- Illustration through two physical tests
- Illustration through numerical models
- Comparison of numerical models with physical tests
- Key parameters in composite slab behaviour
  - Effect of leaving interior beams unprotected;
  - Rotational edge-restraint;
  - Bending stiffness of protected main and secondary edge beams;
  - Vertical deflection of protected edge beams;
- Usefulness of numerical modeling
  - Identify key parameters that influence overall behaviour
  - Perform parametric studies
  - Lead to development of design guide

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## Brief history of testing on composite slabs in fire



Six full-scale tests conducted at Cardington by BRE

1. Tests on isolated slab panels
2. Thermal/structural programs
3. Analytical models
4. Design guide in UK

1. New interest on testing of the floor assemblies in fire
2. Design guides outside UK

1995-1996

2000 - 2007

2008 - present

### Cardington fire tests



Bailey CG and Moore DB (2000)  
 Huang *et al.* (2000) – VULCAN  
 Foster *et al.* (2004)  
 Bailey Foster *et al.* (2004)  
 Izzuddin BA and Elghazouli AY (2004)  
 Cameron NJK and Usmani AS (2005)  
 Franssen JM (2005) – SAFIR  
 SCI P288 (Newman GM *et al.* 2006)  
 ADAPTIC software

Fracof test (2008)  
 Zhang NS and Li GQ (2009)  
 Mokrsko fire test (2009)  
 Stadler M. *et al.* (2011) – Munich tests  
 Wellman E *et al.* (2011)  
 Nguyen TT and Tan KH (2012)

Only a few key references are mentioned!

Literature → Objectives → Test setup → Test results → FE analysis → Discussions → Conclusion

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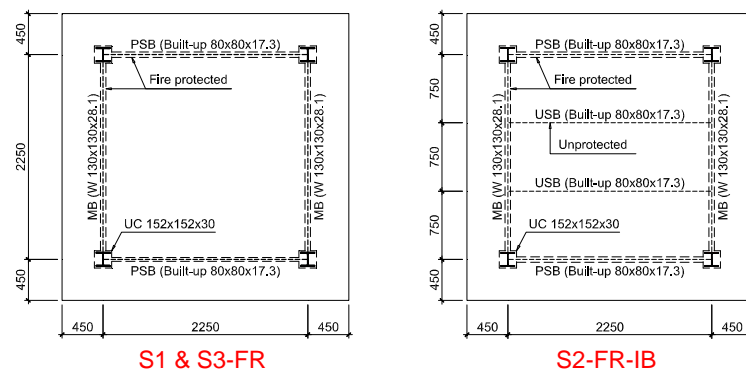
## Experimental Program Objectives



- Study the effects of some important parameters on the membrane behaviour of composite floor assemblies under fire conditions
  - Effect of leaving interior beams unprotected;
  - Rotational edge-restraint;
  - Bending stiffness of protected main and secondary edge beams;
  - Vertical deflection of protected edge beams;
- Capture failure modes and deformed shapes of the composite beam-slab systems;
- Validate the proposed nonlinear FE models;

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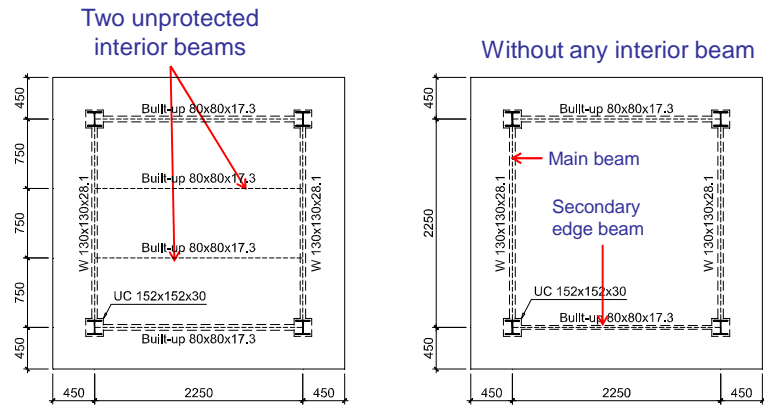
## Experimental Program Series I – 3 specimens



- Specimen S1 had the same configuration as S3-FR, but its test setup was different.
- S1 had no rotational restraint beam system on top of the outstands, while S3-FR had. The aim is to study the effect of rotational restraint on the behaviour of beam-slab systems.

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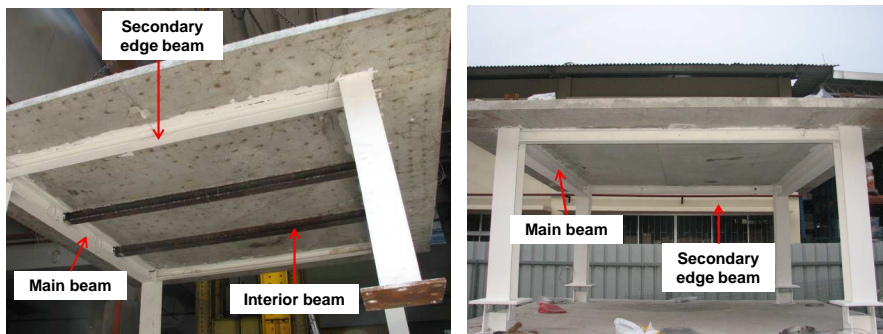
Test results of two specimens, S2-FR-IB and S3-FR, are presented.



S2-FR-IB

S3-FR

Shrinkage reinforcement mesh, 80mm x 80mm grid size and 3mm diameter, was placed within the slabs at 18mm from the top.



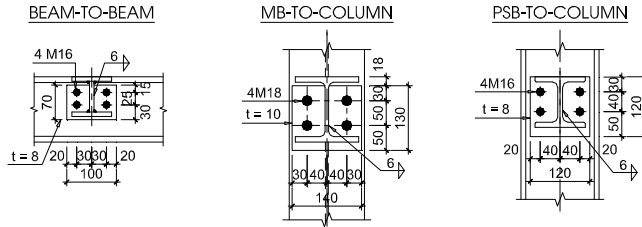
S2-FR-IB

S3-FR

The columns, secondary edge beams (PSB) and main beams (MB) were protected to a prescriptive fire rating of 60min.

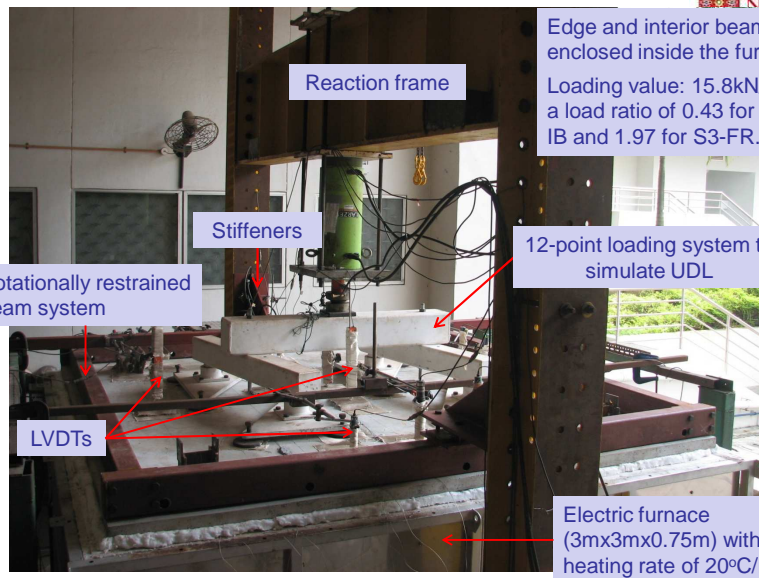


Flexible end plate connections were used.



Tab. 1 Properties of I-beams

Specimen		Depth $h$ (mm)	Width $b_f$ (mm)	Thickness		Yield stress $f_y$ (MPa)	Ultimate stress $f_u$ (MPa)	Elastic modulus $E_s$ (MPa)
				Web $t_w$ (mm)	Flange $t_f$ (mm)			
S2-FR-IB	MB	131	128	6.96	10.77	302	437	197500
	PSB & USB	80	80	9.01	9.14	435	533	206900
S3-FR	MB	131	128	6.97	11.03	307	462	211364
	PSB & USB	80	80	10.26	10.02	467	588	210645



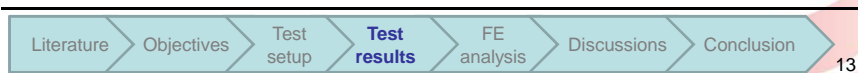
Edge and interior beams were enclosed inside the furnace.  
Loading value:  $15.8 \text{ kN/m}^2 \approx$  a load ratio of 0.43 for S2-FR-IB and 1.97 for S3-FR.



## 'Failure' definition

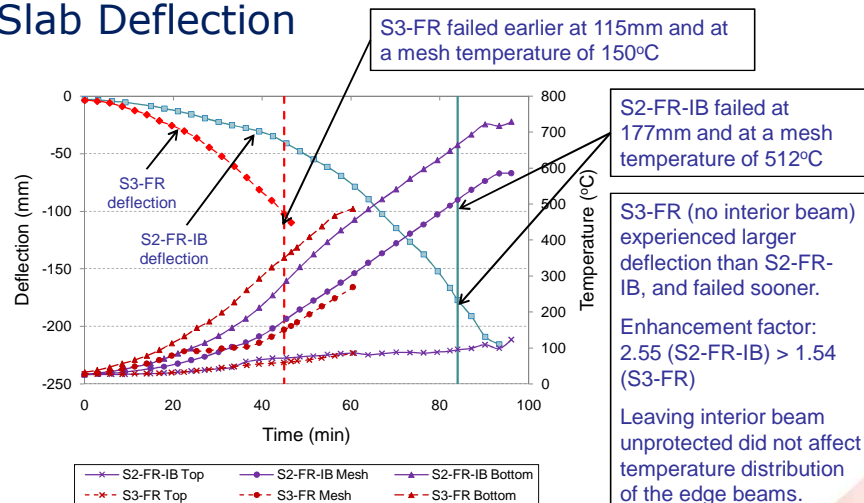
'Failure' was defined as the time when either:

- (1) Appearance of full-depth cracks (integrity criterion "E")
- (2) Significant drop in the mechanical resistance -> the jack could no longer maintain the load level (load-bearing criterion "R")



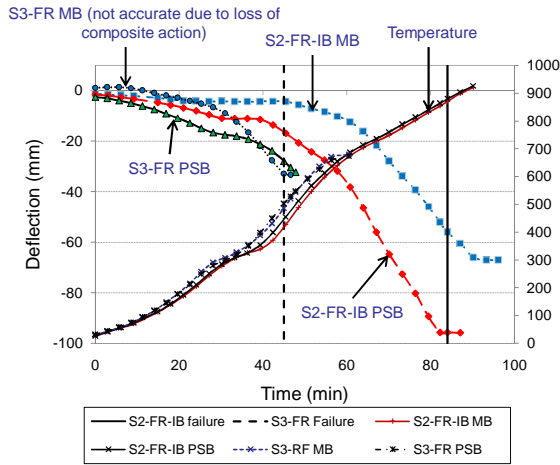
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## Temperature Development Slab Deflection



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## Edge Beam Behaviour

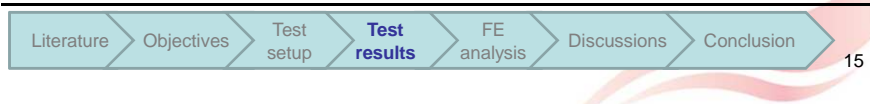


Temperature development was very close in two tests.

The presence of interior beams did not have any effect on the temperature distributions of the edge beams, but they had effect on their deflection profiles.

At similar temperatures, S3-FR PSB had greater deflection than S2-FR-IB PSB because of the difference in load path from the slabs to the beams.

- \* MB: main beam
- \* PSB: protected secondary beam
- \* USB: unprotected secondary (interior beam)



## Compression Ring

Indication of compression ring



S2-FR-IB

Indication of compression ring



S3-FR

The cracks above the edge beams and the diagonal cracks at four corners can be considered as the indication of compression ring.





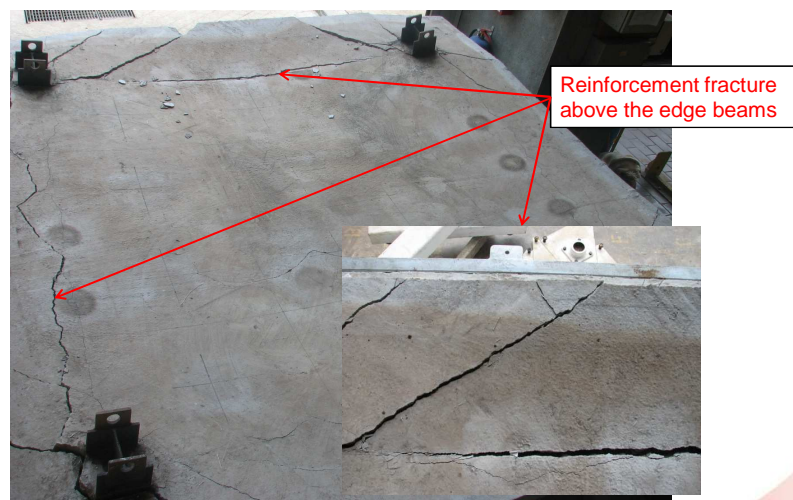
## Compression Ring

- **S2-FR-IB:** compression ring formed at 200°C (mesh temperature) and at 52mm, 0.95 of the slab depth, after 50min of heating.
- **S3-FR:** compression ring formed at 100°C (mesh temperature), and at 52mm, equal to 0.95 of the depth, after 30min of heating.
- > **The compression ring formed at the slab deflection equal to about 1.0 of the slab thickness, irrespective of the presence of interior beams.**
- S2-FR-IB (with interior beams) entered TMA later than S3-FR, because the unprotected interior beams enhanced the slab capacity during the bending stage.



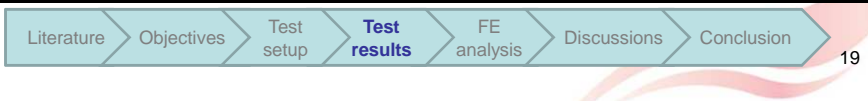
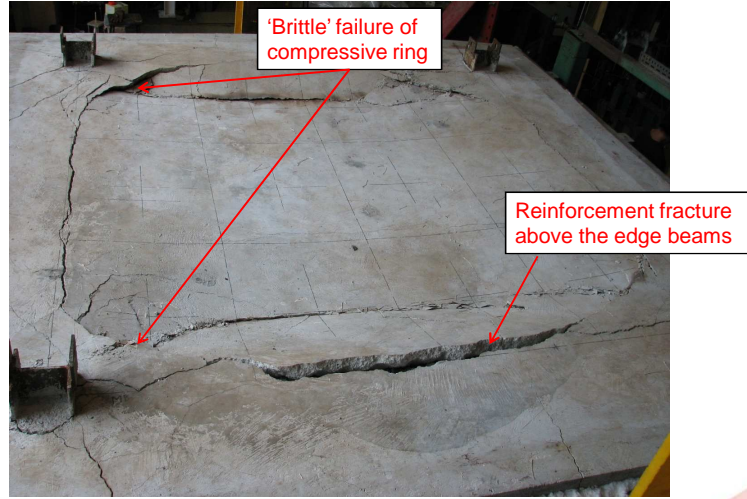
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## Failure Modes: S2-FR-IB

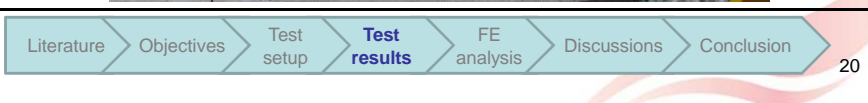
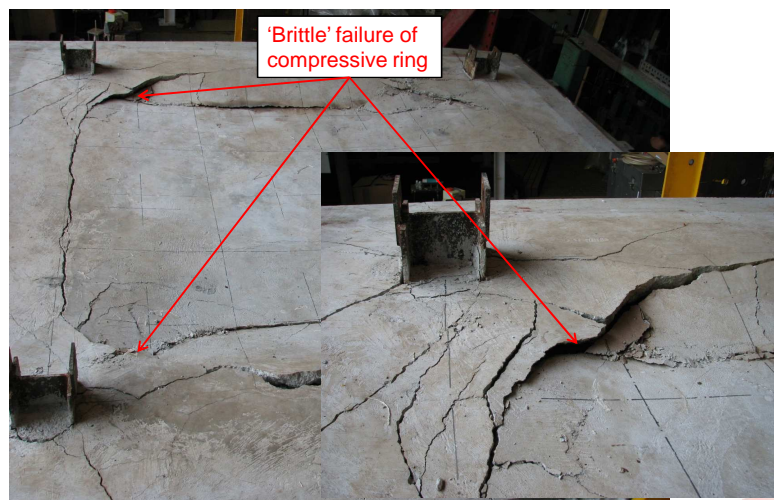


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### Failure Modes: S3-FR



### Failure Modes: S3-FR



## Failure Modes: S3-FR



In S2-FR-IB, loads transferred via interior beams to the edge beams.  
In S3-FR, loads transferred directly to the edge beams.

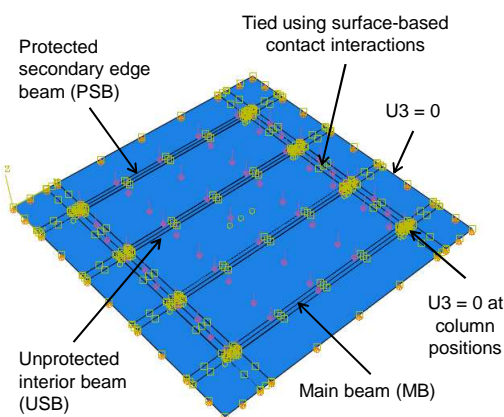
Due to difference in load paths, the interior beams have a major role in helping the slab to transit smoothly from biaxial bending to membrane behaviour.

Without the interior beams, failure of compression ring, "fragile failure", may occur sooner than fracture of reinforcement, resulting in less contribution from TMA in the slab load-bearing capacity.



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## Proposed Nonlinear FE model

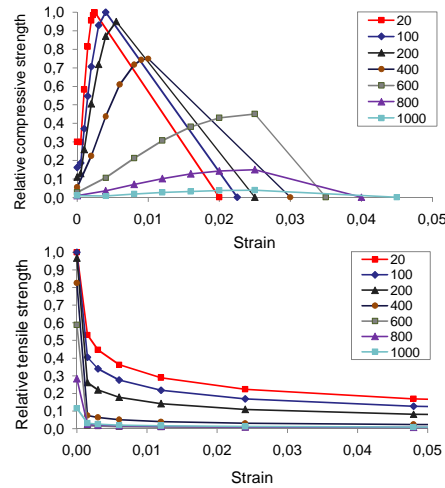


- ABAQUS/Explicit
- Sequentially coupled thermal-stress analysis procedure
- Shell element type S4R
- Concrete Damaged Plasticity Model & Rebar layer technique
- Temperature at the slab bottom surface was input directly into the model to define thermal gradient over the slab thickness.



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## Concrete Model



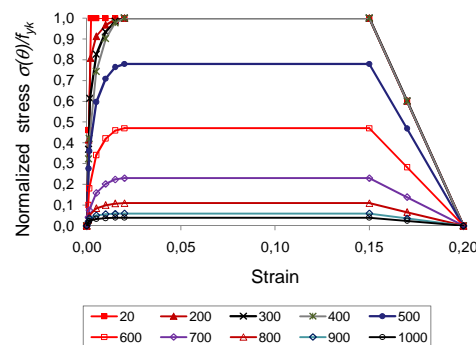
- Material properties are based on BS EN 1994-1-2:2005.
- Thermal and creep strains have been taken into account.
- The tension softening curve for concrete in tension proposed by Youssef and Moftah (2007)<sup>1</sup> is adopted, taking account of the reduction in the tensile resistance and the bond strength.

<sup>1</sup> Youssef MA, Moftah M. General stress-strain relationship for concrete at elevated temperatures. *Engineering Structures*. 2007;29:2618-34.

Literature → Objectives → Test setup → Test results → **FE analysis** → Discussions → Conclusion

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## Steel Model

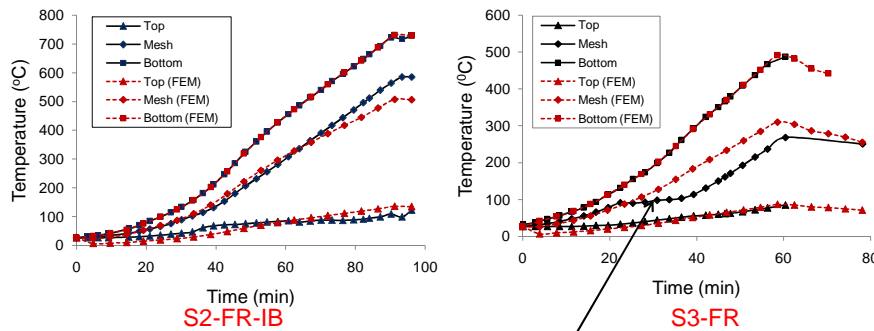


- Material properties are based on BS EN 1994-1-2:2005.
- Thermal and creep strains have been taken into account.
- For reinforcing steel, the reduction factors of cold worked reinforcing steel are used.

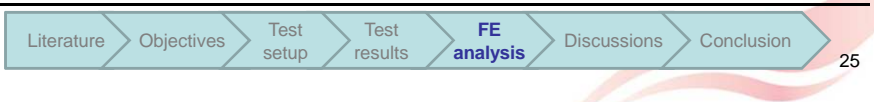
Literature → Objectives → Test setup → Test results → **FE analysis** → Discussions → Conclusion

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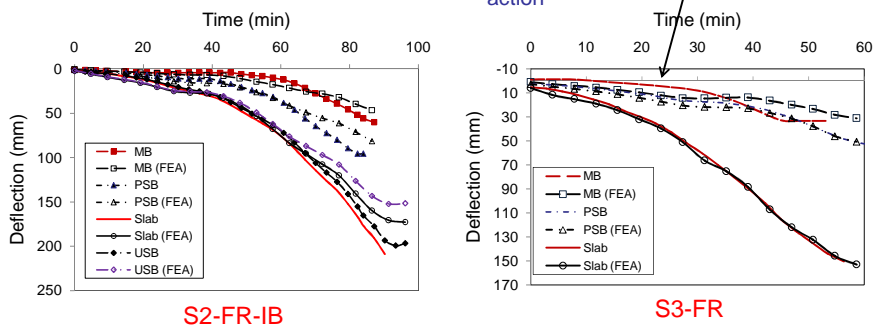
## Model Validation Temperature vs. Time



The result for mesh temperature in S3-FR after 22min was not very good because in S3-FR severe cracks appeared very soon, resulting in significant heat losses.



## Model Validation Deflection vs. Time

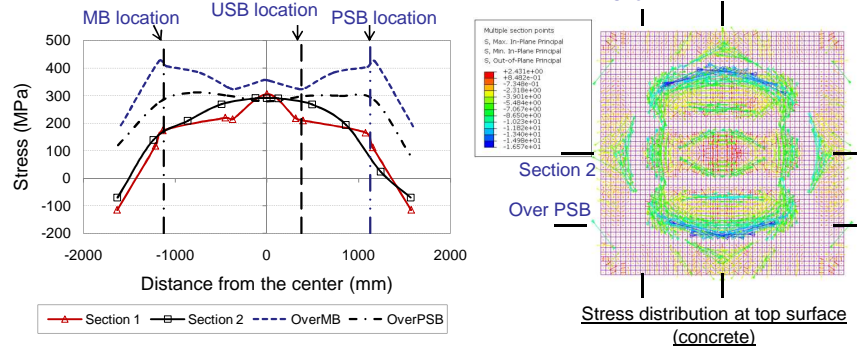


✓ The proposed model predicts the behaviour of the beams and slabs very well.



## Stress distribution at failure - S2-FR-IB

84min – Slab deflection 177mm at 512°C

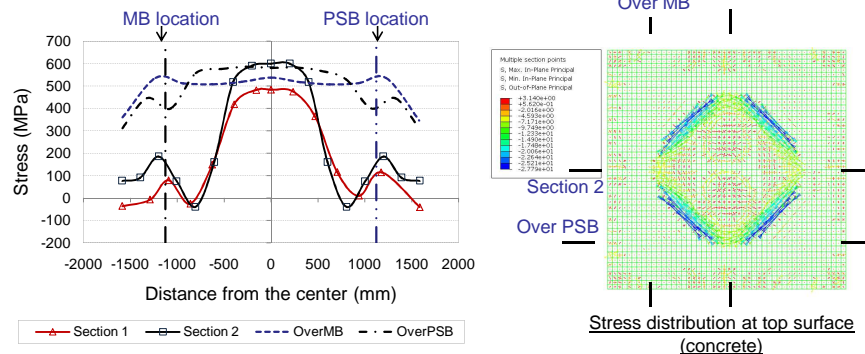


- ✓ Maximum tensile stress in reinforcement is 425MPa above the main beam and 310MPa above the protected secondary beam.
- ✓ TMA was obviously mobilized with the formation of a tensile zone in the slab centre and a 'compression ring' consisting of the upper parts of the edge beams and part of the concrete slab directly above the edge beams.



## Stress distribution at failure – S3-FR

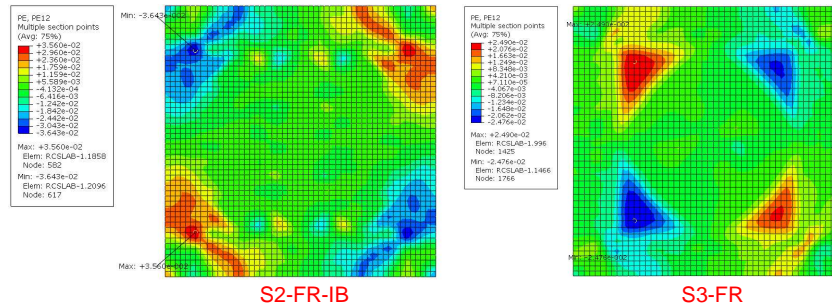
45min - Slab deflection 115mm at 150°C



- ✓ Maximum tensile stress in reinforcement is found at the slab mid-span (Section2), followed by the section above the protected secondary beam (OverPSB).
- ✓ The compression ring was not so clearly observed. This is due to 'fragile' failure of S3-FR which occurred only at a deflection of 115mm – 1.98d (d is slab thickness).



## Strain distribution at top surface at failure



- ✓ **Maximum strain of concrete** at the corners is 0.0356 and 0.0249 for S2-FR-IB and S3-FR, respectively.
- ✓ These values are higher than the failure compressive strain according to EN 1994-1-2, which are **0.0223** for S2-FR-IB and **0.0213** for S3-FR at the same temperature.
- ✓ It means that at the slab corners, the stress in concrete top surface is almost zero, or failure would occur in these regions.



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## Failure modes

On the basis of numerical simulations:

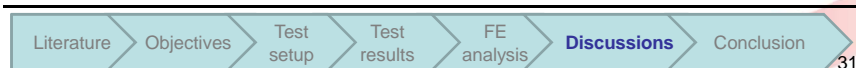
- In S2-FR-IB test, reinforcement fracture above the edge beams would occur first, before reinforcement fracture at the slab mid-span. This failure mode concurs with the experimental observations.
- In S3-FR, failure is predicted to be due to fracture of reinforcement at the slab mid-span. Based on the maximum compressive strain of S3-FR, failure would also occur in the slab corners.
- **Unfortunately**, there is no obvious indication of which failure mode, i.e. reinforcement fracture at the slab mid-span or concrete crushing at the slab corner, would occur first.



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## Shortcomings of the numerical model

- Final failure modes of the beam-slab substructures could not be exactly identified from the stress or strain contours.
- Partial failures such as concrete crushing and fractures of rebars can not be taken into account.
- Heat loss caused by the appearance of concrete cracks could not be predicted.



## Conclusions

1. Understanding the limitations of numerical modelling
2. Details of stresses and strains at interesting locations
3. Complex interactions between various components (beams, slabs and columns)
4. Failure criteria
5. Collapse mechanisms





## Conclusions

1. The presence of interior beams greatly enhances the load-bearing capacity of the slab.
  - ✓ S3-FR failed sooner with higher deflection (Slide 10);
  - ✓ In term of enhancement factor, S2-FR-IB has a greater enhancement factor (2.55) compared to 1.54 of S3-FR;
2. Without interior beams, the slab may experience 'brittle' failure of the compression ring and caused 'run-away' failure in the slab.
3. The compression ring formed at the slab deflection equal to 0.95 of the slab thickness, irrespective of the presence of interior beams.
4. The presence of interior beams significantly affects the magnitude as well as the distribution of stresses in the slab elements. This may cause different failure modes for the floor assemblies compared with those of isolated slab panels.



**Thank you for your  
attention!**

## Validation with Fracof test

### FRACOF fire test <sup>5</sup>

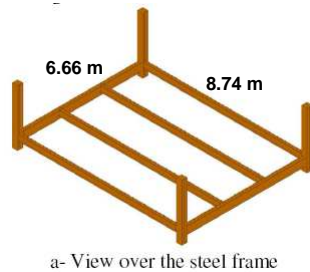


Fig. 19 – State of slab around steel column

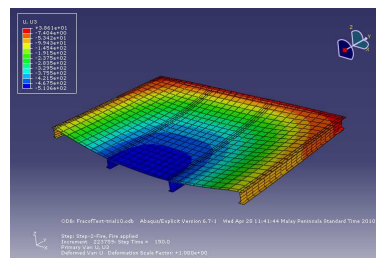
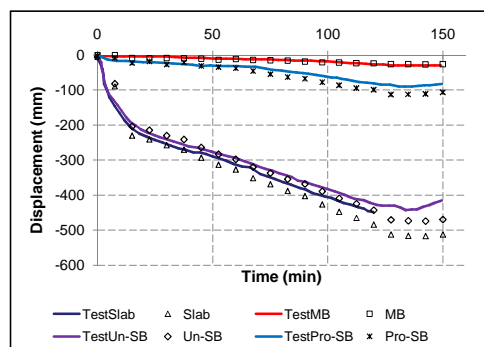


Fig. 20 – State of slab at central part of the floor during and after the test

<sup>5</sup> Zhao, B., M. Roosefid, et al. (2008). Full scale test of a steel and concrete composite floor exposed to ISO fire. SiF'08, Singapore, NTU.

## Validation with Fracof test

### Time- deflection curves at the mid point of the members





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