

Buro Happold **the engineering of excellence**

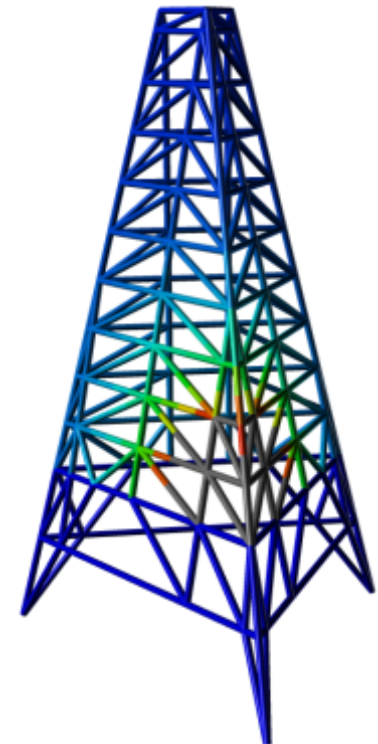
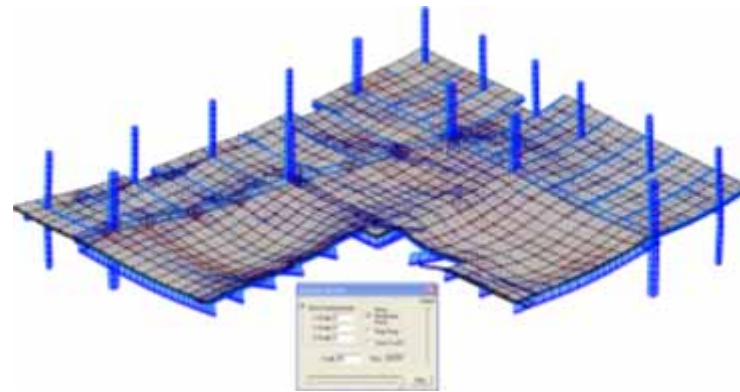
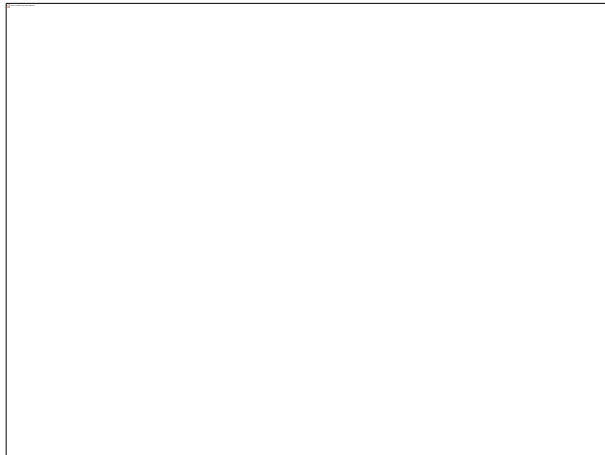
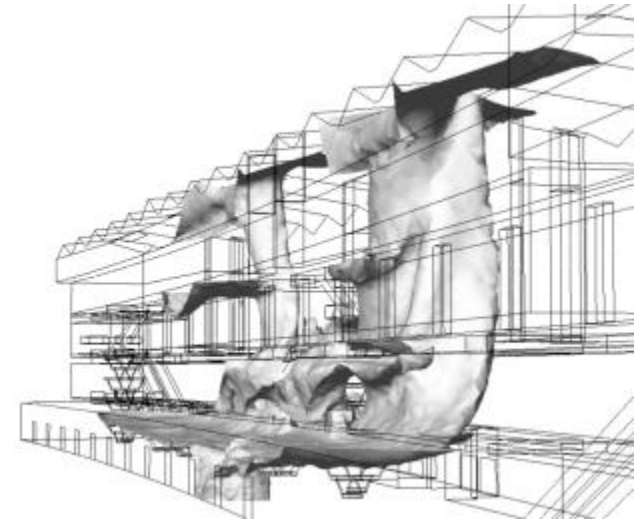
Fire Engineering in Practice – State of the Art
in Performance-based Design

Florian Block

COST-TU0904 – Training School

Agenda

- What is it a fire engineer does?
- What is Performance Based Design?
- How is Performance Based Design done in reality?
- Project examples
- Conclusions



Buro Happold

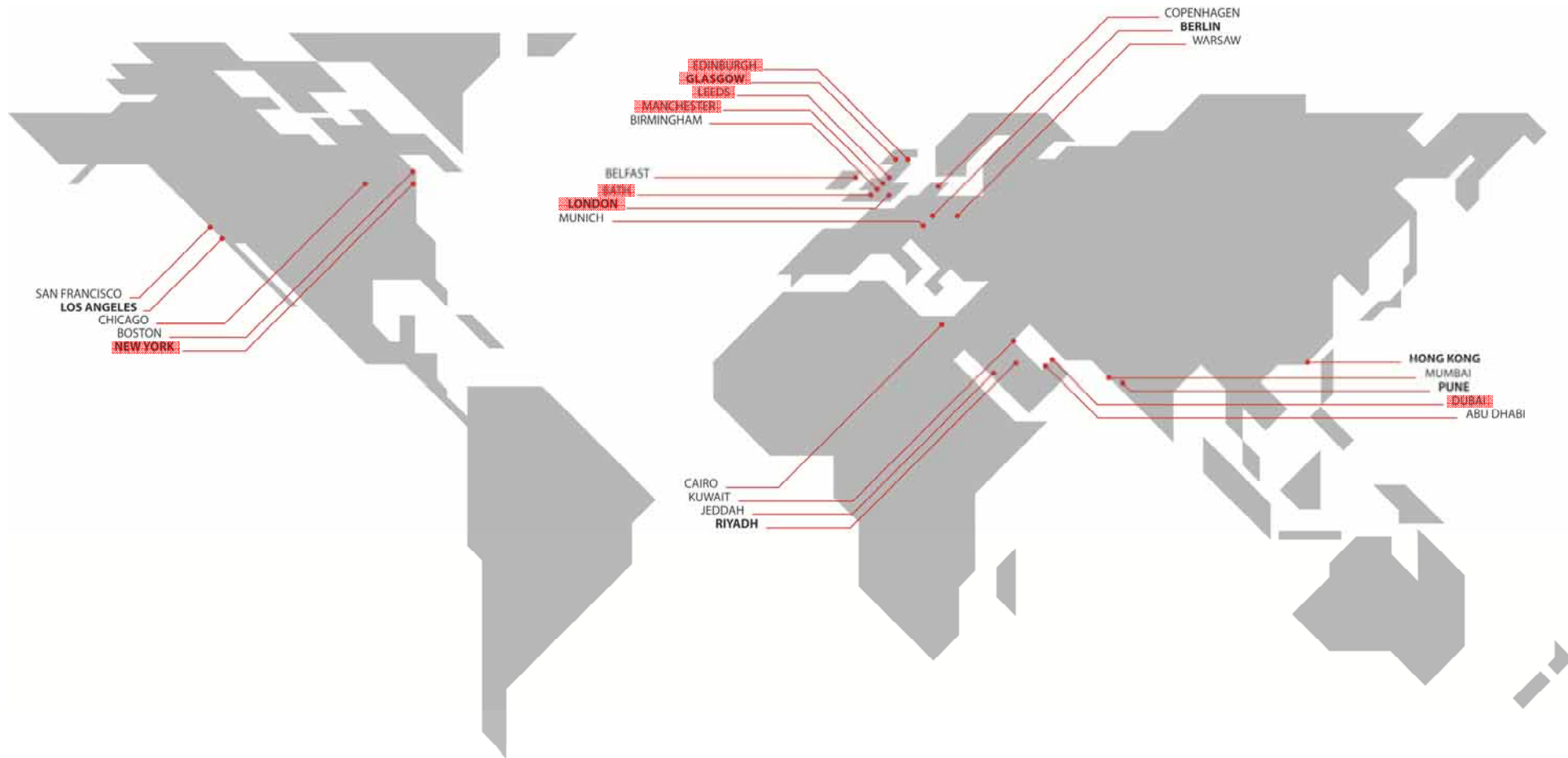
Founded 1976 in Bath by Sir Ted Happold and 6 partners

26 Offices around the world

~1500 members of staff

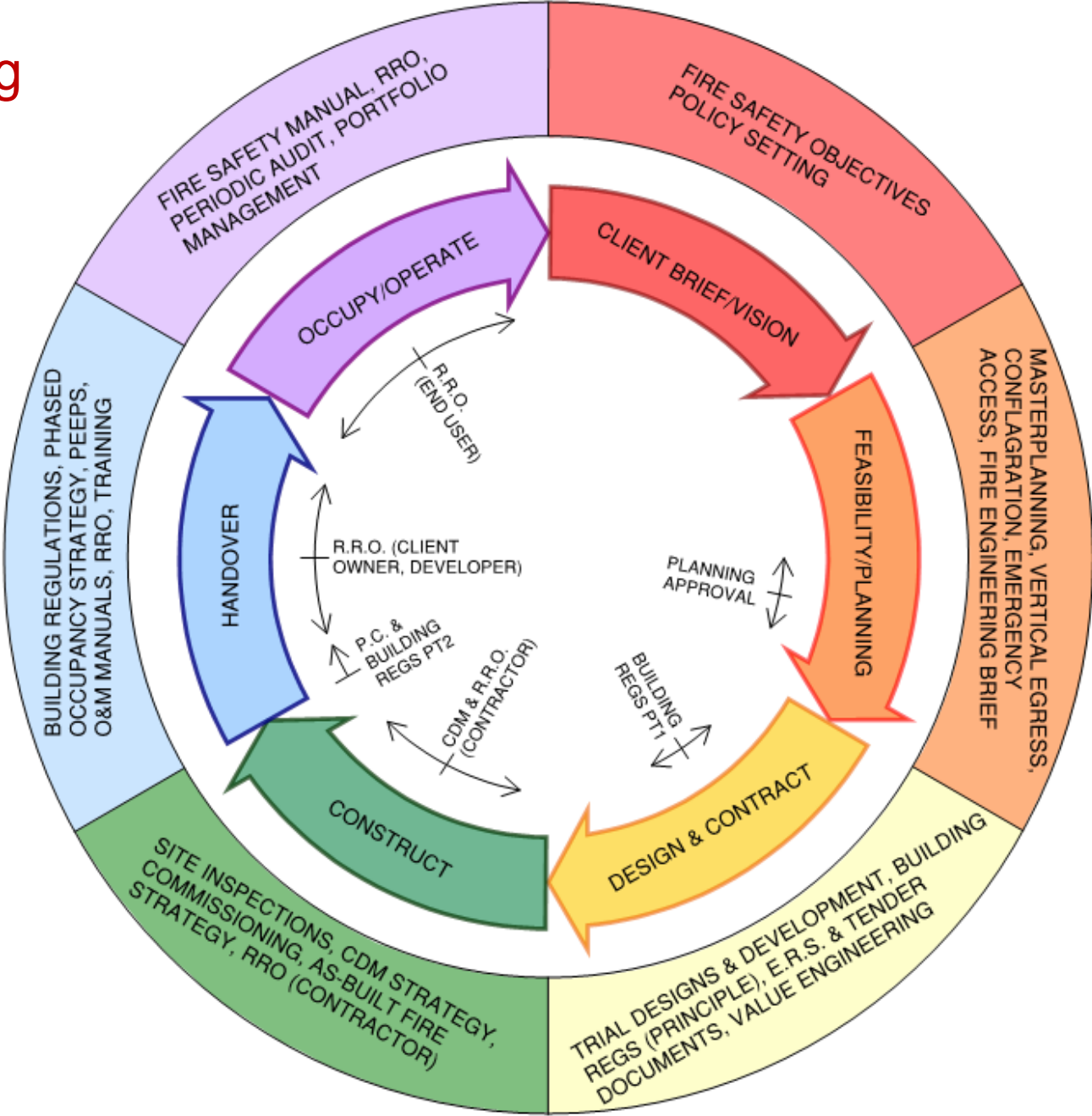
- Structural Engineering
- Building Services
- Facades
- Infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Geotechnics
- Lighting
- Etc.....
- And Fire Engineering



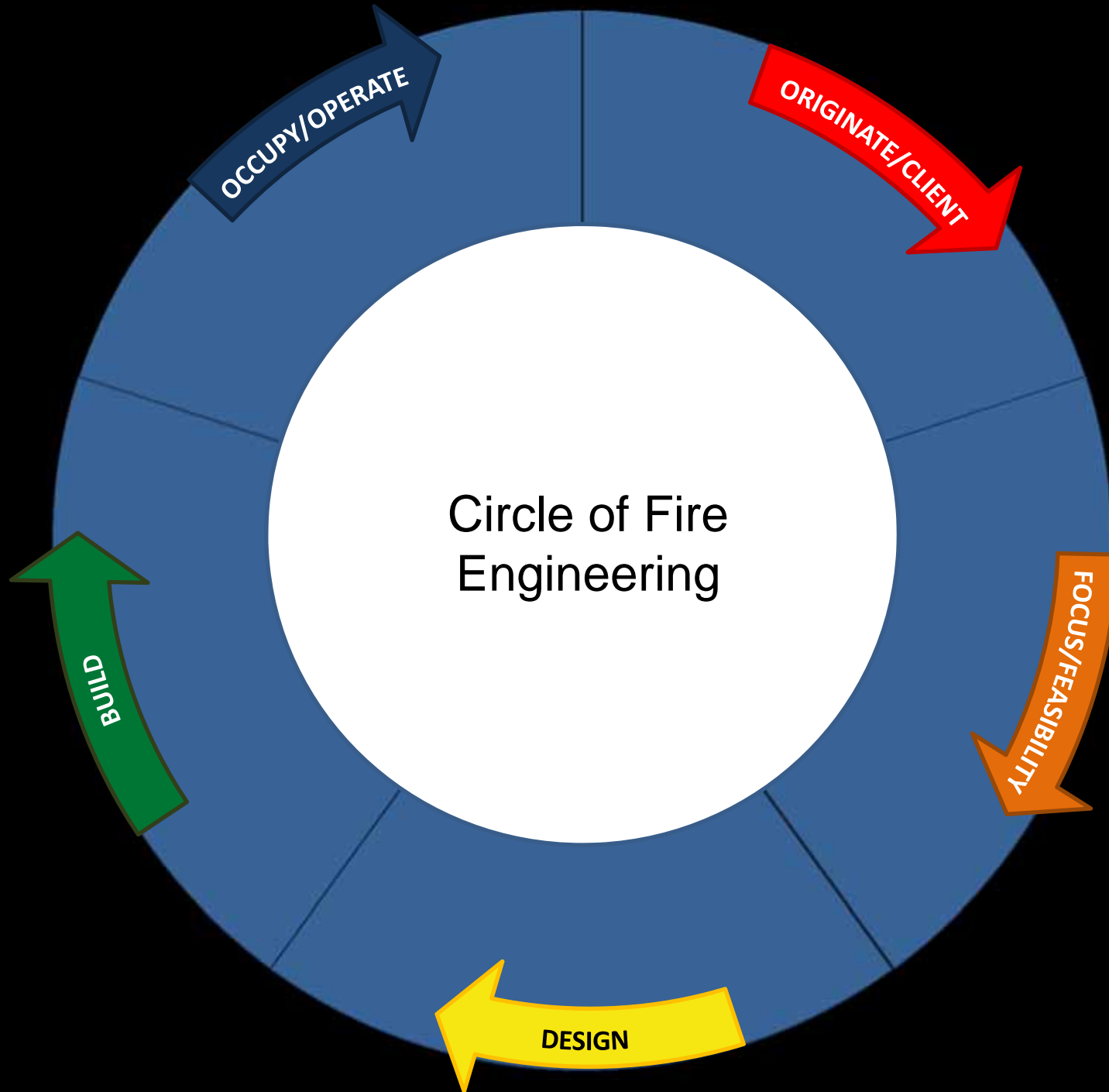


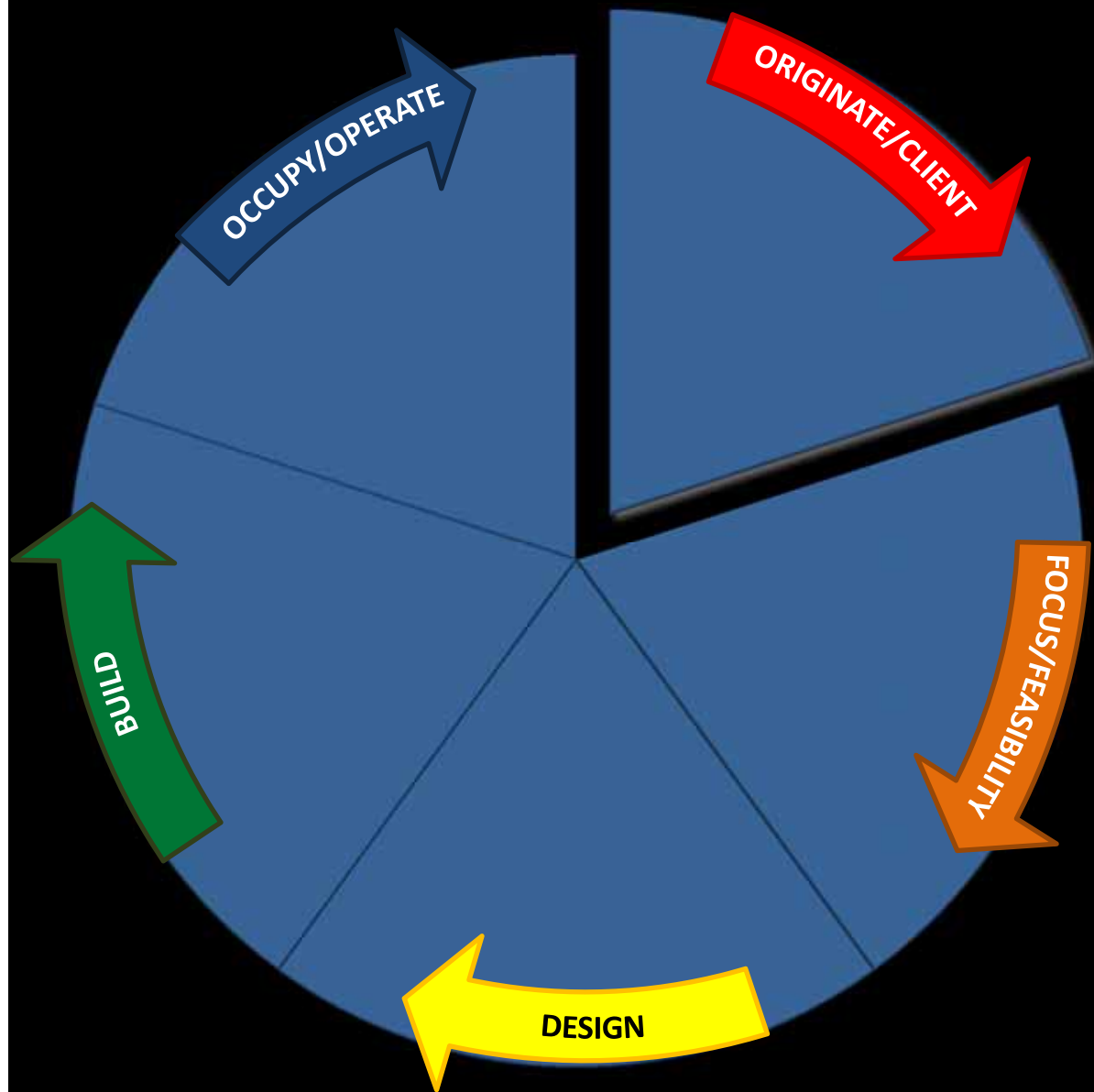
Buro Happold Office Locations
Buro Happold FEDRA Office

Fire Engineering



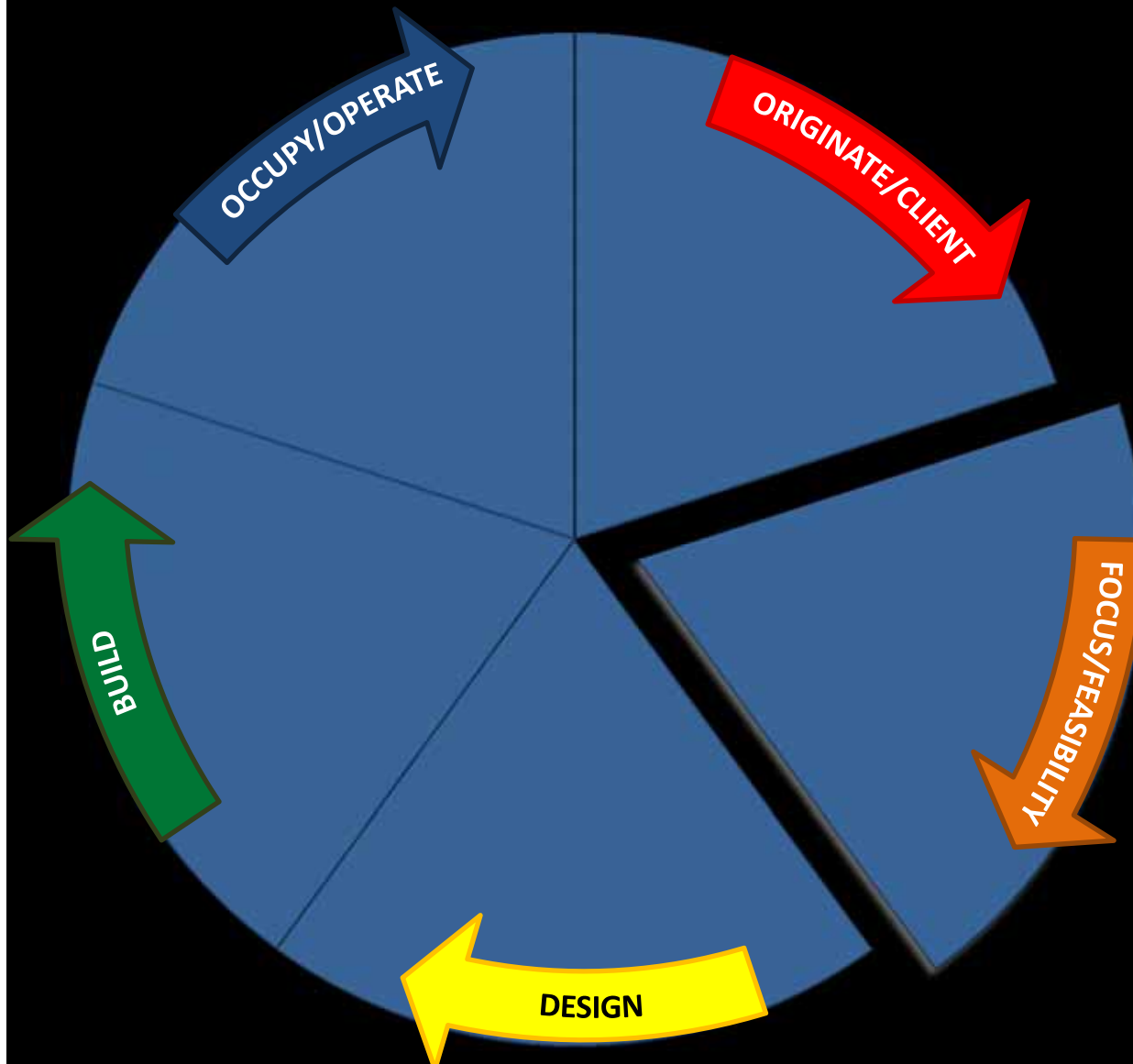
Circle of Fire
Engineering





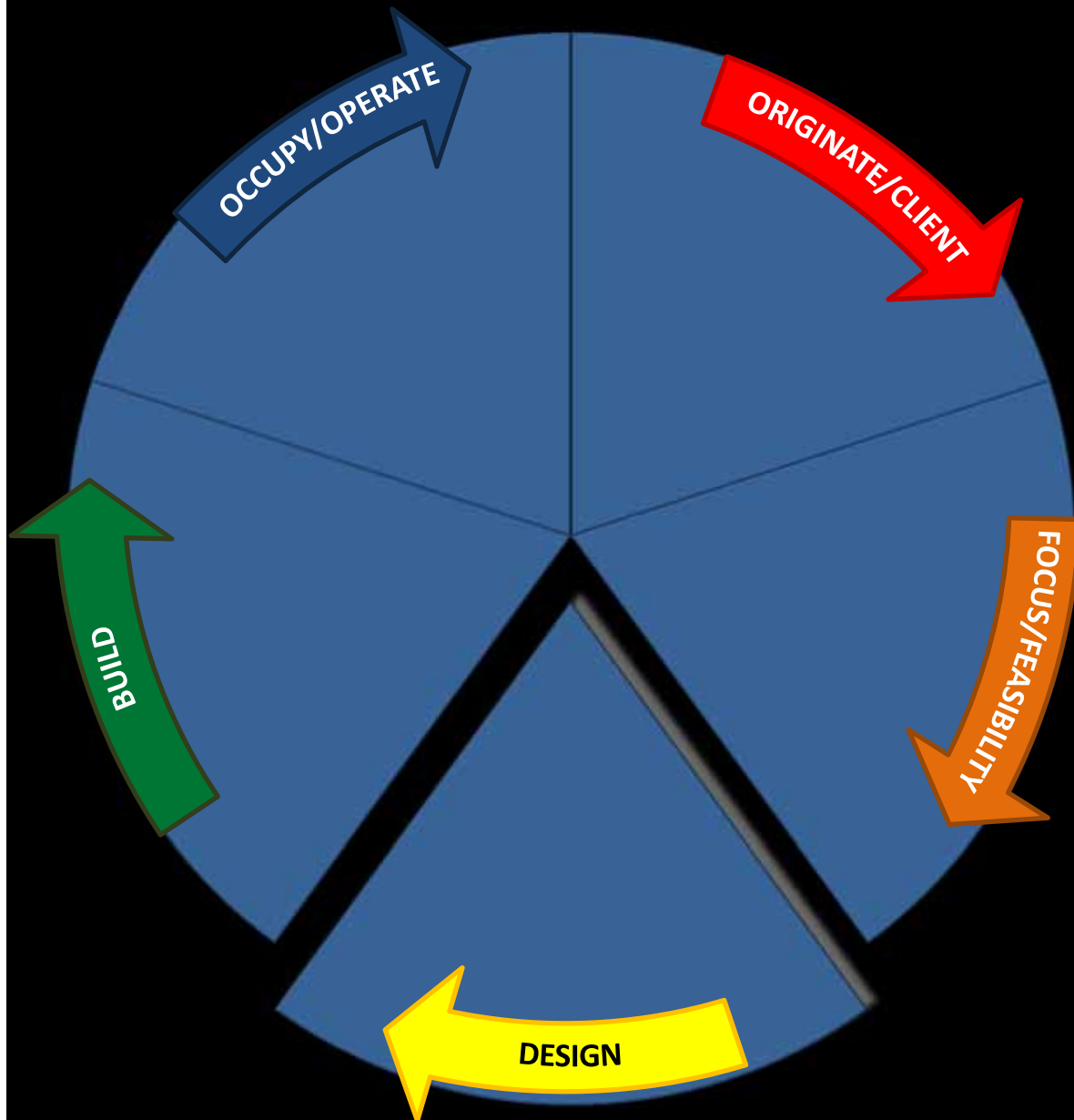
Fire Safety Objectives

- Life-safety
- Property protection – *Museums, galleries*
- Business continuity – *Finance institutes, data centres, manufacturing facilities*
- Security Requirements – *Prisons*
- Educational continuity – *Schools*
- Operational requirements – *Hospitals (surgical theatres)*
- Specific local requirements – *Local AHJ*



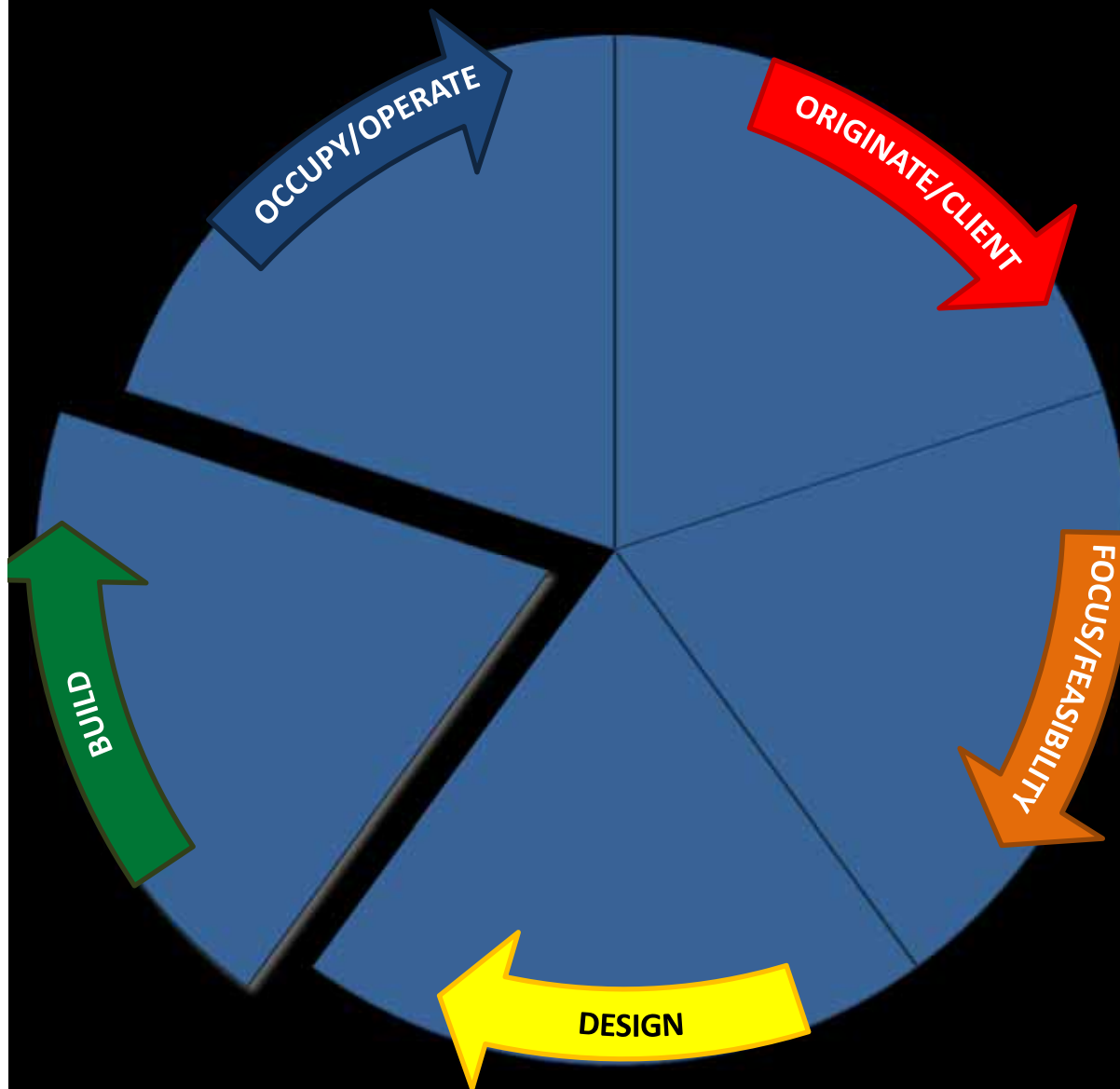
Focus/Feasibility

- Emergency vehicle access around site & to buildings
- Fire protection infrastructure
- Building separation distances
- Required protection of facades
- Building access requirements



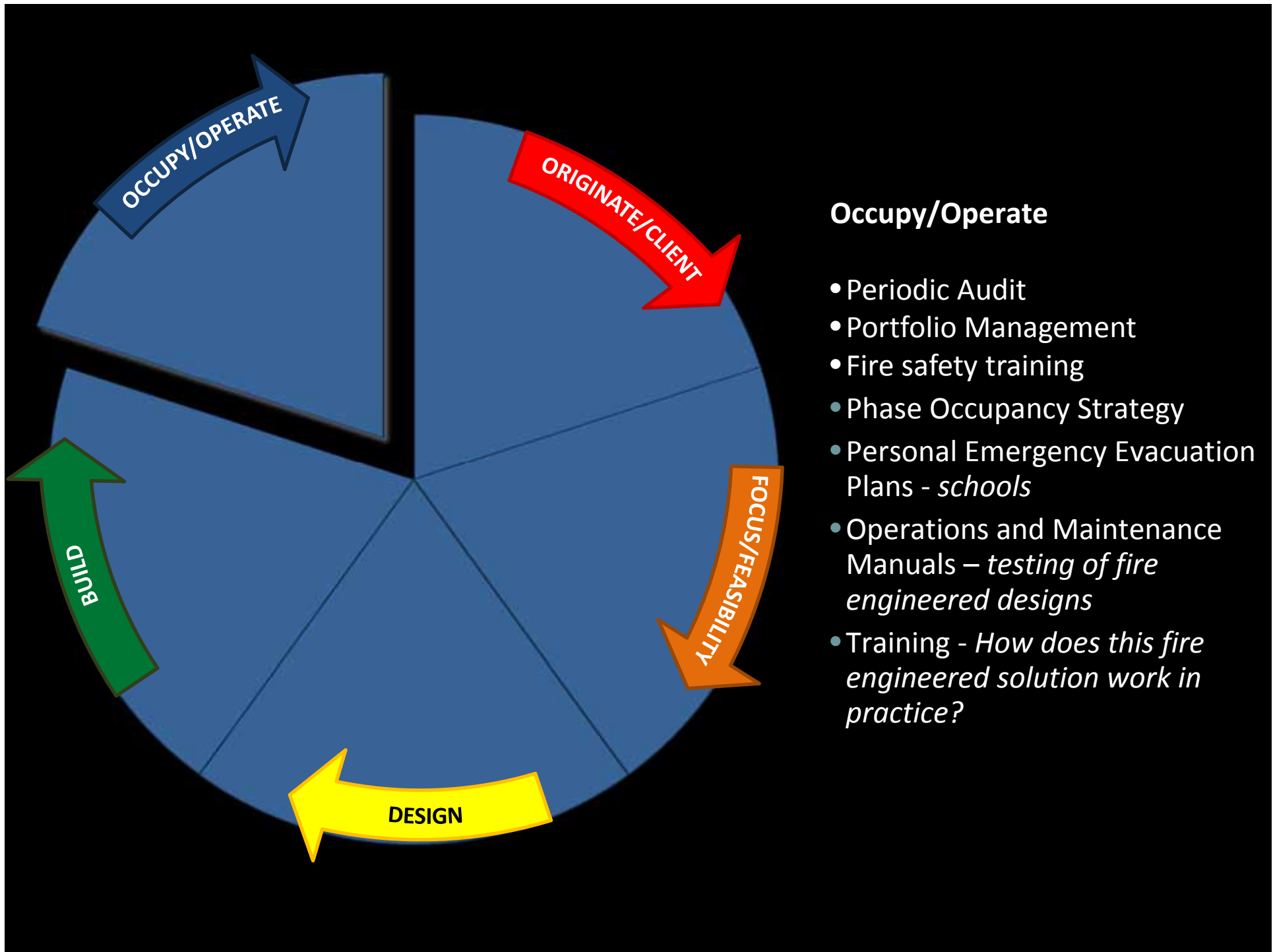
Design Phase

- Identify primary means of egress
- Fire resistance of elements of structure
- Compartment sizes and locations
- List of active systems required
- Outline strategy for response to fire
- Advanced fire modelling
- Marked-up drawings
- Liaison with AHJ
- Contribution to value engineering process



Build/Construction Phase

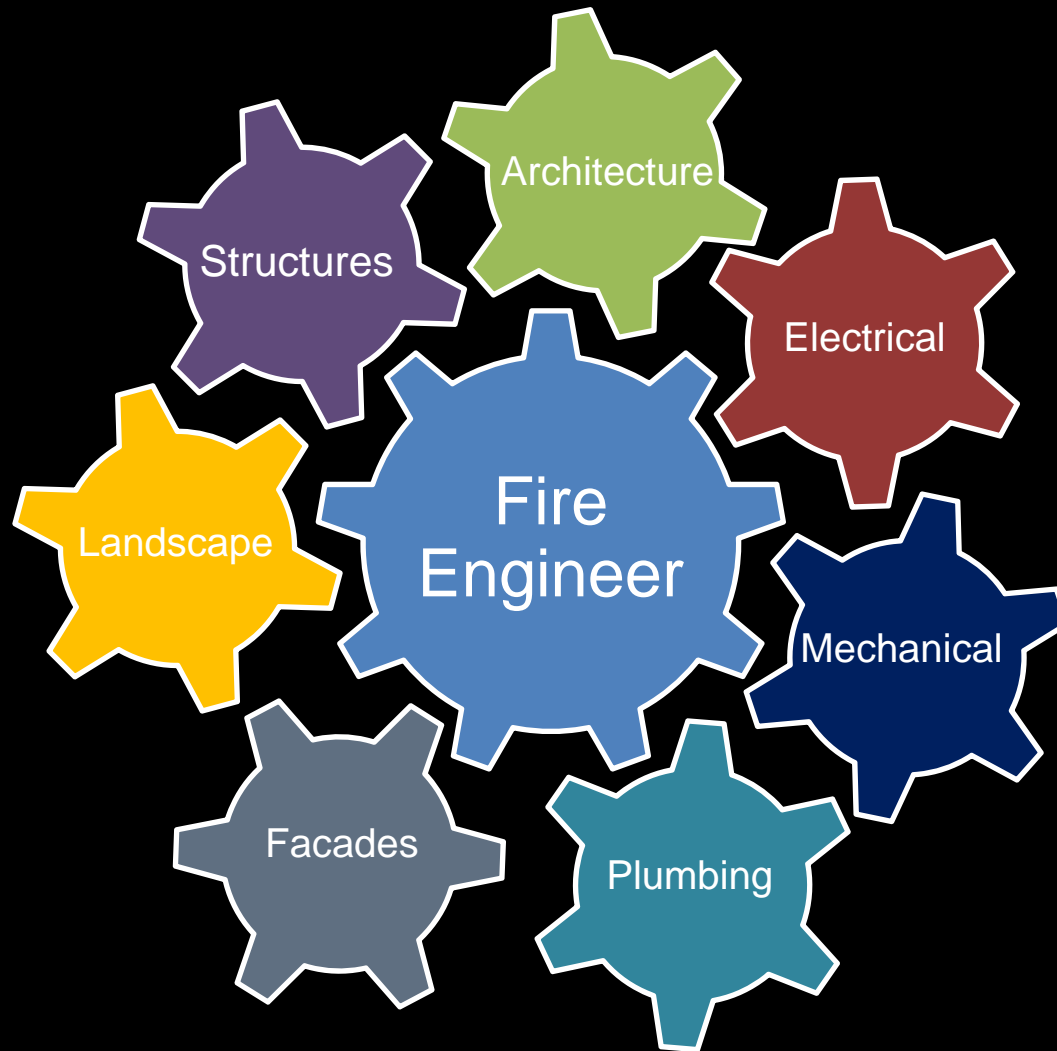
- Site Inspections
- Checks for compliance with fire strategy
- Attendance at commissioning of fire systems – *particularly for fire engineering solutions*
- As-built Fire Strategy
- Trouble-shooting



Occupy/Operate

- Periodic Audit
- Portfolio Management
- Fire safety training
- Phase Occupancy Strategy
- Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans - *schools*
- Operations and Maintenance Manuals – *testing of fire engineered designs*
- Training - *How does this fire engineered solution work in practice?*

'Connection' to Fire Engineer

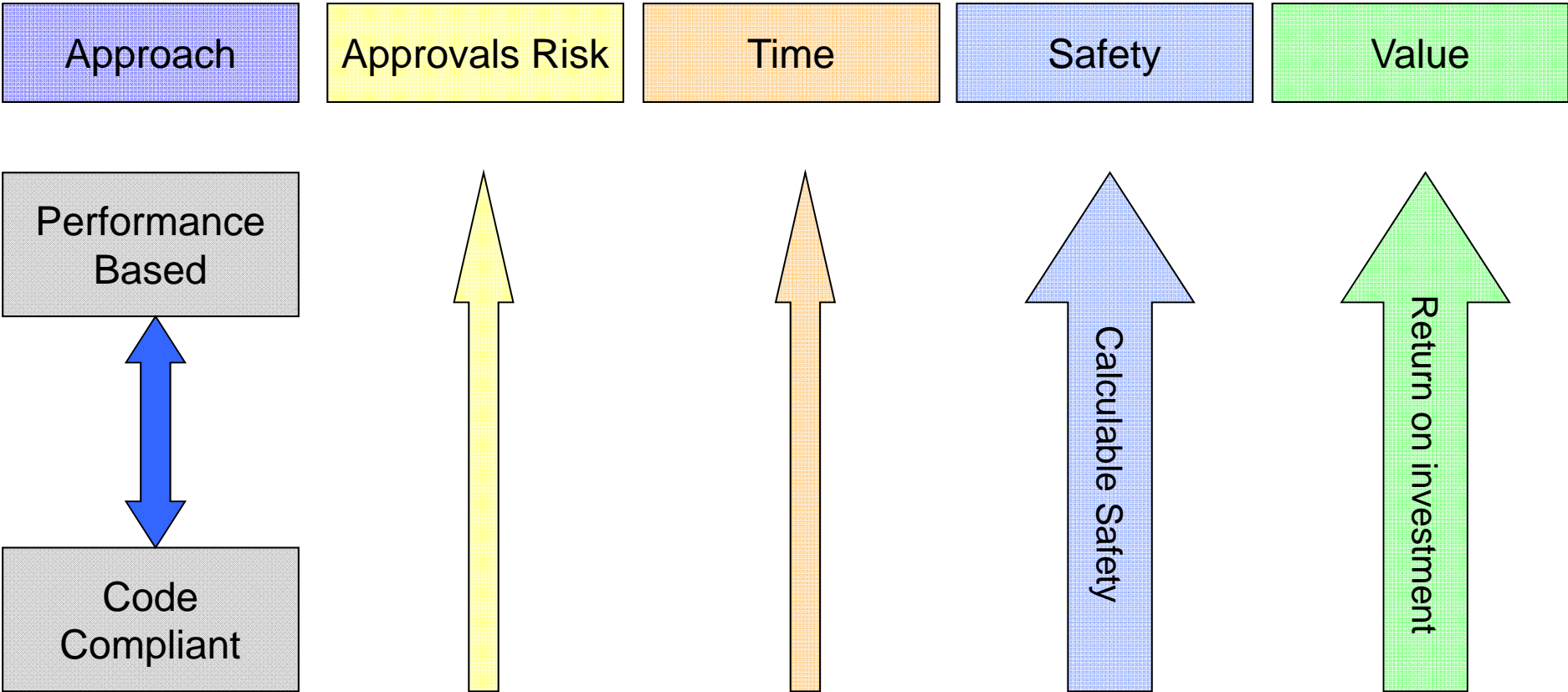


Performance Based Design

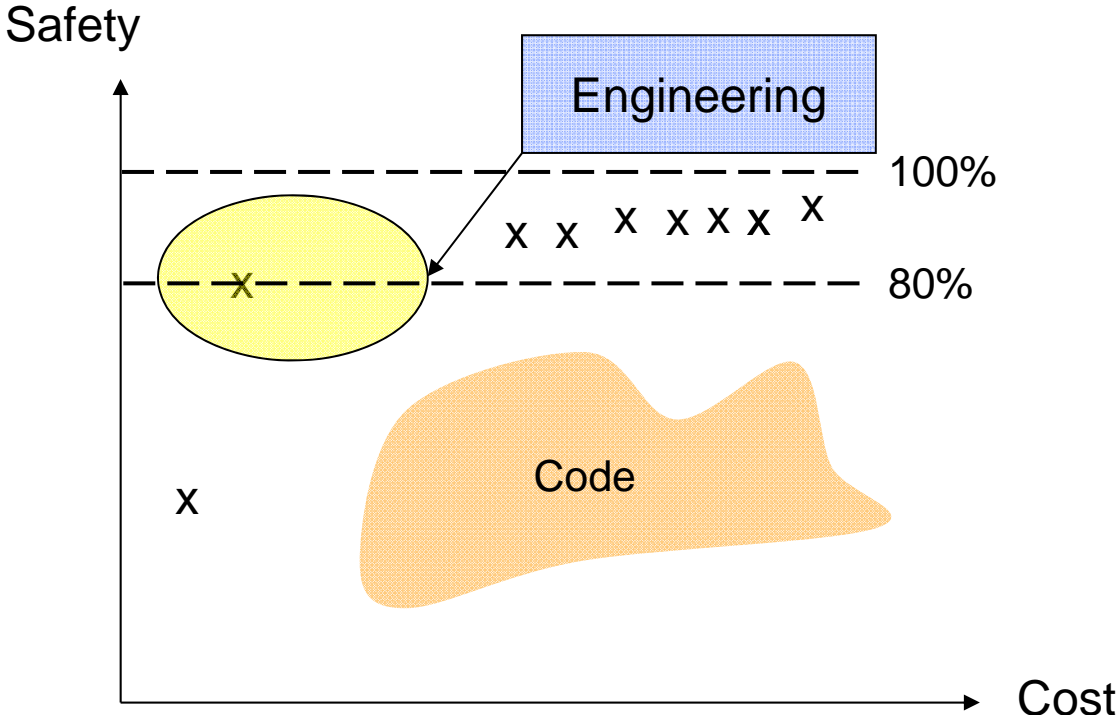
Tailored solutions to solve fire safety issues for which prescriptive solutions don't give satisfying results in the areas of:

- Life safety
- Robustness of Structures
- Architectural Vision
- Sustainability
- Cost

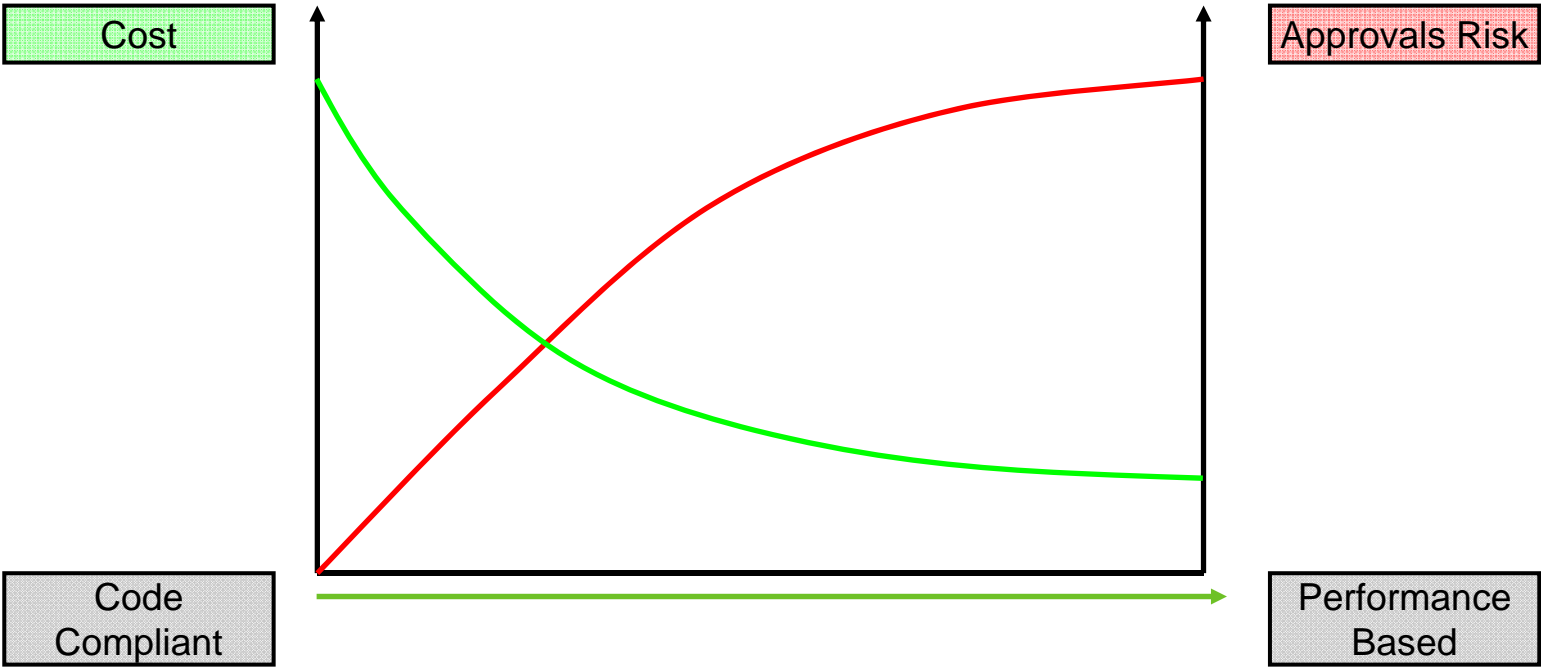
Performance Based Design



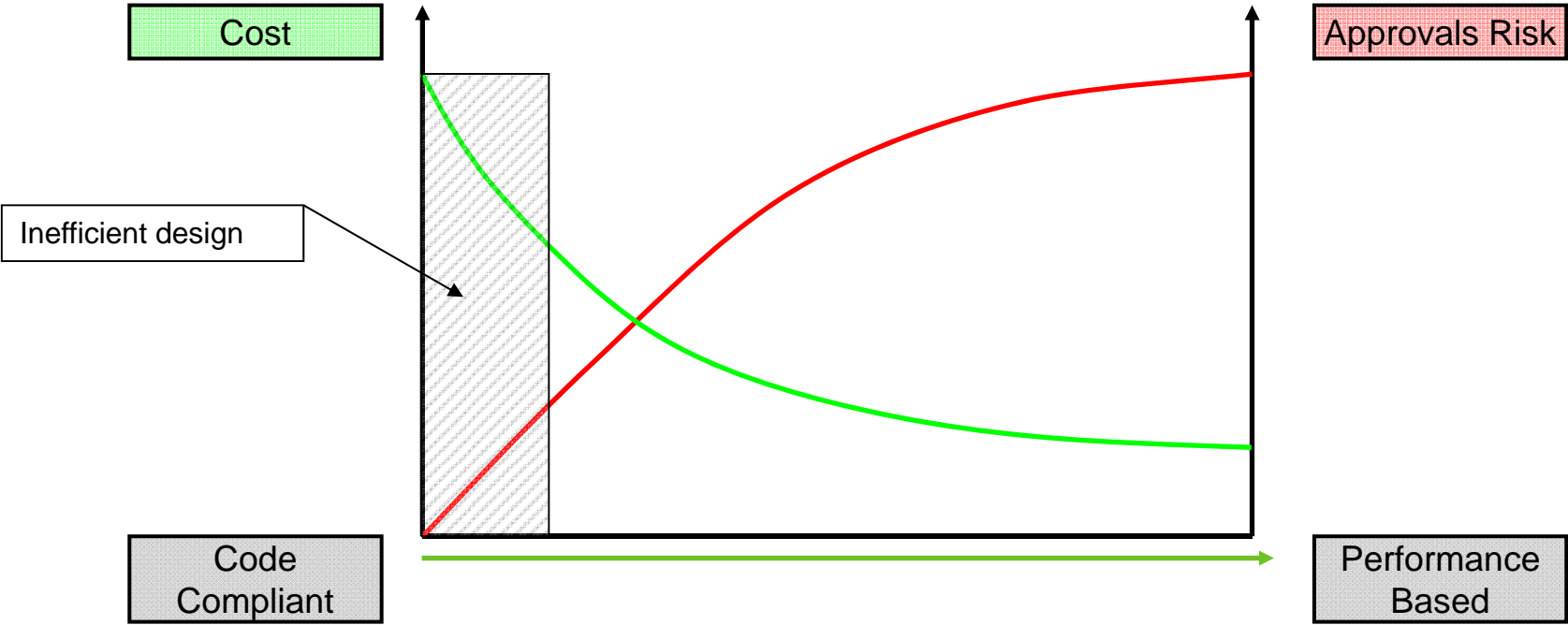
Performance Based Design



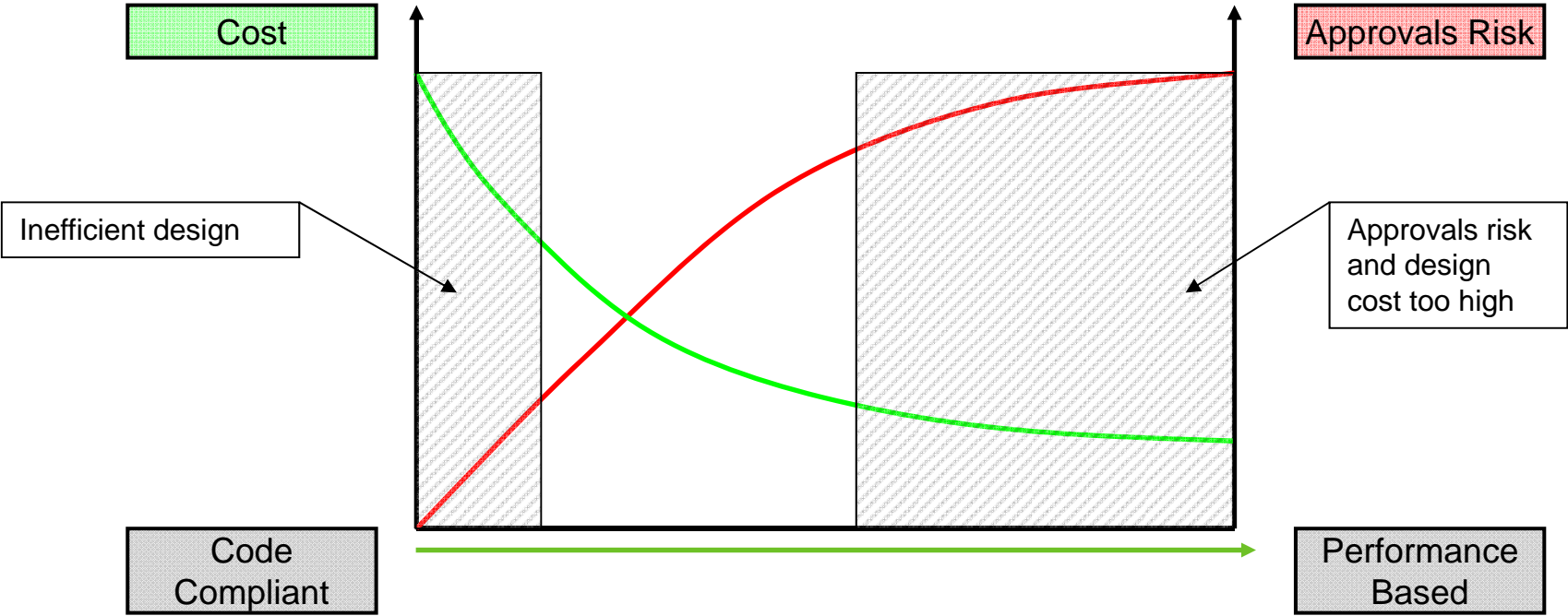
Performance Based Design



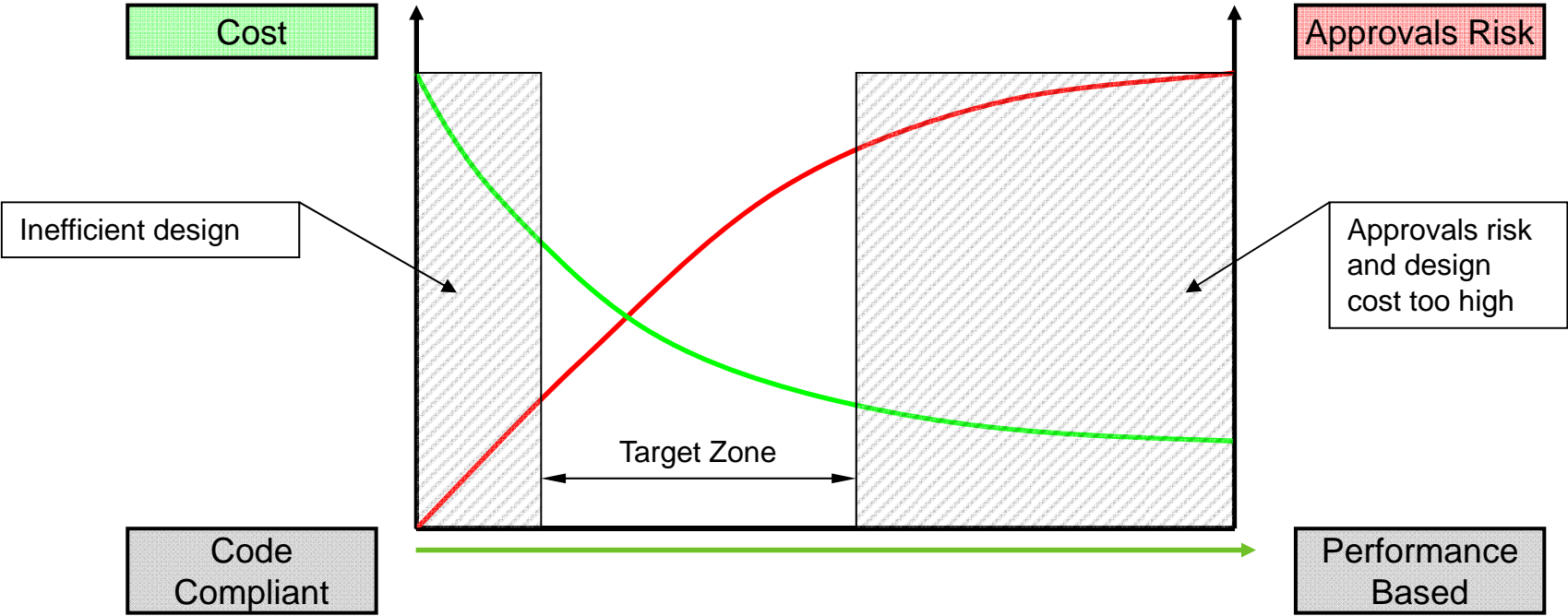
Performance Based Design



Performance Based Design



Performance Based Design



Performance Based Design - Process

1. Conduct cost benefit analysis

Scoping study

Test the market

2. Initial consultation

Consult stakeholder (Client, insurers, approving authority and fire brigade)

Agree acceptance criteria

Agree design fires scenarios

3. Conduct Analysis

Smoke and fire behaviour

People movement

Structural response

Performance Based Design - Process

- 4. Prepare a detailed report**
- 5. Gain building control approval**
- 6. Construction drawings**
- 7. Site inspection**

Fire Safety Objectives

Life Safety of people in the building

Protection of other property

Facilitate fire fighting

Property Protection

- Buildings
- Contents

Business / Operational Continuity

Protection of Brand / Image



Acceptance criteria

For structure:

- Stability of structure
- Containment of fire

For escape:

- Visibility
- Toxicity
- Temperature
- Air velocity and pressures

For fire fighting:

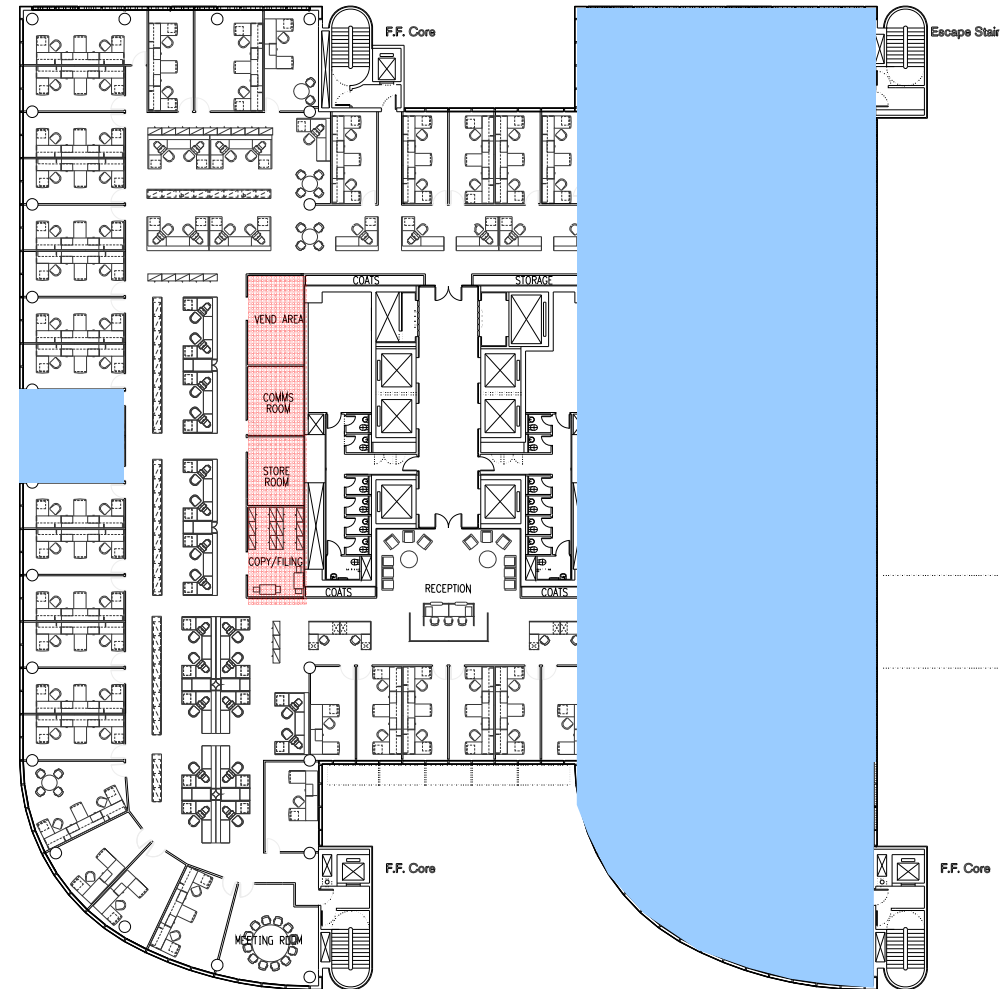
- Access
- Fire fighting systems



Determining the Design Fire Scenarios

Perform a Qualitative Risk and Hazard assessment

- Find a number of worst case design fire scenarios
- Also consider low possibility but high consequence event



Determine the Design Fire

Isolated Fires

- Develop in large open spaces or outside
- Fuel controlled



Compartment Fires

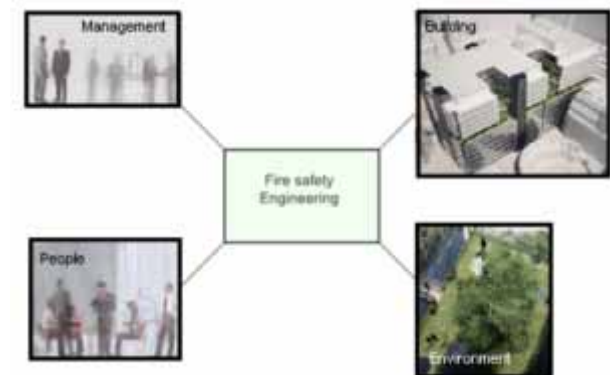
- Heat is conserved by surrounding structure
- Much higher temperatures than isolated fires
- Ventilation controlled



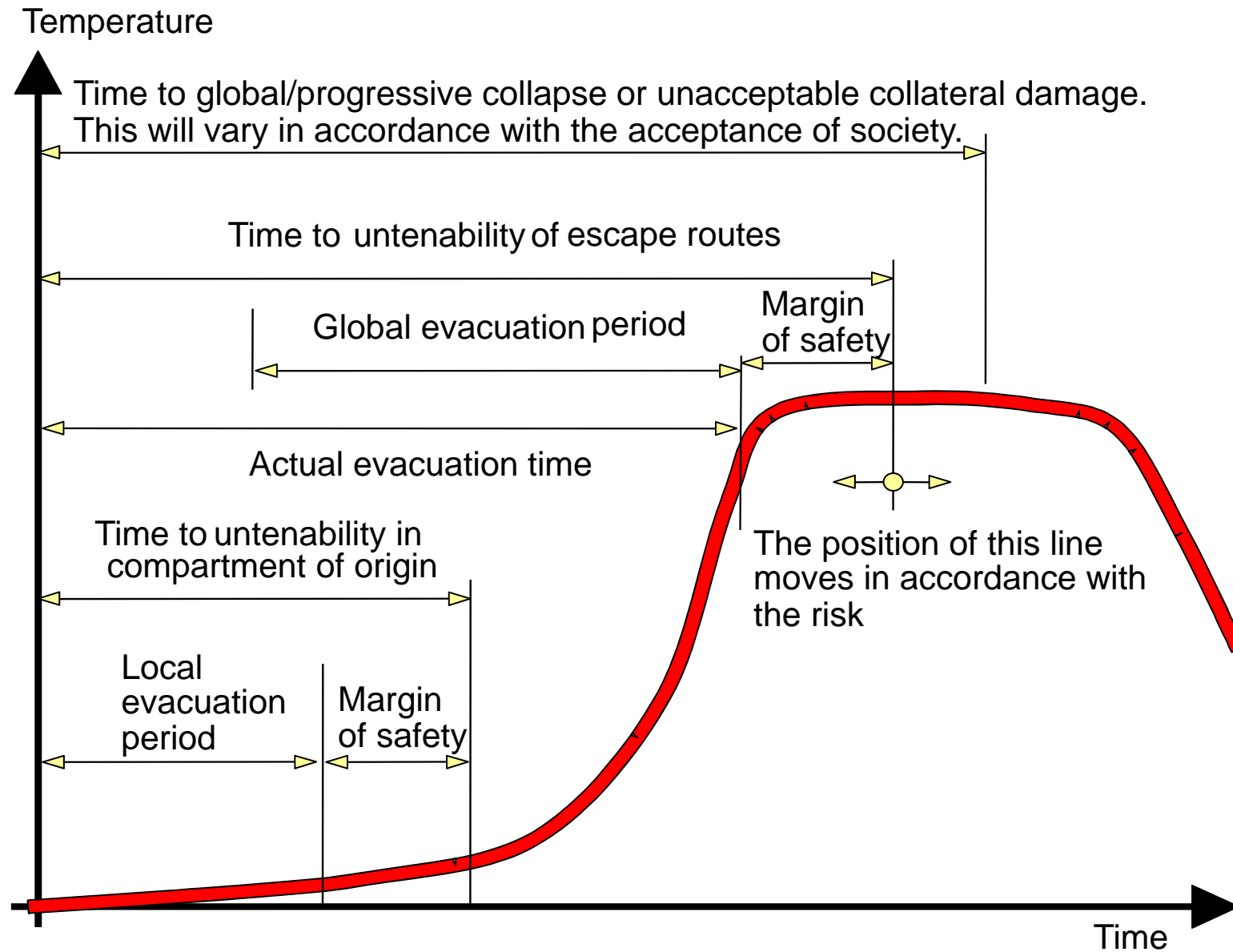
Agree with Stakeholders - Fire Engineering Brief (FEB)

Why?

- Performance based designs introduce risk
- Way to consult stakeholders early
- Aims to establish platform of principles for fire engineering to work from

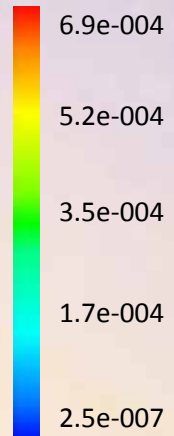


Time as Measure – ASET vs RSET



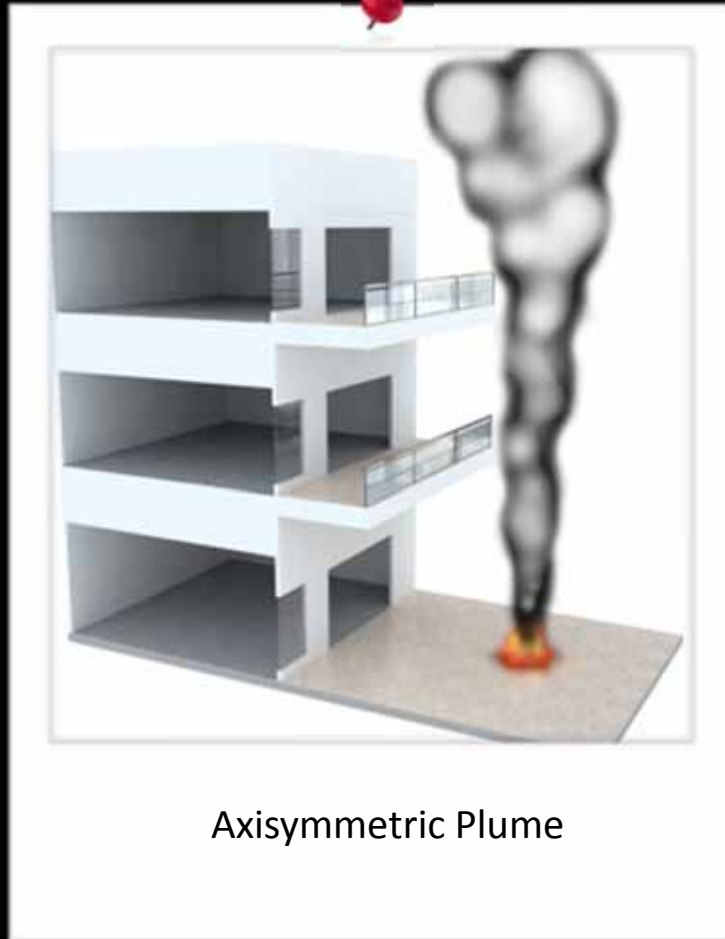
Fire & Smoke Modeling

soot



Fire & Smoke Modeling

Hand Calculations



Axisymmetric Plume

Axisymmetric Plume

$$z_l = 0.533Q_c^{\frac{2}{5}}$$

$$\text{when } z > z_l, m = (0.022Q_c^{\frac{1}{3}}z^{\frac{5}{3}}) + 0.0042Q_c$$

$$T_s = T_o + \frac{K_s Q_c}{m C_p}$$

$$\rho = \frac{144P}{R(T + 460)}$$

$$V = 60 \frac{m}{\rho}$$

$$V_{\max} = 452 \gamma d^{\frac{5}{2}} \left(\frac{T_s - T_o}{T_o} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Fire & Smoke Modeling

Hand Calculations



Balcony Spill Plume

Balcony Spill Plume

$$m = 0.12(QW^2)^{\frac{1}{3}}(z_b + 0.25H)$$

$$\dot{m}_b = 0.31\dot{Q}^{\frac{1}{3}}W^{\frac{1}{5}}(z_b + 0.098W^{\frac{7}{15}} - 15)$$

$$m = \left[0.077(A_w H_w^{\frac{1}{2}})^{\frac{1}{3}}(z_w + a)^{\frac{5}{3}} \right] + 0.18A_w H_w^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

$$T_s = T_o + \frac{K_s Q_c}{m C_p}$$

$$\rho = \frac{144P}{R(T + 460)}$$

$$V = 60 \frac{m}{\rho}$$

$$V_{\max} = 452\gamma d^{\frac{5}{2}} \left(\frac{T_s - T_o}{T_o} \right)^{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Fire & Smoke Modeling

Hand Calculations



Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

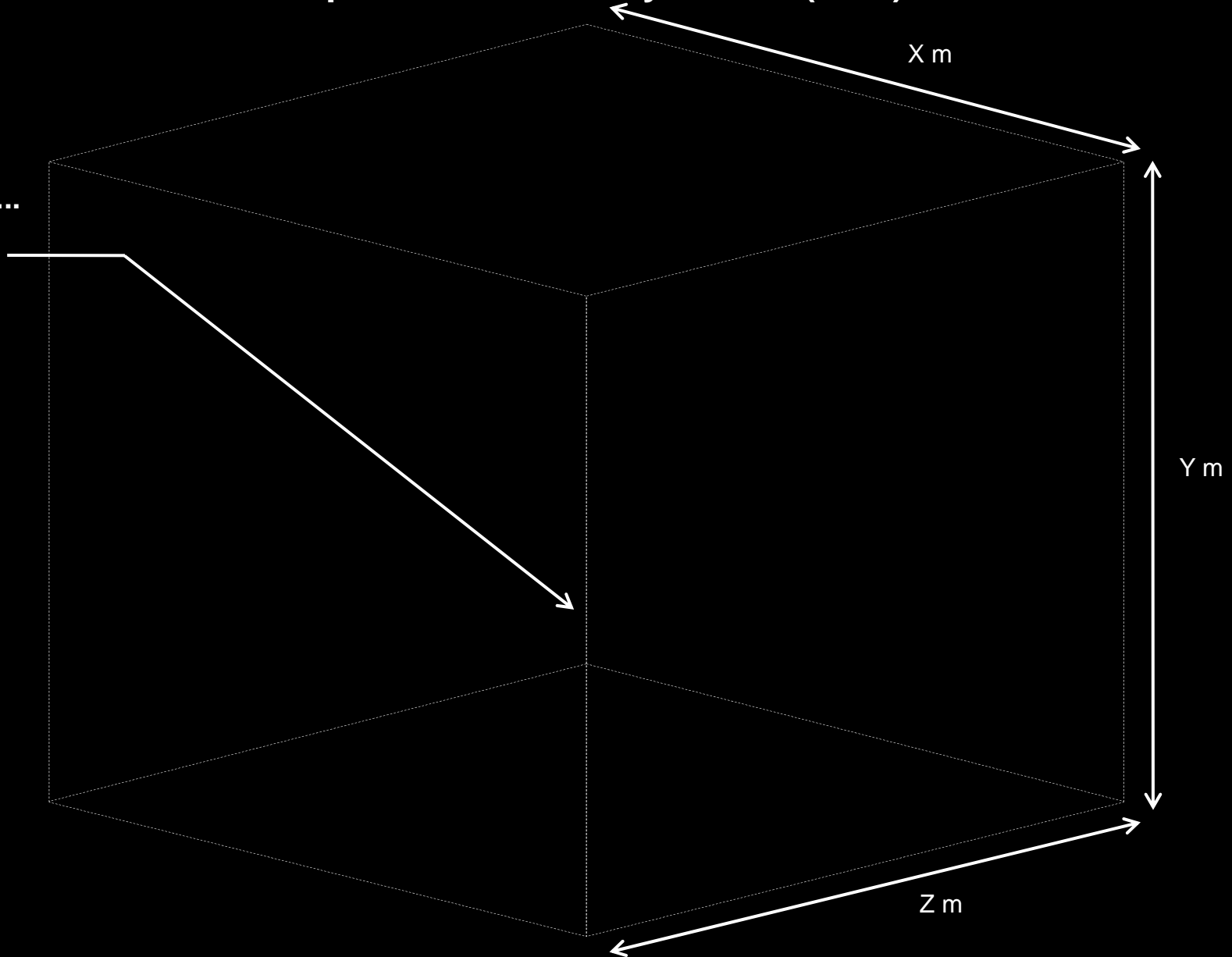


Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

Geometry



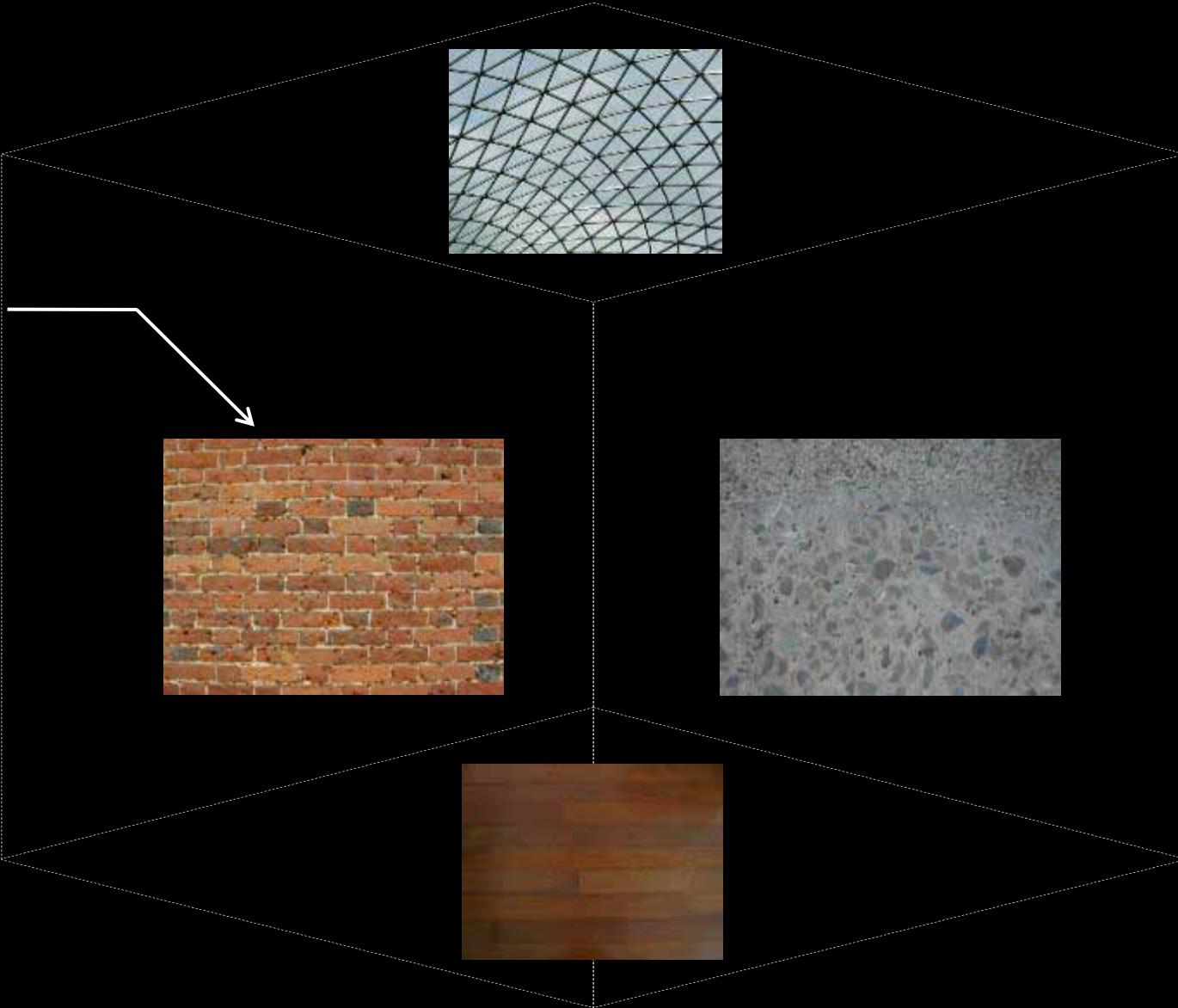
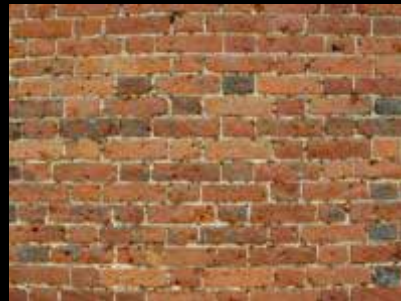
Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

Geometry

Boundary Materials



Fire & Smoke Modeling

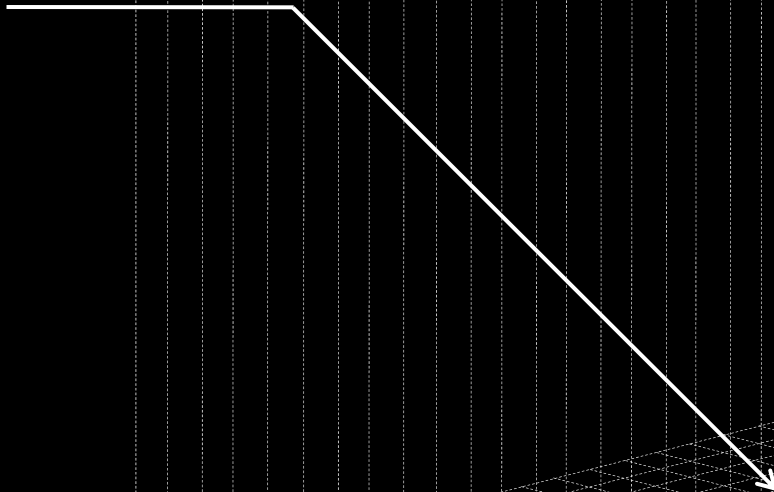
Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

Geometry

Boundary materials

Mesh



Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

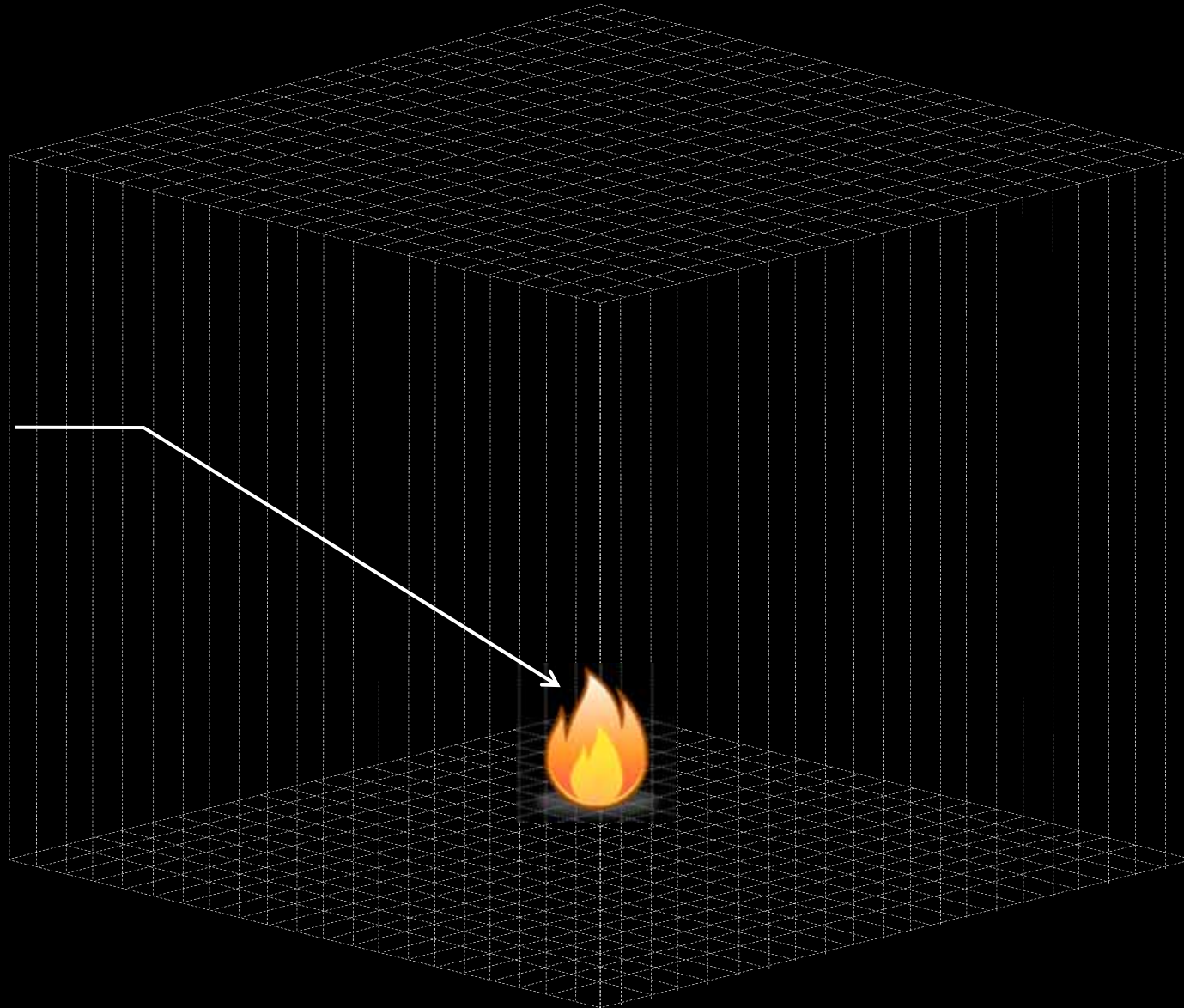
Define.....

Geometry

Boundary materials

Mesh

Fire Location/size



Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

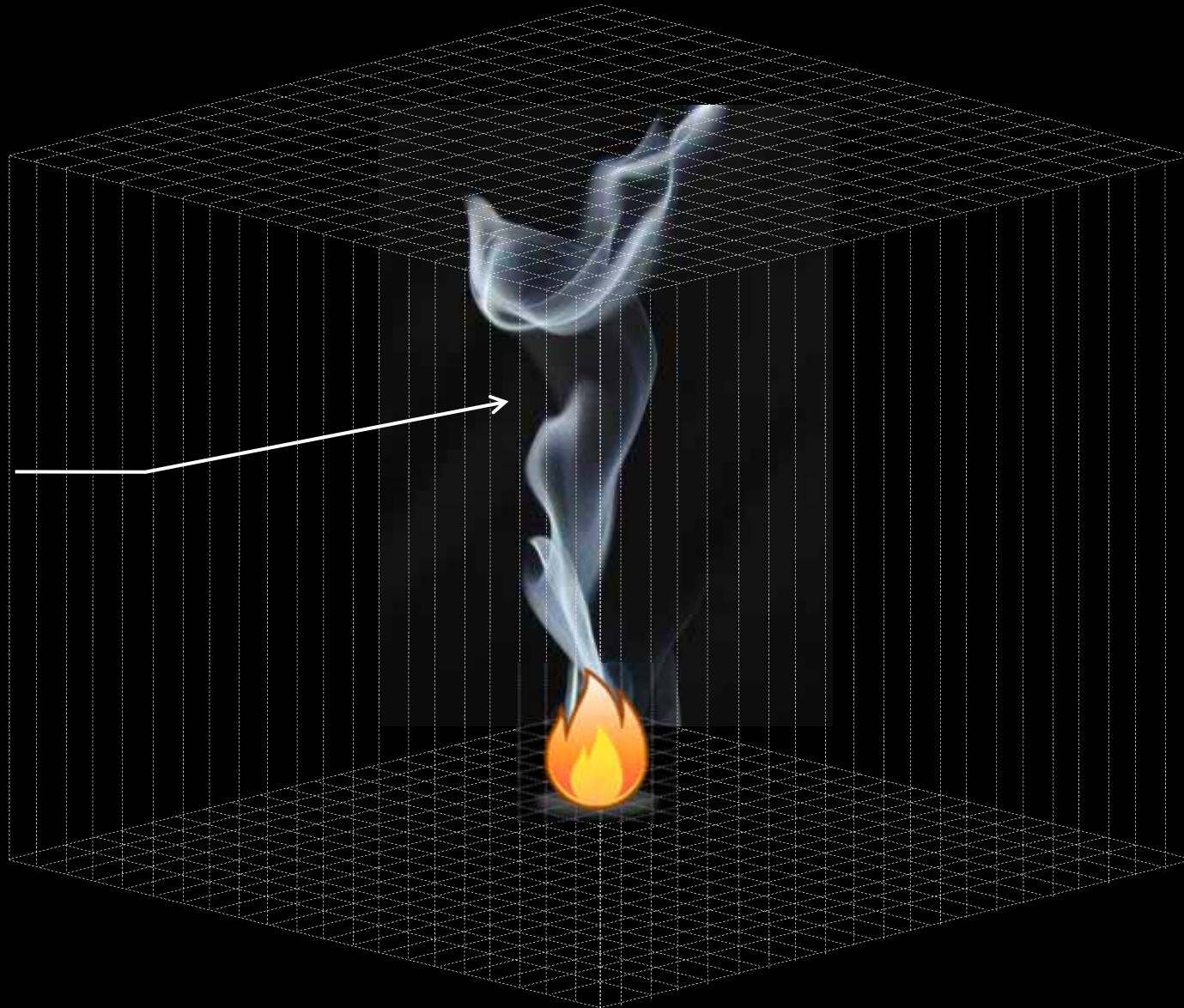
Geometry

Boundary materials

Mesh

Fire Location/size

Soot Yield



Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

Geometry

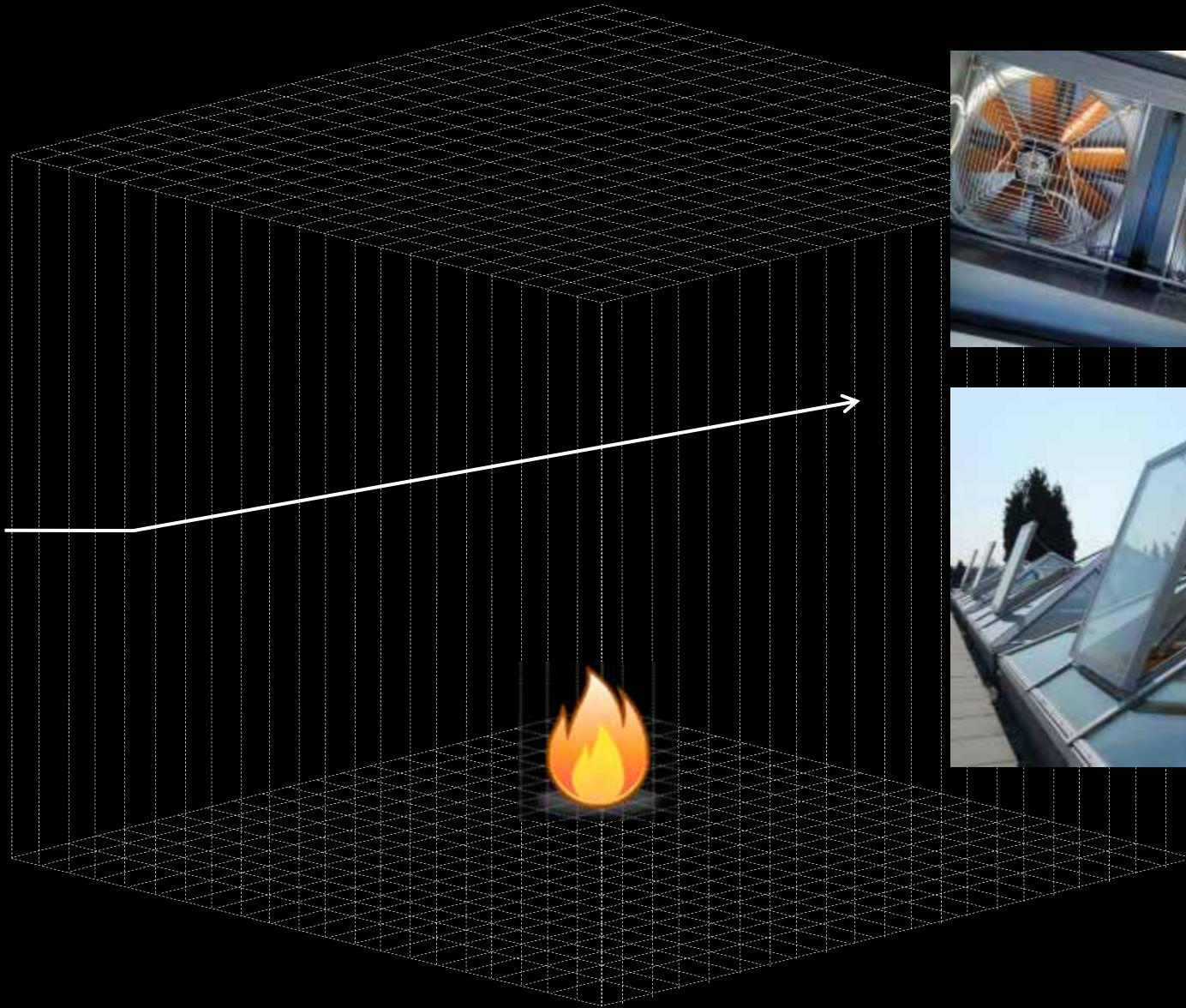
Boundary materials

Mesh

Fire Location/size

Soot Yield

Extract Provisions

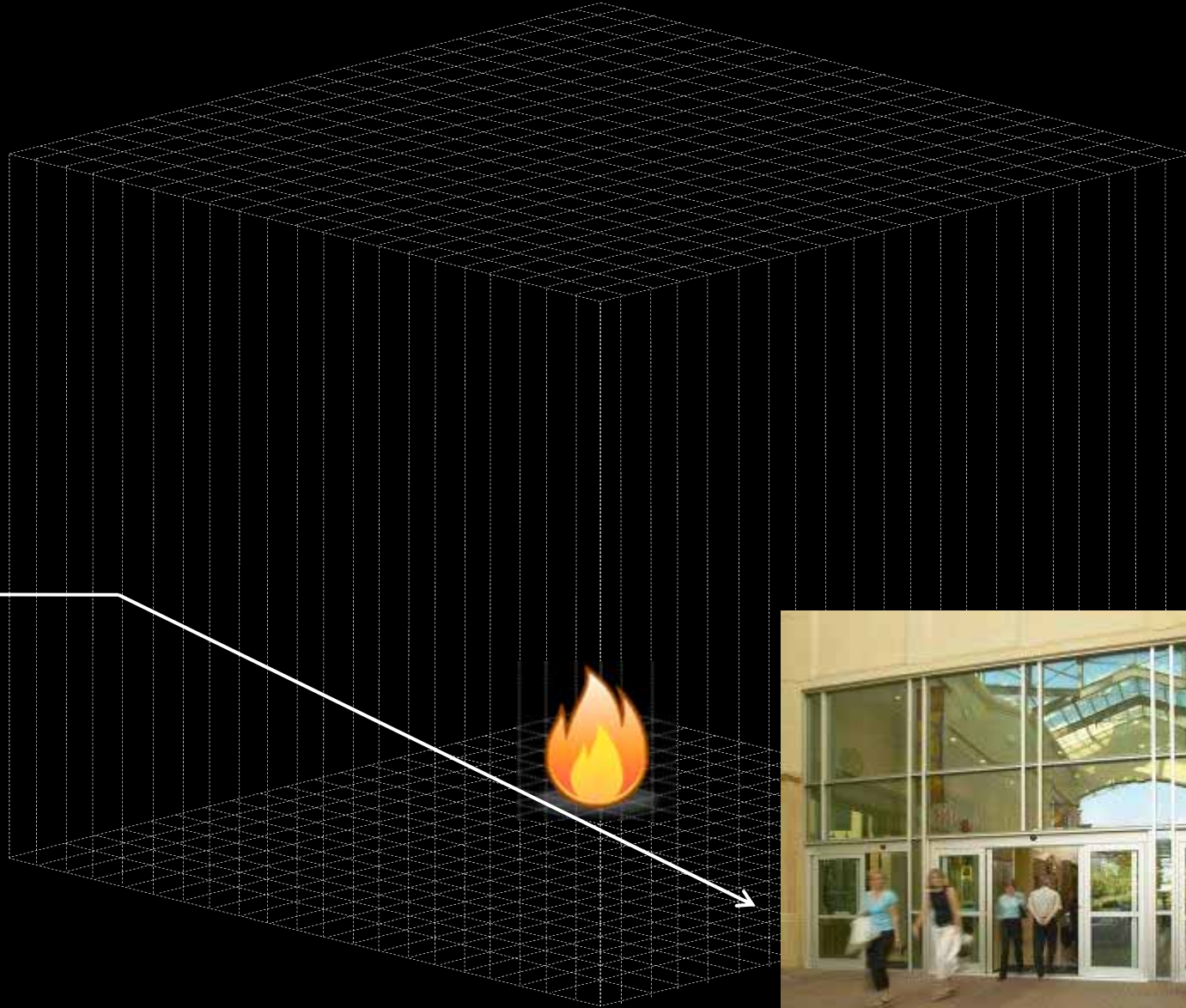


Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

Define.....

- Geometry
- Boundary materials
- Mesh
- Fire Location/size
- Soot Yield
- Extract Provisions
- Replacement Air



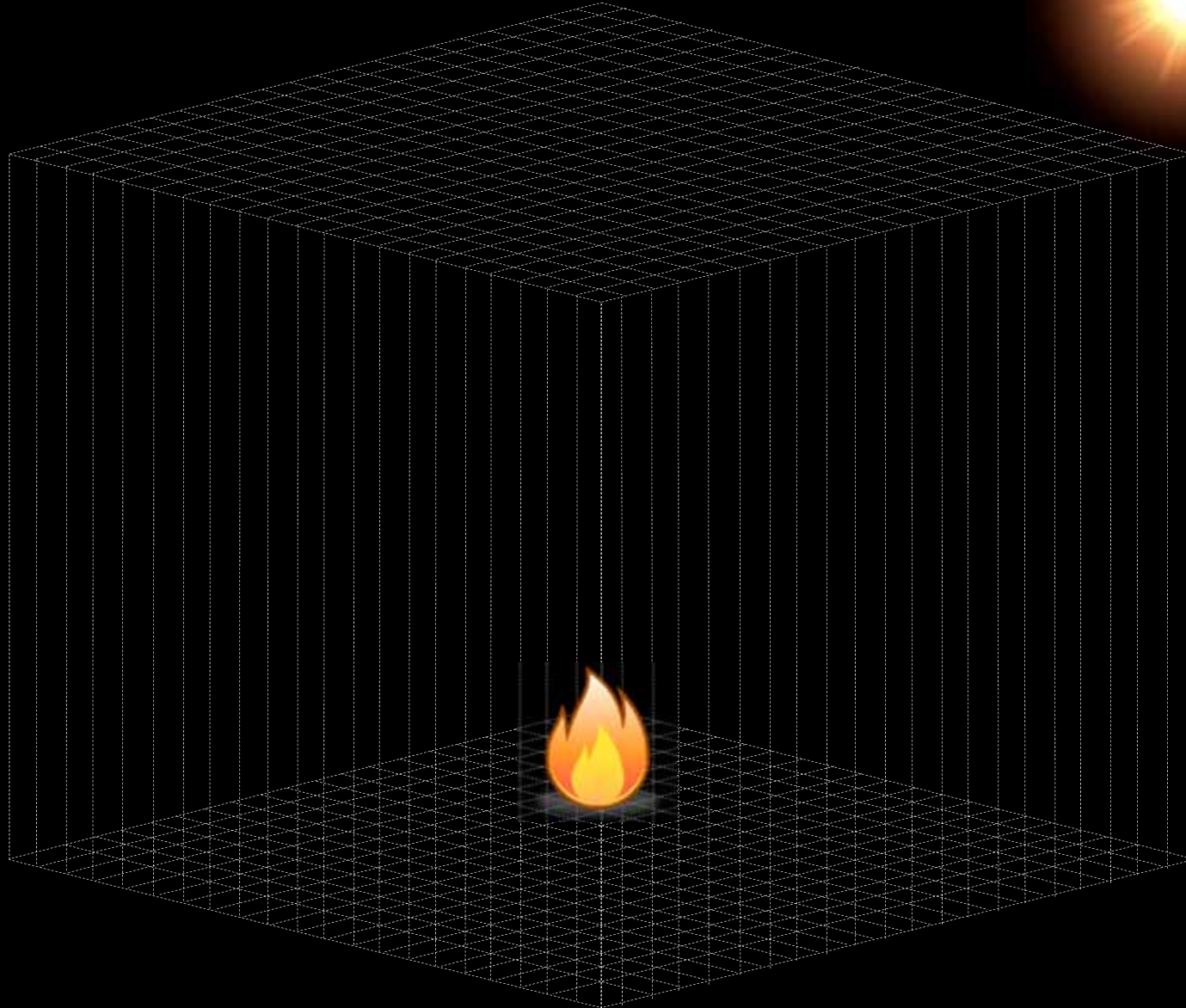
Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)



Define.....

- Geometry
- Boundary materials
- Mesh
- Fire Location/size
- Soot Yield
- Extract Provisions
- Replacement Air
- External Temp

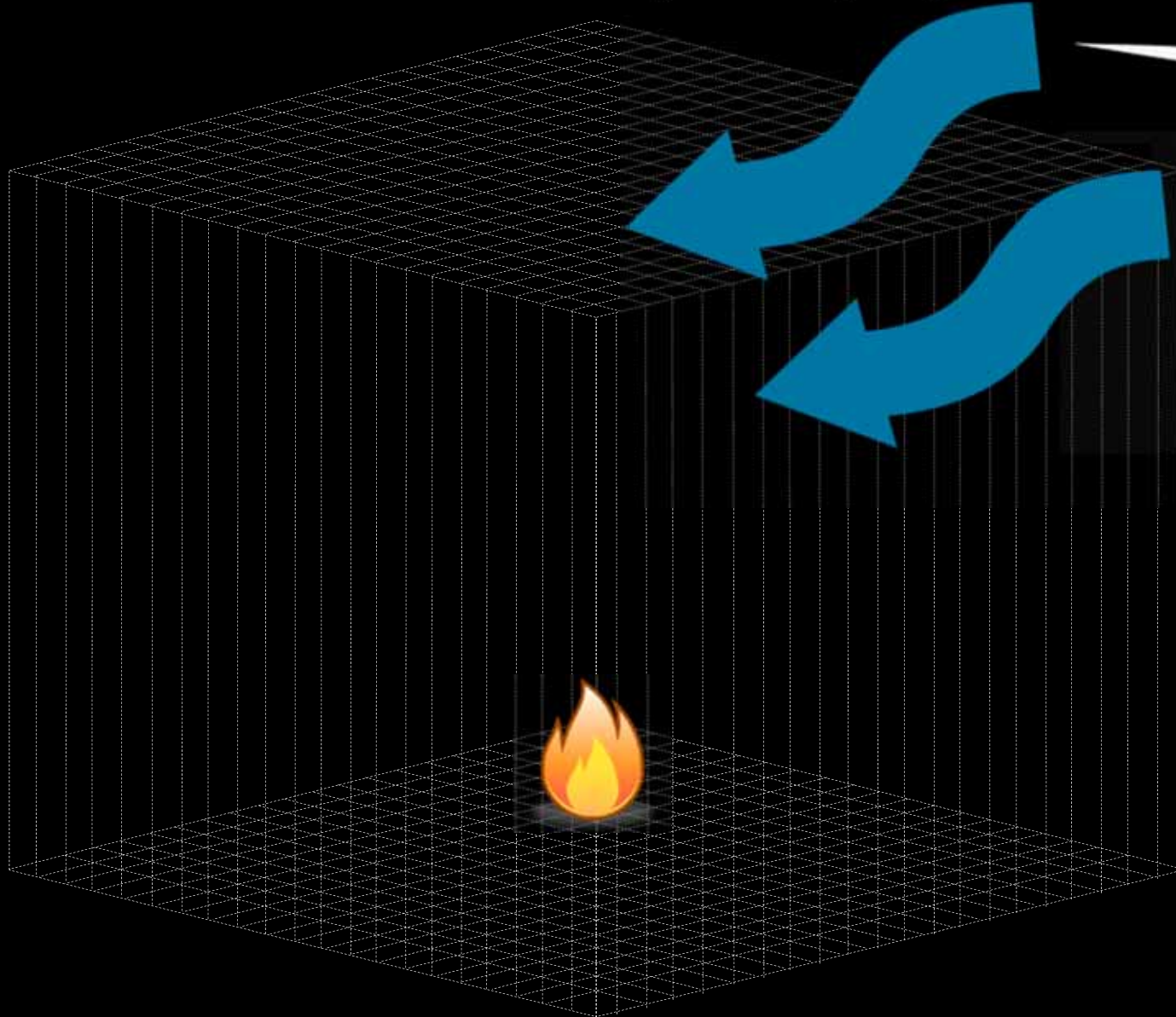


Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)

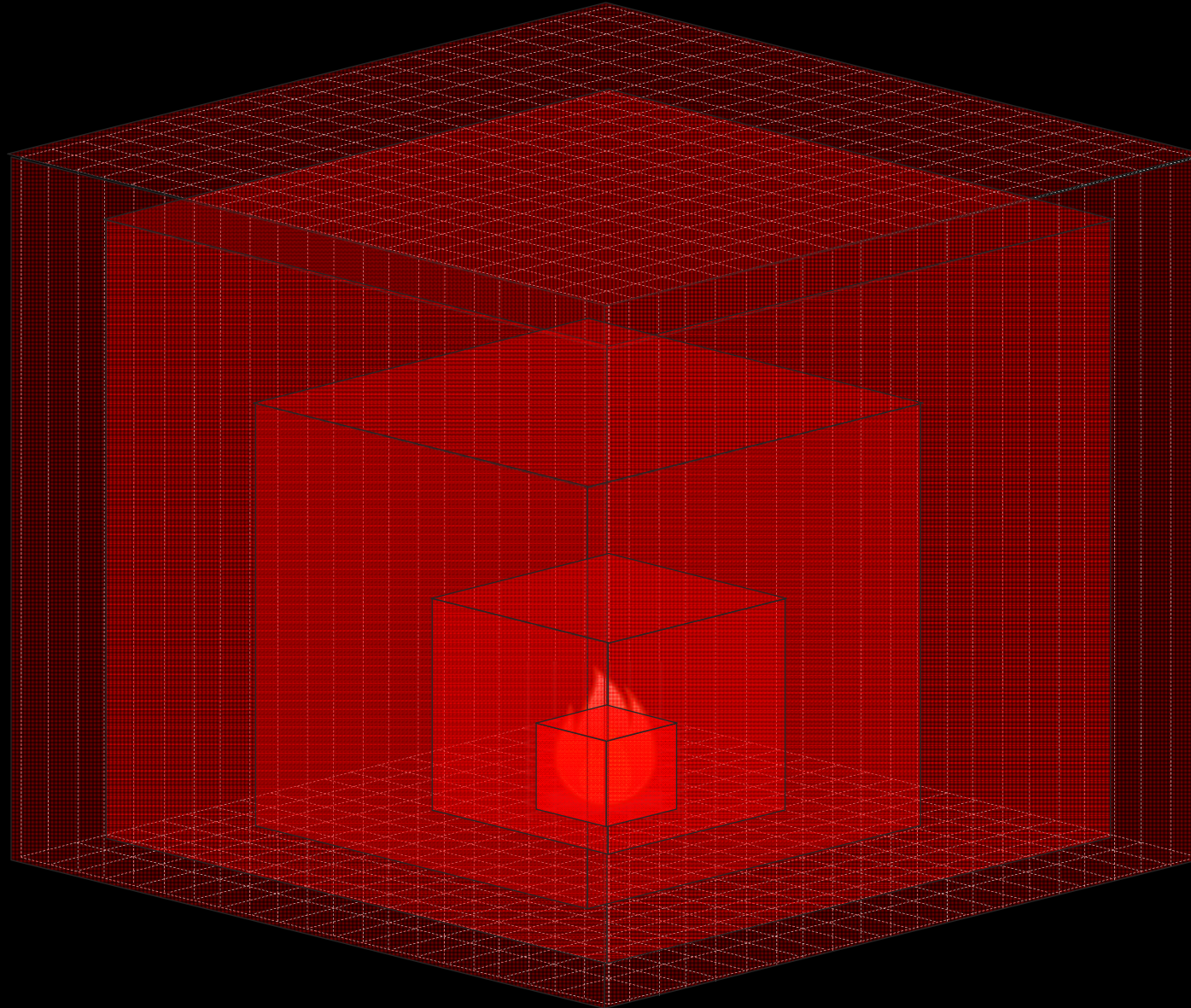
Define.....

- Geometry
- Boundary materials
- Mesh
- Fire Location/size
- Soot Yield
- Extract Provisions
- Replacement Air
- External Temp
- Wind Conditions

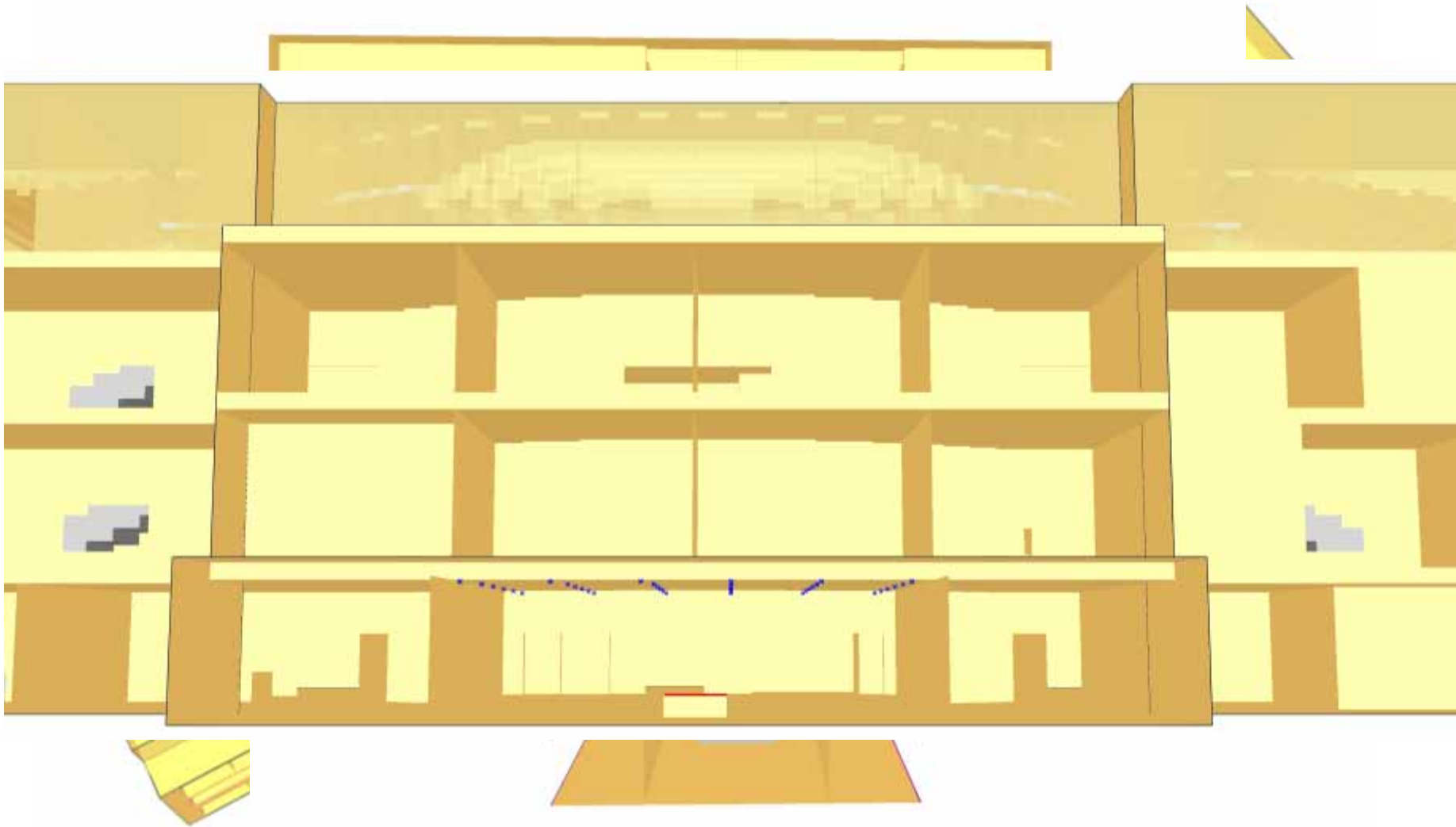


Fire & Smoke Modeling

Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD)



CFD Assessment – Example of a Shopping Mall

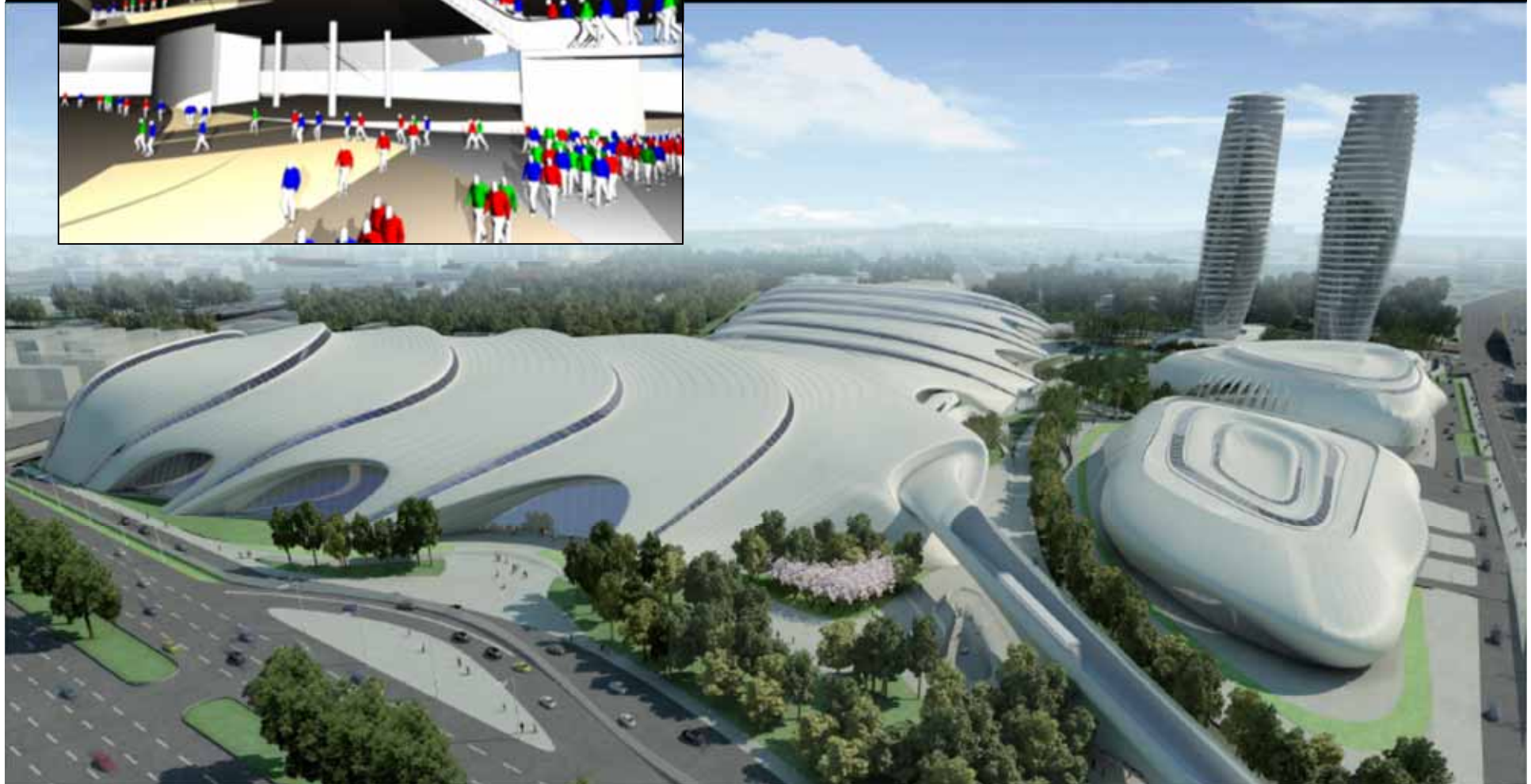
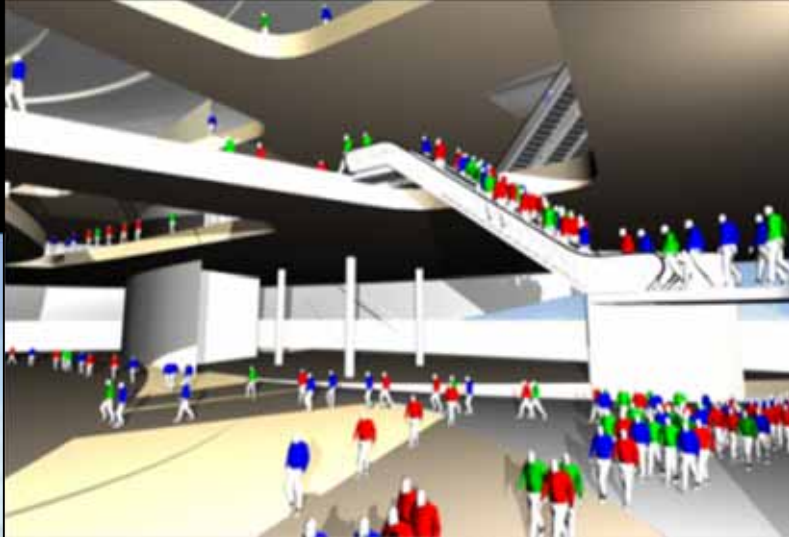


CFD Assessment – Results for ‘West’ Case – Video

- Video 1 – Smoke Production Longitudinal Section of Mall
- Video 2 – Smoke Visibility Longitudinal Section of Mall
- Video 3 – Smoke Visibility Cross Section at Fire Location



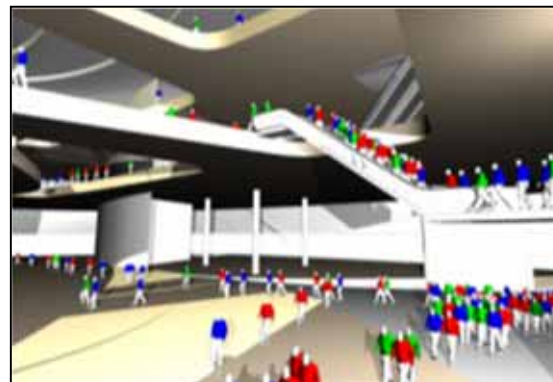
Egress Modeling



Egress Modelling

There are different approaches to egress modelling:

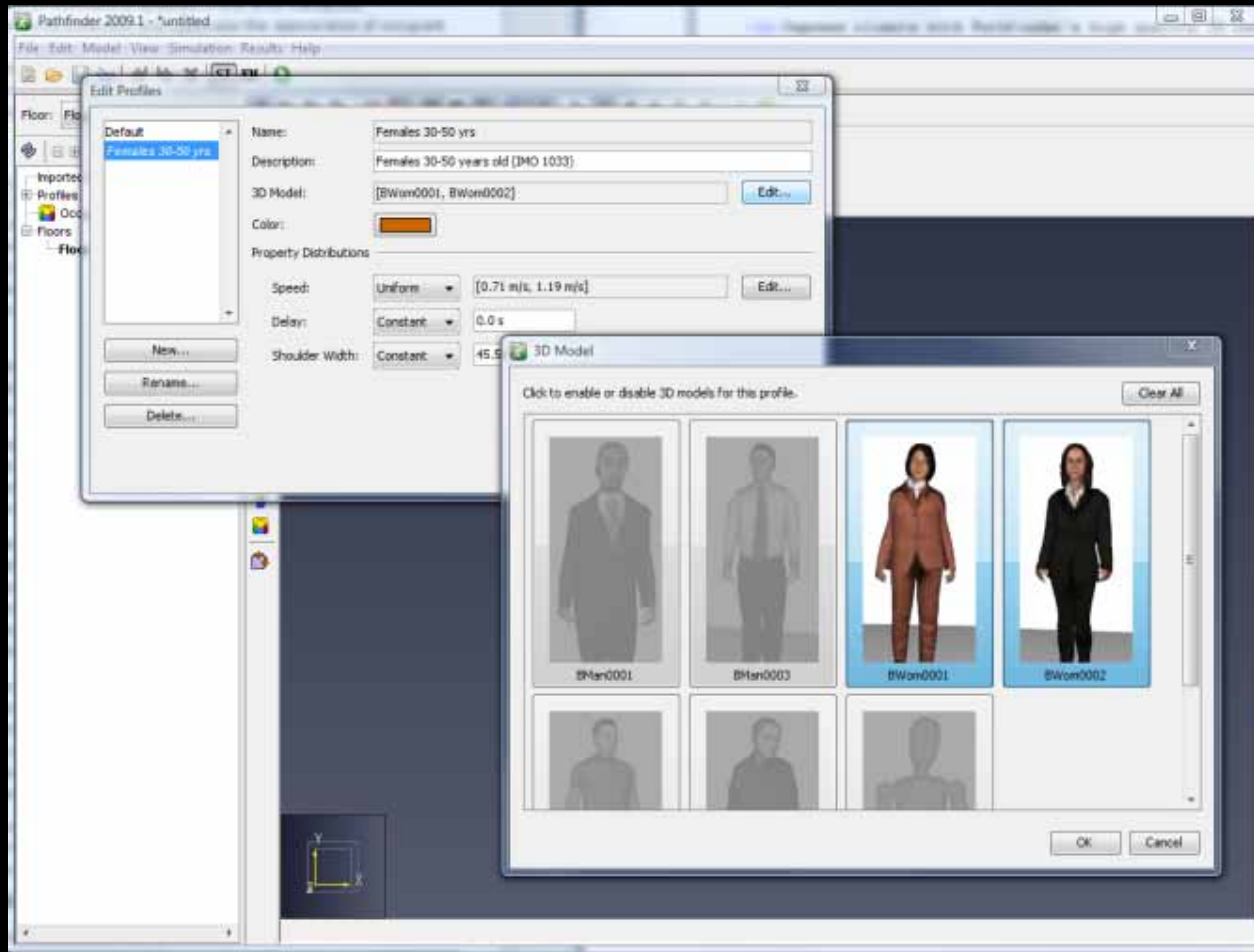
- Follow prescriptive escape width and distance provisions in codes
- Use simple flow calculations by hand
- Use network models (Steps,...)
- Use agent based egress modelling (Exodus,...)



Define & Populate Geometry

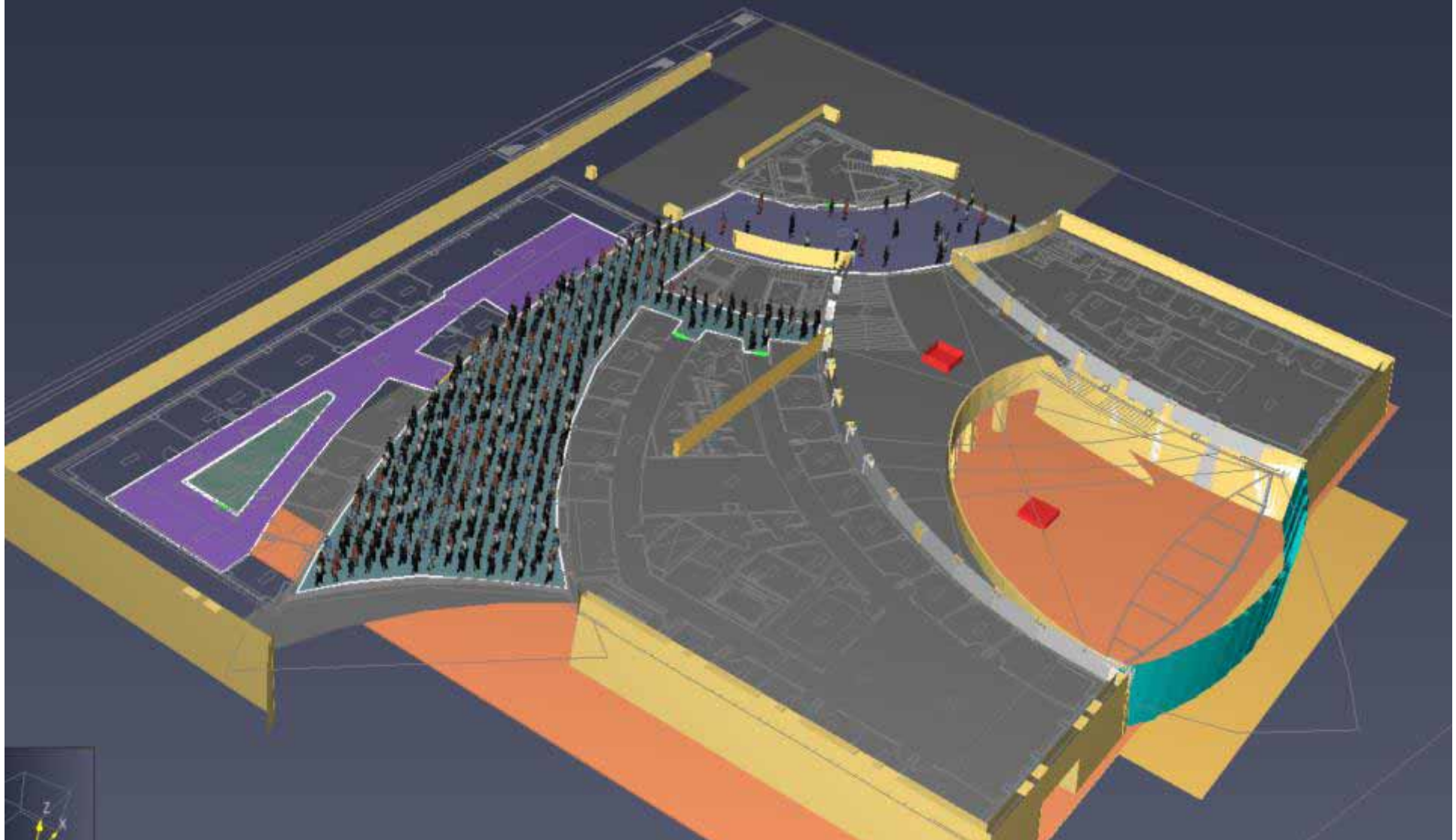


Determine Population Characteristics



- Age/Gender
- Staff/Public
- Mobility (disabled occupant)
- Walking speed
- Distance to exit
- Flow rate though doors
- Flow rates down/up stairs
- Decision making algorithms;
 - Pre movement time
 - Nearest exit
 - Main exit
 - Follow crowd
 - Redistribution upon queuing

Fill Geometry

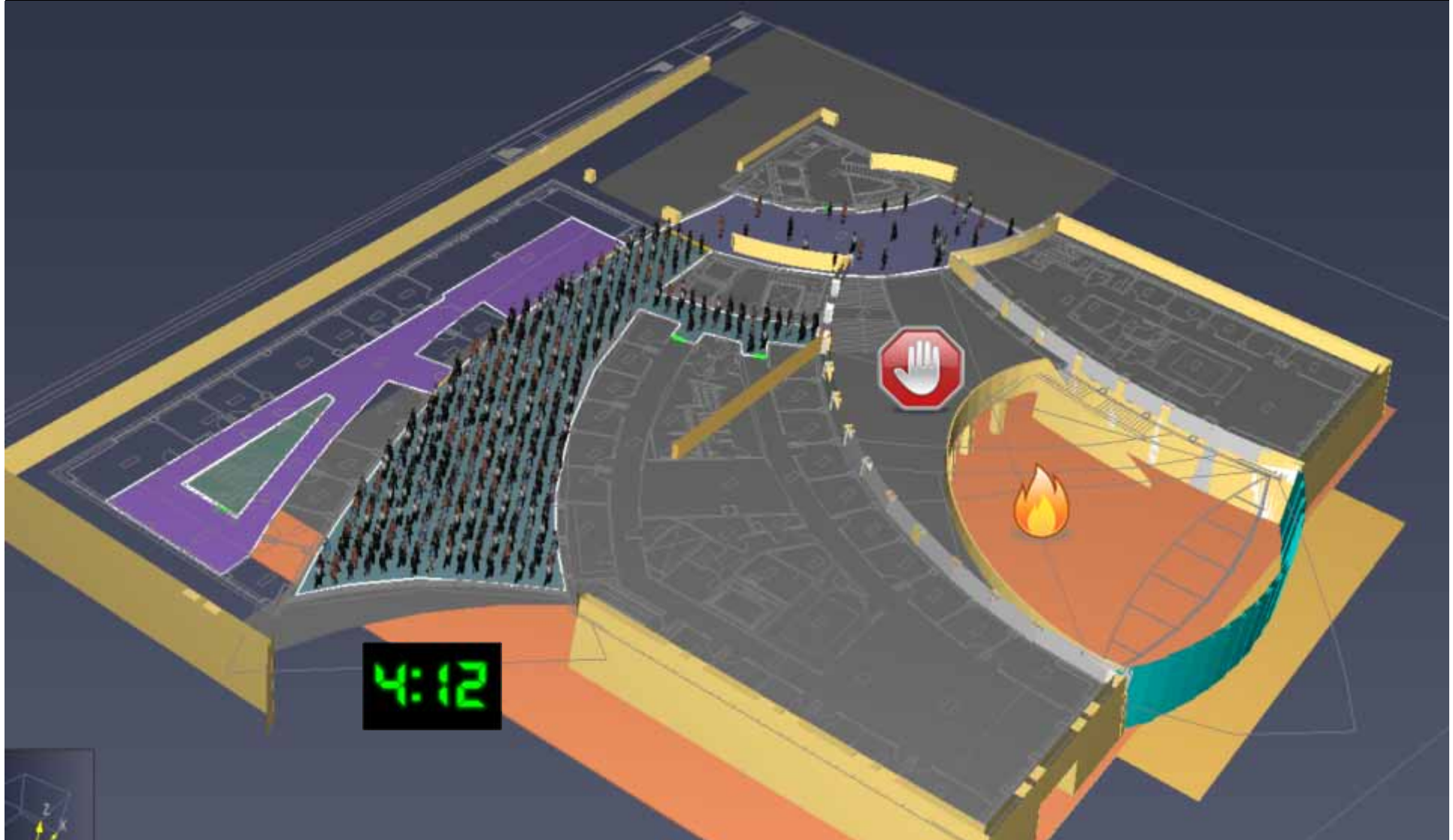


Define Fire Location



Egress Modeling

Time to Evacuate + Factor of Safety \leq Time to untenable Conditions

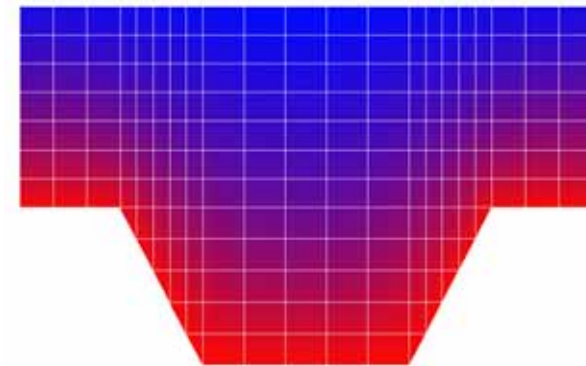
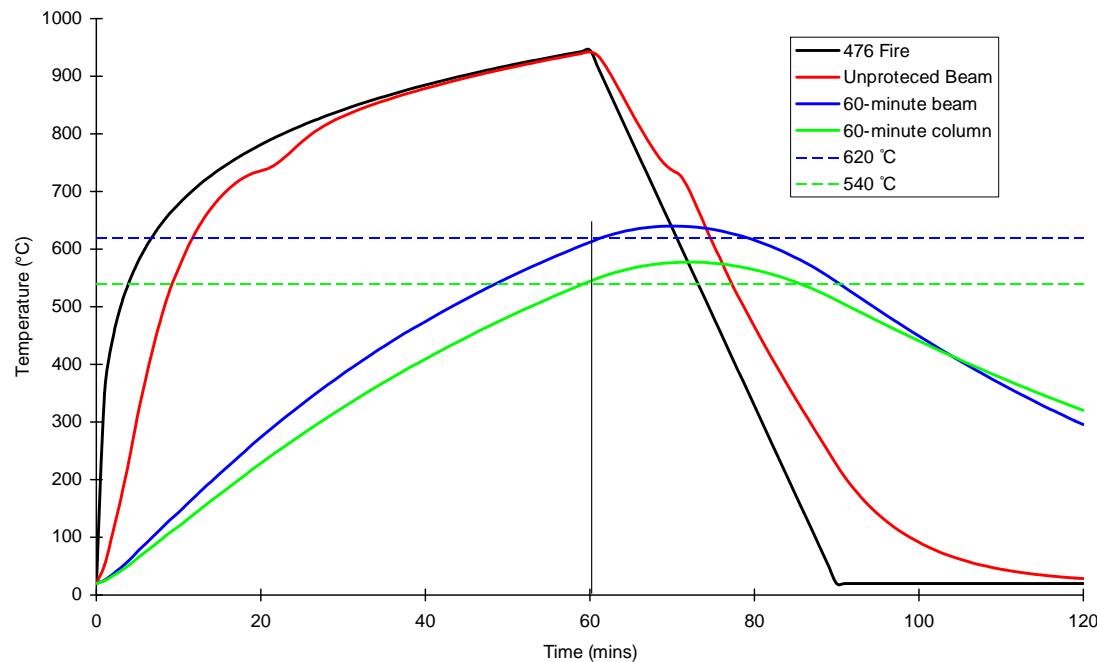


Structural Fire Engineering Design Methods

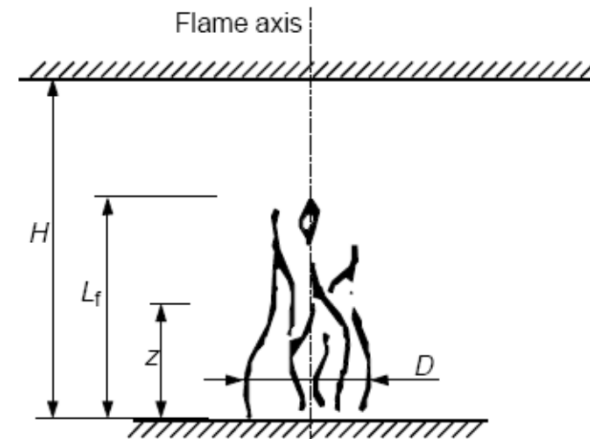
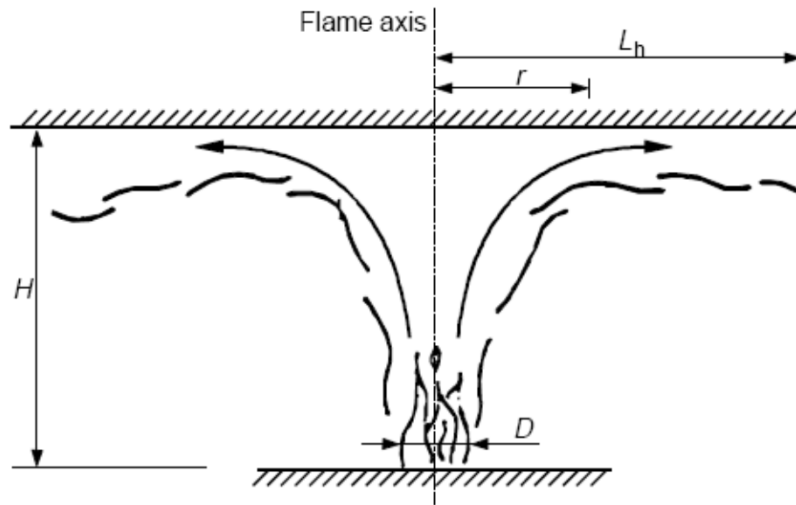


Heat transfer from fire to structure - compartment fire

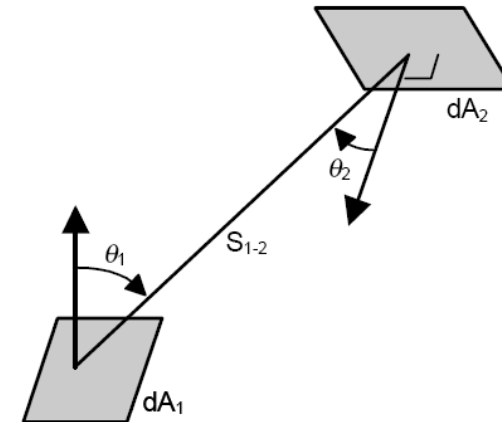
1. Table 9 and 10 in BS5950-8: Temperature depending on flange thickness.
2. Simple heat transfer method in Eurocode 3-1.2 for protected and unprotected steel members depending on section factor.
3. Finite element software: SAFIR, TASEF, ANSYS, ABAQUS



Heat transfer from fire to structure – localised fire



Radiation
Convection if member is in the plume
View factor calculations for radiation!



Structural Responds – Fire limit state

A fire limit state should be treated as an **Accidental Limit State** with its own associated partial factors

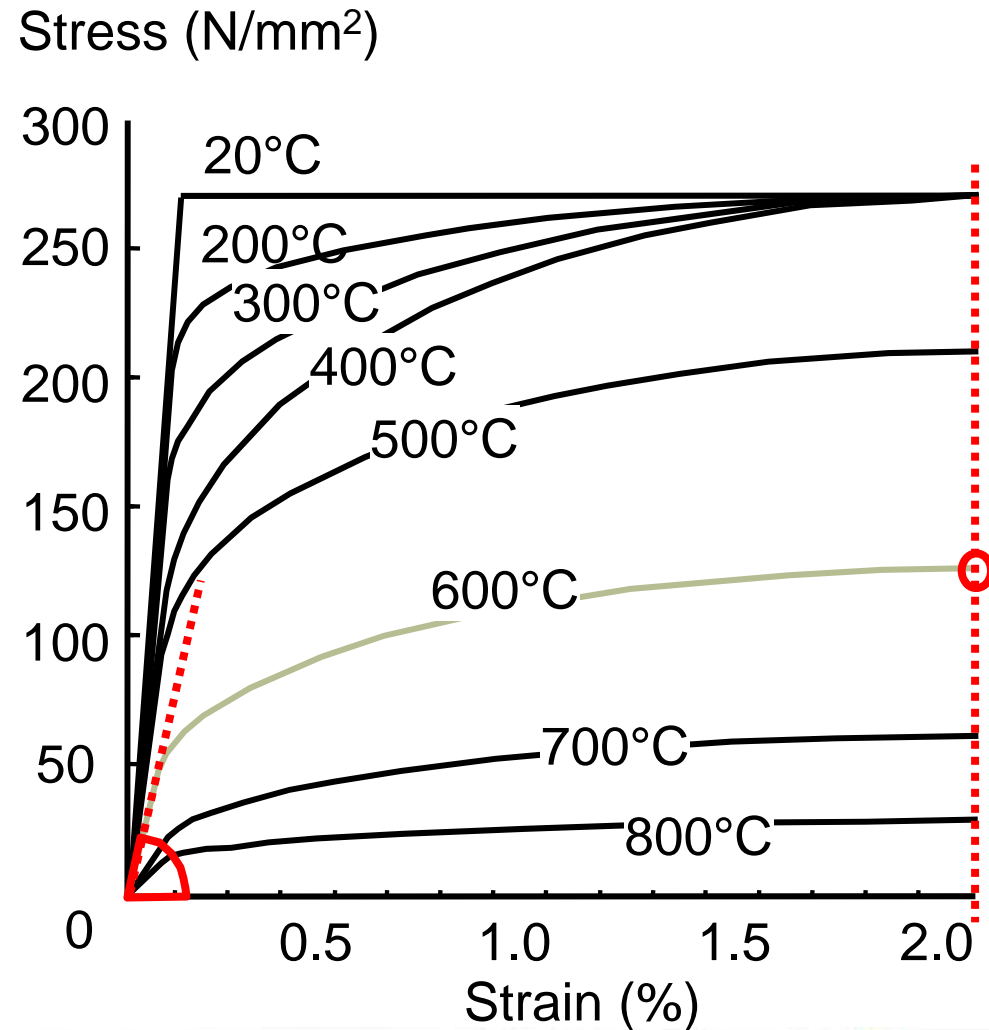
Load Factors (γ_f) - Table 2 BS5950-8

- Dead Loads 1.0
- Imposed Loads (permanent) 1.0
- Imposed Loads (non-permanent) 0.8
for commercial offices 0.5
- Wind Loads 0.33



Steel stress-strain curves at high temperatures

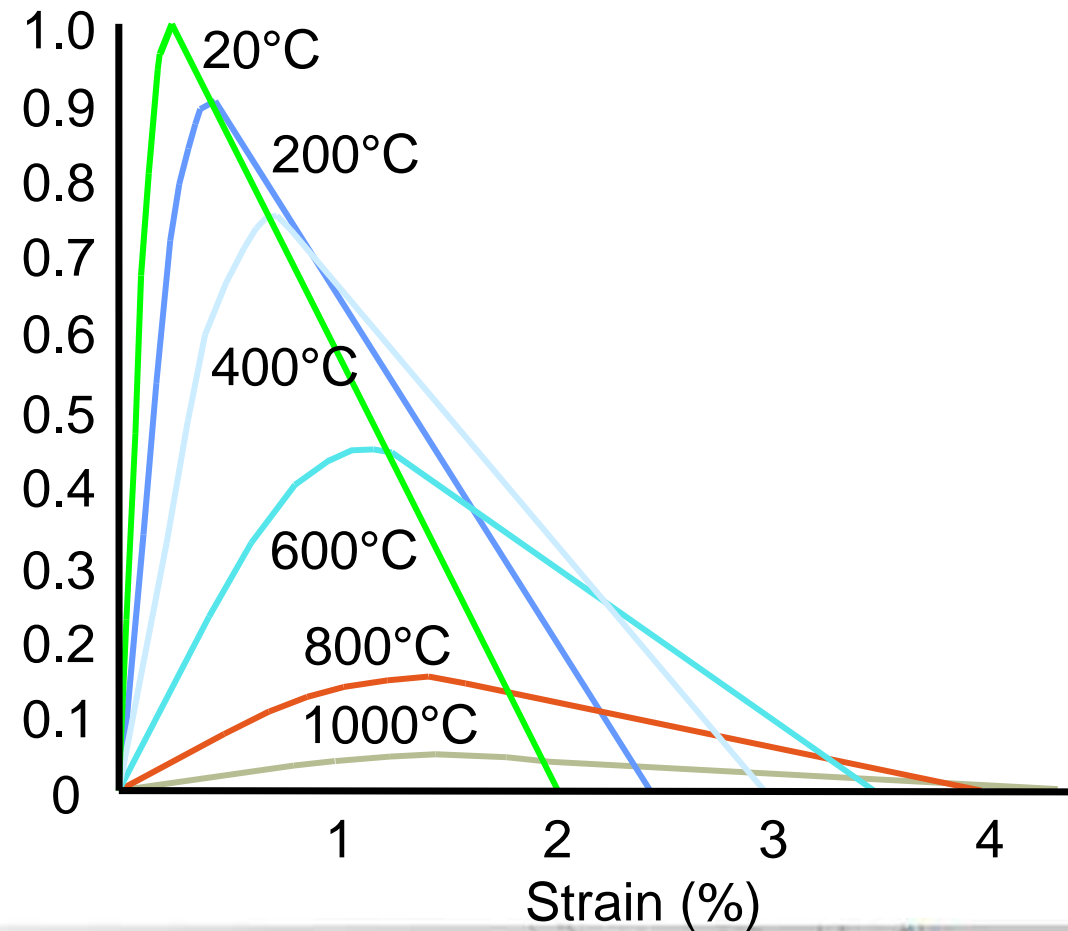
- Strength/stiffness reduction factors for elastic modulus and yield strength (2% strain).
- Elastic modulus at 600°C reduced by about 70%.
- Yield strength at 600°C reduced by over 50%.



Concrete stress-strain curves at high temperatures

- Concrete also loses strength and stiffness from 100°C upwards.
- Does not regain strength on cooling.
- High temperature properties depend mainly on aggregate type used.

Normalised stress



Limiting Temperature Method

The *Design temperature* is the temperature which the section will reach at the prescribed fire resistance time. It is based on member type and fire resistance

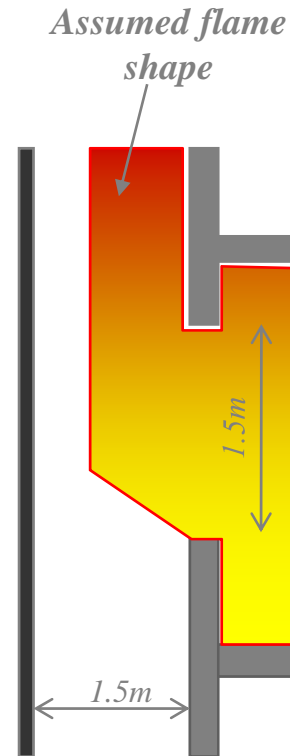
The *Limiting temperature* is the temperature at which the section is deemed to fail. It is based on member type, thermal gradient and Load Ratio

Limiting Temperature > Design Temperature



External Steelwork calculations

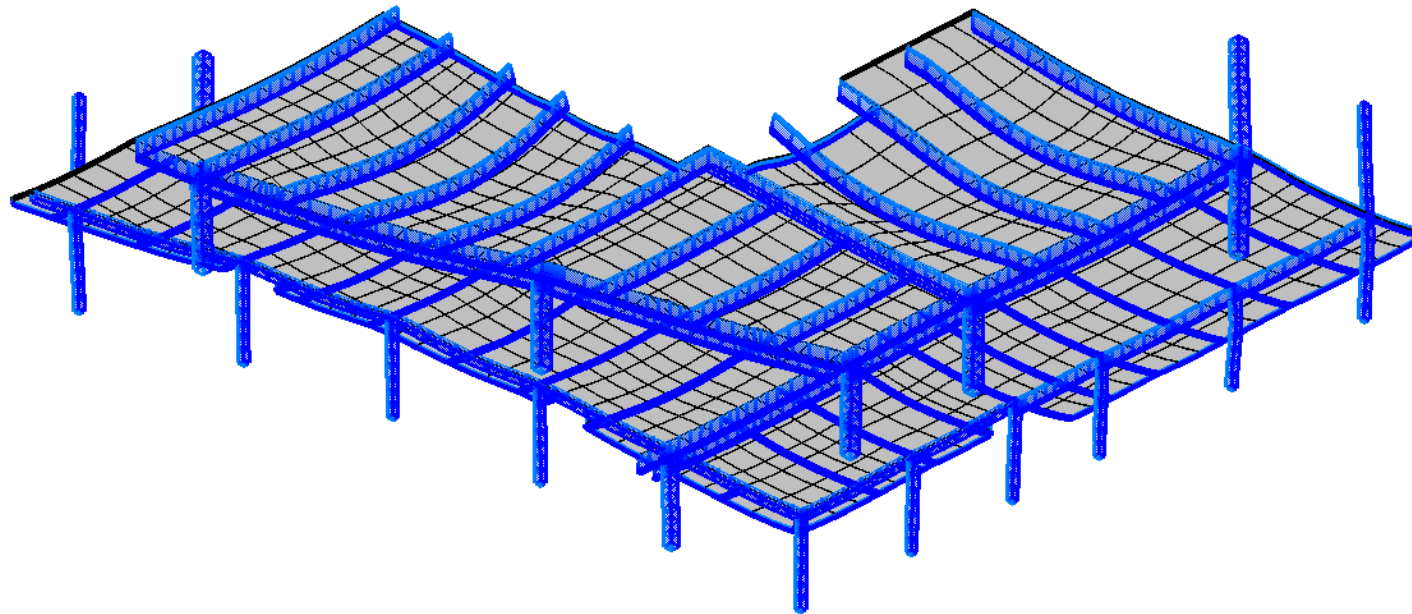
- Assessing flames breaking out of windows.
- If distance between window and steel is large enough no fire protection is needed.
- Simple methods have been published by SCI and are repeated in the Eurocodes.
- Significant assumptions are made in the simplified approach in terms of:
 - Fire development in compartment
 - Flame and smoke plume shape
 - Effects of wind
 - Heat transfer parameters
- For significant projects a series of CFD analyses could be used to perform a more realistic assessment.



Finite Element Analysis – Vulcan



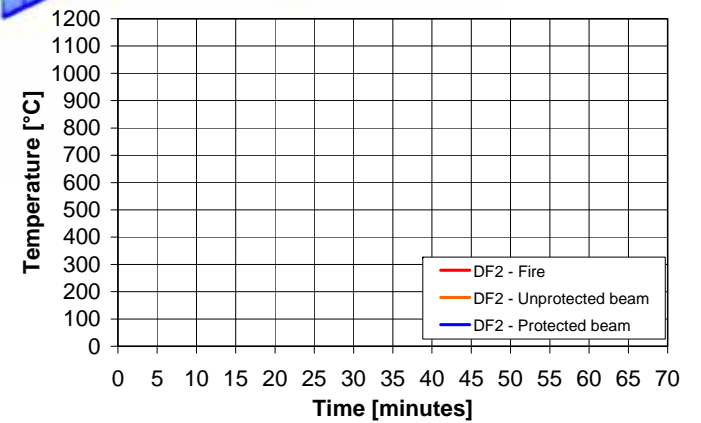
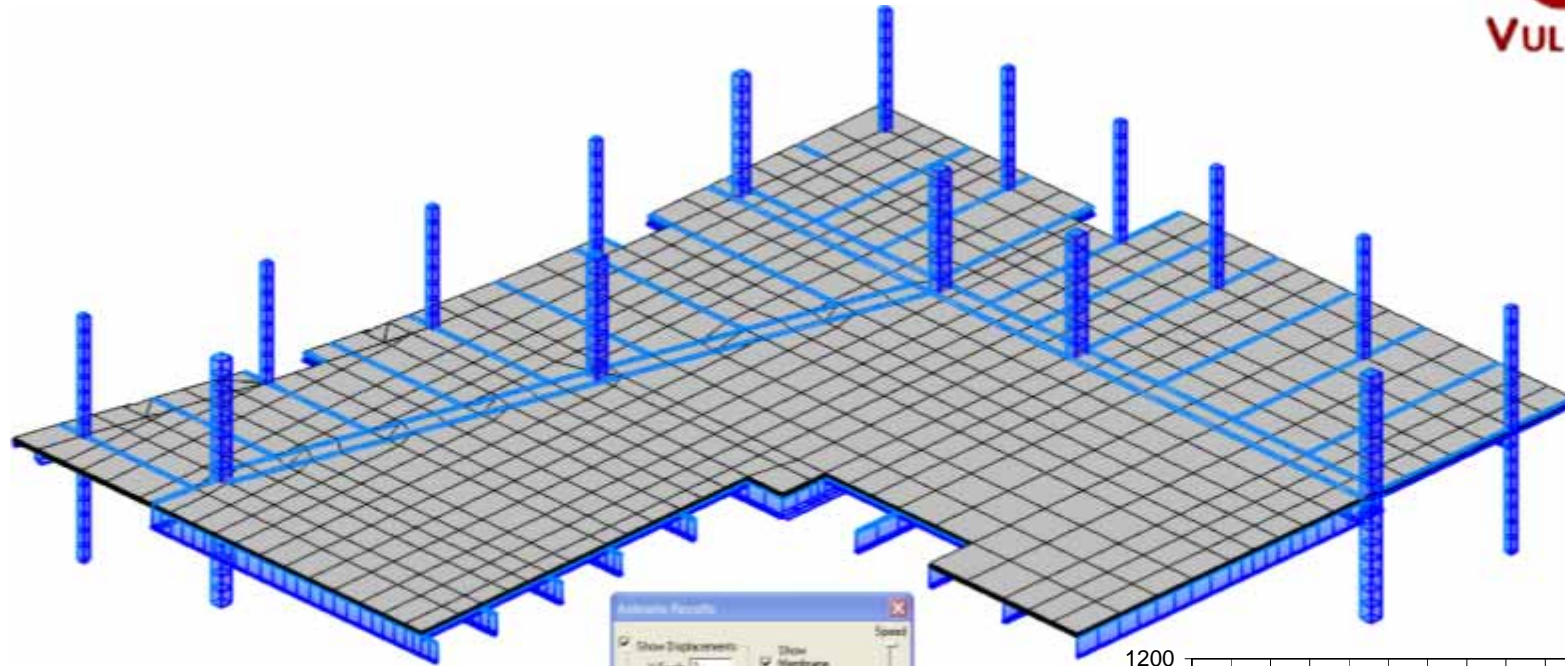
Vulcan is a non-linear finite element program developed by the University of Sheffield and Buro Happold.



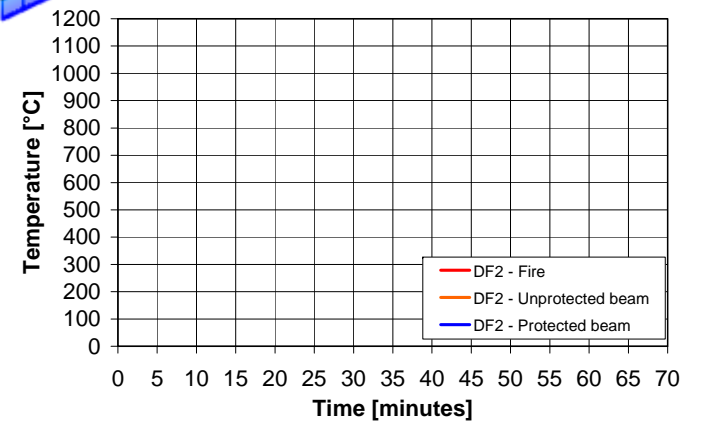
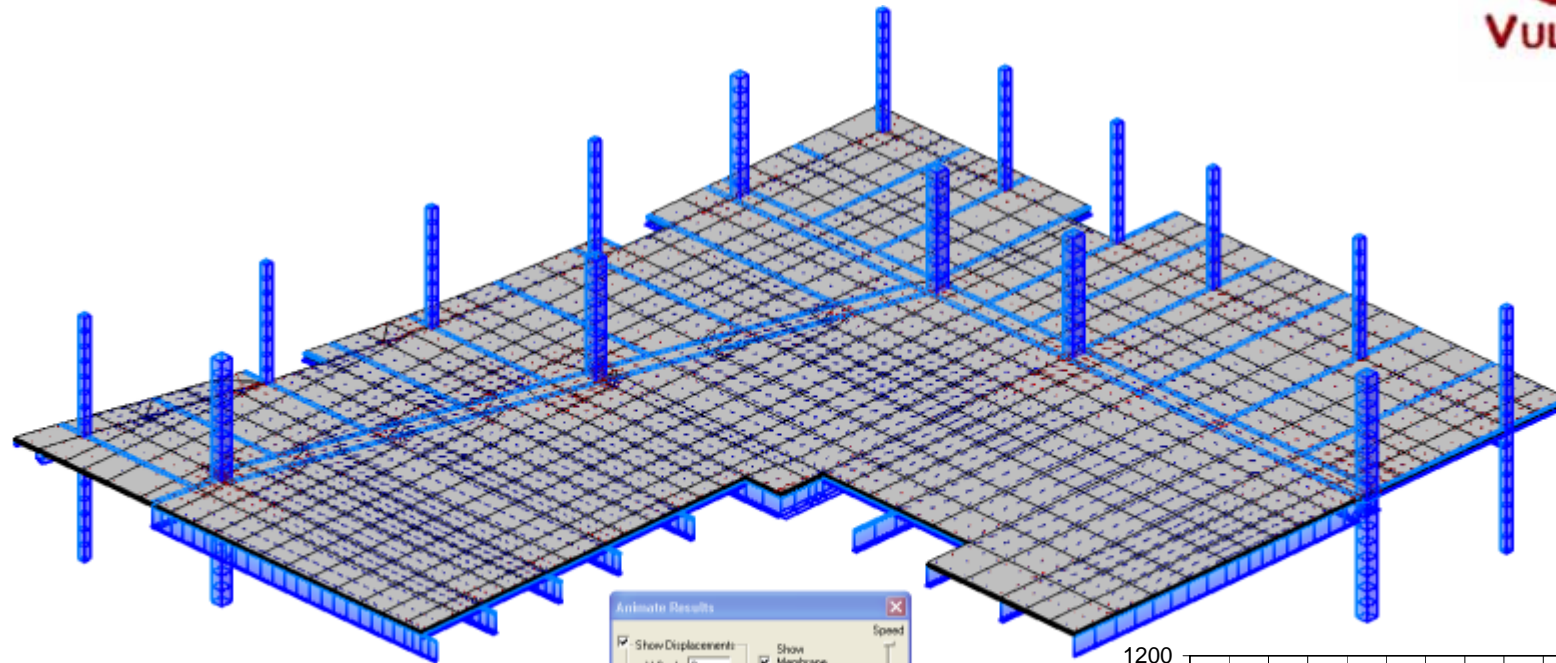
- Whole building analysis
- Can be applied to any composite steel-framed building
- Real non-linear material behaviour
- Real structural behaviour
- Exact fire protection requirements calculated for any steel member



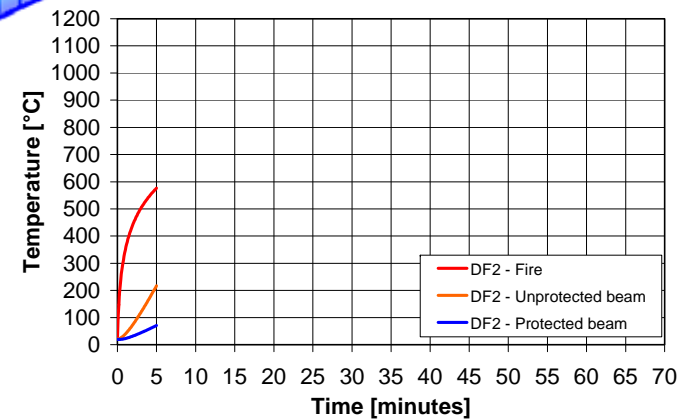
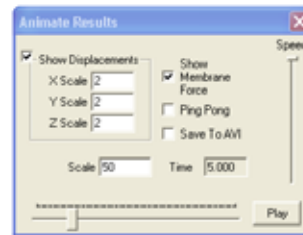
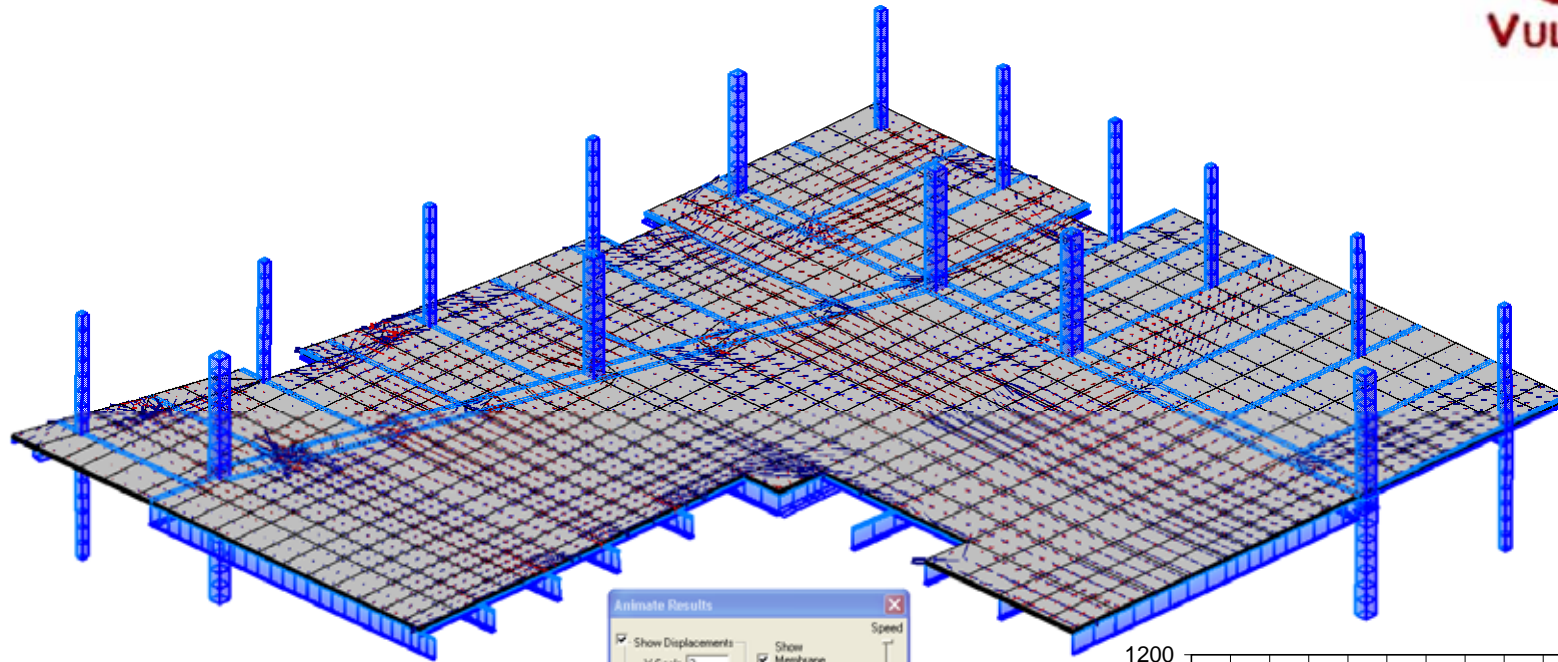
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



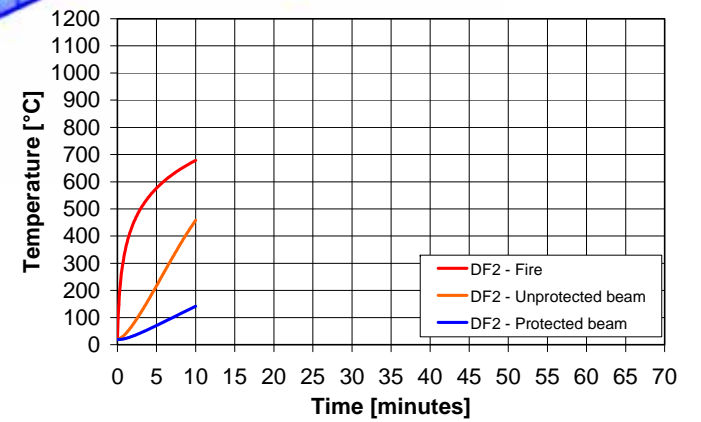
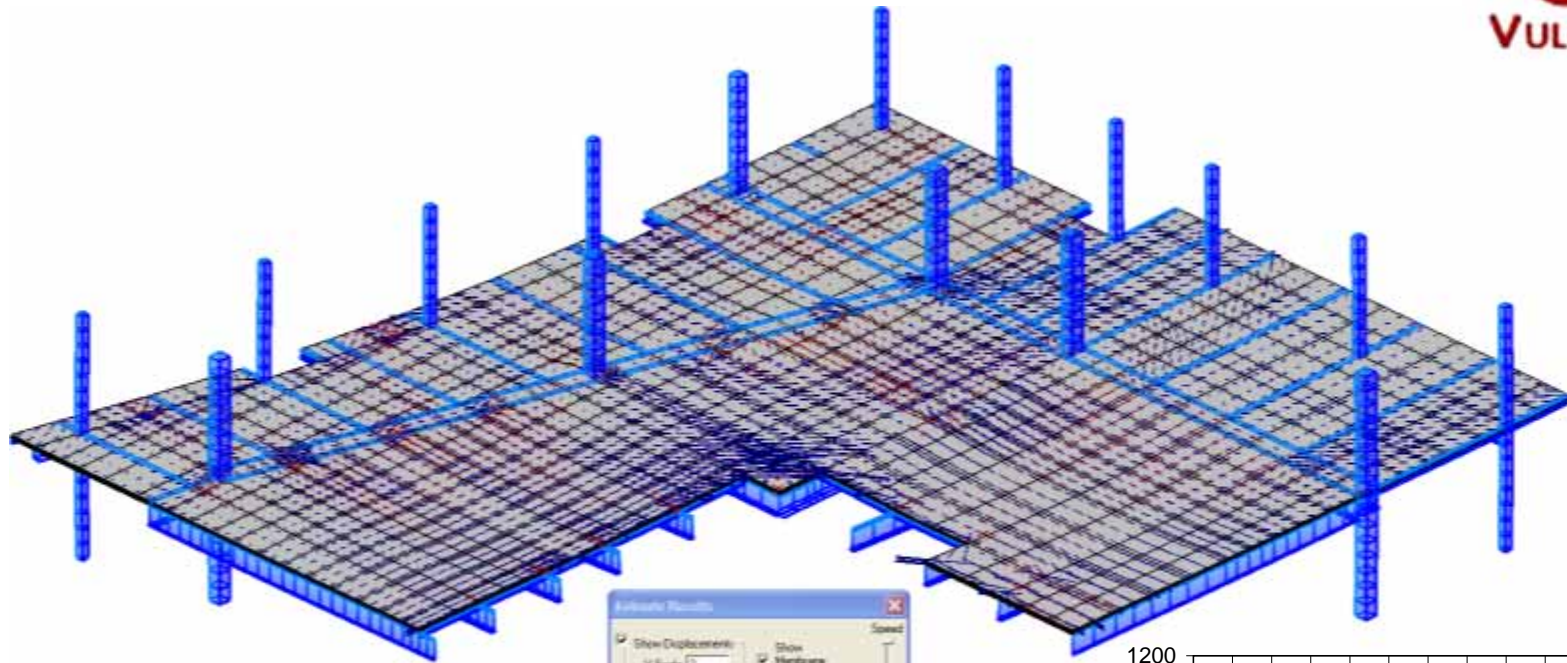
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



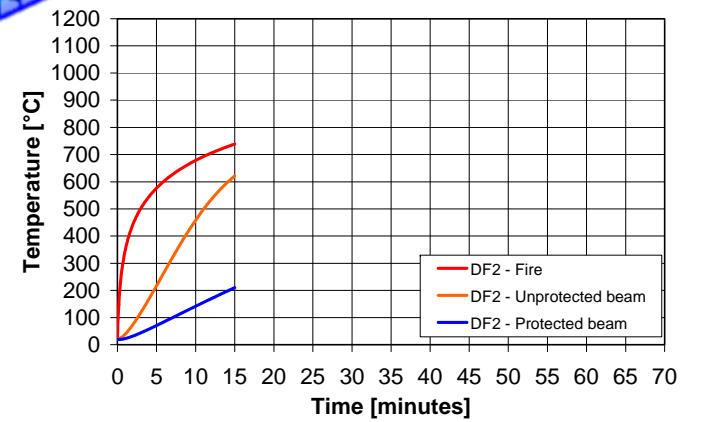
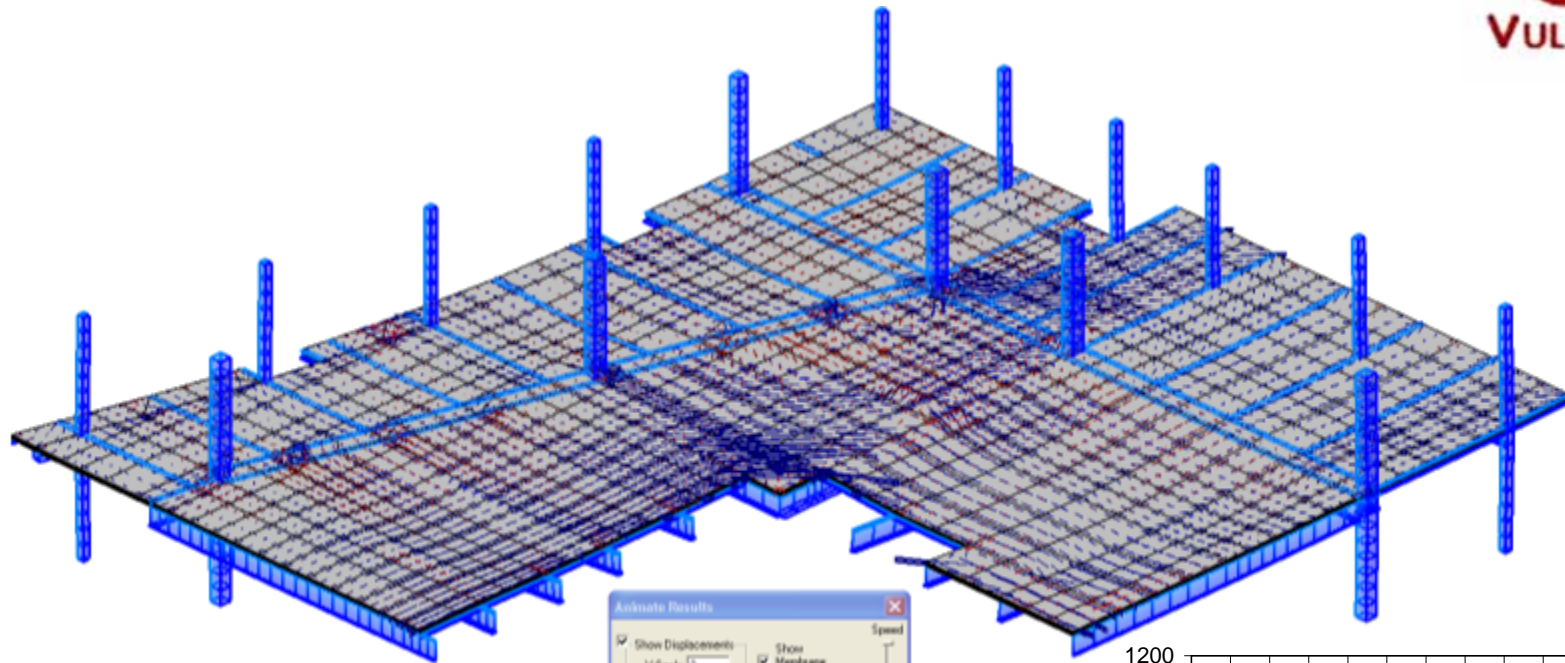
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



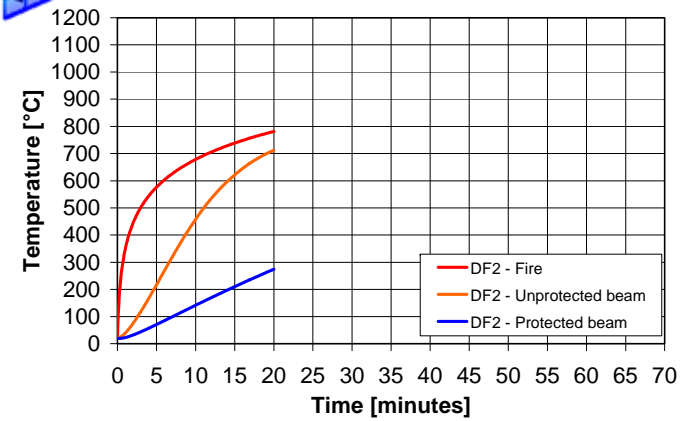
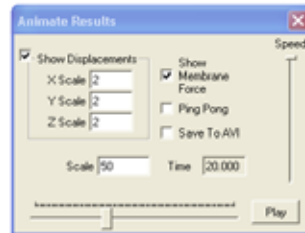
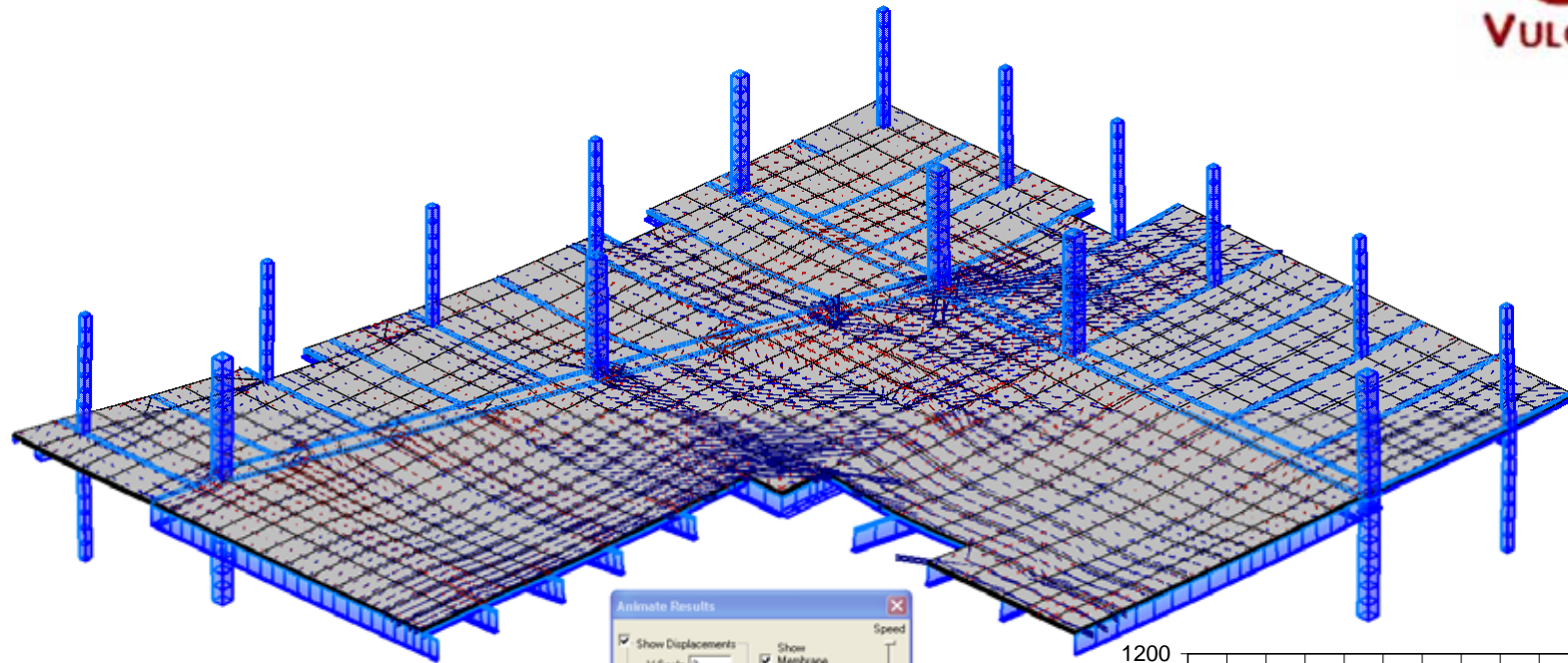
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



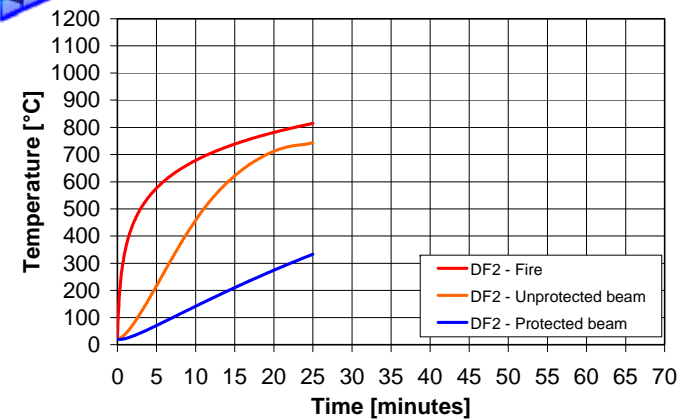
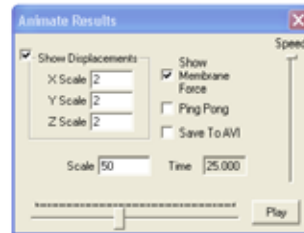
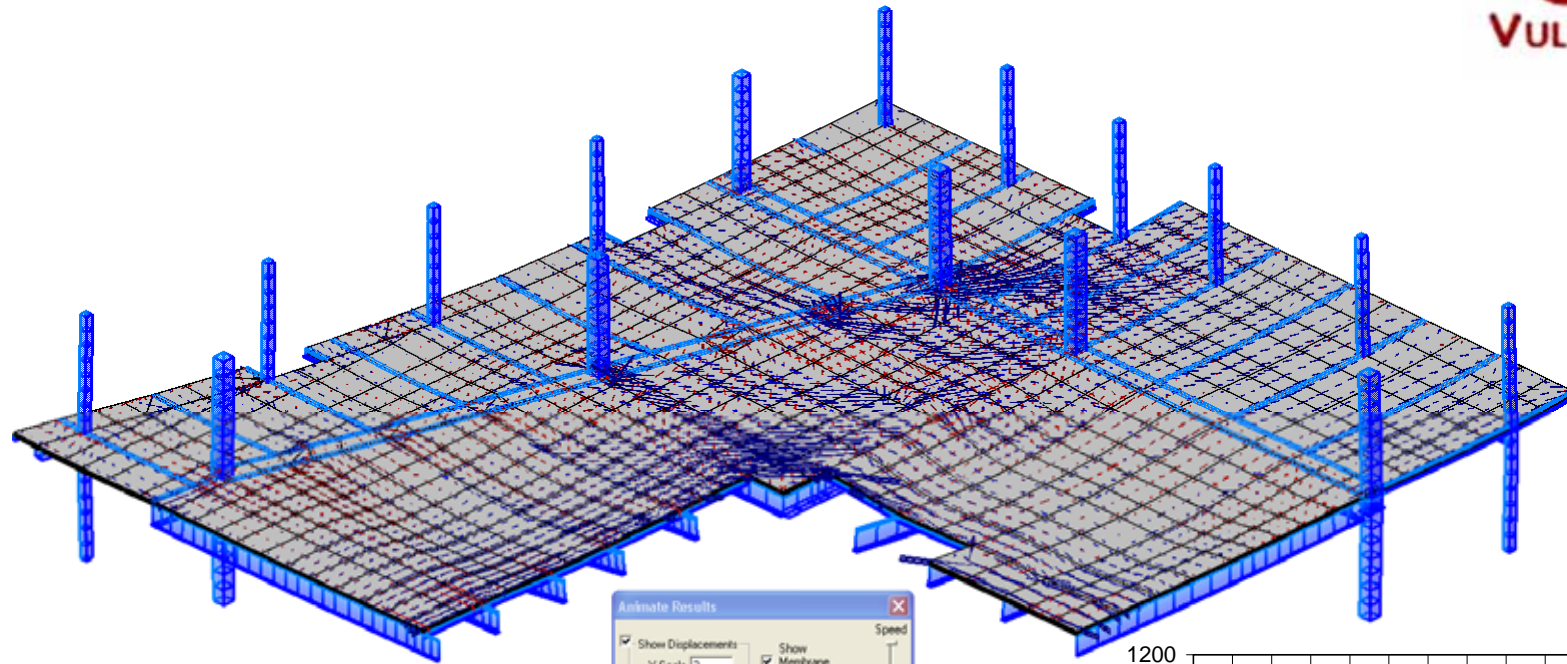
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



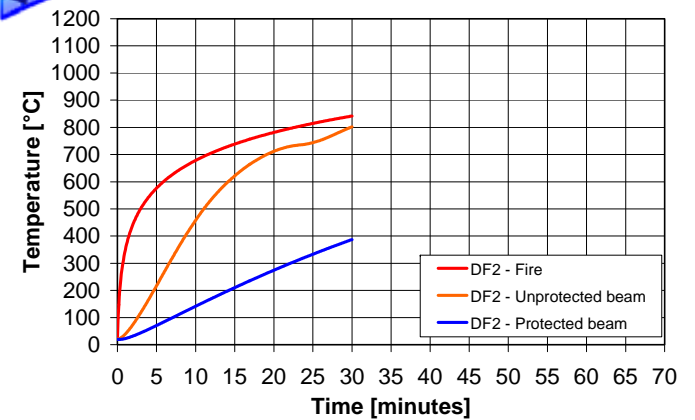
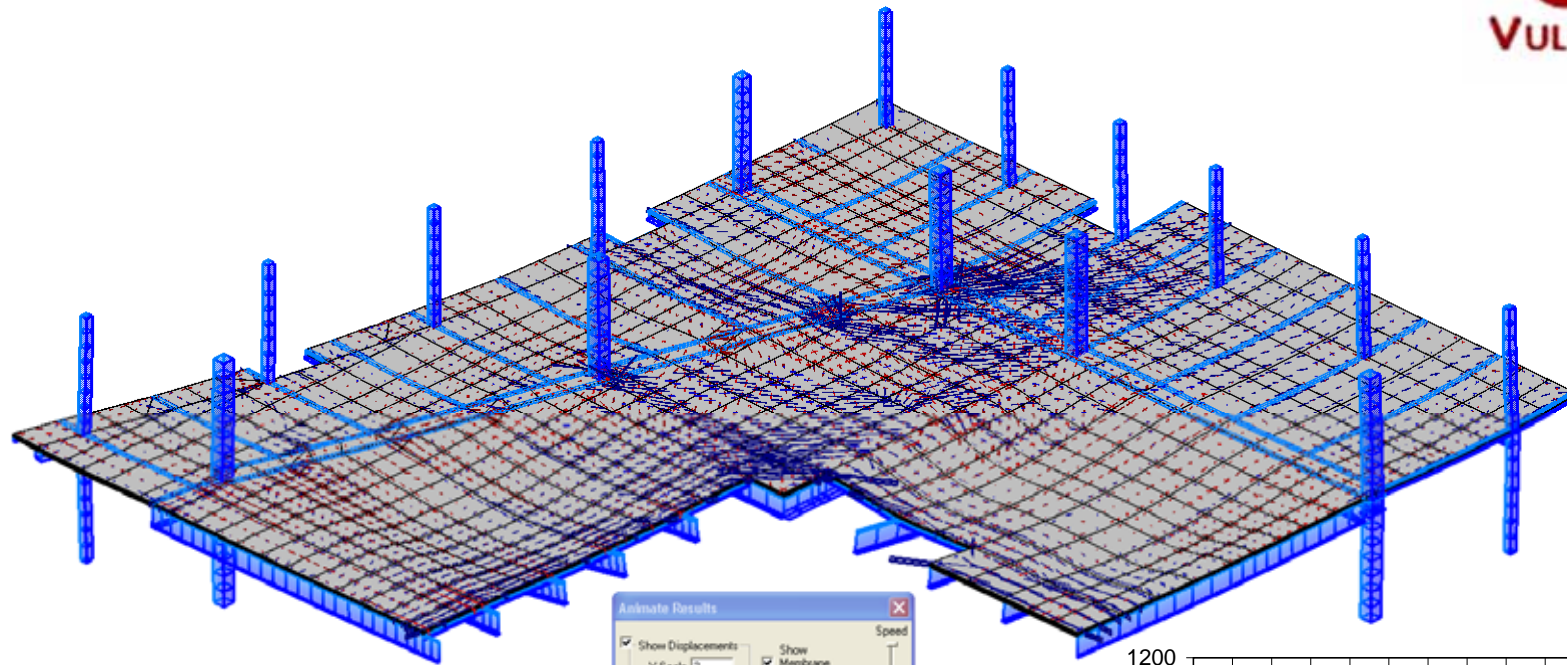
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



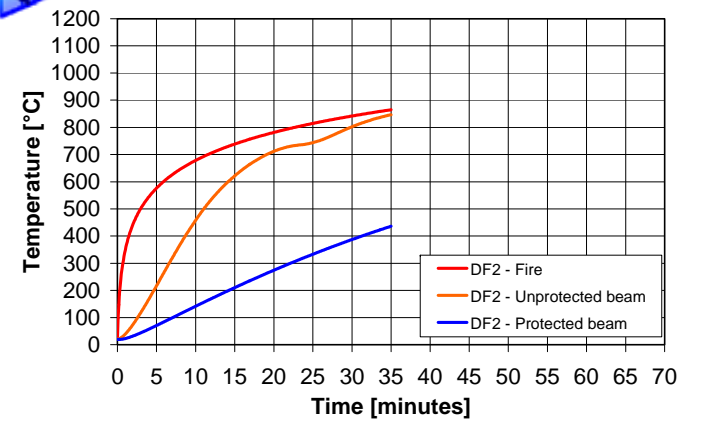
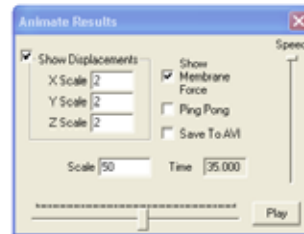
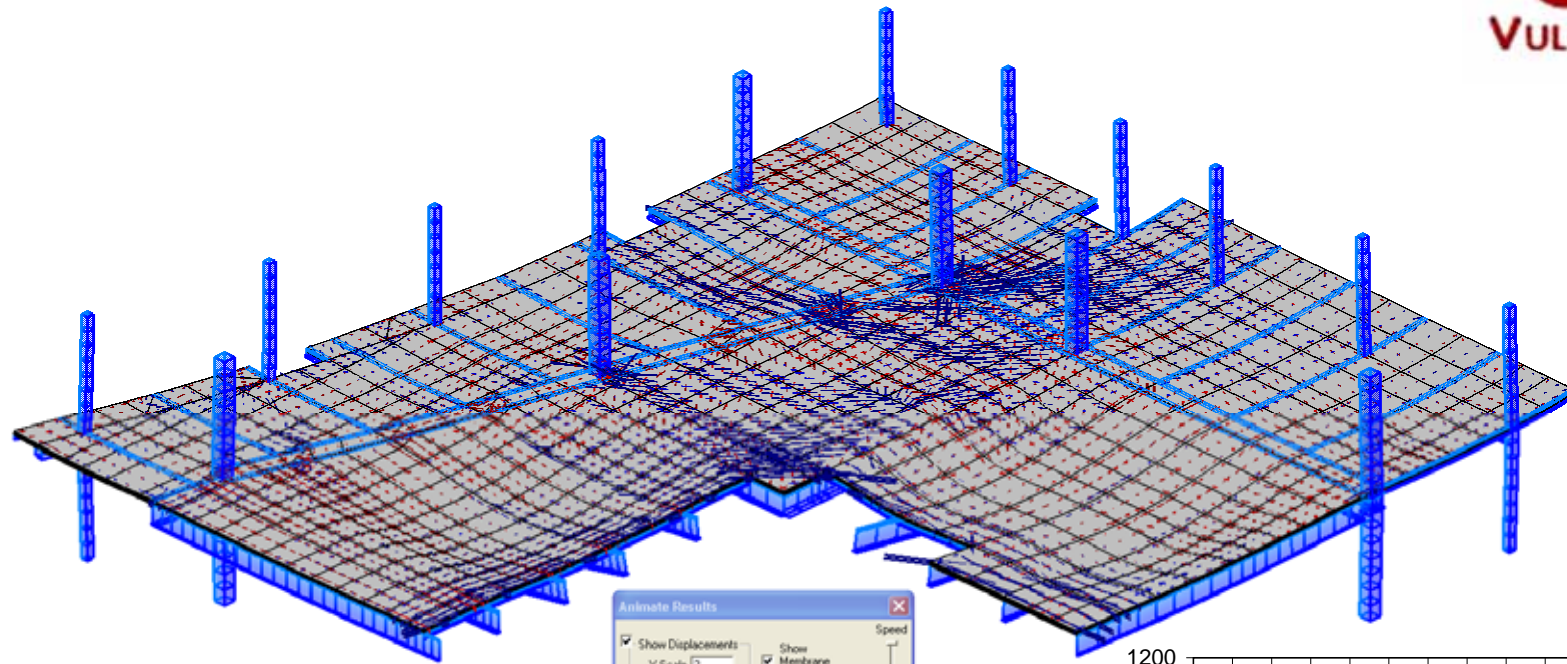
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



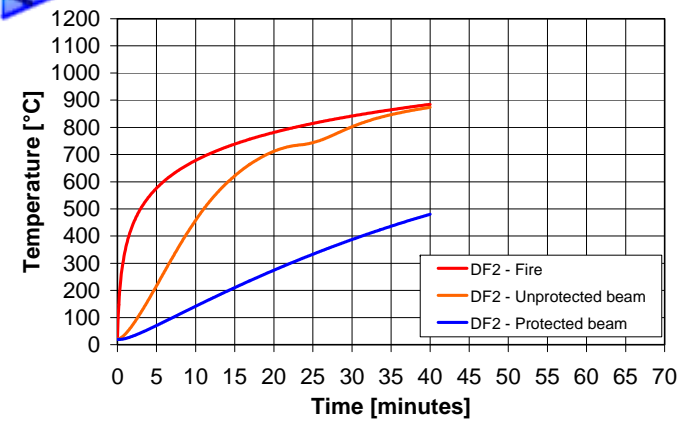
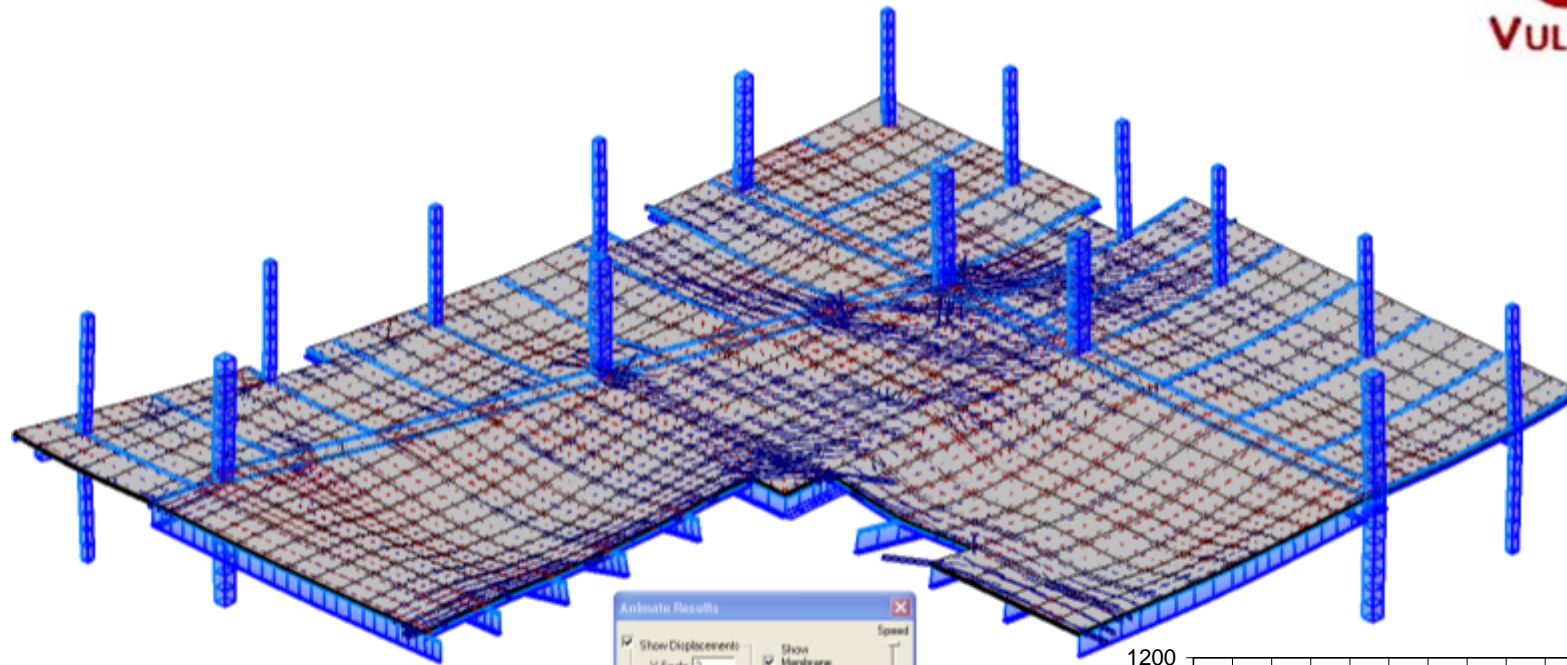
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



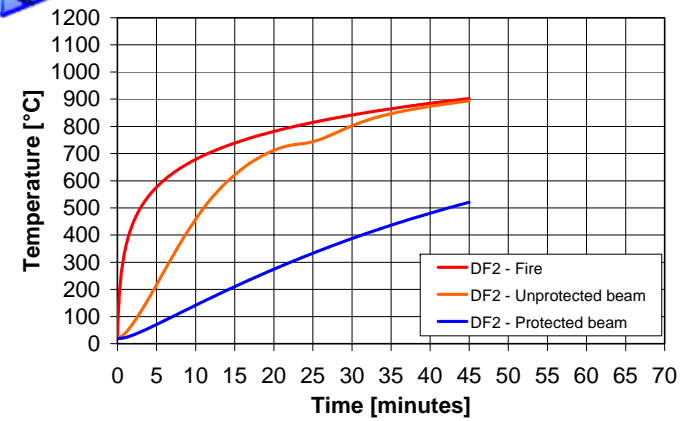
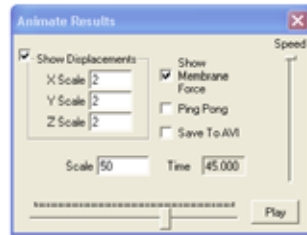
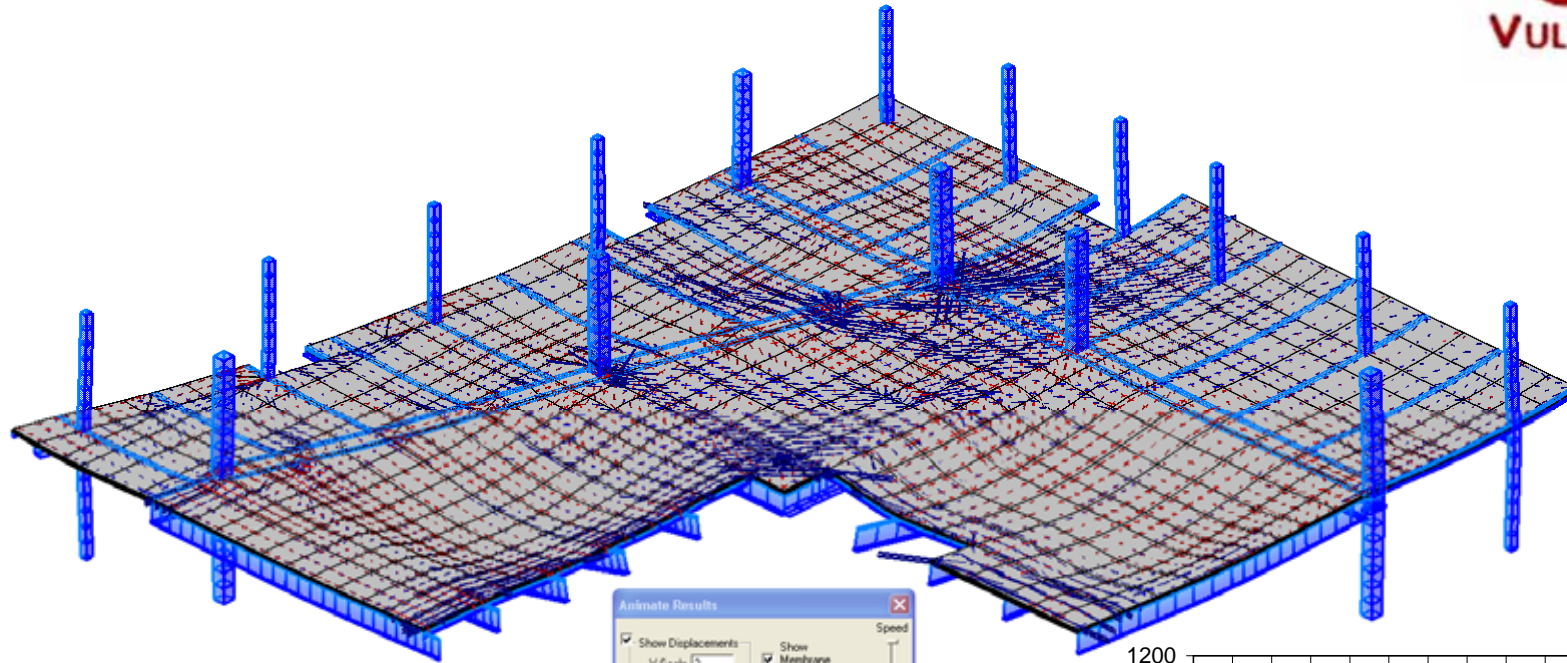
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



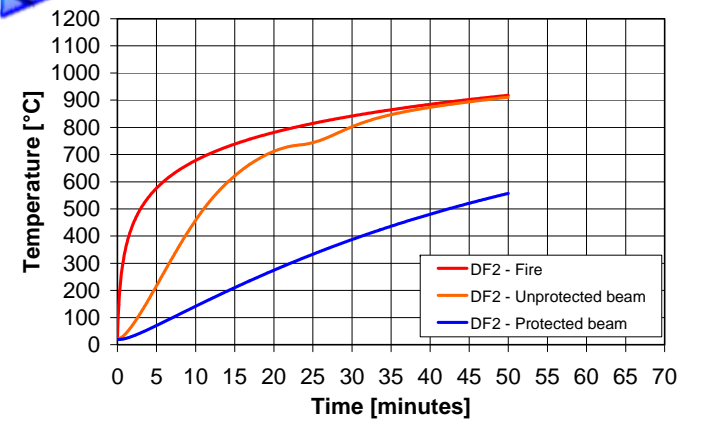
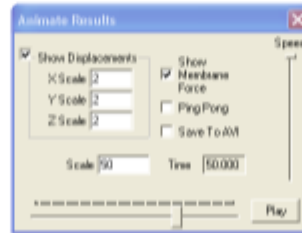
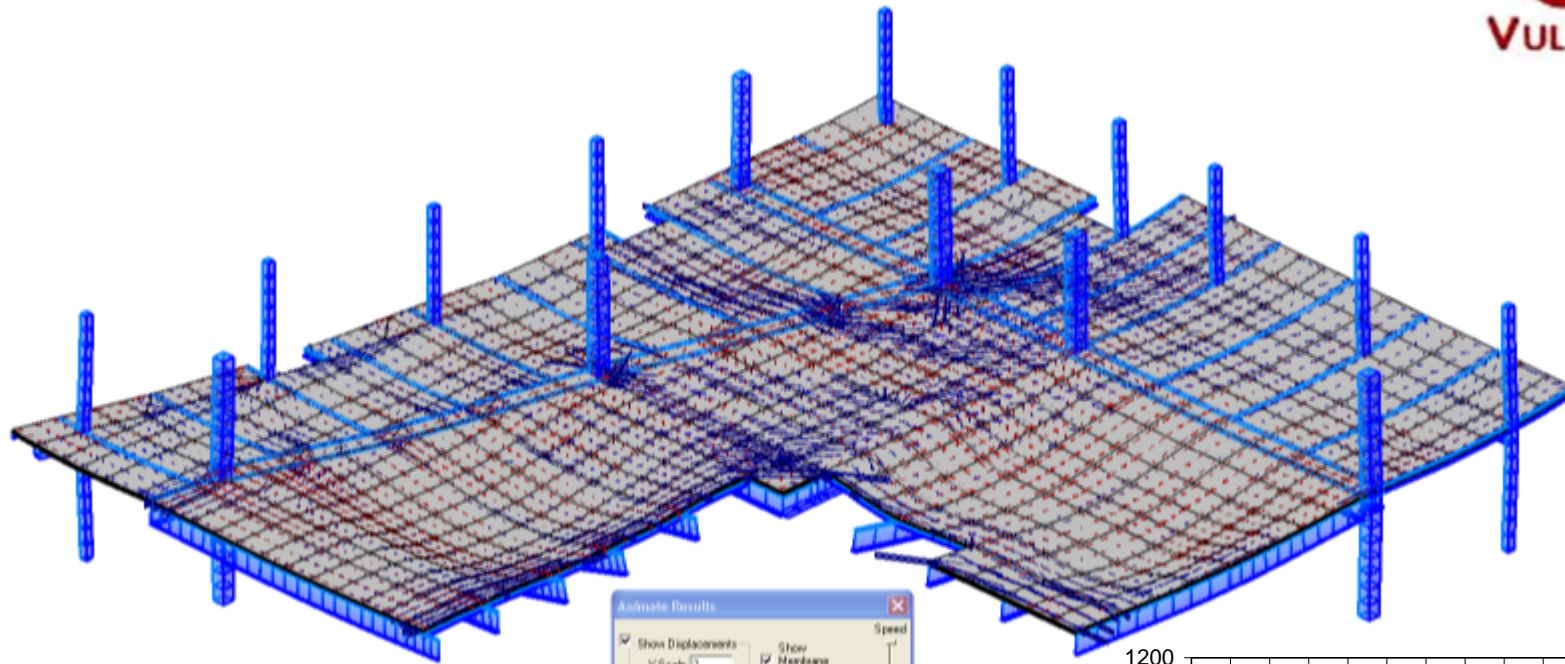
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



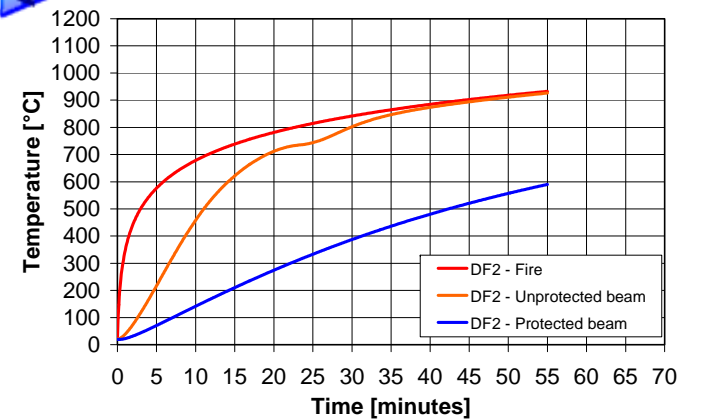
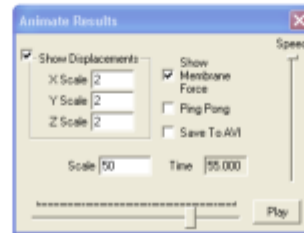
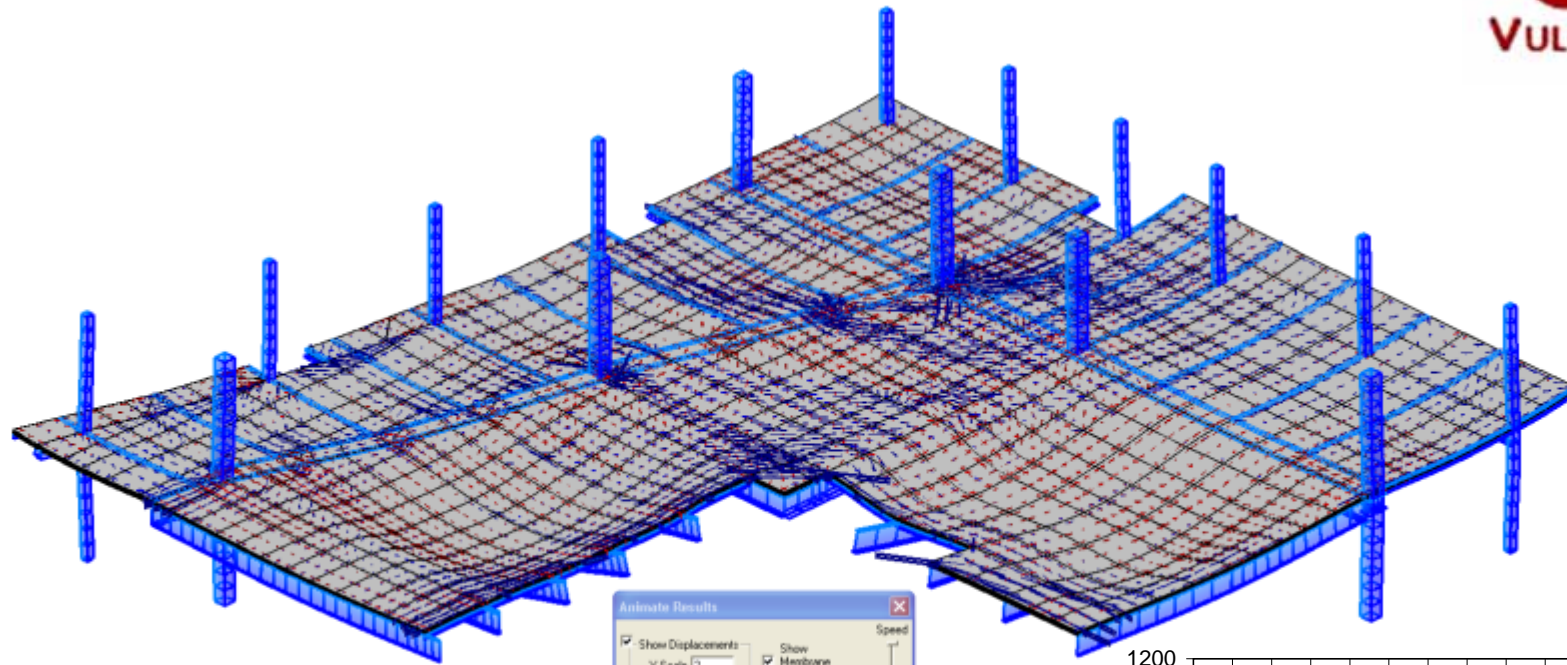
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



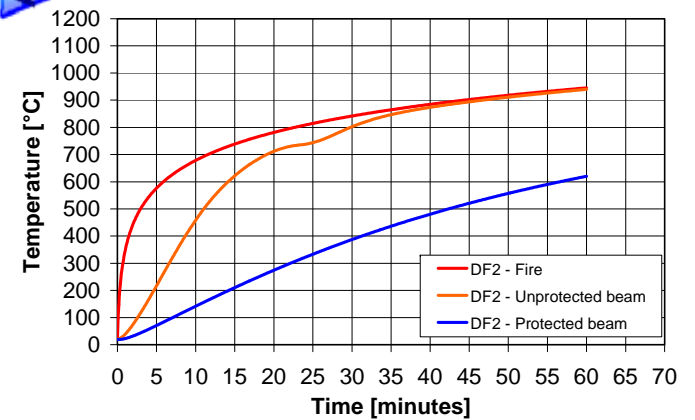
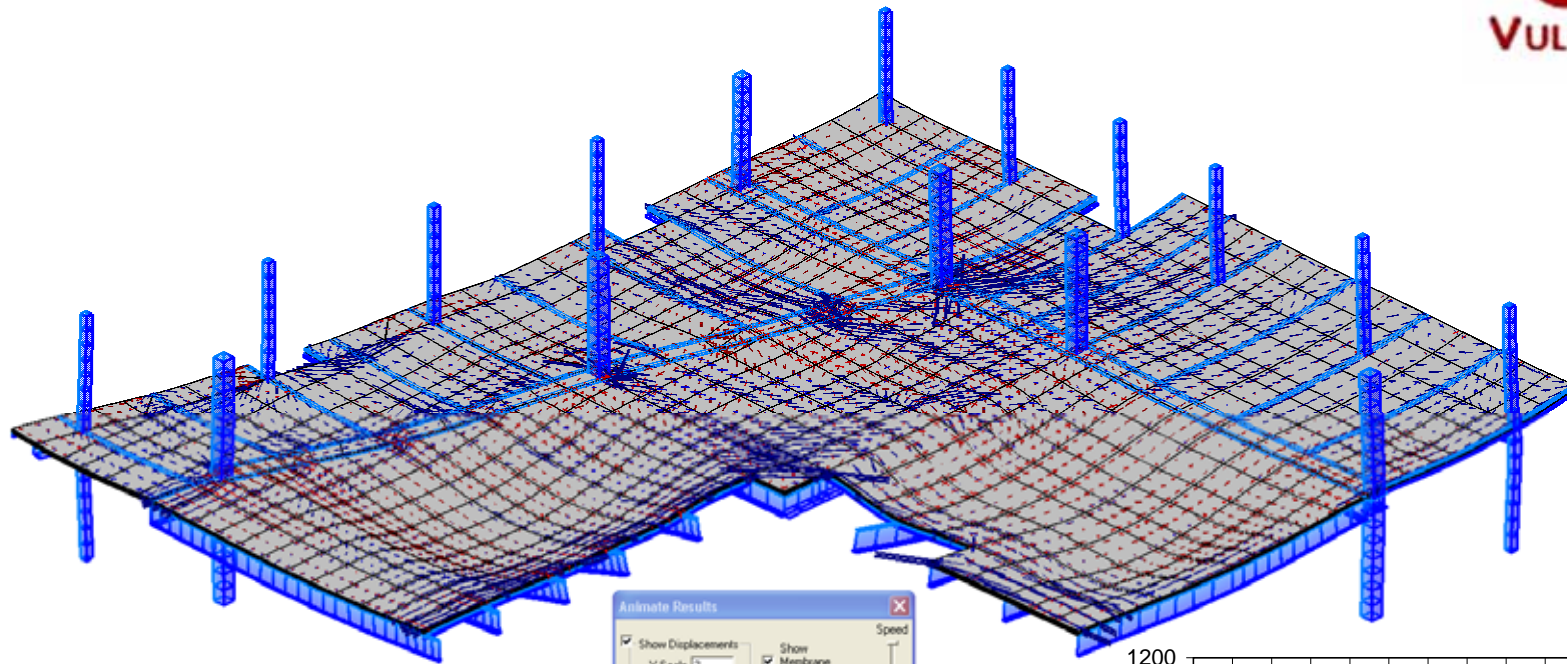
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



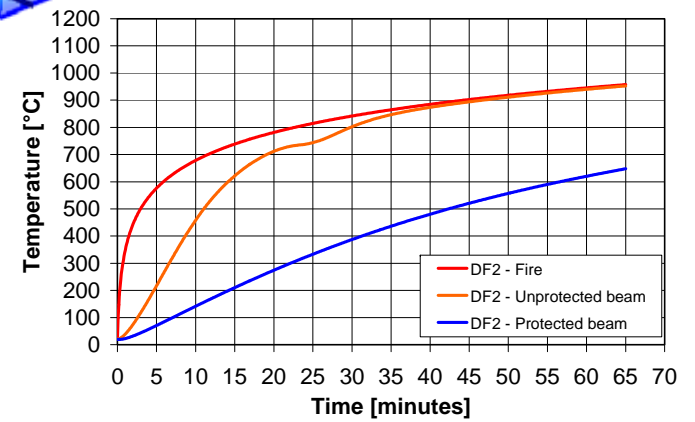
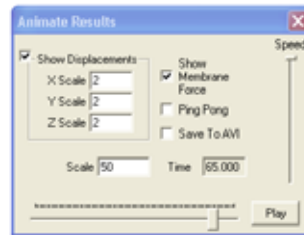
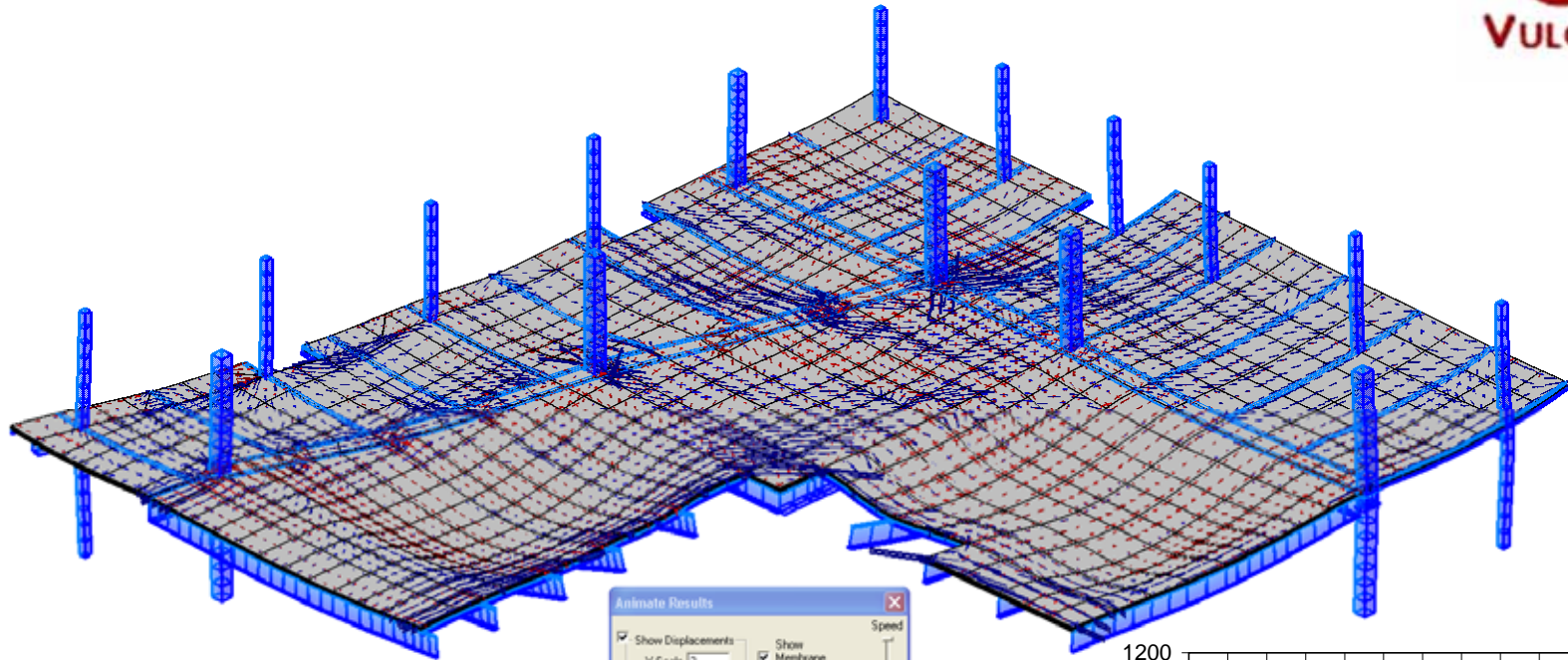
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



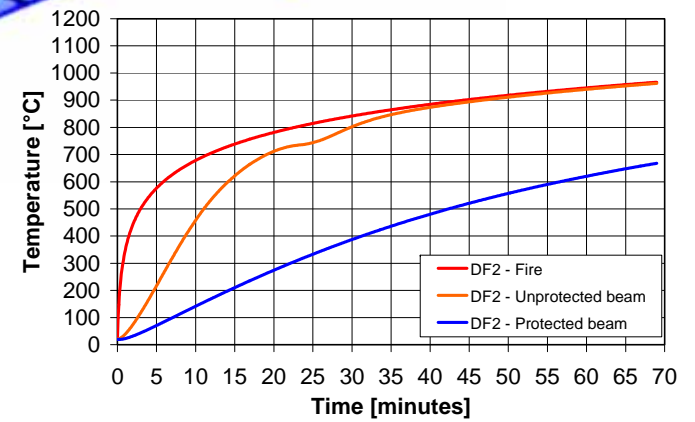
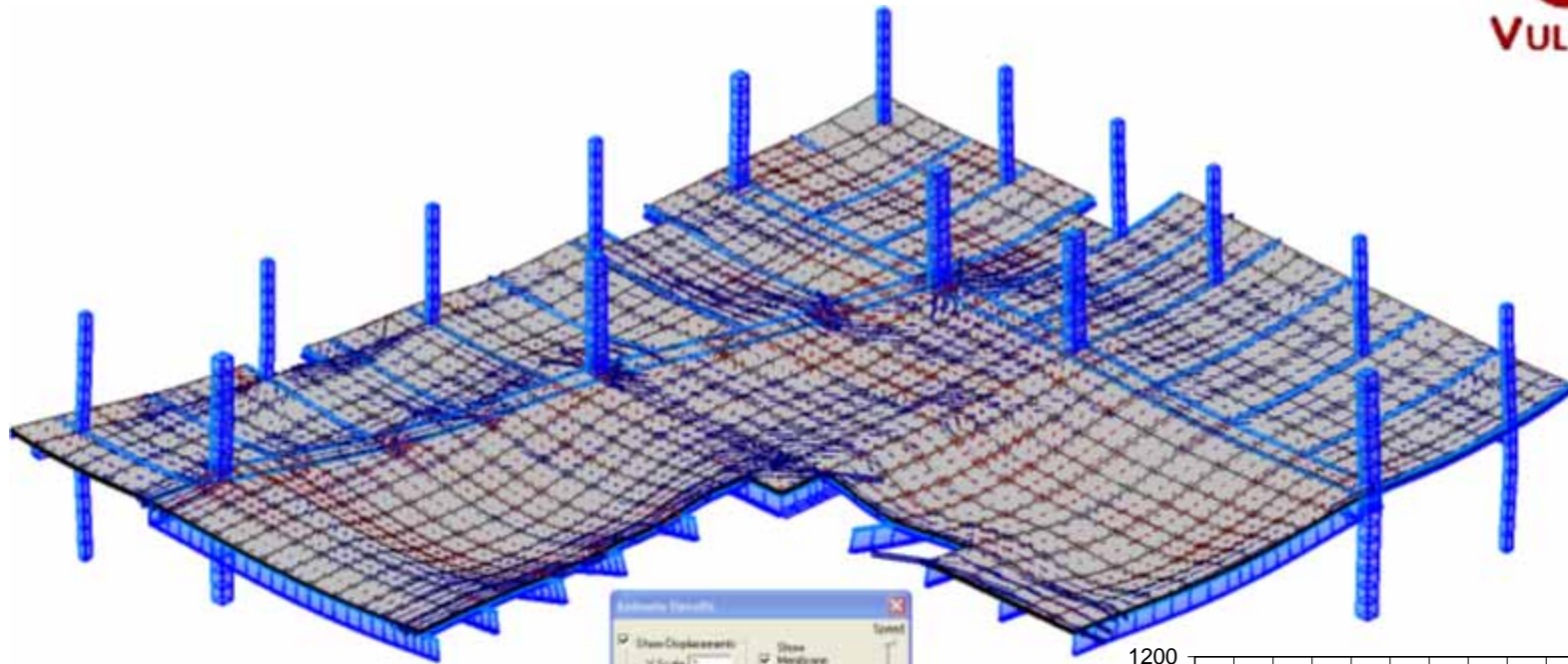
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



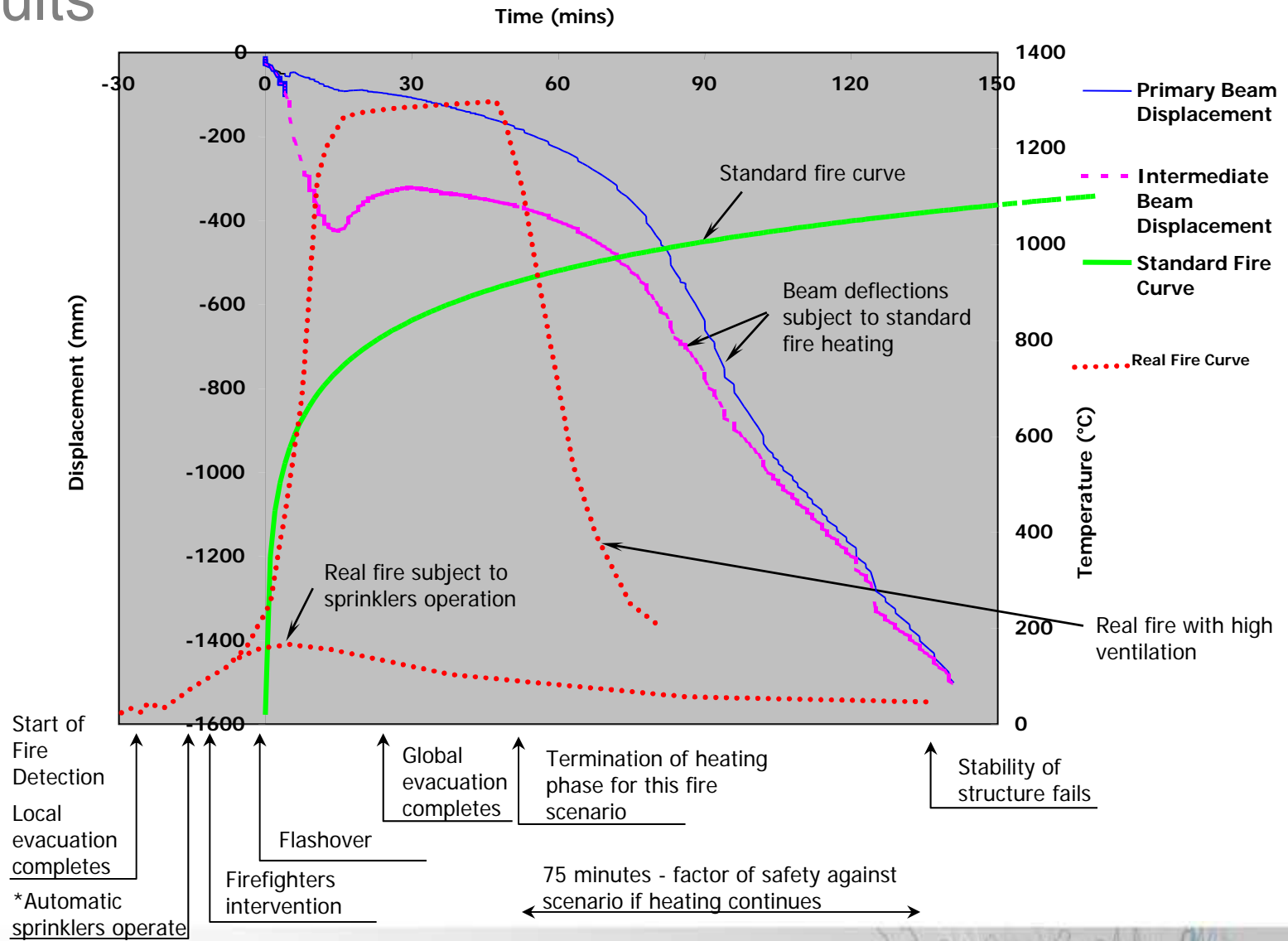
Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



Fire behaviour of a composite floor slab



Results



Sensitivity Study

- It is essential that sufficient sensitivity studies are performed to ensure that a robust solution.
- The input parameter and boundary conditions need to be varied beyond the normal design assumptions.
- Check for sudden changes in behaviours - 'Cliff edge analysis'



Reporting and Quality control of Assessment

Reporting:

- Detailed documentation of all assumptions and input variable with appropriate references
- Full results in calculations reports
- Summary report for stakeholders

Checking:

- 4 eyes concept
- Design reviews and sanity checks by senior staff
- Third party checking



Site Inspections and performance tests

- Site inspections are essential for performance based solutions during construction and after completion.
- Testing of mechanical systems – smoke test
- Trial evacuations

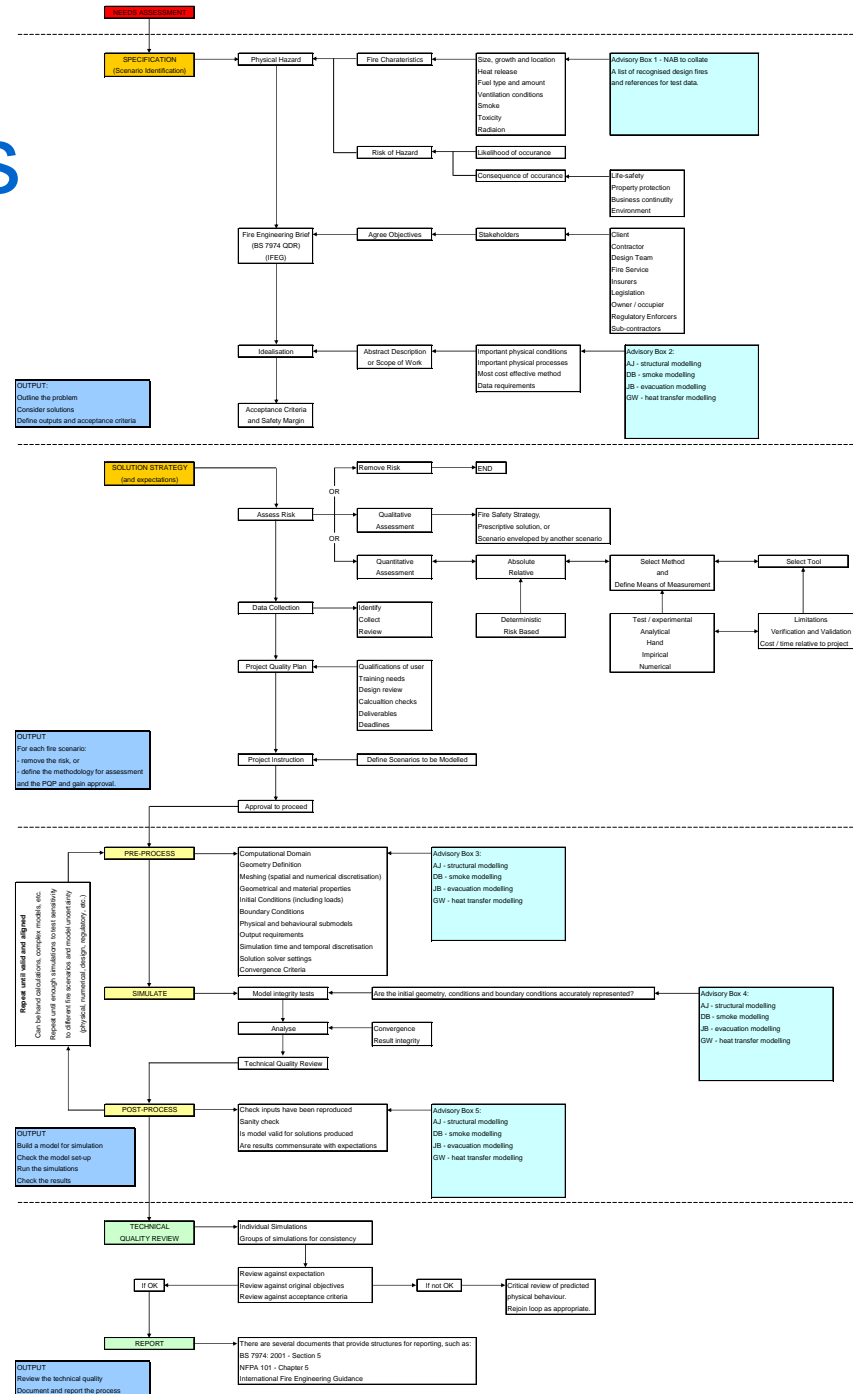


Modelling Process

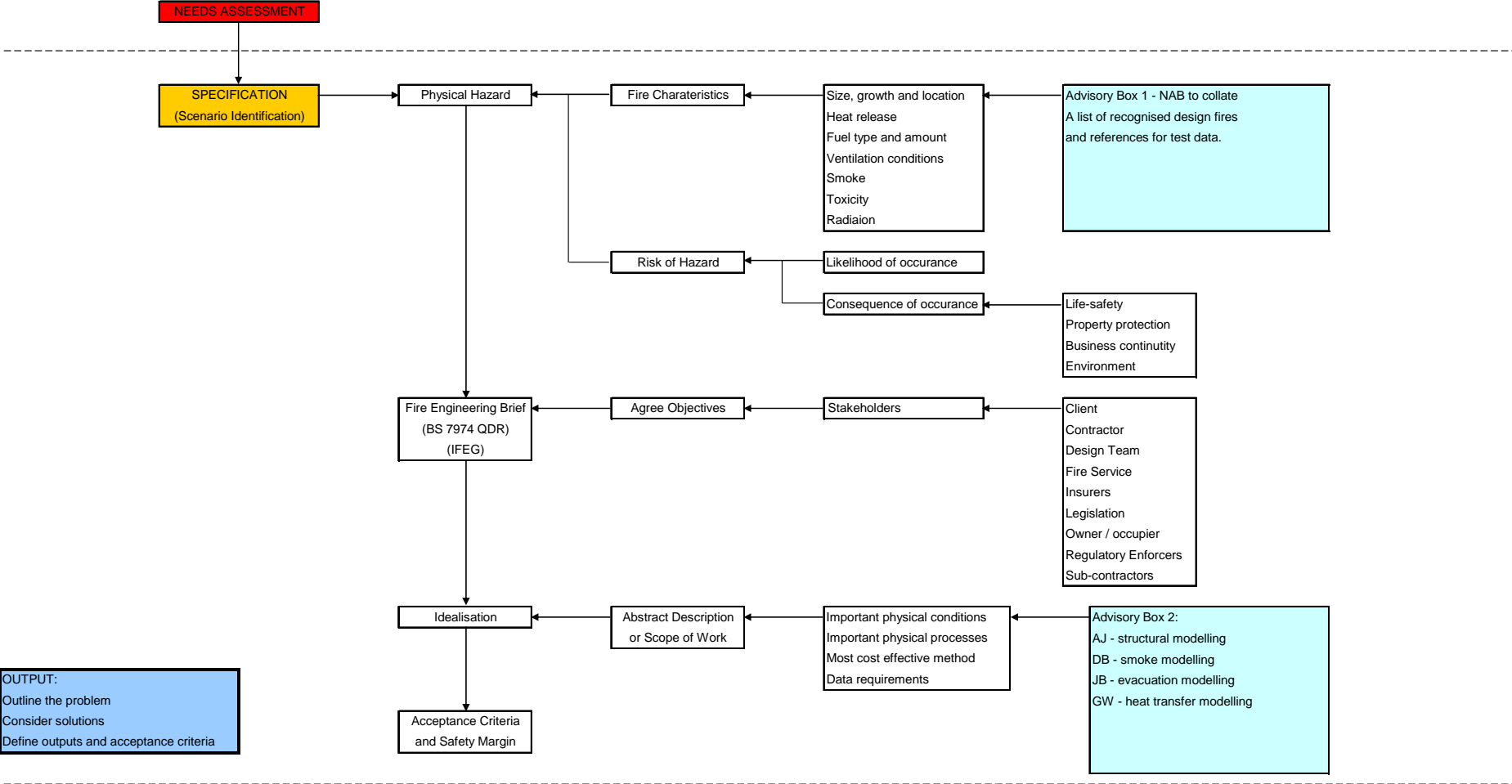
IFE – Special Interest Group
 • Fire Modelling

Currently draft

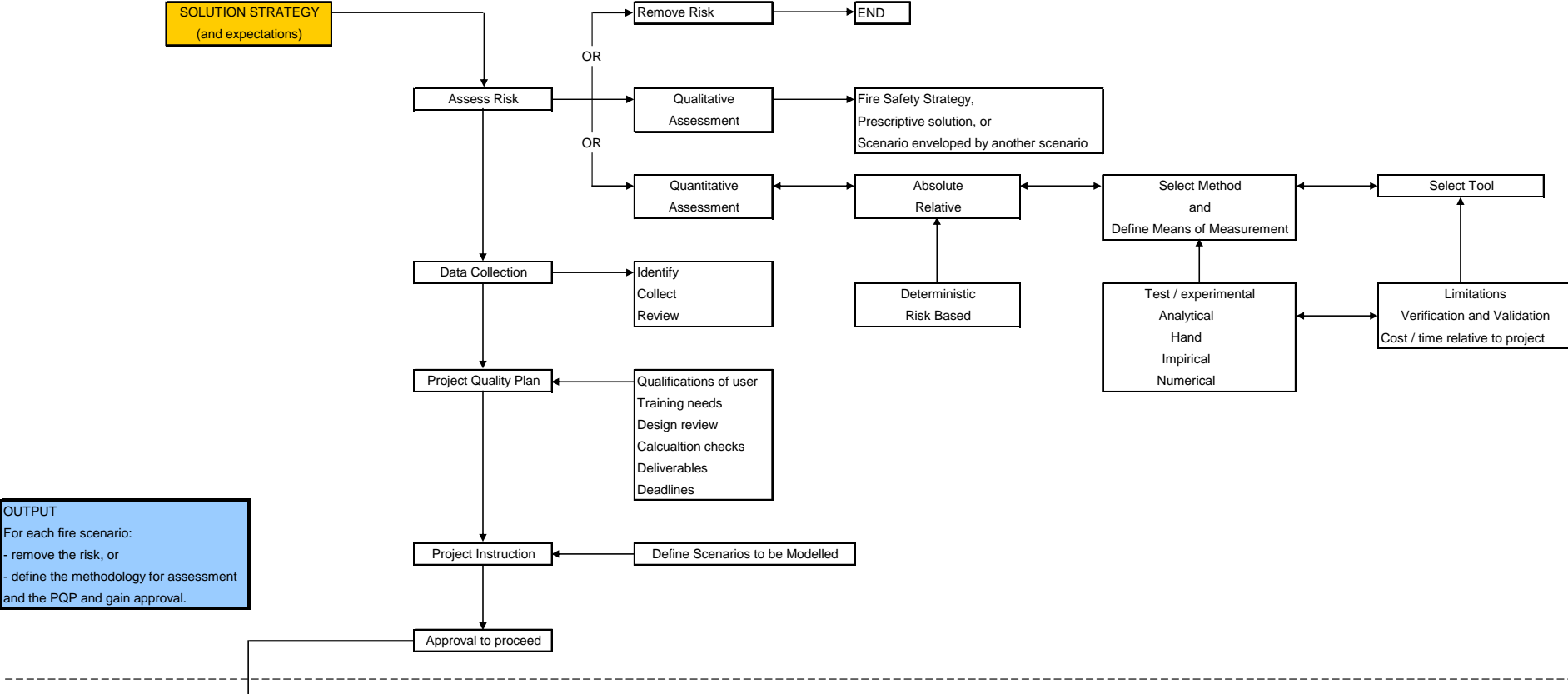
Comment welcome



Problem Specification (Scenario Setting)

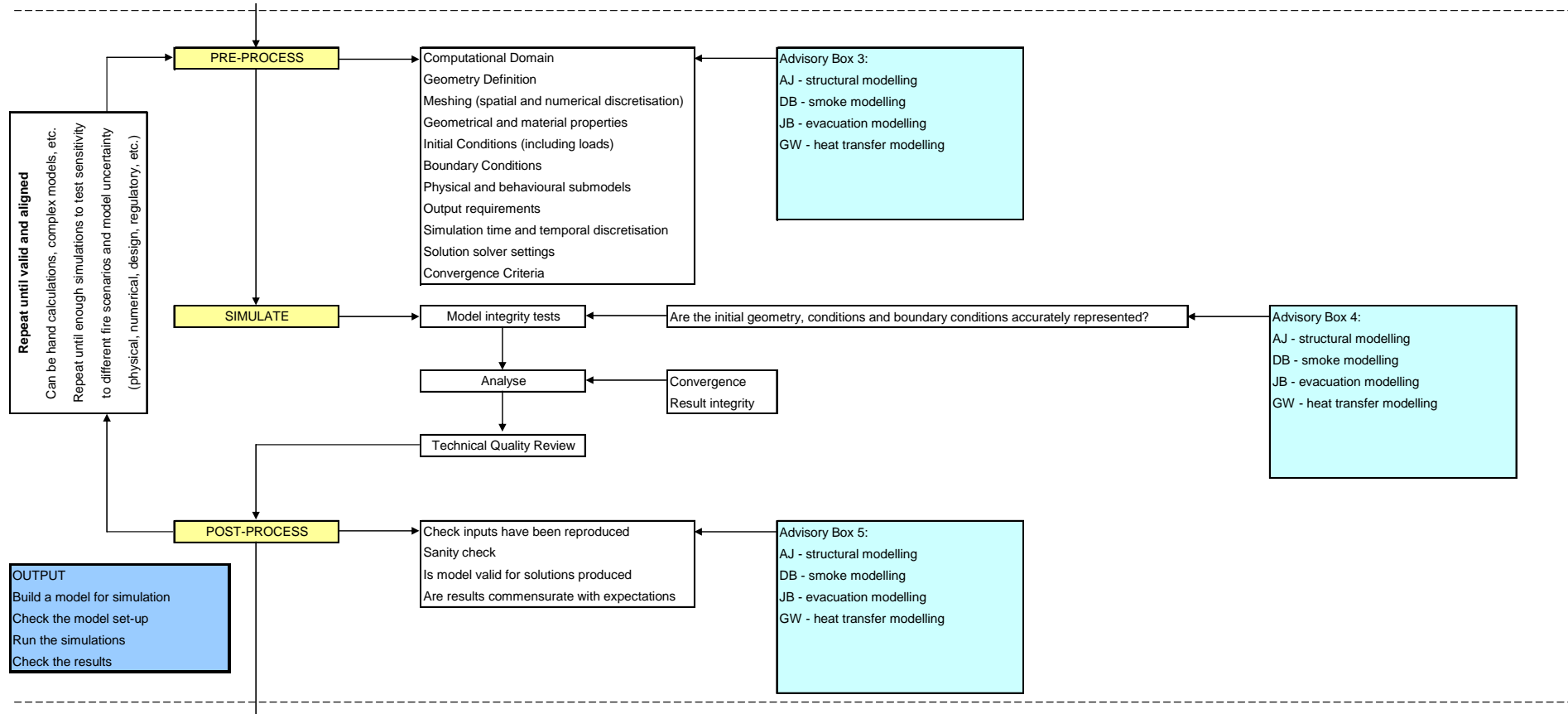


Solution Strategy

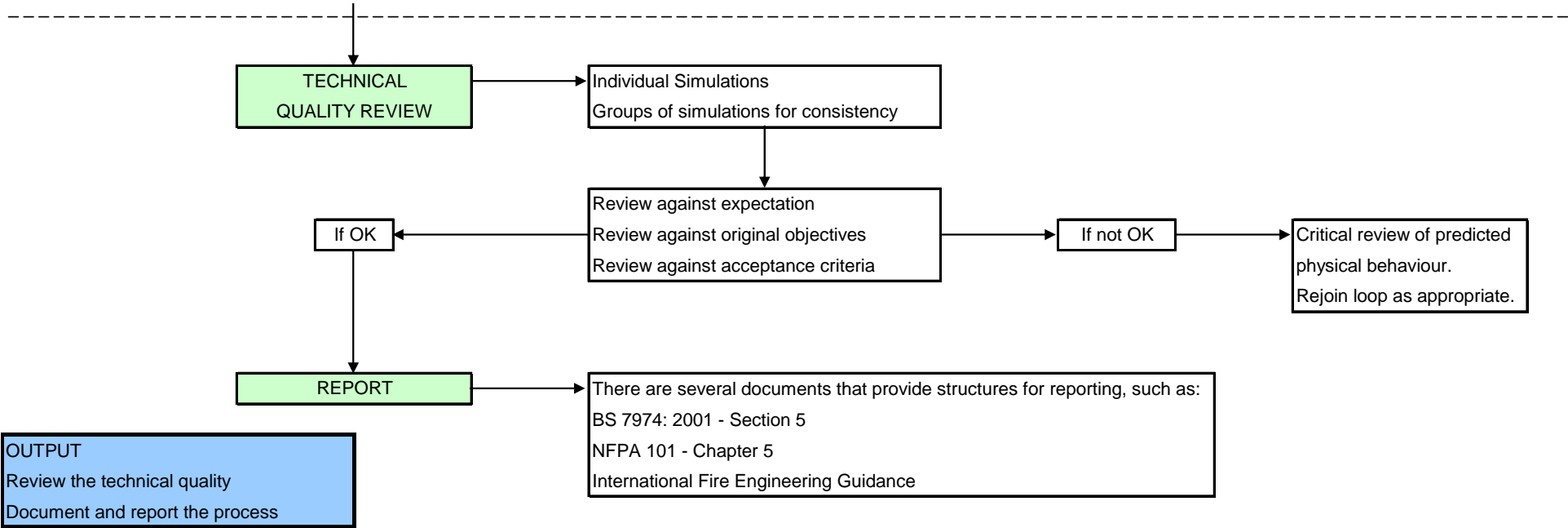


OUTPUT
 For each fire scenario:
 - remove the risk, or
 - define the methodology for assessment and the PQP and gain approval.

Analyse



Review and Report



Case Study 1

**United States Institute of Peace
Washington DC**

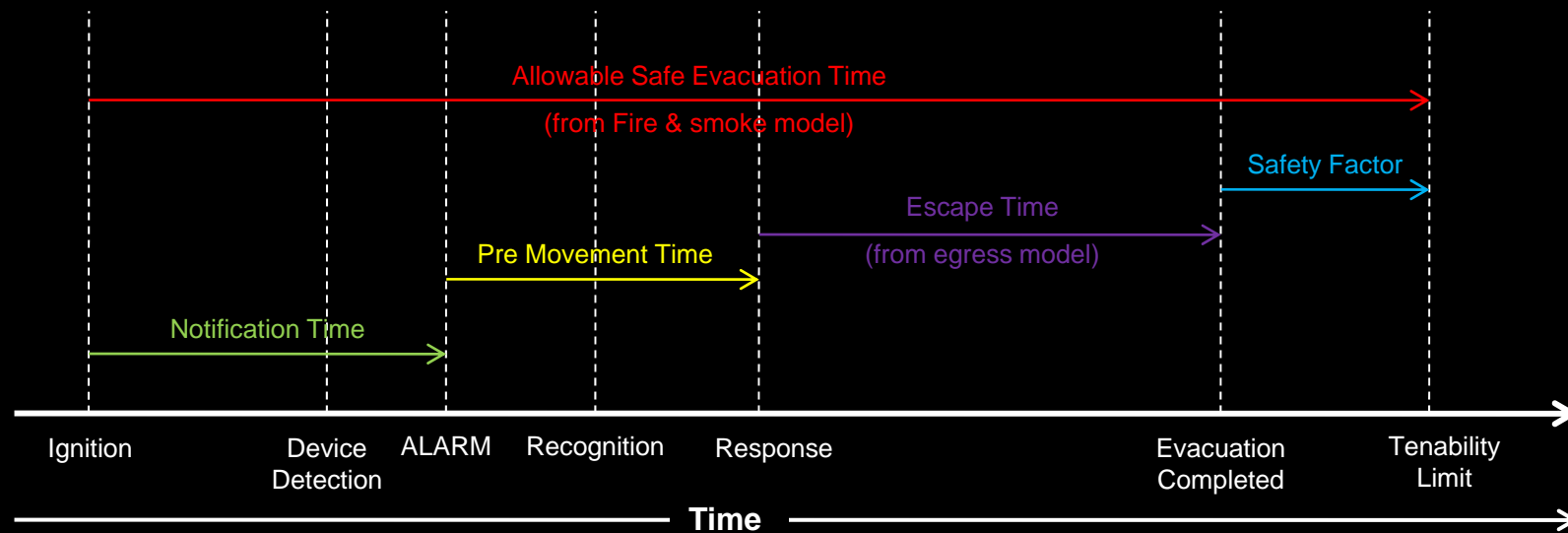


Study Purpose

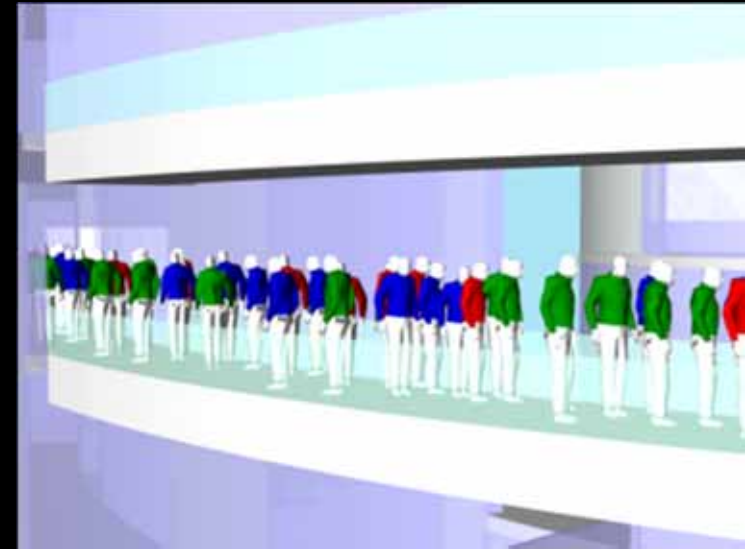
Provide safe environment for atrium occupants with **reduced smoke extract**

Escape Time + Safety Factor < Untenable Fire Conditions

Compare Fire & Smoke Model Vs Egress Model



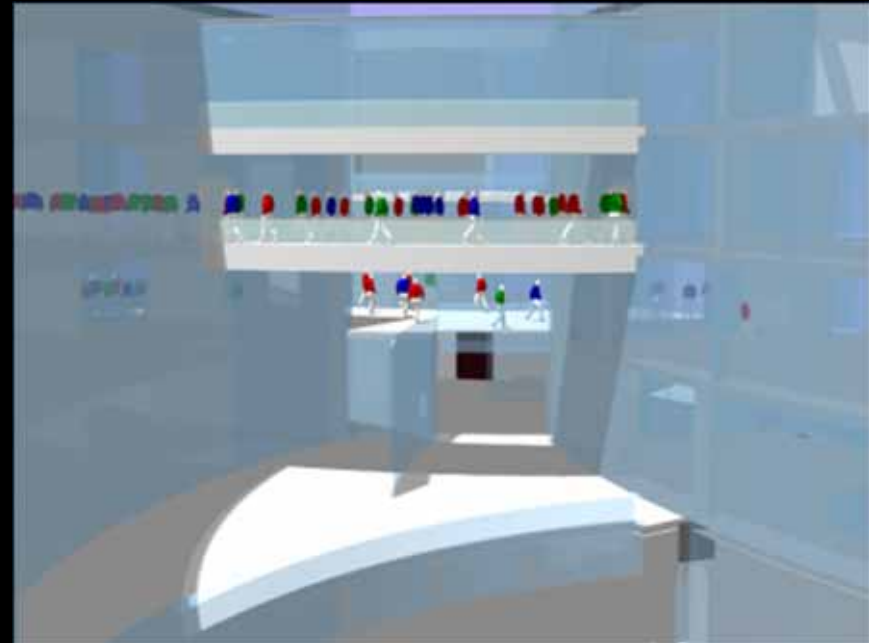
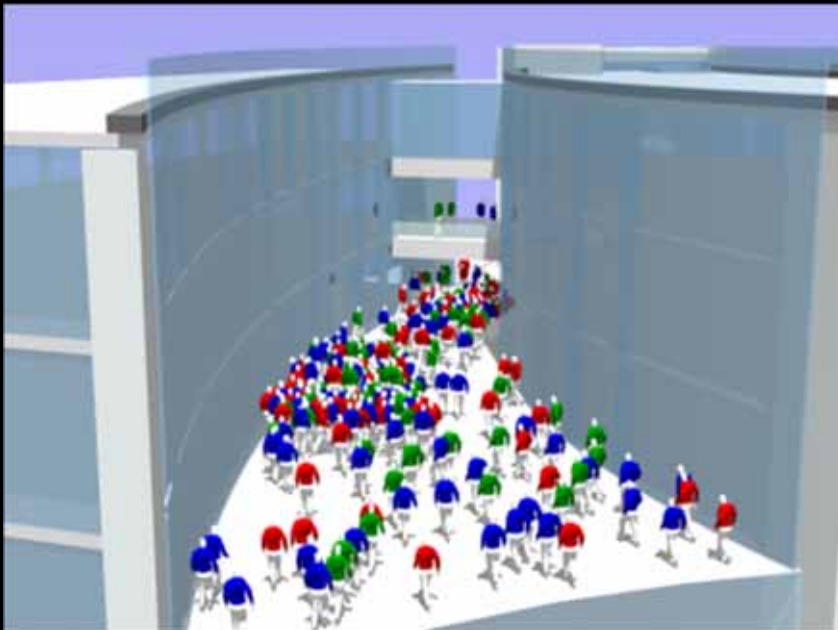
Egress Model (Bridge)



Egress Model Scenarios

Scenario 1: South Atrium

Time for occupants to egress a fully occupied Level 4 open bridge within the South Atrium



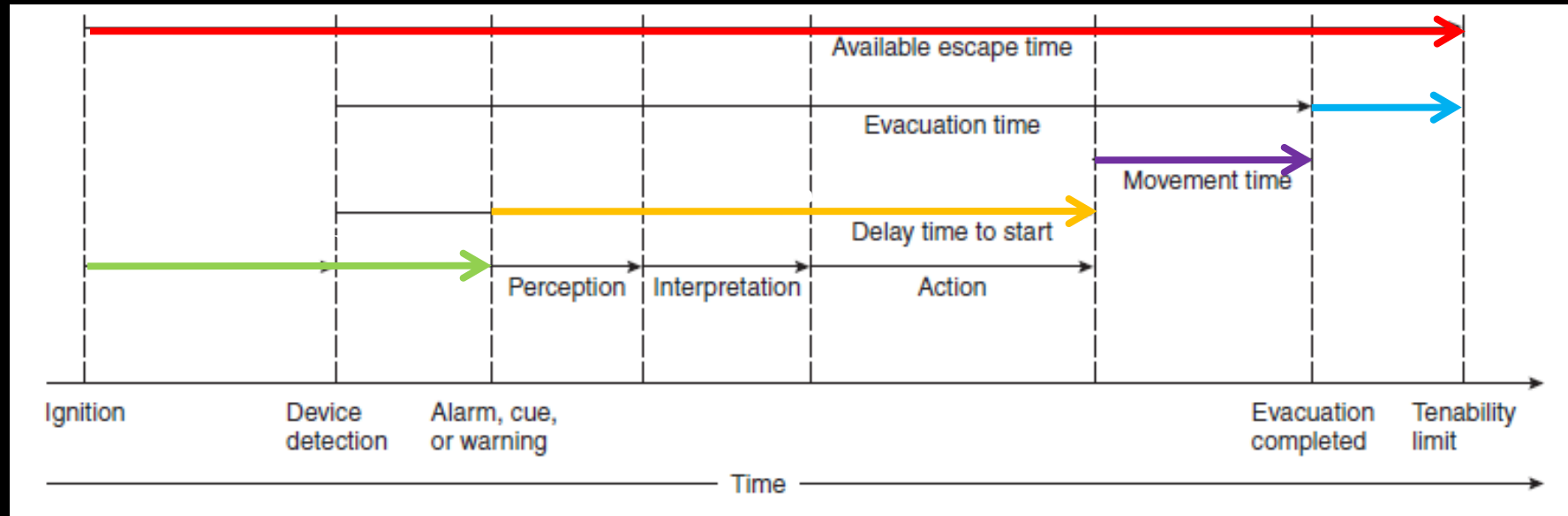
Scenario 2: North Atrium

Time for occupants to egress the Level 3 North Atrium base



Scenario 1 Egress Model

Evacuation Timeline (Scenario 1)



→ Time from fire ignition to detection – **60 seconds** (taken from live smoke test Dec 2010)

→ Delay time to start of egress – **30 seconds** (SFPE Handbook Table 3-13.1)

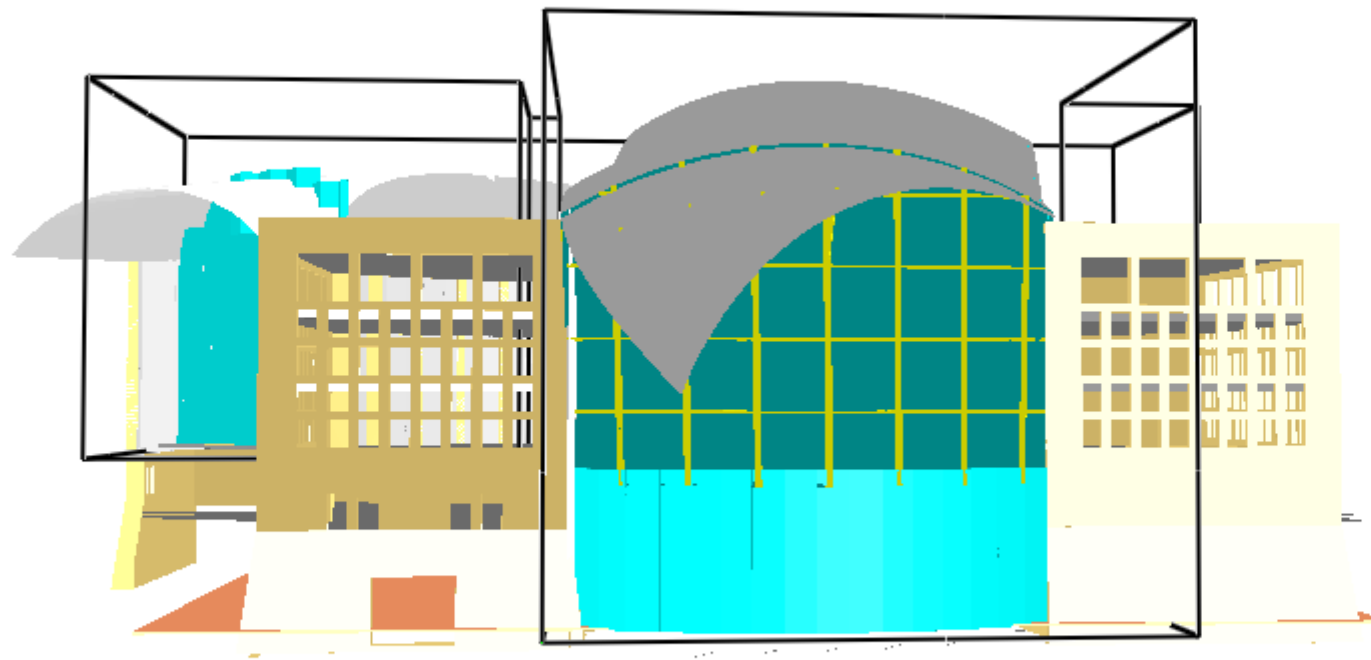
→ Egress model time – **67 seconds** (1m:07s)

→ Safety Factor : 50% of egress model time - **34 seconds**

TOTAL EVACUATION TIME = 191 seconds (3m:11s)

Results – Fire Model 4th Floor

Smokeview 5.6 - Oct 29 2010



Slice
VIS_Soot
m



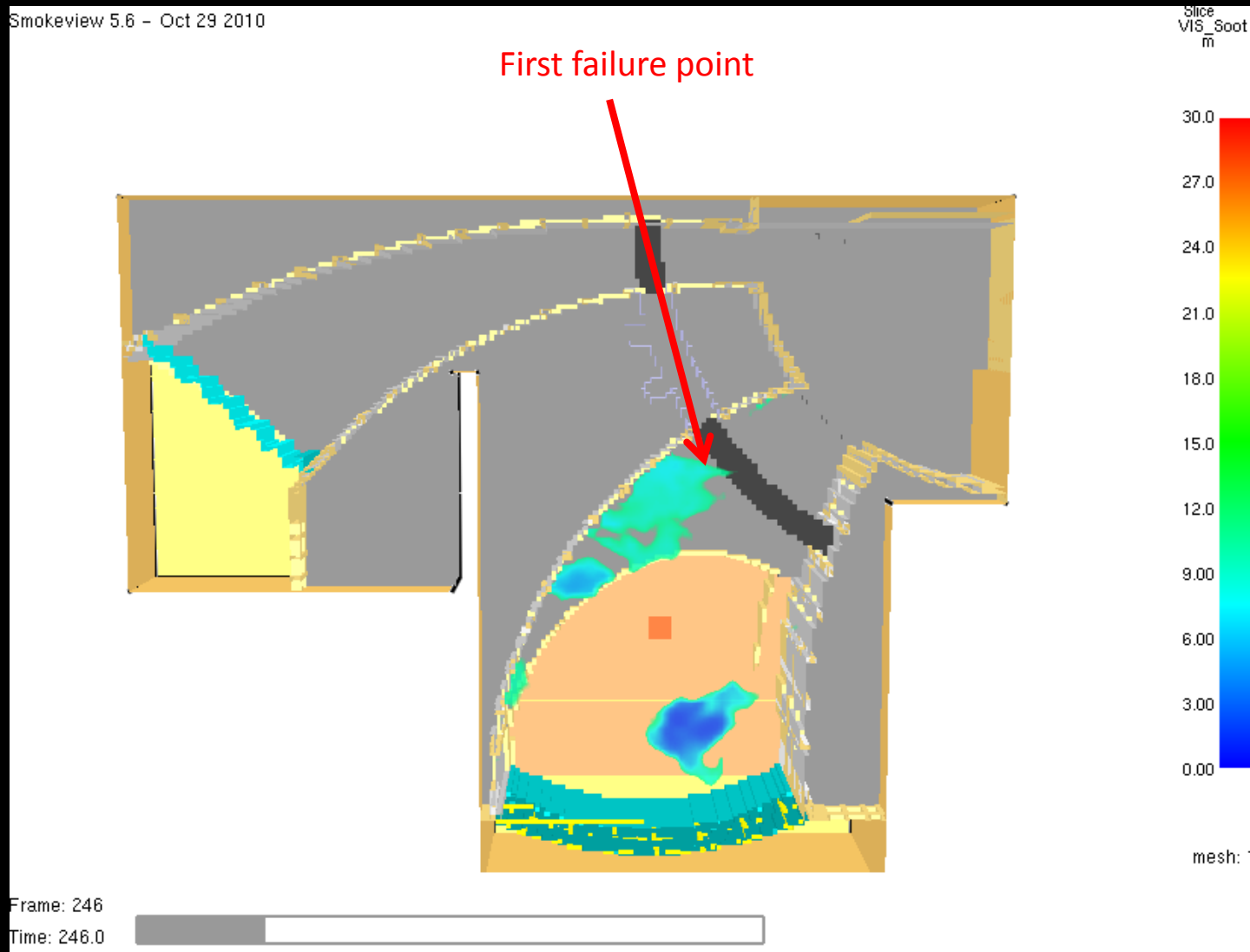
mesh: 1

Frame: 0

Time: 0.0



Results – Fire Model 4th Floor

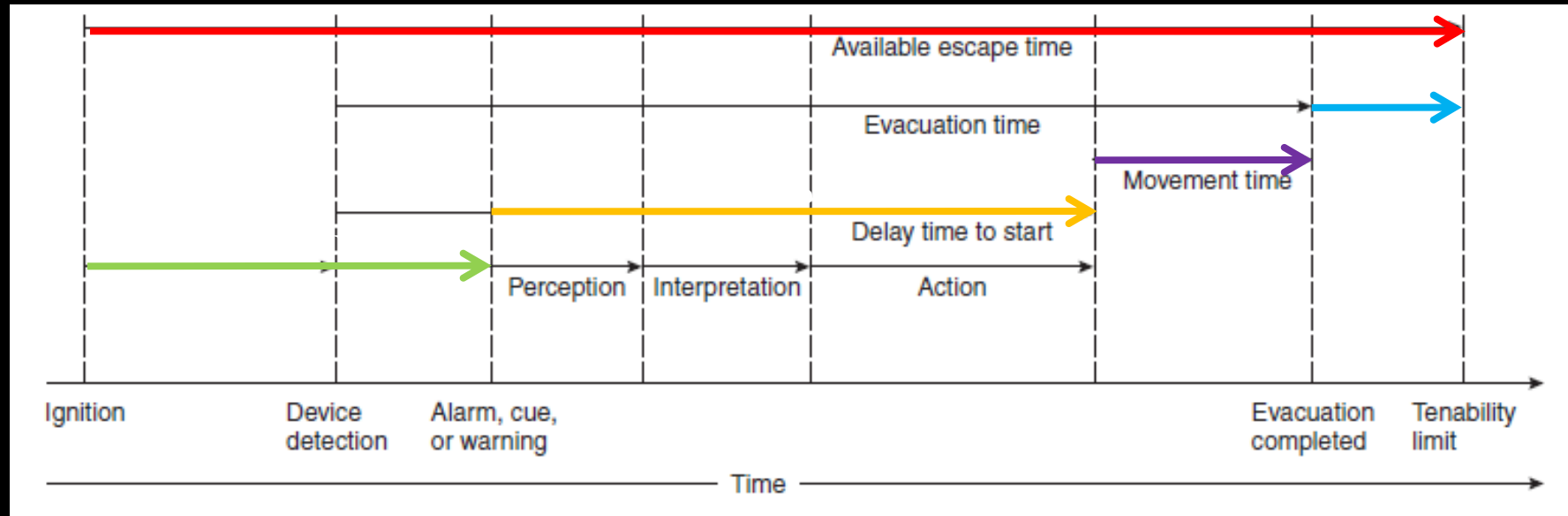


Conditions maintained tenable for 245 seconds

Scenario 2 Egress Model



Evacuation Timeline (Scenario 2)



→ Time from fire ignition to detection – **60 seconds** (taken from live smoke test Dec 2010)

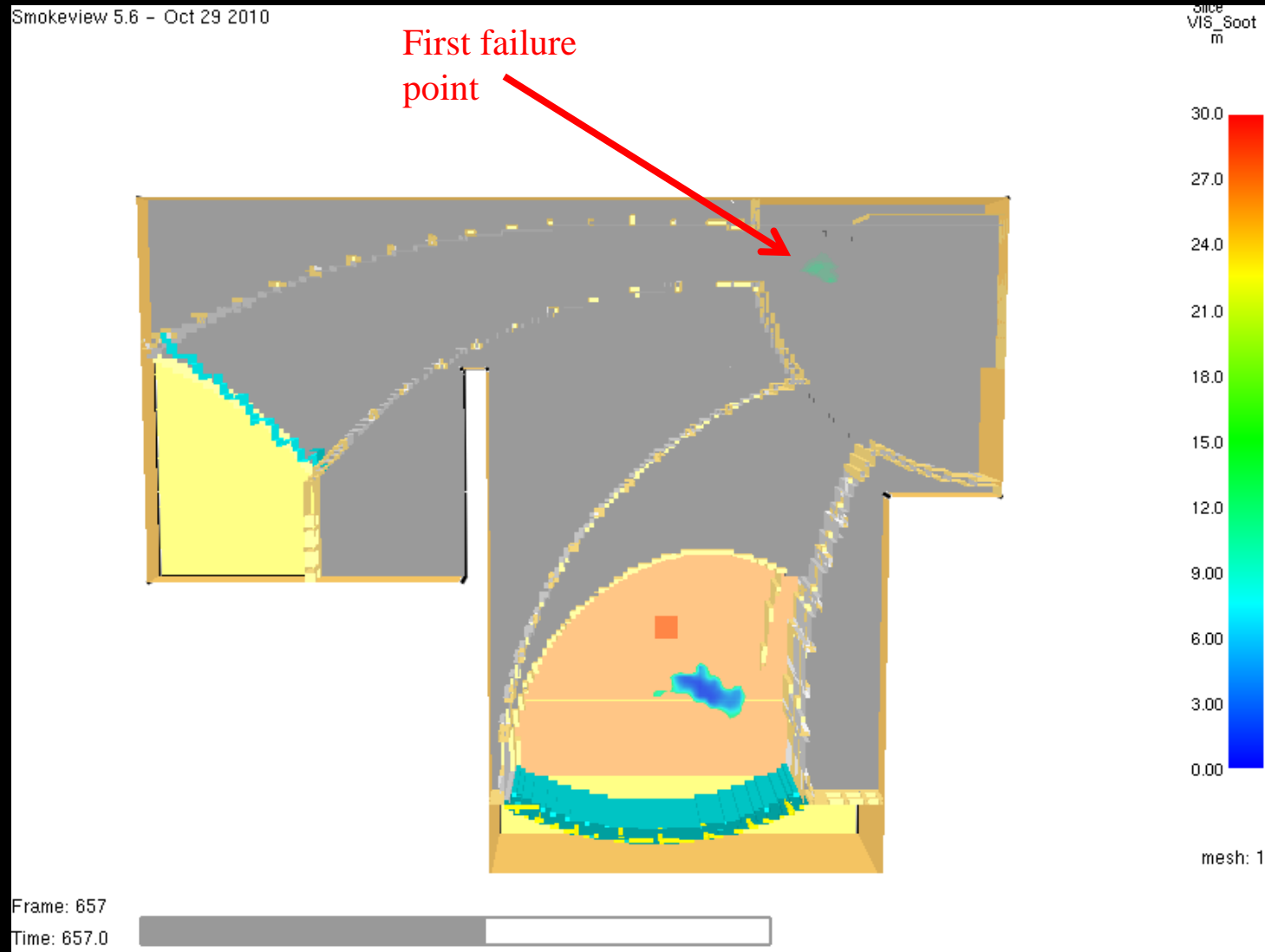
→ Delay time to start of egress – **90 seconds** (SFPE Handbook Table 3-13.1)

→ Egress model time – **156 seconds** (2m:26s) [61s for North Link Bridge]

→ Safety Factor : 50% of egress model time - **78 seconds**

TOTAL EVACUATION TIME = 384 seconds (6m:24s)

Results – Fire Model 3rd Floor



Conditions maintained tenable for 657 seconds

RSET Vs ASET Conclusions

Scenario	Total Egress Time (+ 50% code Safety Factor)	Time to Untenable Conditions	Additional Safety Factor (over the req'd 50% by code)
1	191 s (3m:11s)	245s (4m:05s)	54s (22%)
2	384 s (6m:24s)	657 s (10m:57s)	273s (42%)

Safe conditions are maintained for longer periods than the minimum required safe egress times by means of smoke control

Project Examples:

The Rock Triangle, Bury



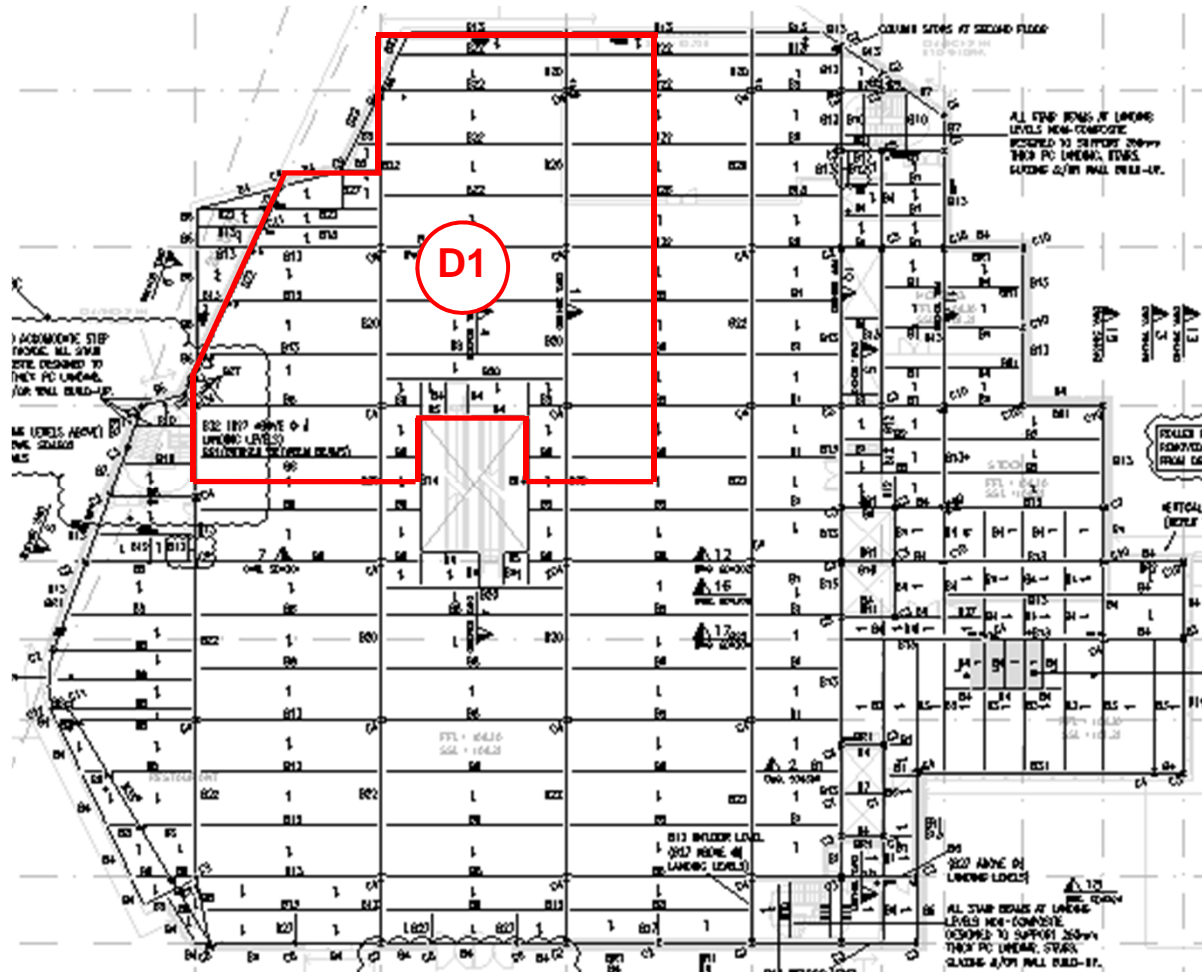
Building Description



- £150m retail, leisure and residential development in Bury, UK.
- 10 Buildings forming a new city centre
- Block D – Debenhams Store
- 3 story composite steel frame
- Cell beams
- Fire resistance period: 60 minutes



Overview of a floor plate

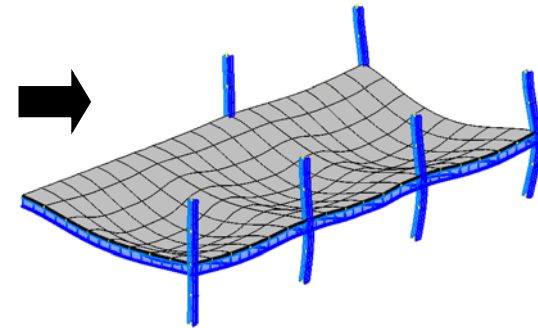
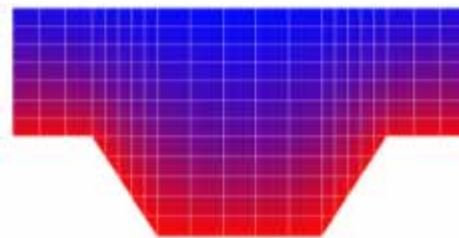


Location of *Vulcan* model

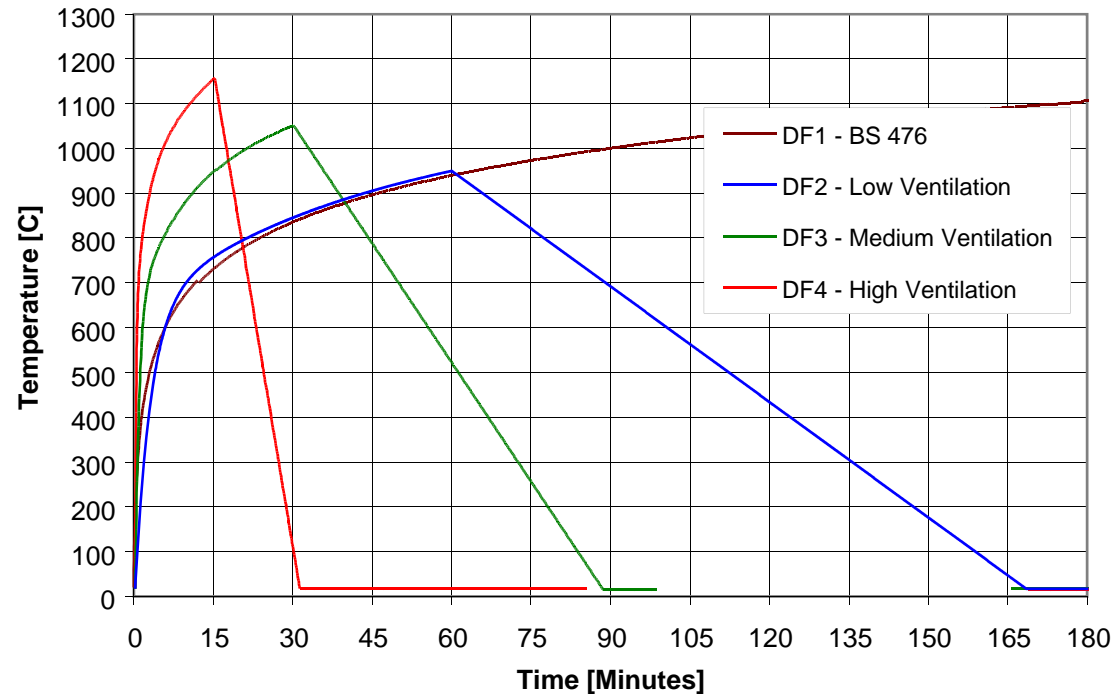
Methodology and Process

Show an equivalent standard of performance to what is seen to be acceptable in prescriptive guidance.

1. Agree methodology with Stakeholders
2. Develop design fires (including cooling)
3. Develop assessment criteria
4. Build geometry of the sub-frames and analyse for different fires
5. Assess connection forces
6. Write a detailed report
7. Present and negotiate with Building Control



Design Fires



DF1-Standard Fire

DF2-Slow Fire

- Worst Parametric Fire
- Largest vertical deflections of protected beams
- Critical for columns

DF3-Medium Fire

DF4-Fast Fire

Hottest fire / Early deflections of unprotected beams /
Largest connection forces

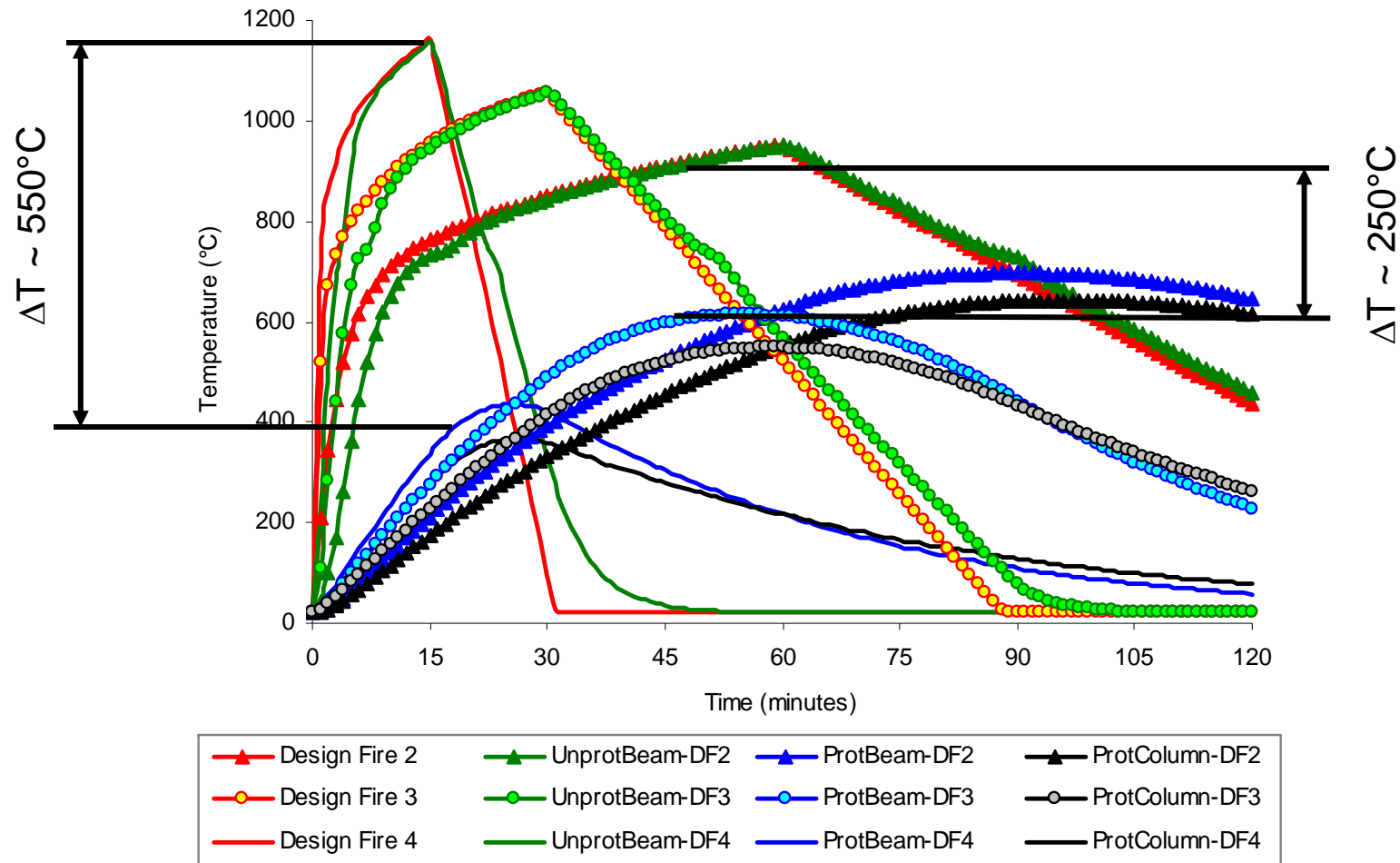
Acceptance Criteria

- Stability – checked by Vulcan
- Integrity – controlled over deflection limits
- Insulation – normally not a problem in composite slabs

Design Fire	Assessment Period	Acceptance Criteria
DF1 – Low Ventilation (No Cooling)	60 minutes	Check for runaway deflections
DF2 – Low Ventilation (With Cooling)	60 minutes (compartment floor)	Deflection of protected beams < Span/20
DF3 – Medium Ventilation (With Cooling)		Deflection of slab < Span/20 (compartment floor)
DF4 – High Ventilation (With Cooling)		Deflection of slab < Span/10 (non-compartment floor)
	Entire fire duration (non-compartment floor)	Connection forces to be provided.

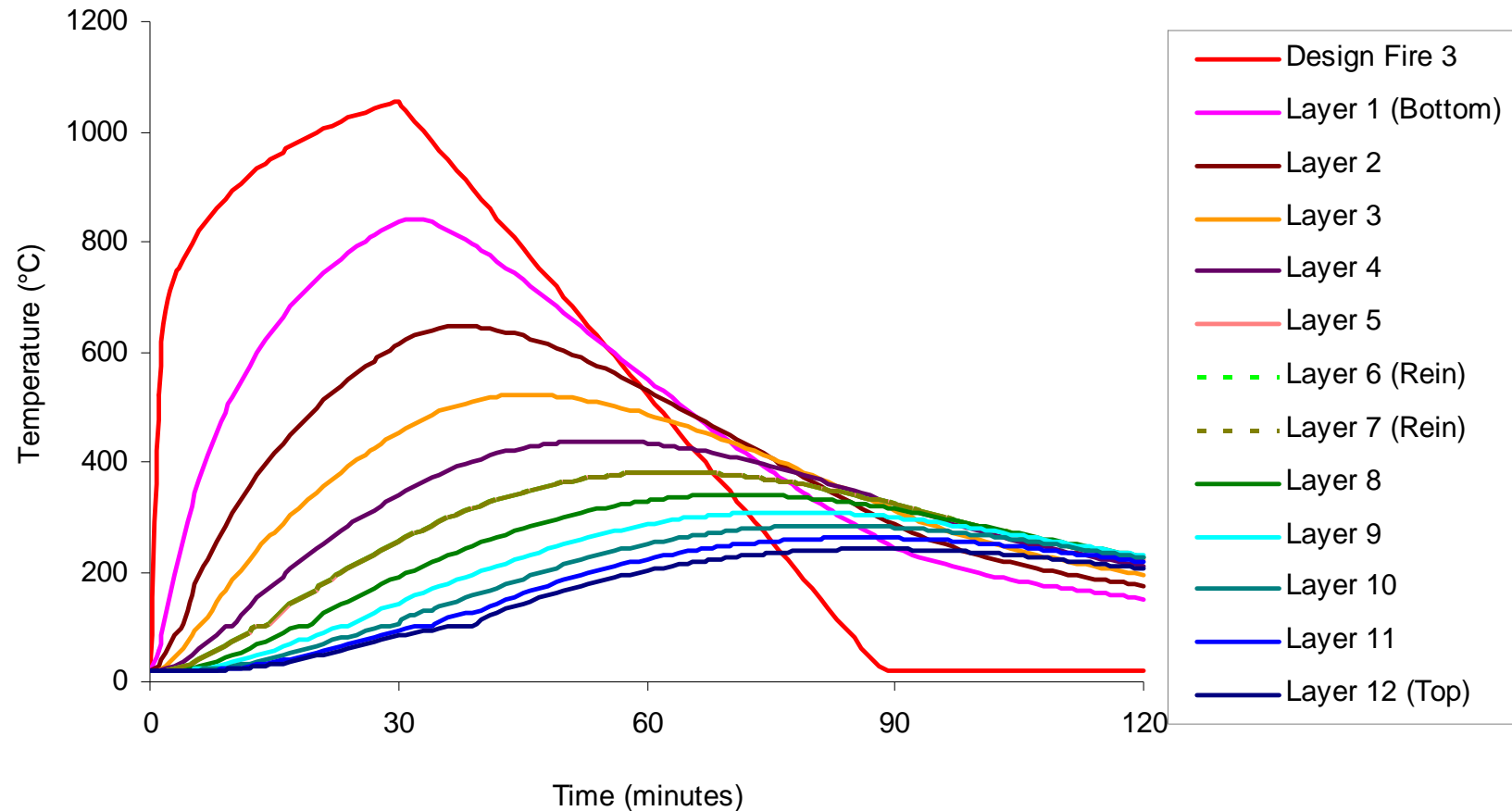
Material Temperatures

Typical steel temperatures calculated by using EC3-1.2 heat transfer calculations for each part of the section

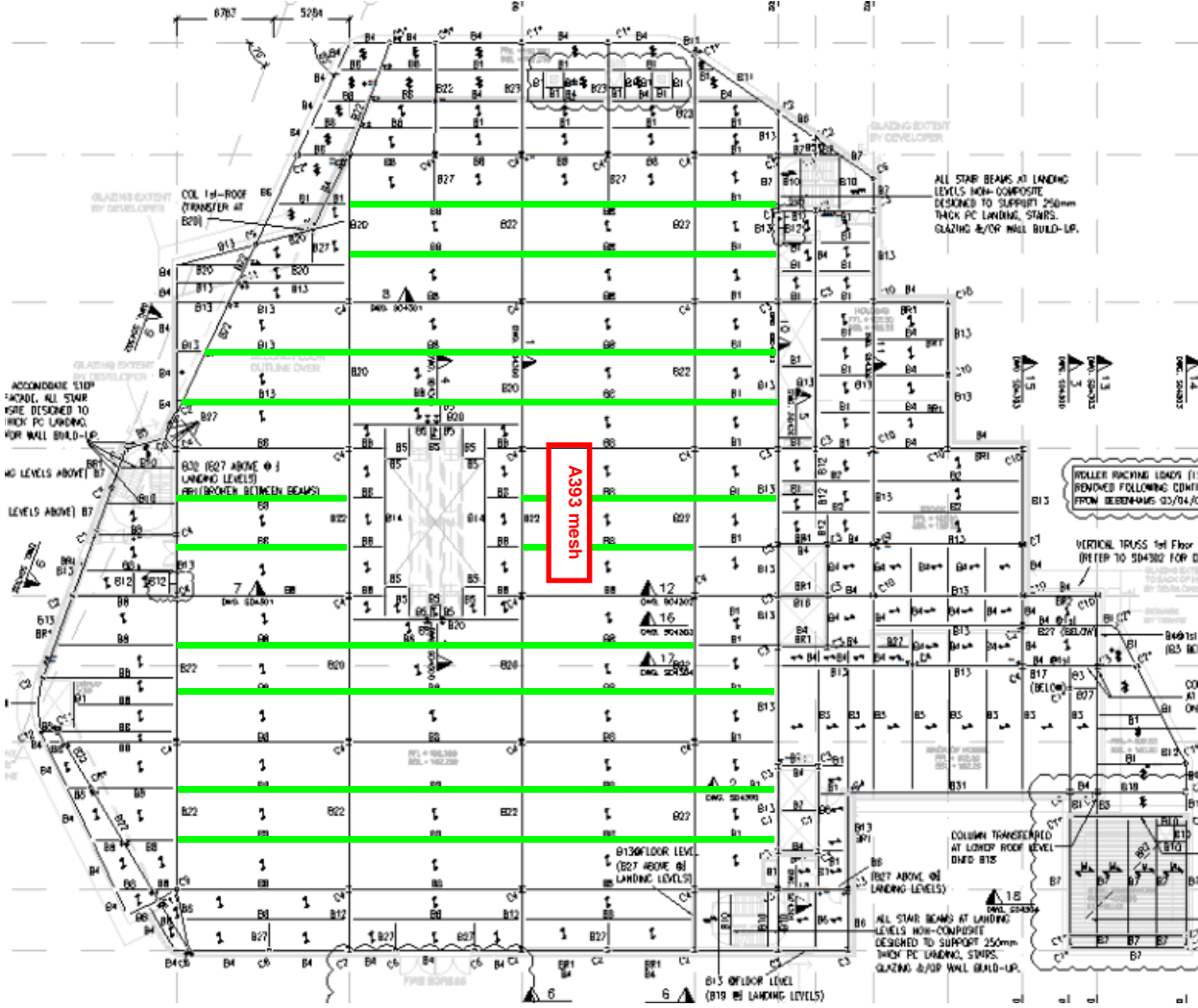


Material Temperatures

Typical concrete slab temperatures



Proposed Fire Protection Regime

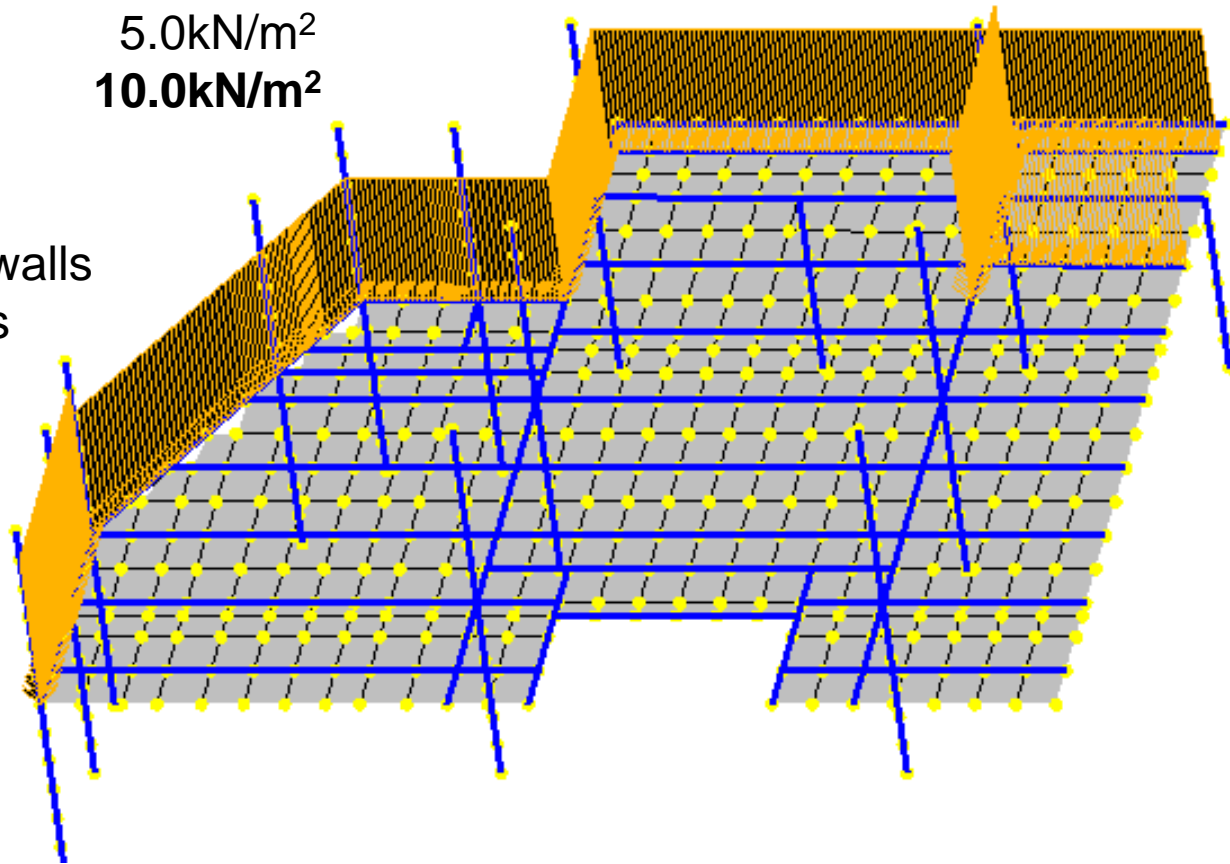


Vulcan Model - Loading

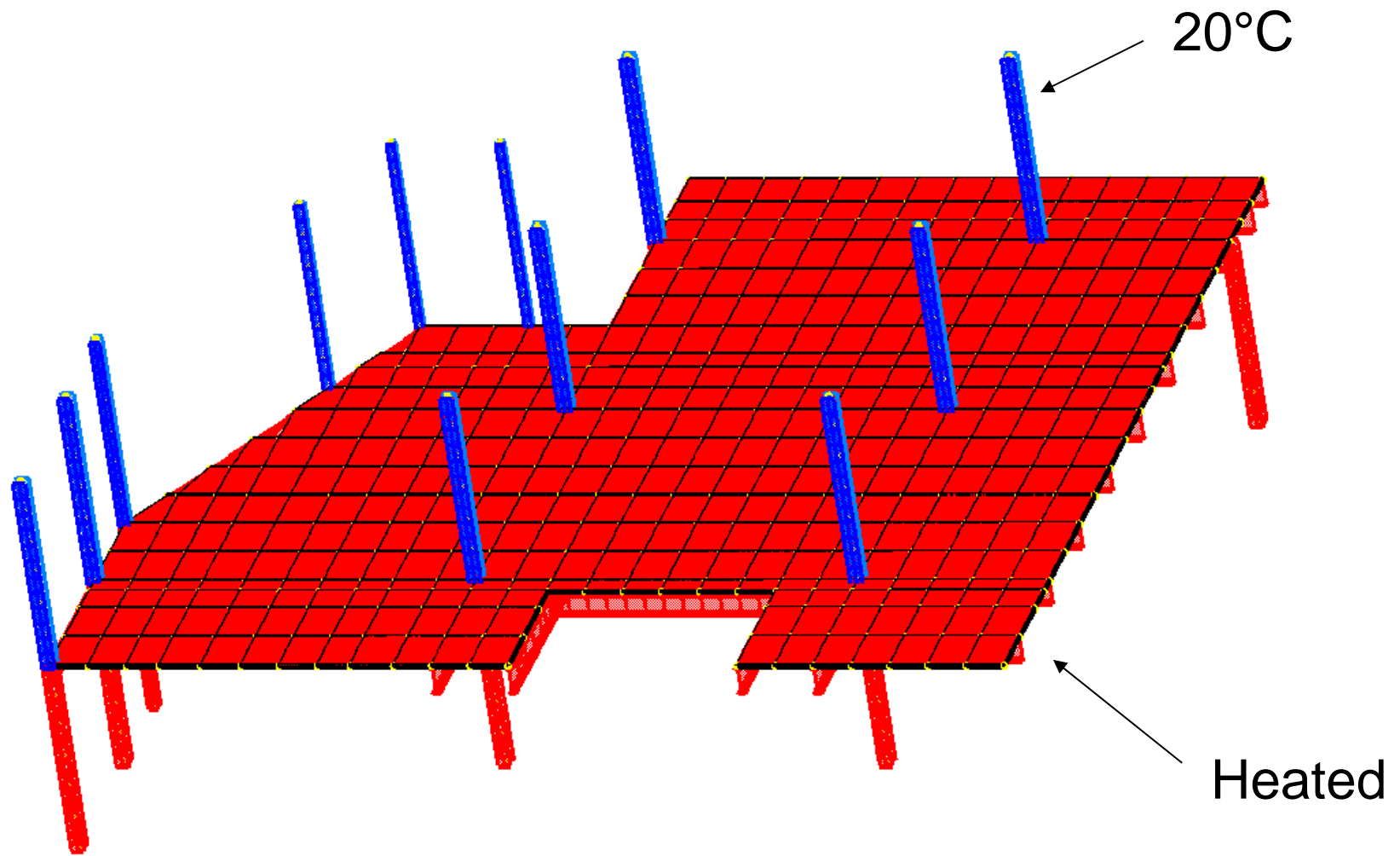
Floor Loads:

Dead Load	6.0kN/m ²
Non-perm. Live Load	5.0kN/m ²
FLS = 6.0 + 0.8 x 5.0 =	10.0kN/m²

- + Line loads for façade
- + Line loads for internal walls
- + Point loads on columns

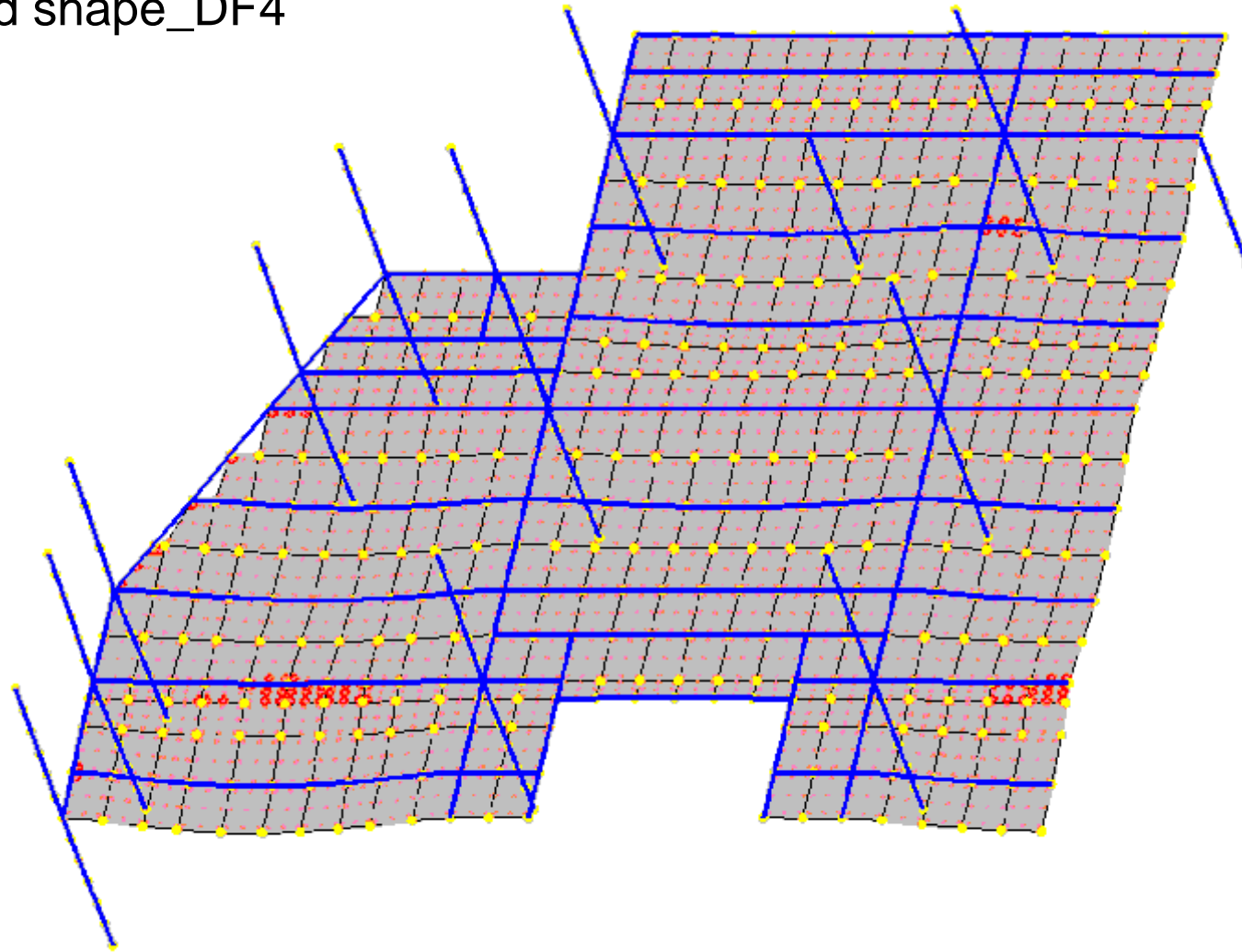


Heating regime



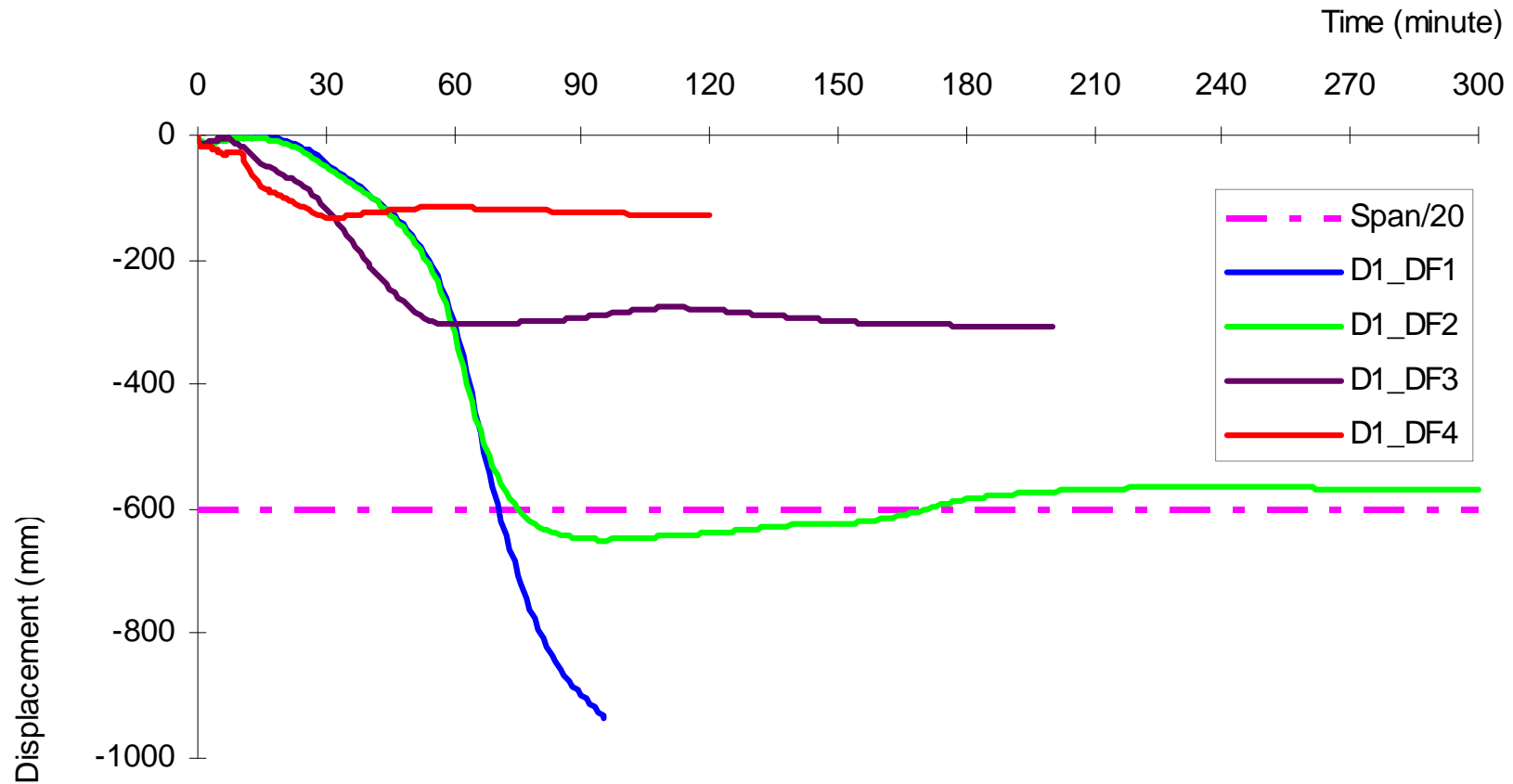
SFE Analyses and Results

Deflected shape_DF4



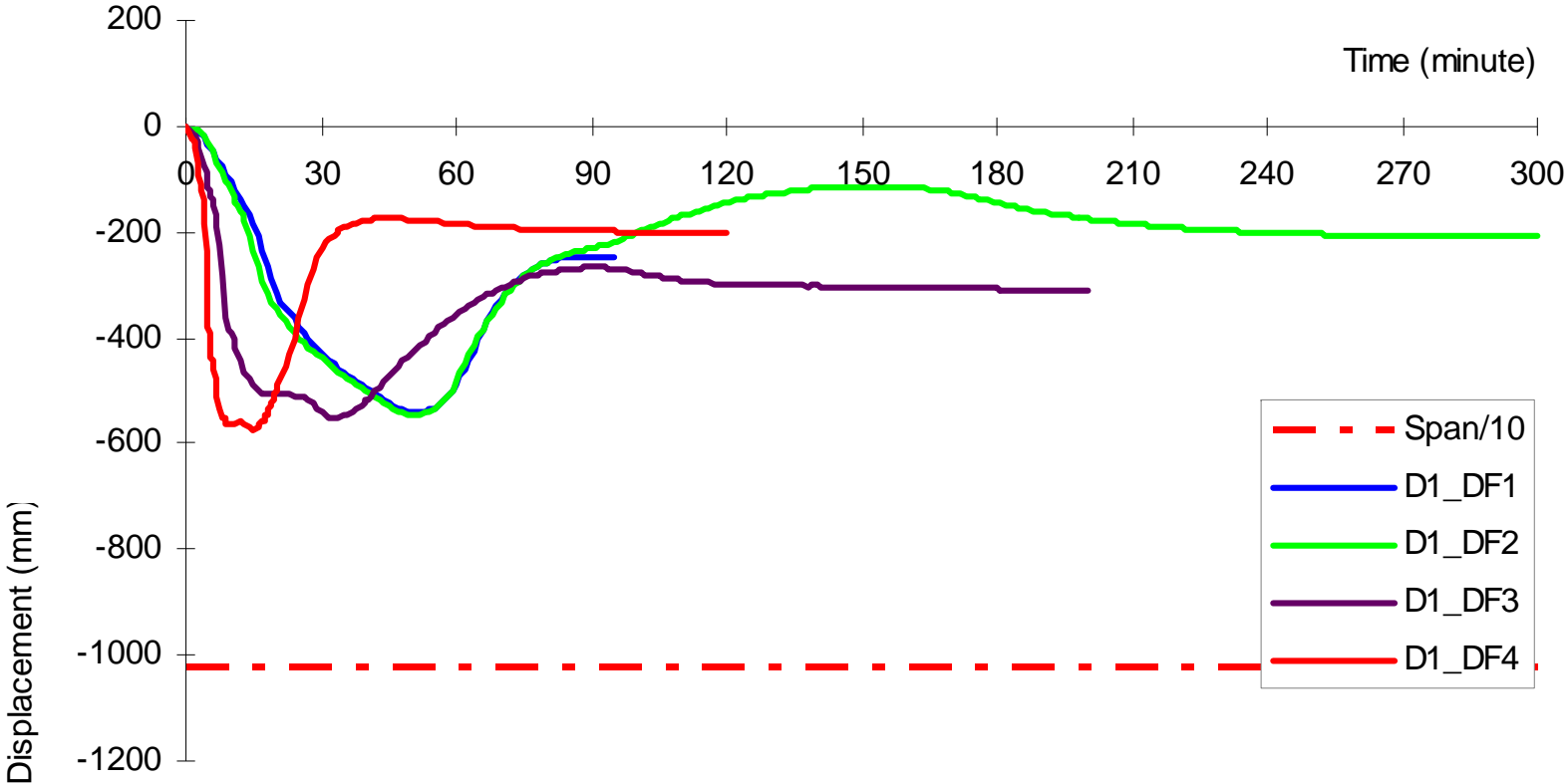
SFE Analyses and Results

Max protected beam deflections



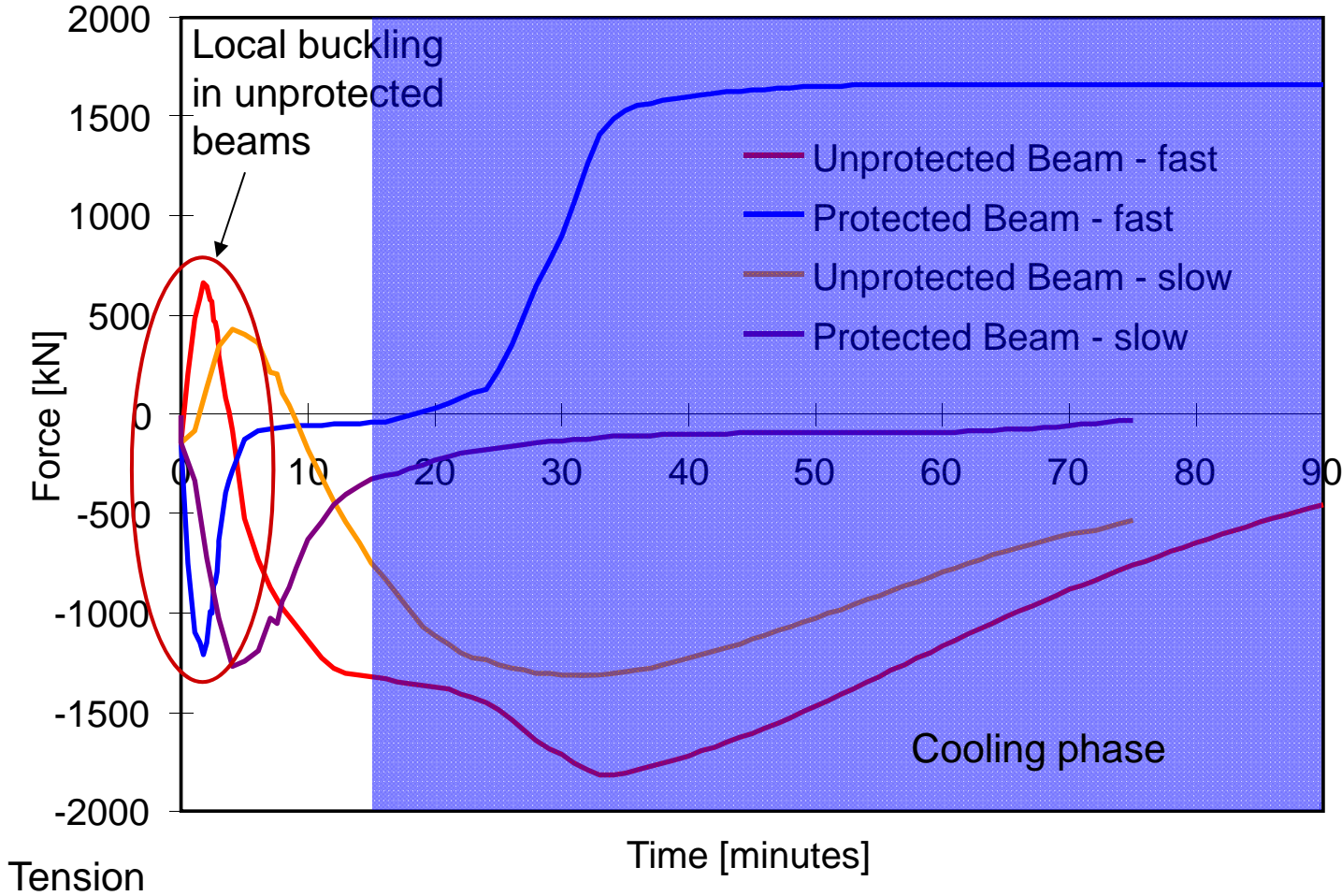
SFE Analyses and Results

Max differential slab deflections



Connection forces

Compression



Connections in Fire - Cardington



Lower flange buckling occurred during early stages of fire – thermal expansion



Bolt failure occurred during cooling phase

Connections in Fire



Double web cleat for unprotected beams



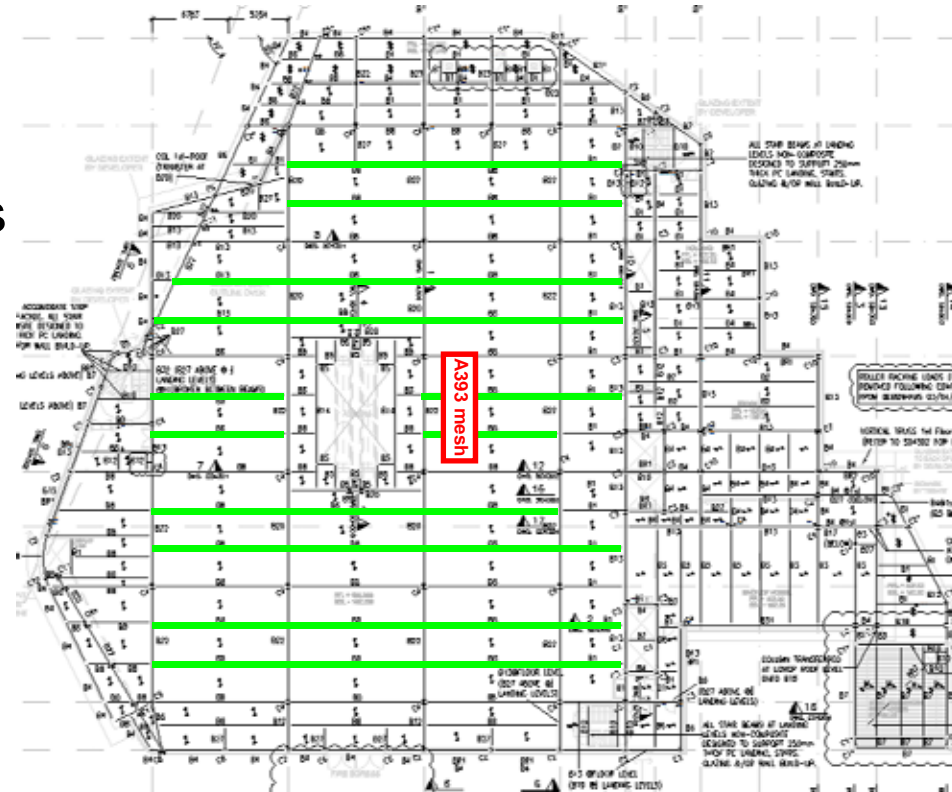
Endplate connections to protected beams framing into columns

Site Pictures



Conclusions

- About 30% of floor beams can be unprotected
- Some protected secondary beams needed to be stronger
- Reinforcement mesh in slab increased
- Connection design influenced
- Significant cost savings



ME Hotel, London

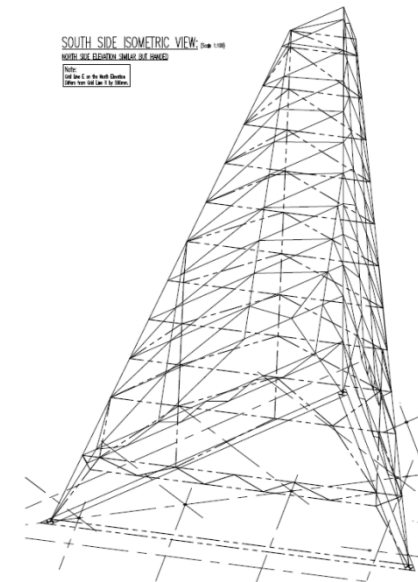


ME Hotel – Aldwych London

Client: MELIÁ HOTELS INTERNATIONAL

Architects: **Foster + Partners**

10 storey refurbished hotel and residential building with central atrium

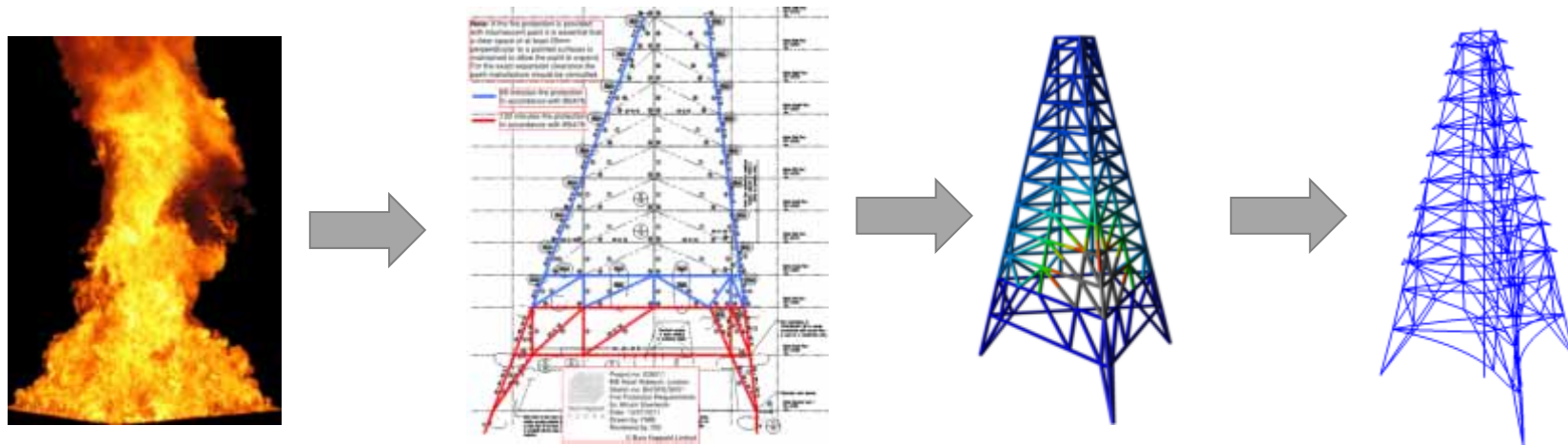


Assessment Methodology

Hazard identification and risk assessment

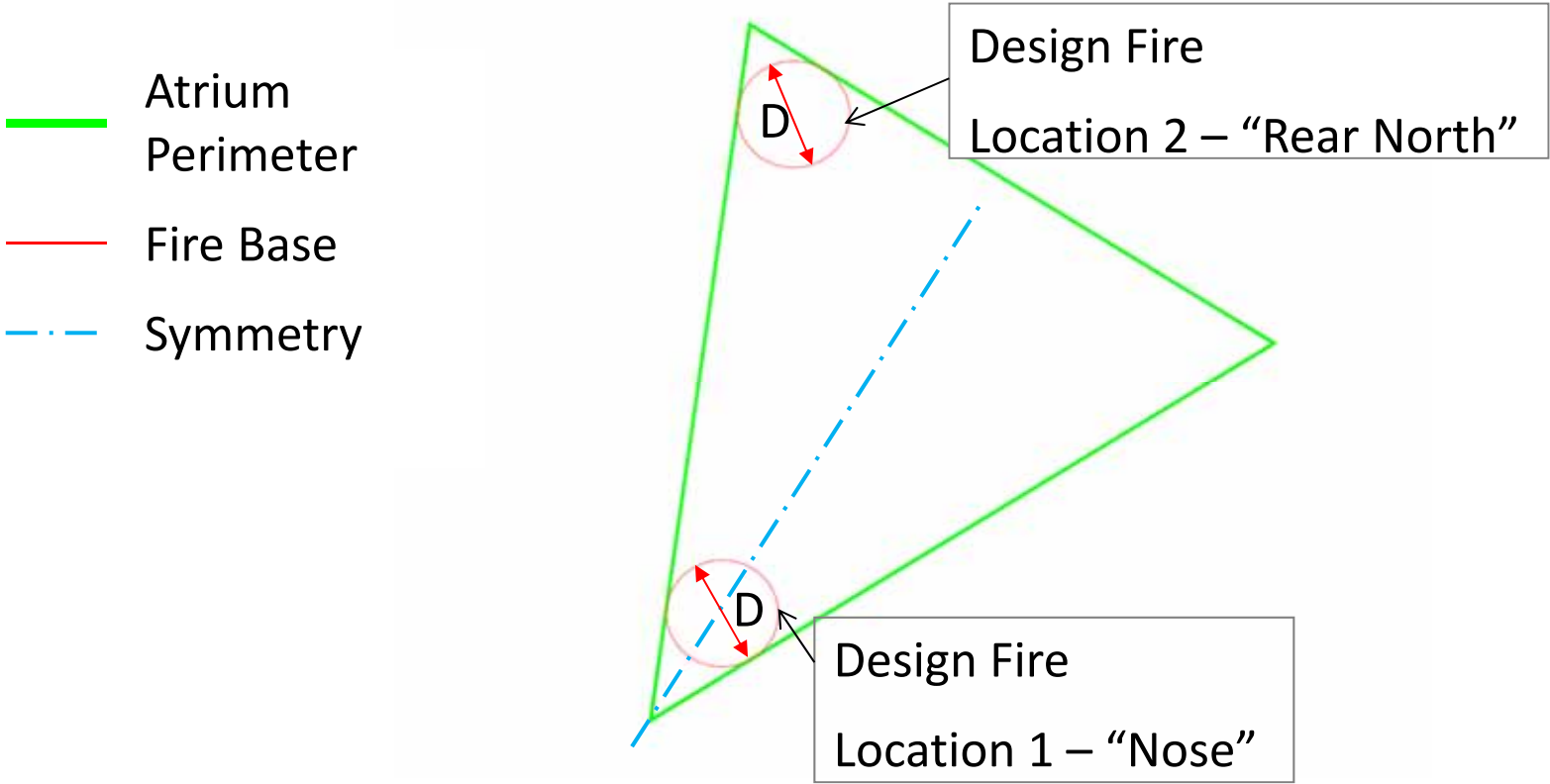
Structural response modelling at elevated temperature

- Define design fire
- Determine fire protection scheme
- Calculate the heat transfer of the structure
- Calculate the response of the structure at the elevated temperature
- Assessment criteria – Global stability



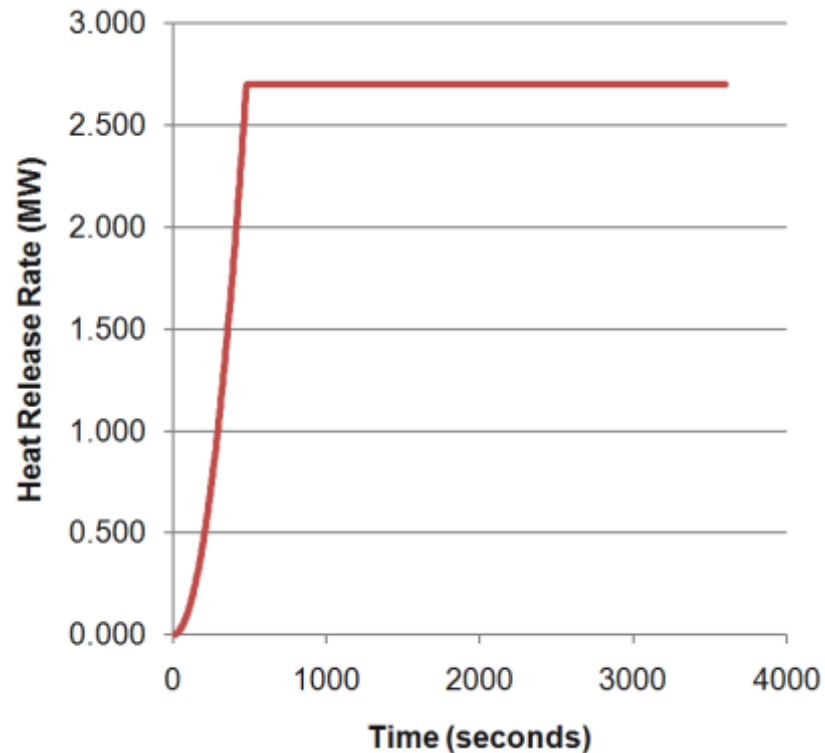
Design Fire Scenarios

Risk assessment result: Unsprinklered fire at the atrium base
2 fire locations have been assessed

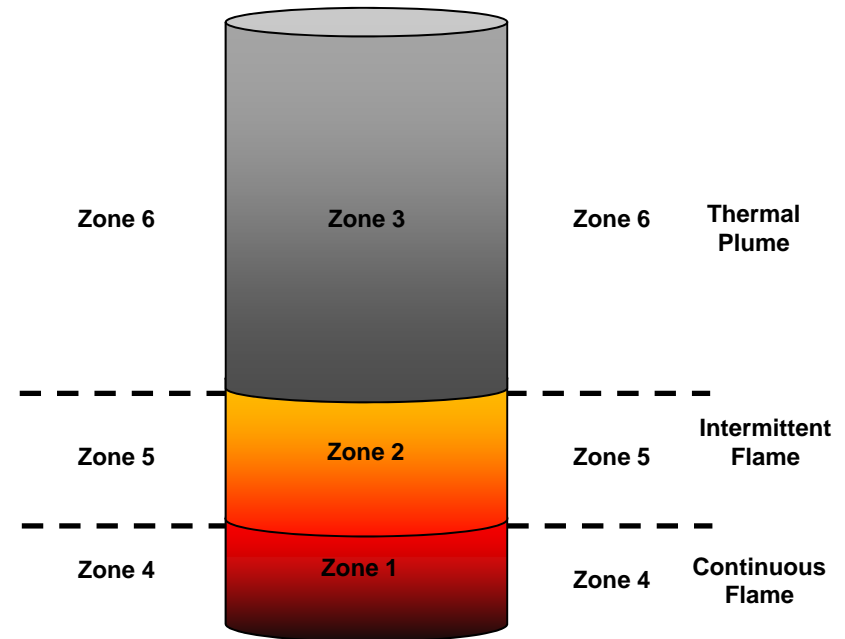


Thermal Analysis – Fire model

Design fire – Localised



Cylinder Model for heat transfer

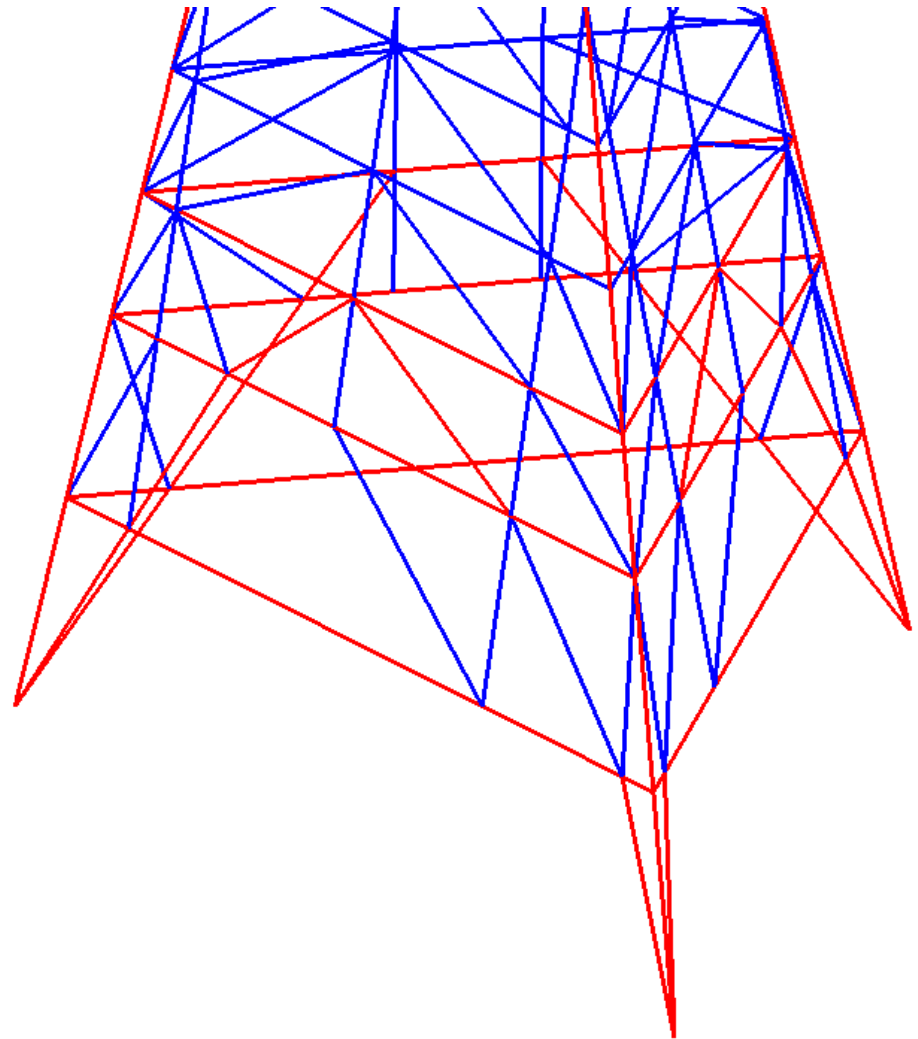


Incident heat flux calculated based on 3D location of steel members in relations to fire for about 980 members.

Thermal Analysis – Fire protection

Preliminary protection

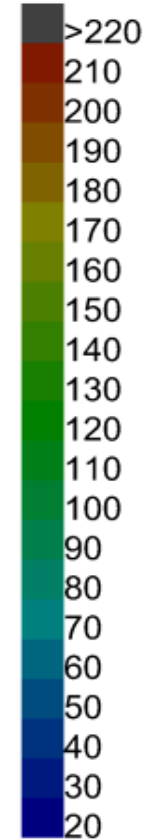
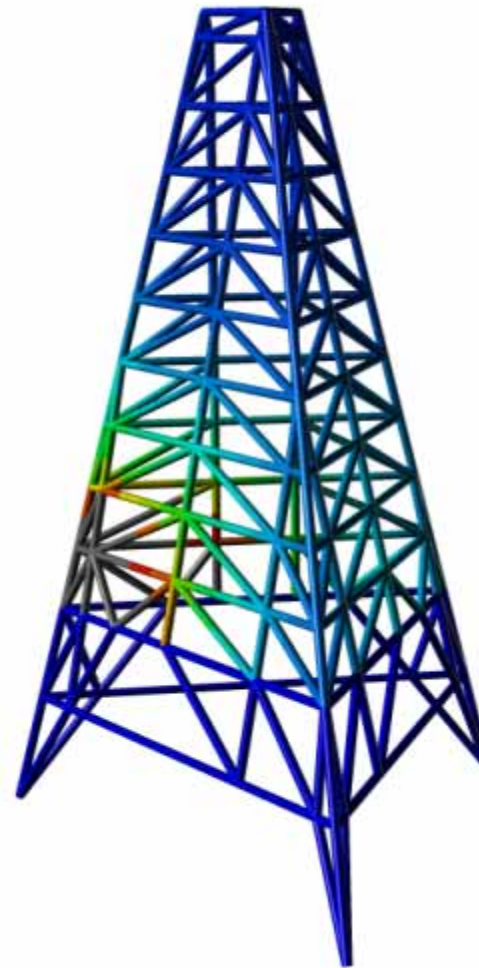
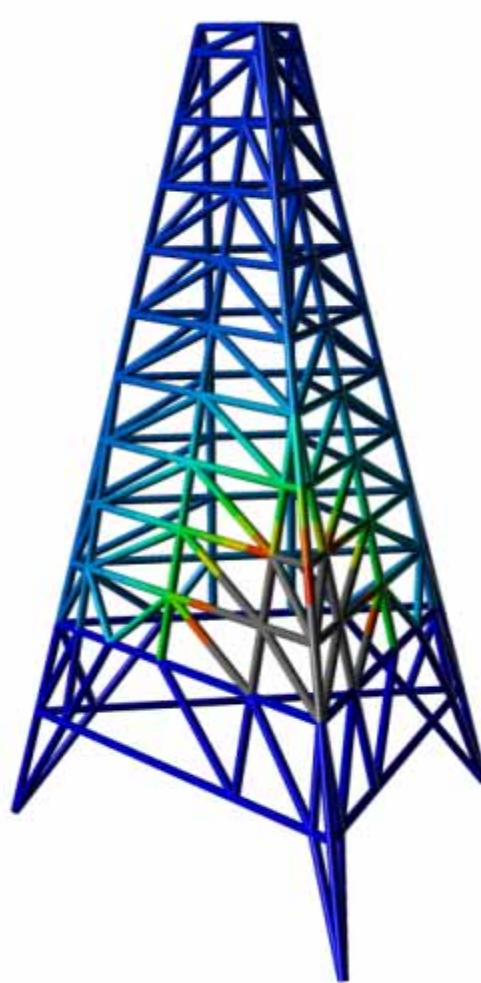
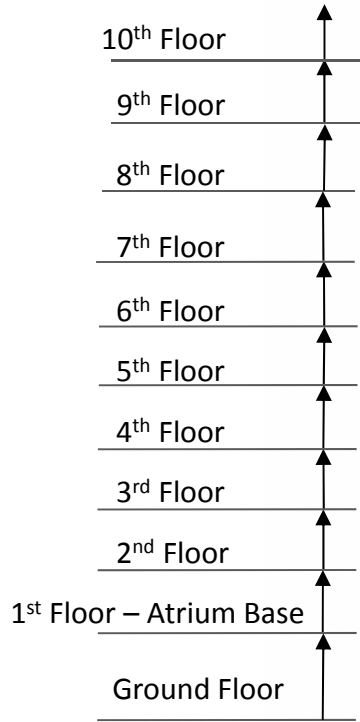
- Between G floor level to 1st floor level – 120 mins
- **Between 1st floor level to 2nd floor level – 60 mins**
- Rest of columns running to top floor – 60 mins
- Rest of atrium steelworks unprotected



Thermal Analysis - Results

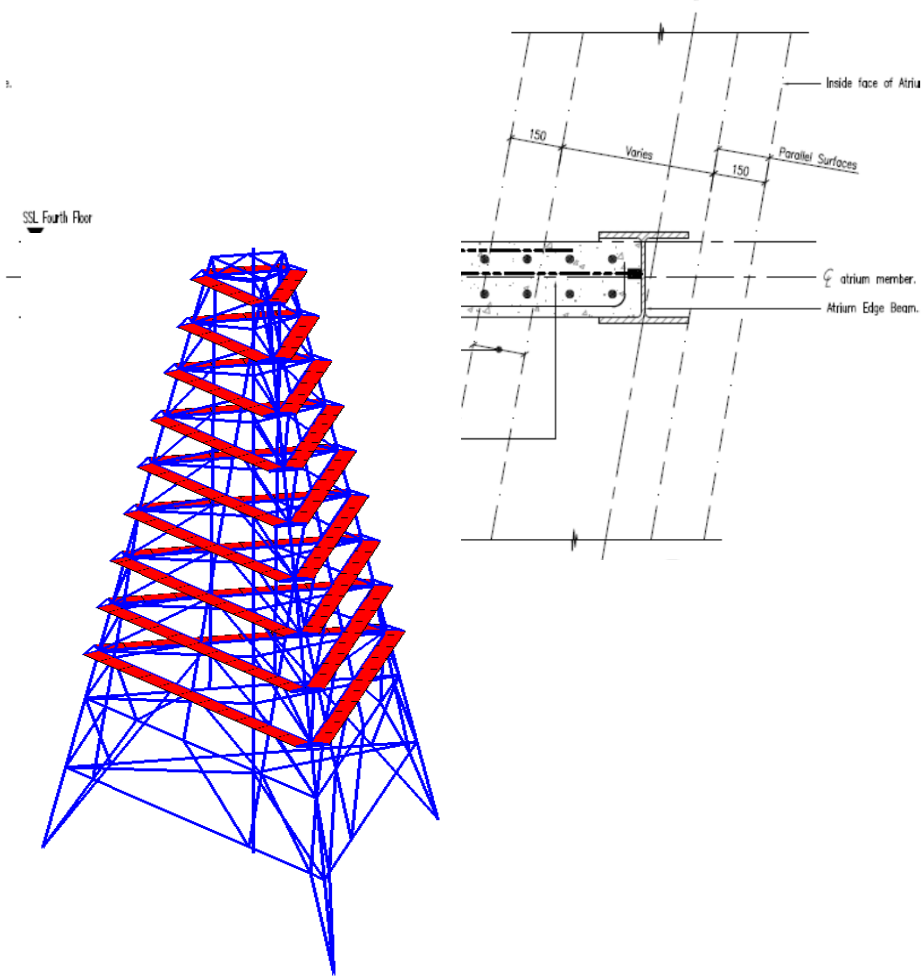
Nose fire

Rear north fire

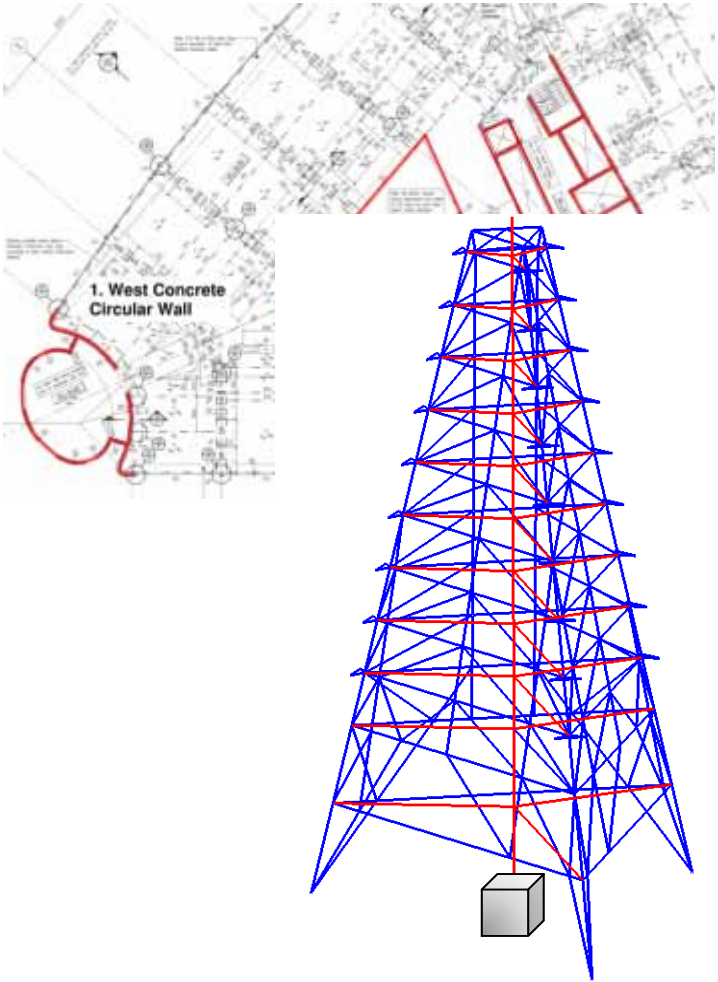


Structural Analysis using Vulcan - Restraints

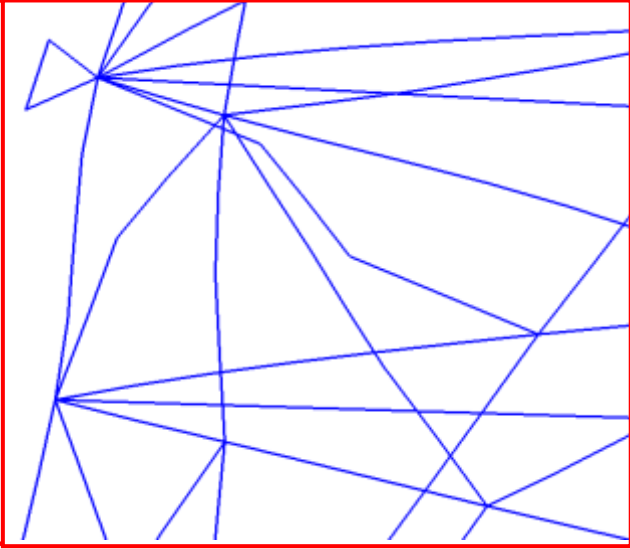
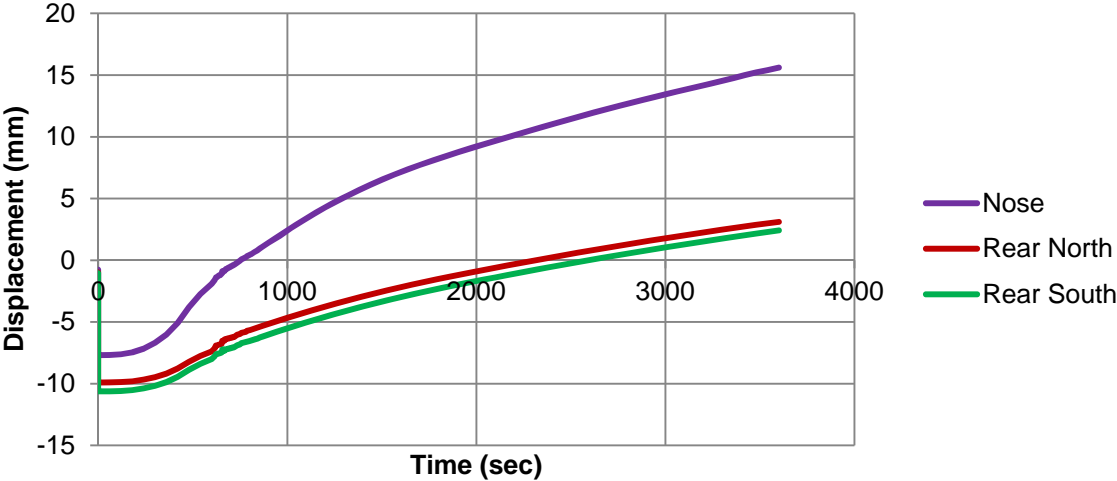
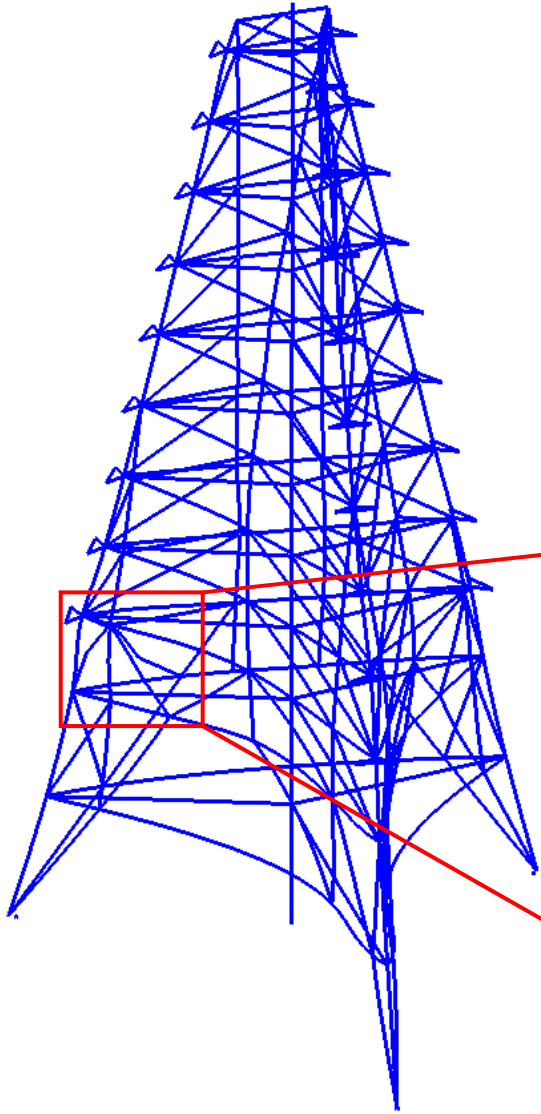
Thermal restraints from slab



Stiff cantilever representing concrete cores



Structural Analysis – Results at Rear North



Site images



Conclusion

- Performance based design is sometimes the only way to demonstrate the safety of a building.
- Buy-in from all stakeholders required.
- Sensitivity studies are essential.
- If carefully conducted performance based design can generate significant value for a project.
- Great engineering discipline!

