

# **Behavior and Capacity of Steel Perimeter Columns in a Fire**

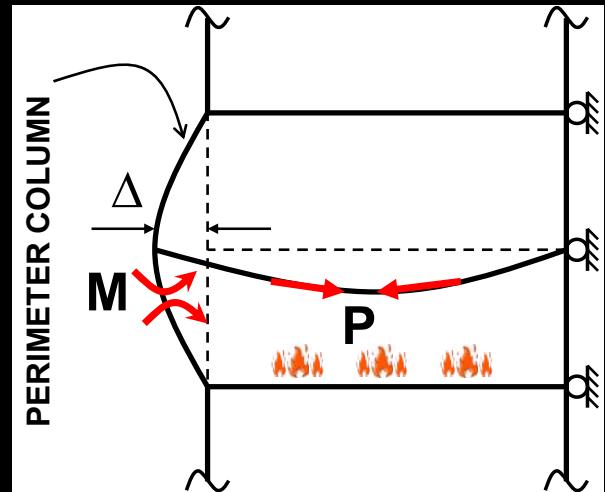
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Dept. Civil & Environmental Eng.  
Princeton University



# Background

## Why perimeter columns?

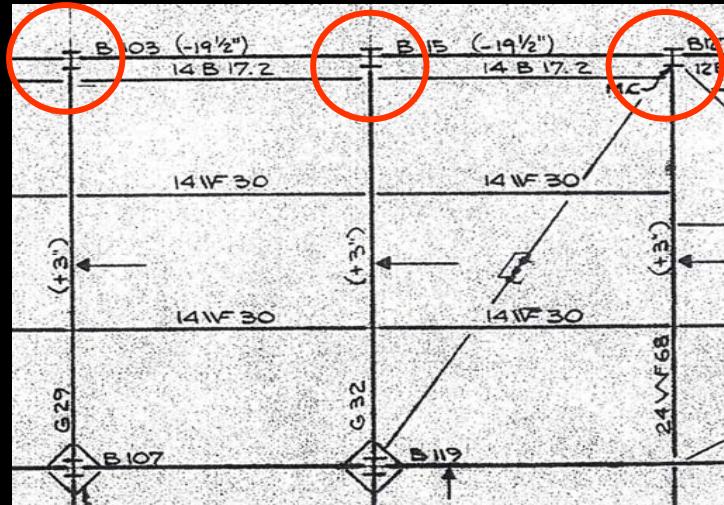
- Braced on 3 sides only
  - Critical connection
  - Induced deflections and moments
- Thermal gradients
  - Induces significant bending moments and moment reversals
- Combined P and M



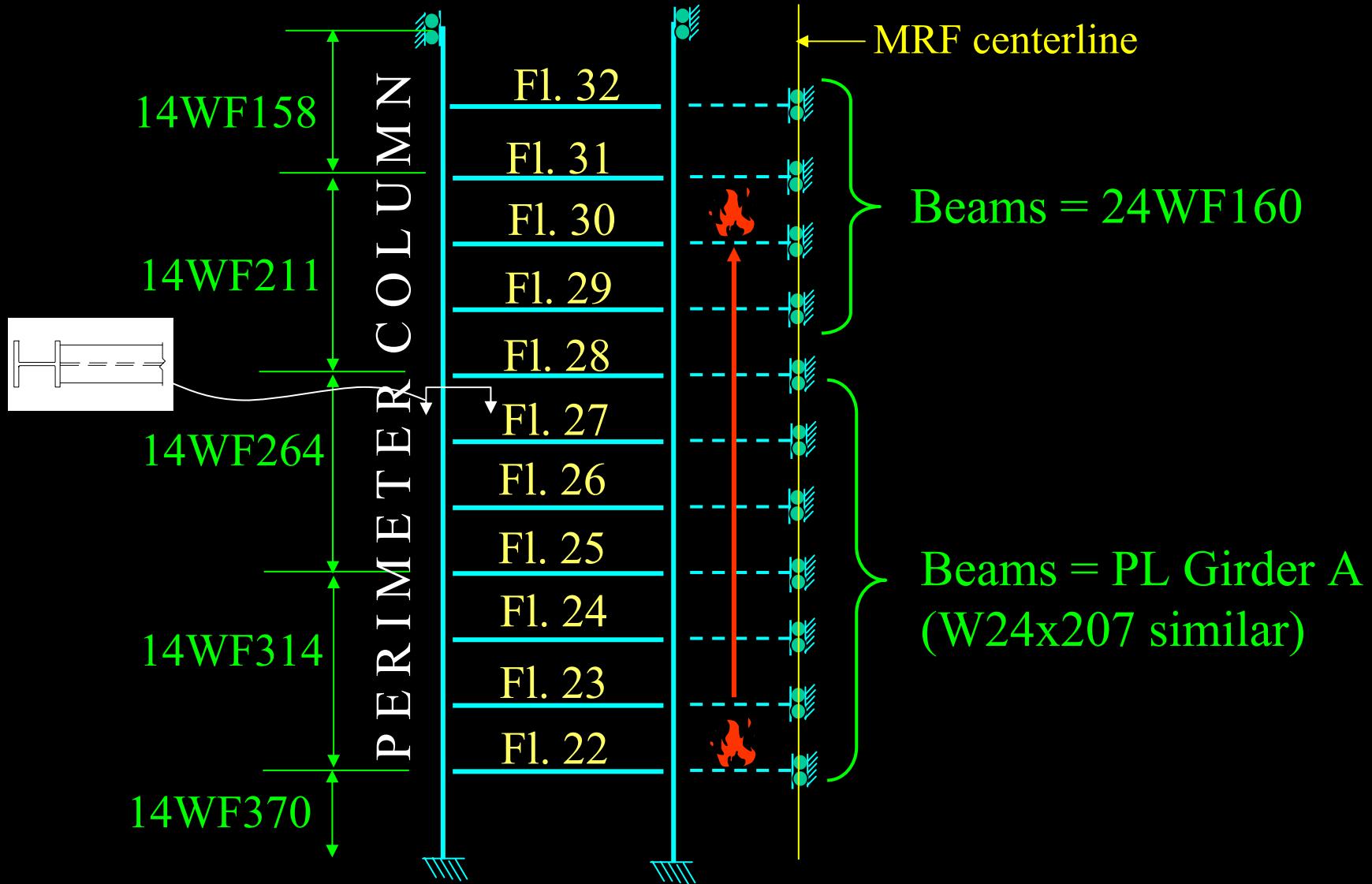
# Objective

- Analyze the **mechanics** and **capacity** of steel wide-flanged (I-shaped) perimeter columns.
- Develop **simple tools** for practicing architects and engineers to predict the **demand** on steel perimeter columns subject to fire.

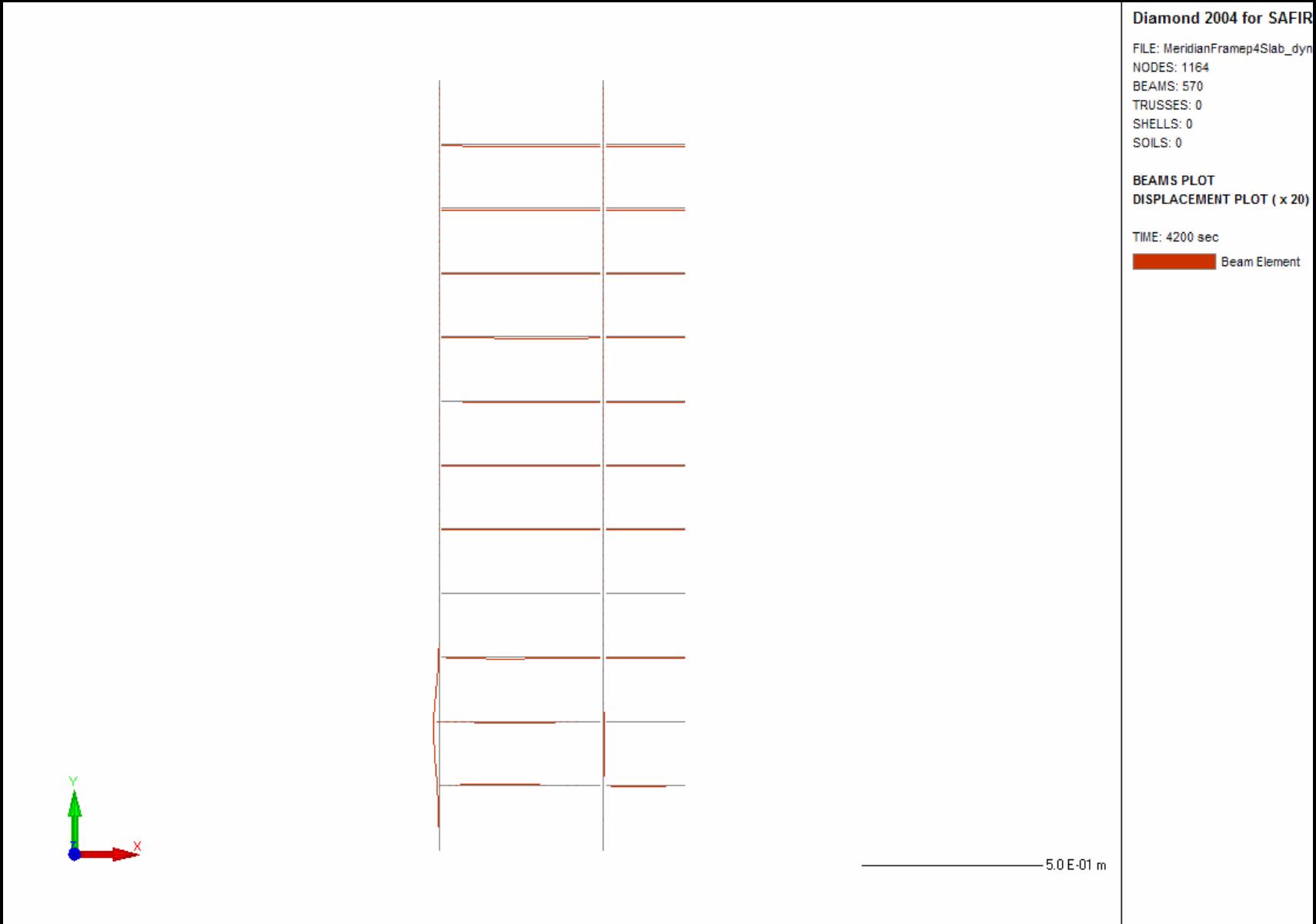
# Prototype: One Meridian Plaza, Philadelphia, PA



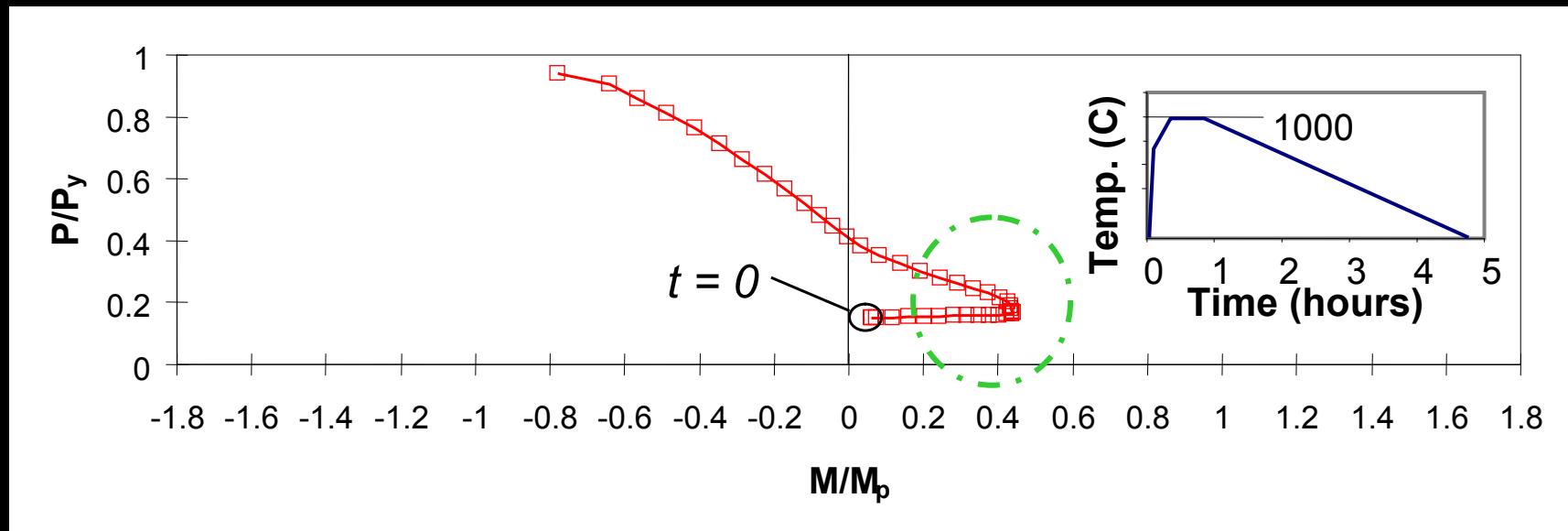
# Prototype



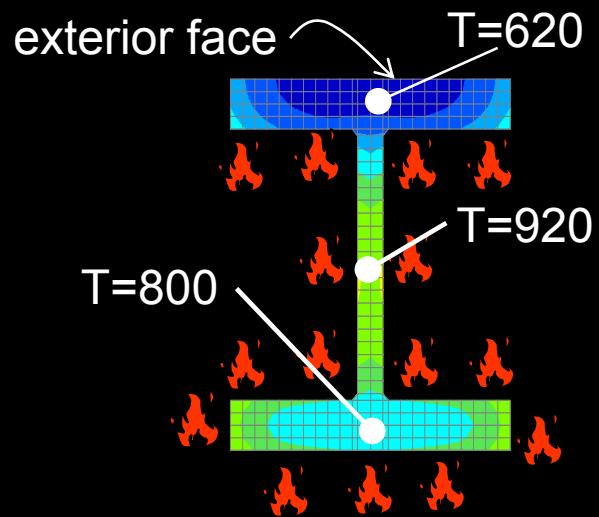
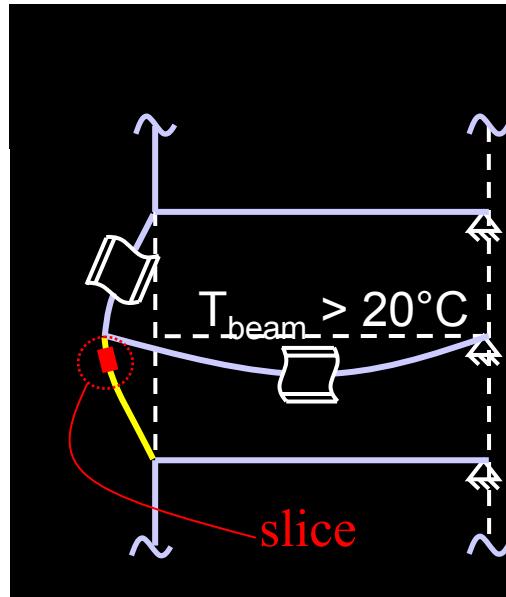
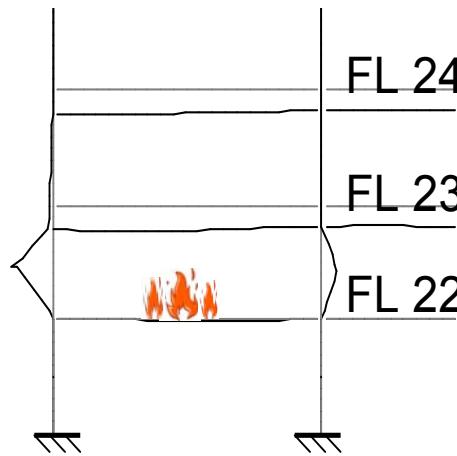
# Predicting the Demands



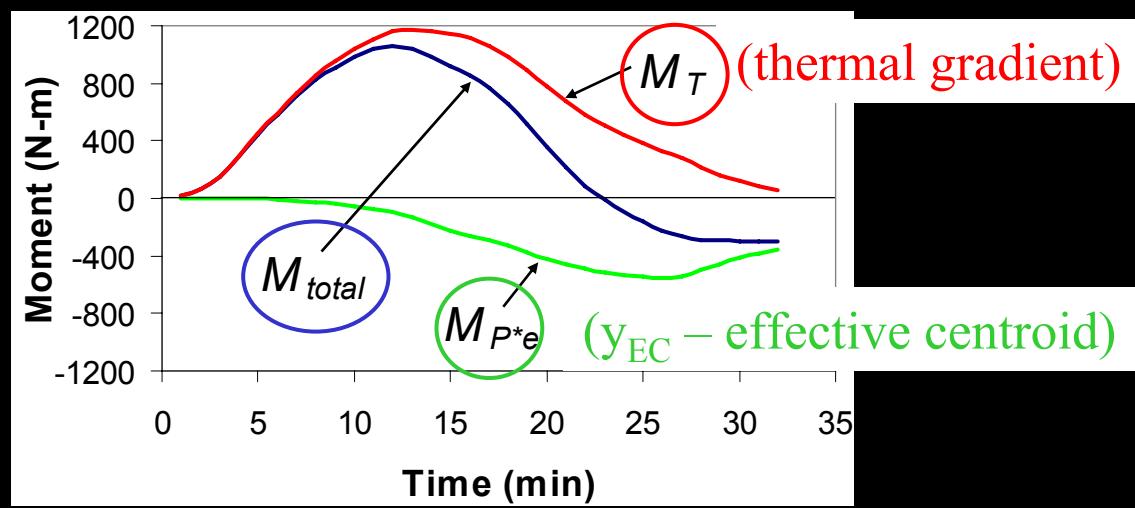
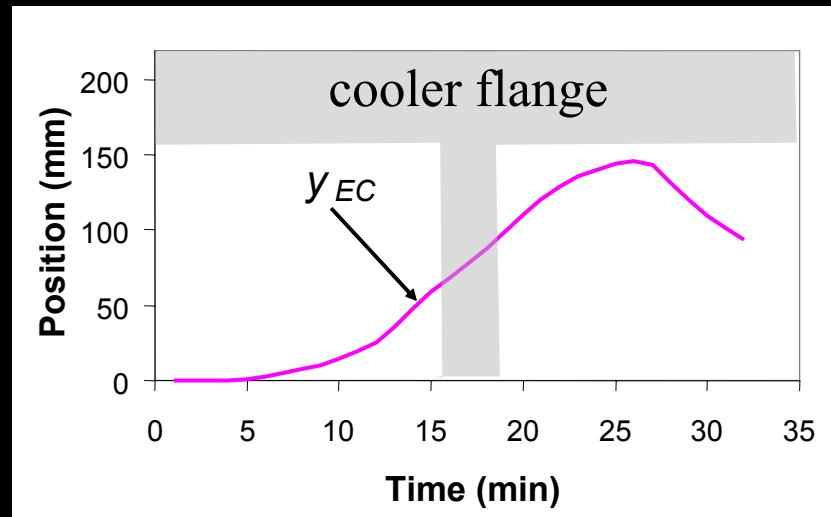
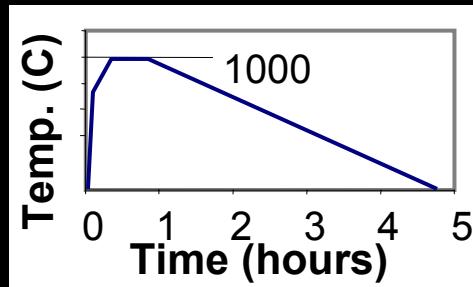
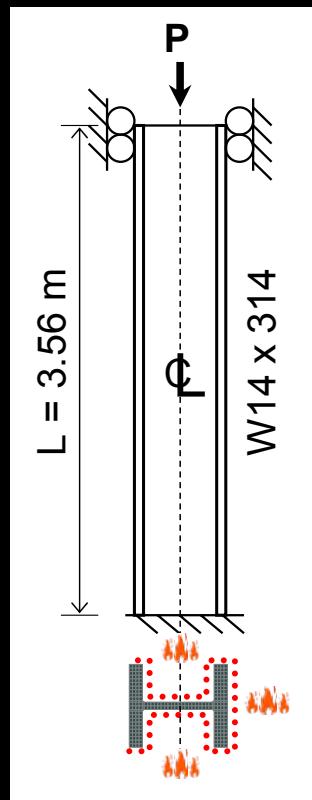
# Perimeter Column Mechanics



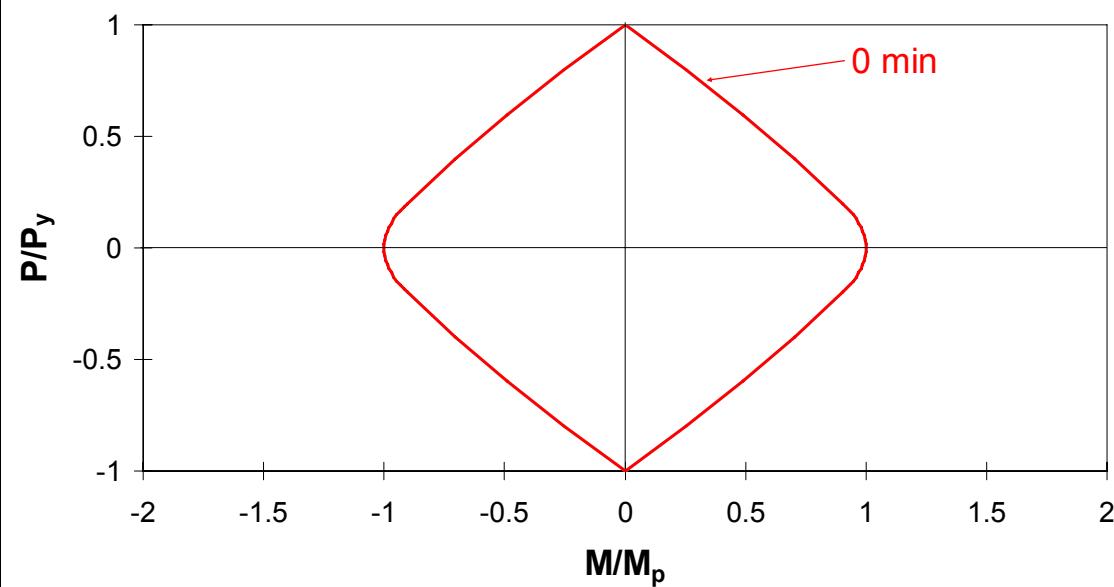
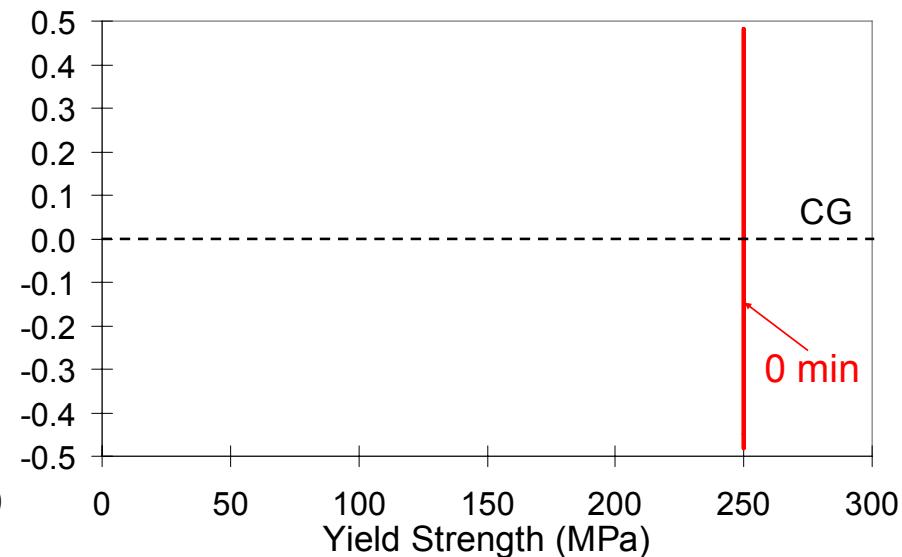
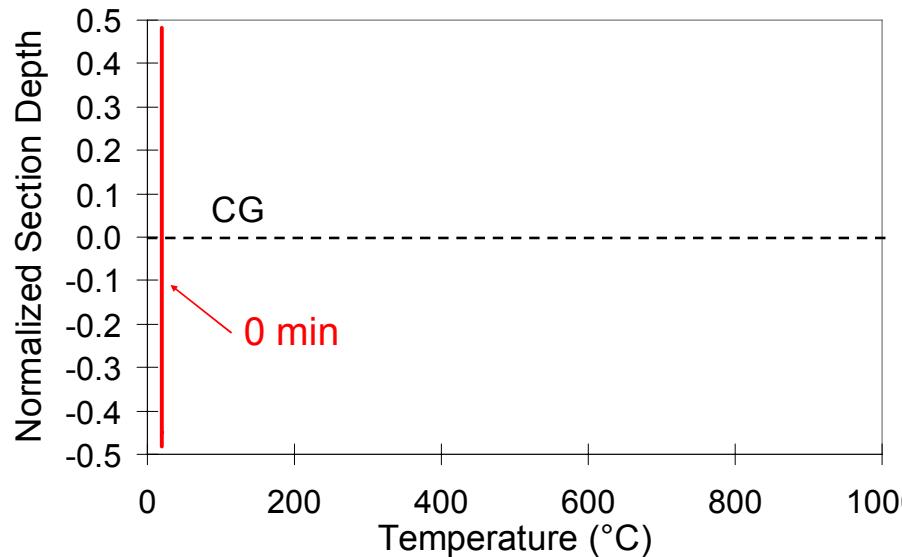
**Beams protected,  
Columns unprotected**



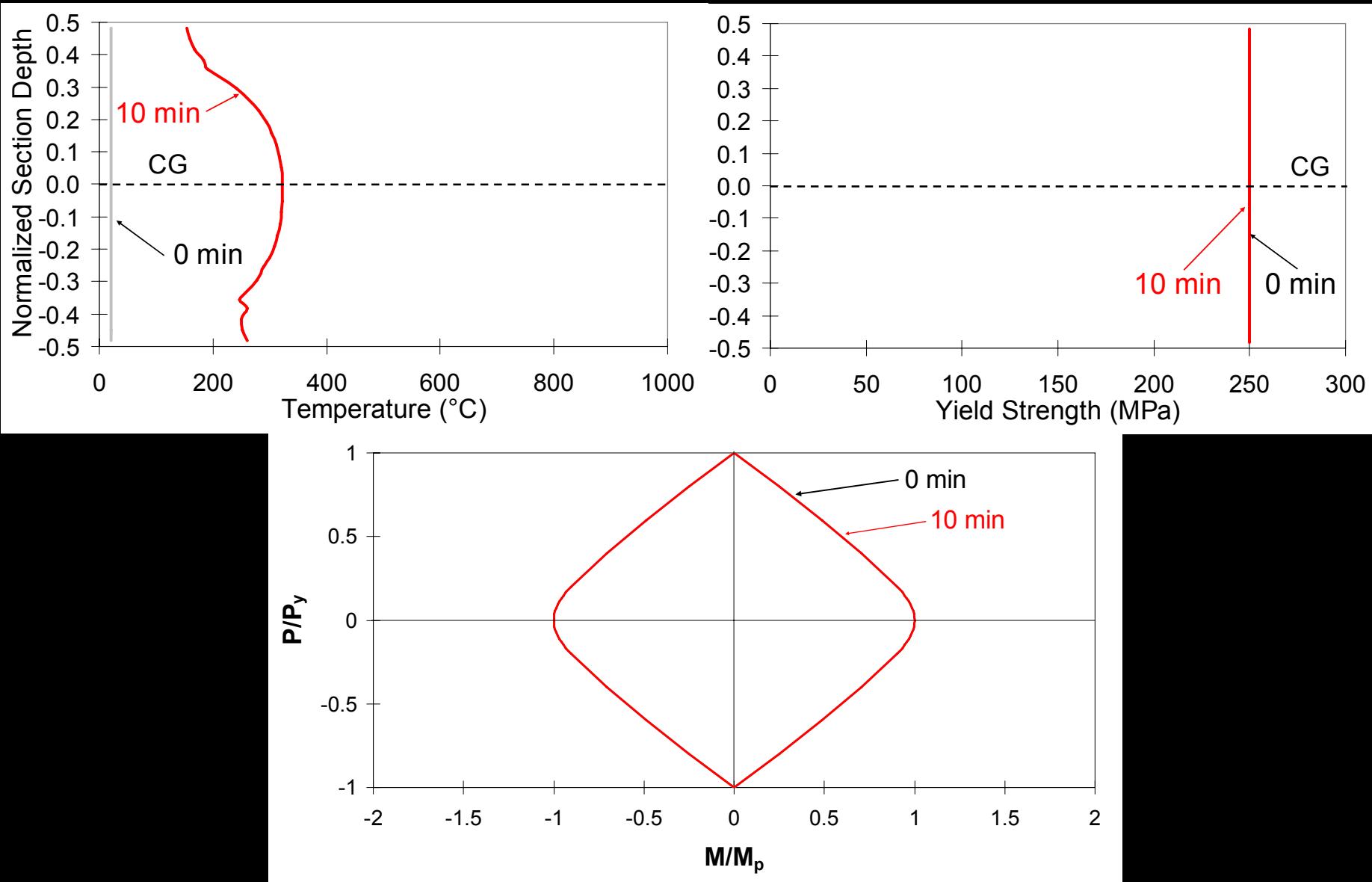
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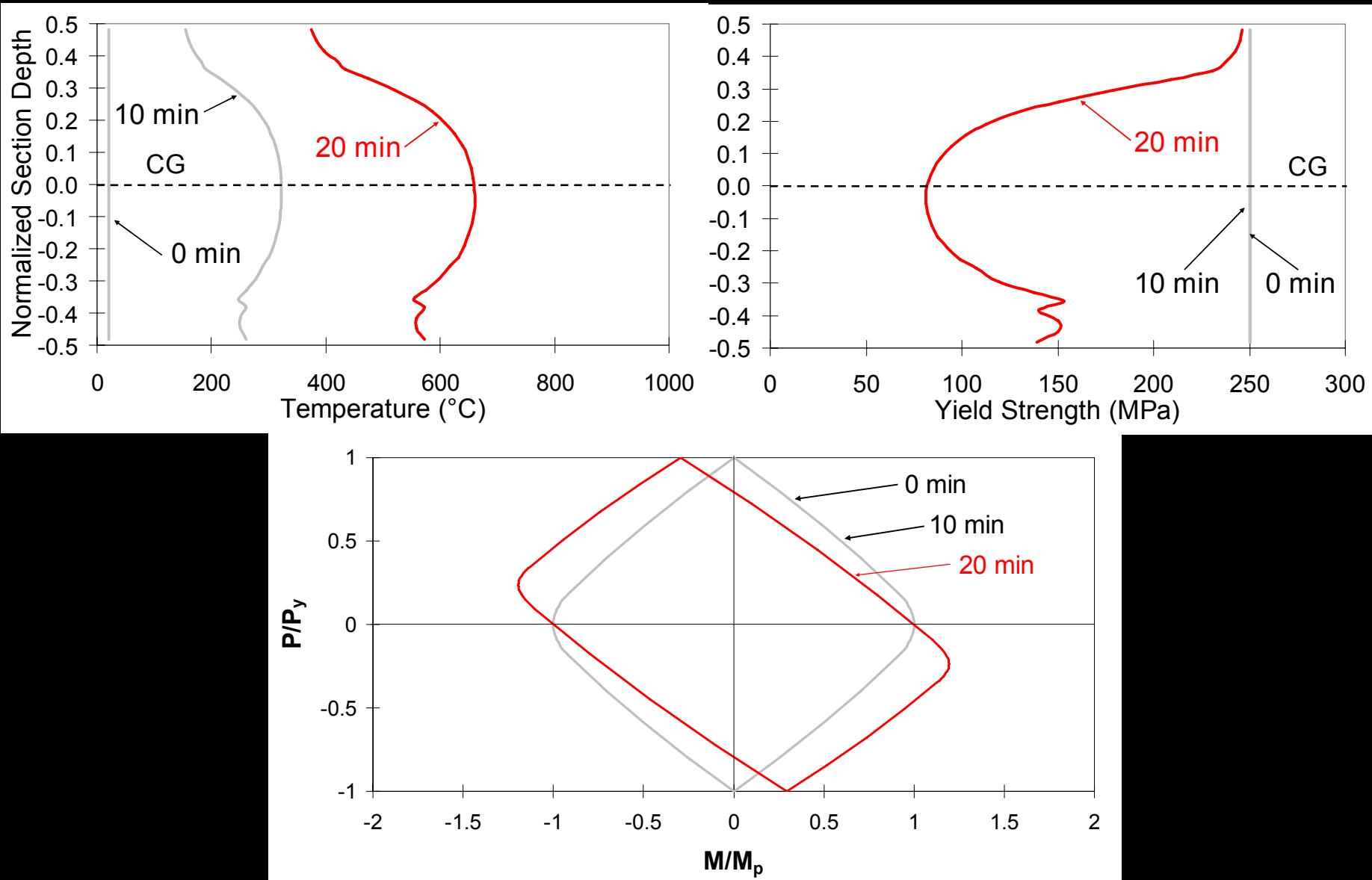
# Predicting the Capacity



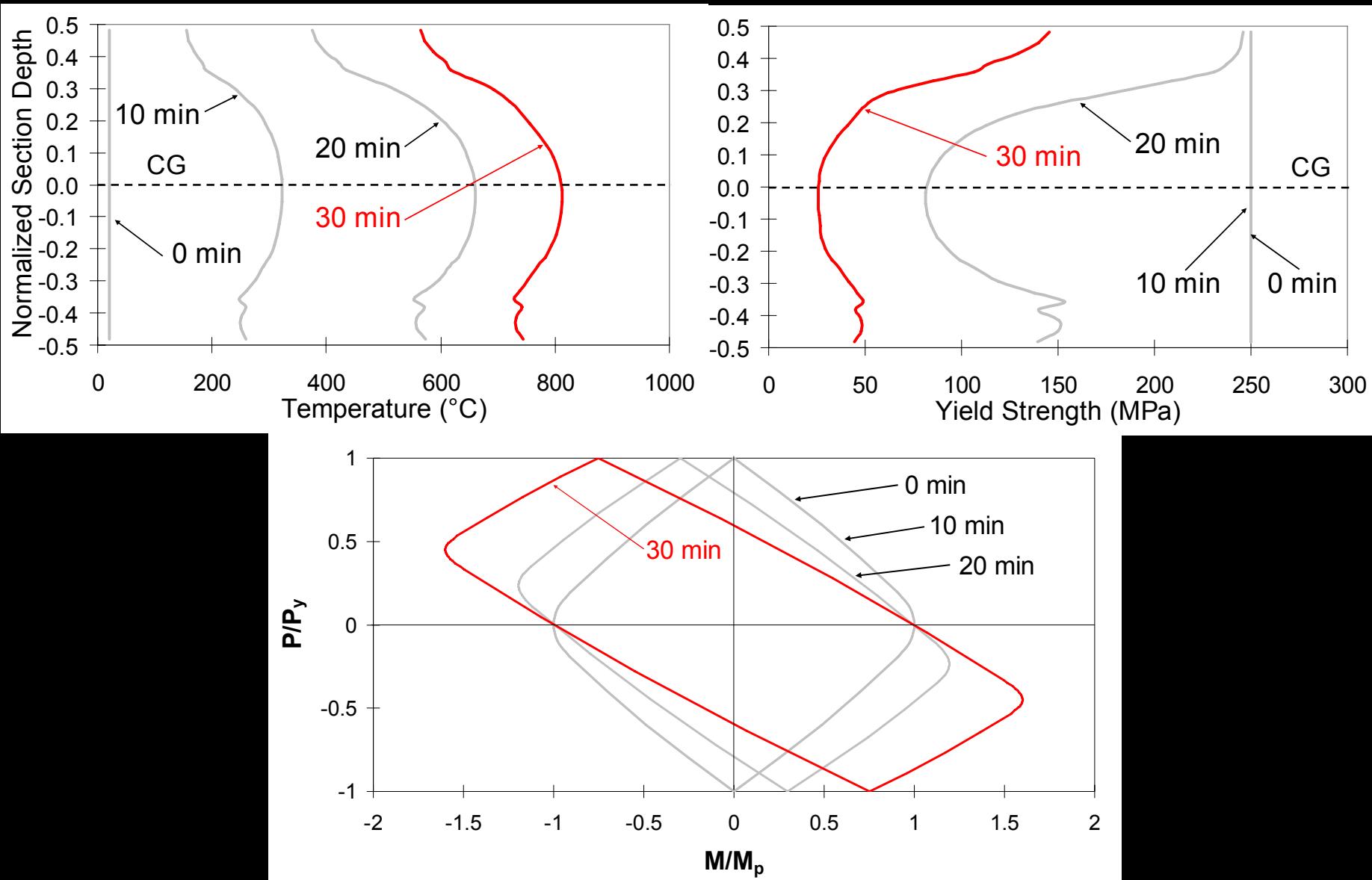
# Predicting the Capacity



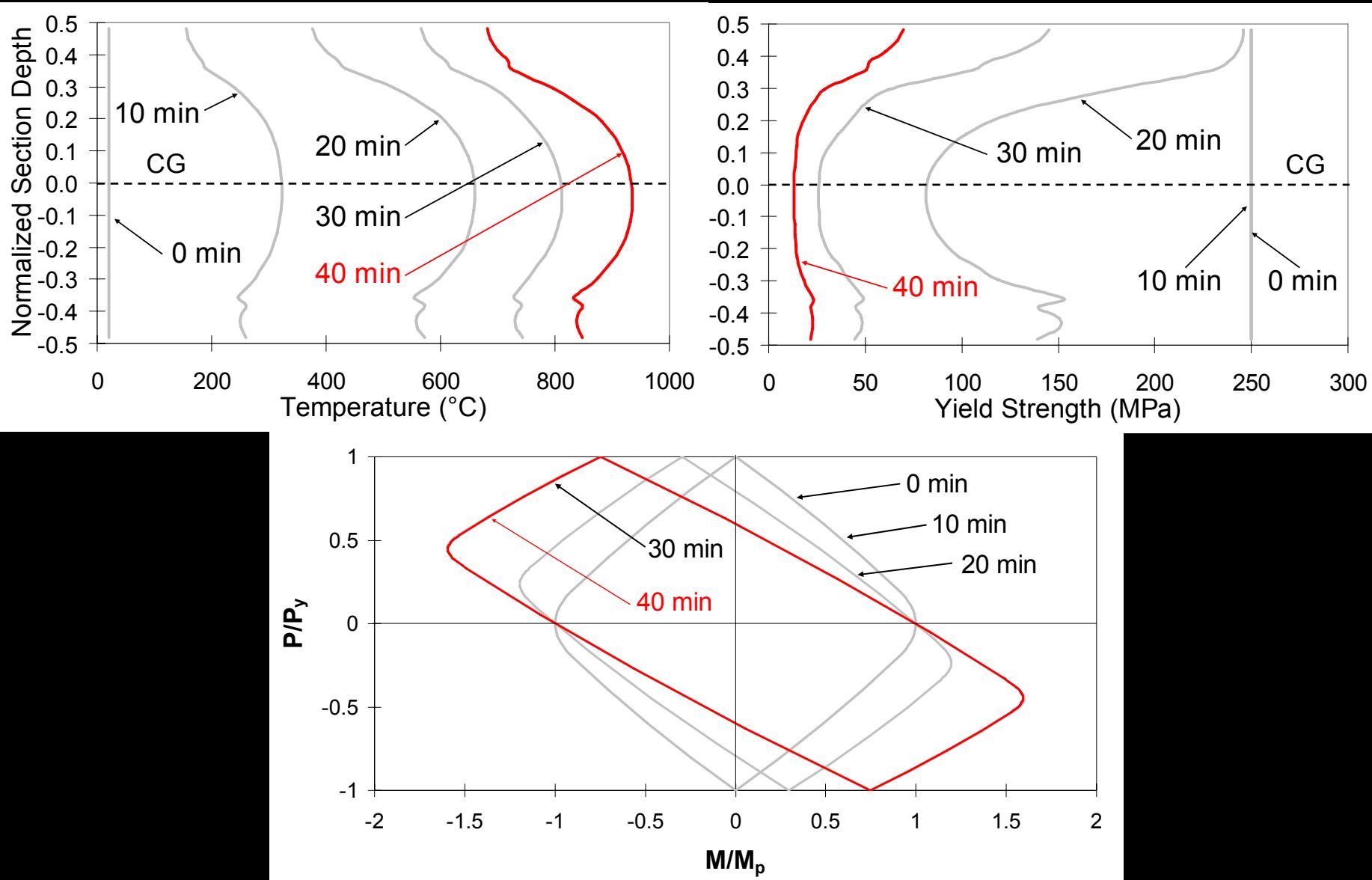
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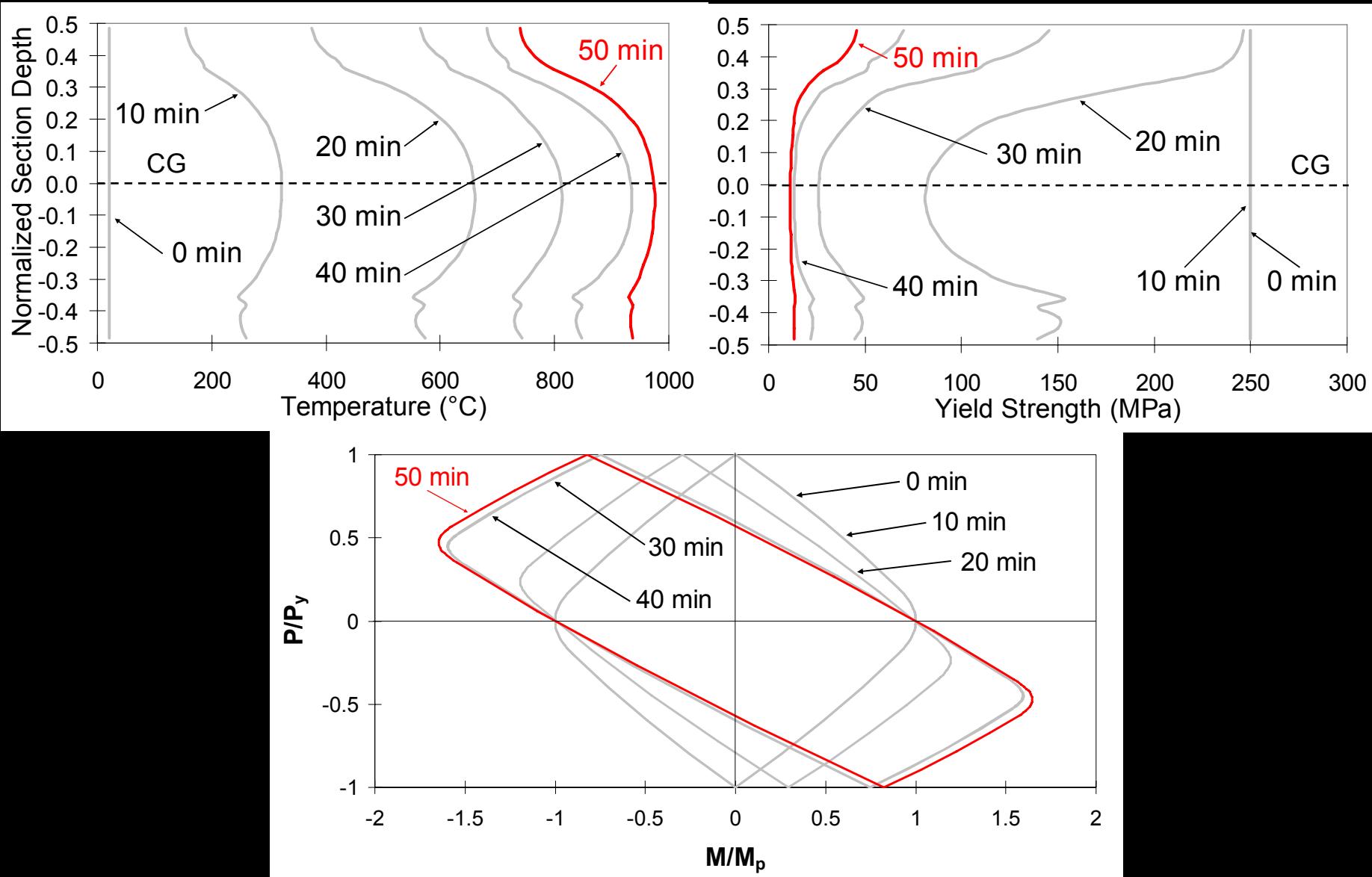
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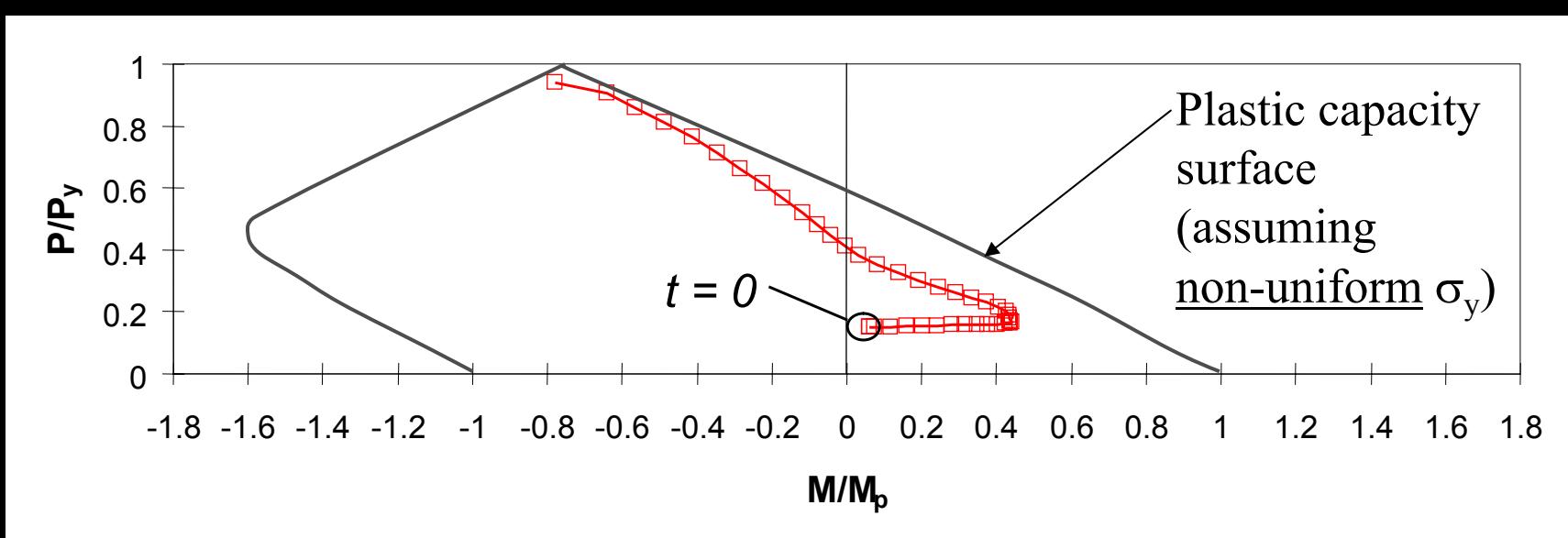
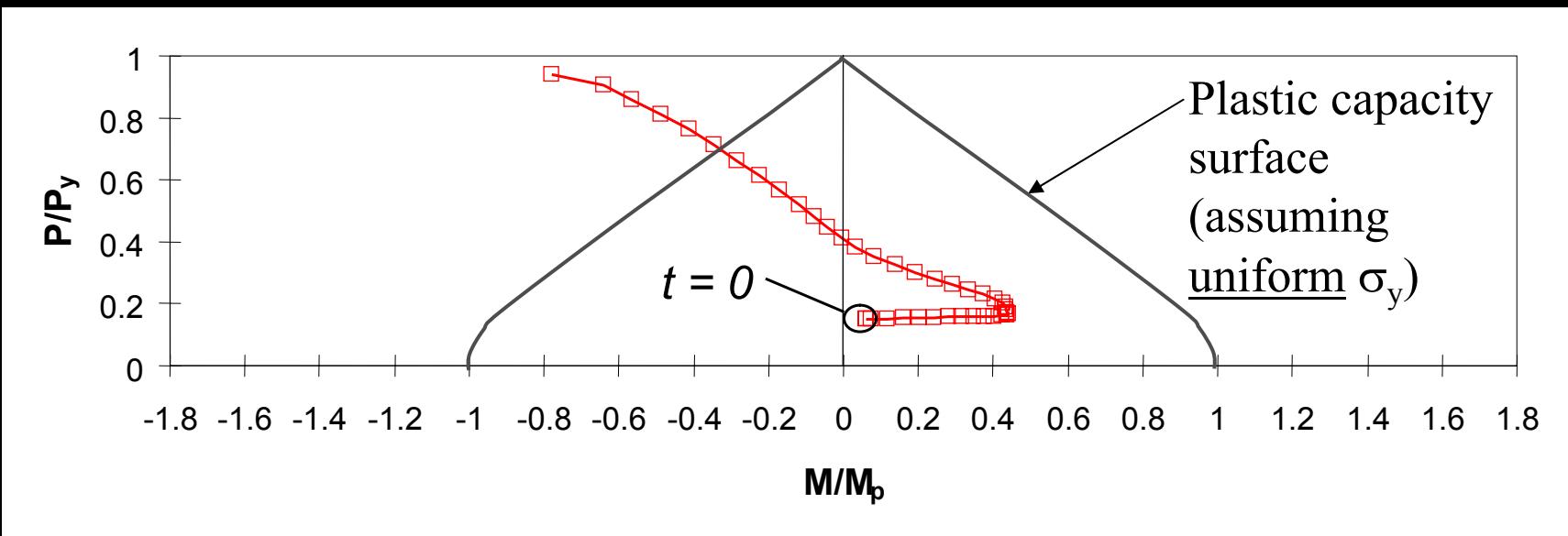
# Predicting the Capacity



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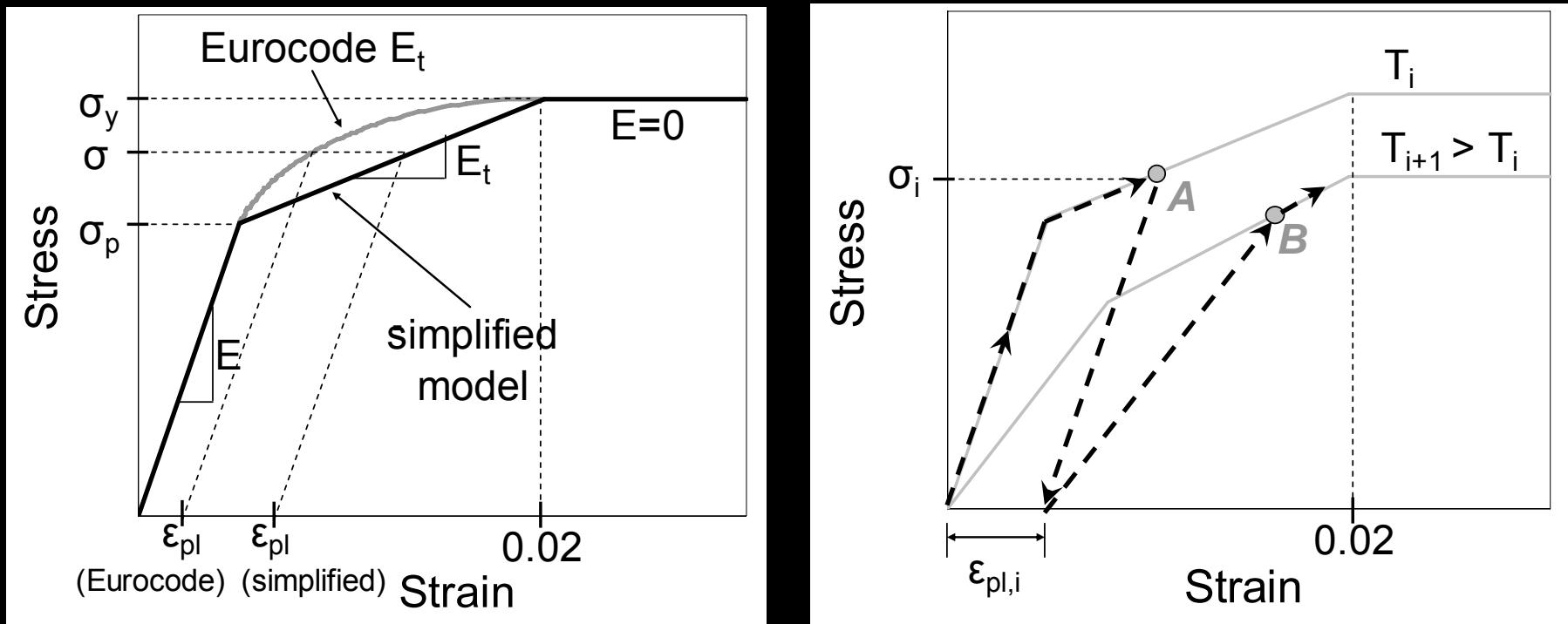


# Predicting the Capacity



# Predicting the Demands

## Steel Material Model

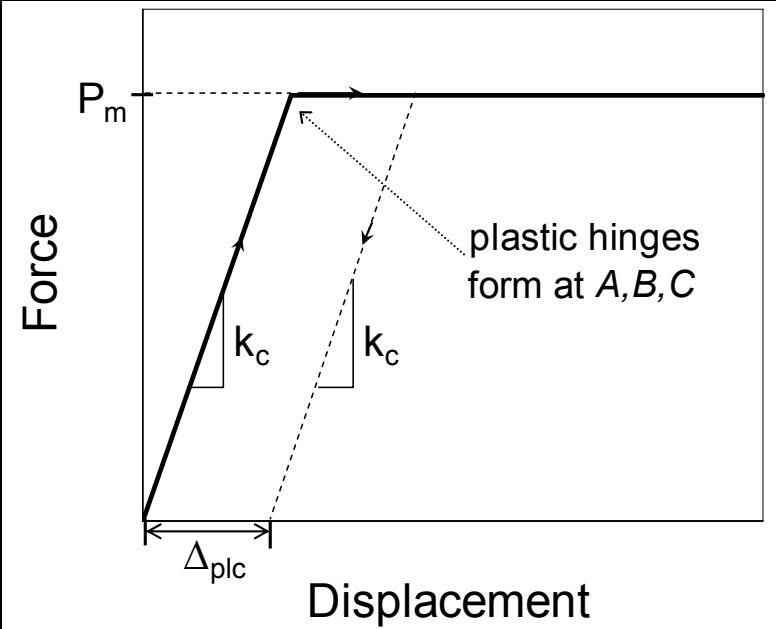
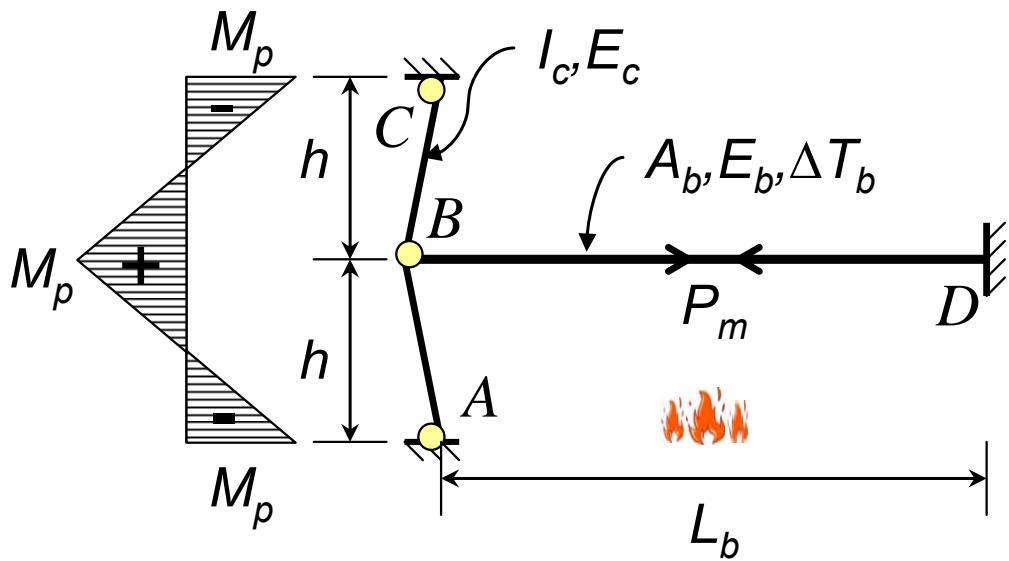


$\epsilon_{pl}$  = plastic strain

Transition from time  
step  $i$  to time step  $i+1$

# Predicting the Demands

## Column Mechanism Model



$$P_m = \frac{4M_p}{h}$$

$\Delta_{plc}$  = plastic column deformation

# Predicting the Demands

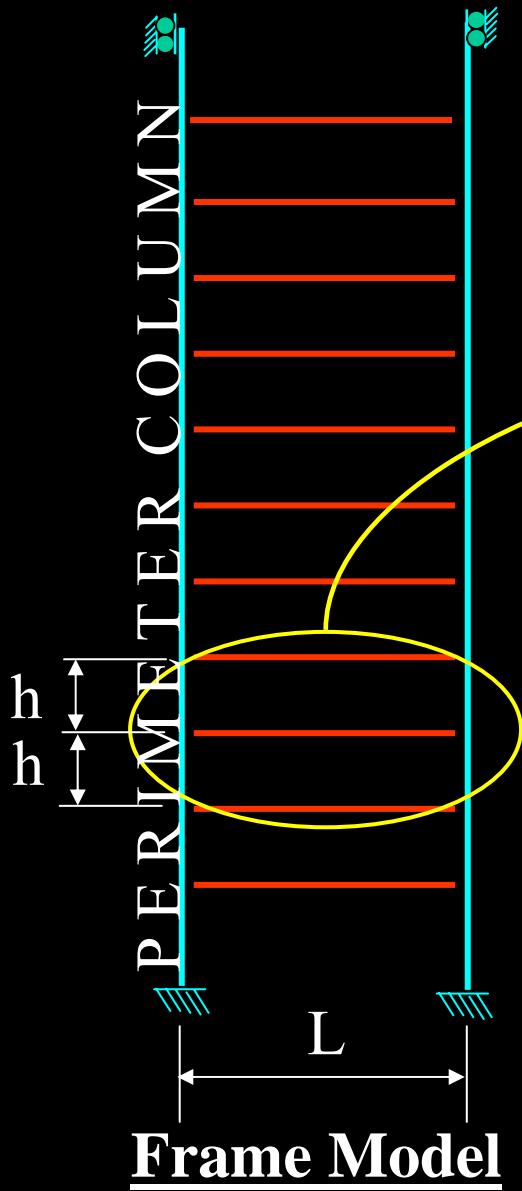


$$\frac{P}{k_c} + \Delta_{pl,c} = \alpha \Delta T_b L_b - \frac{P}{k_b} - \varepsilon_{pl,b} L_b \quad \rightarrow \text{mat'l = linear}$$

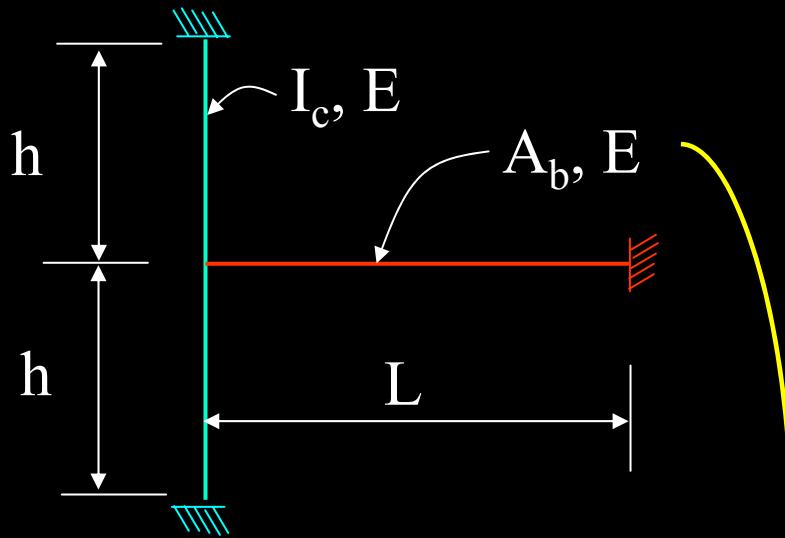
$$\frac{P}{k_c} + \Delta_{pl,c} = \alpha \Delta T_b L_b - \left( \frac{P_p}{k_b} + \frac{(P - P_p)}{k_{b,t}} \right) - \varepsilon_{pl,b} L_b \quad \rightarrow \text{mat'l = nonlinear}$$

coln deflection ( $\Delta$ ) = beam thermal expansion – beam axial shortening

# Predicting the Demands



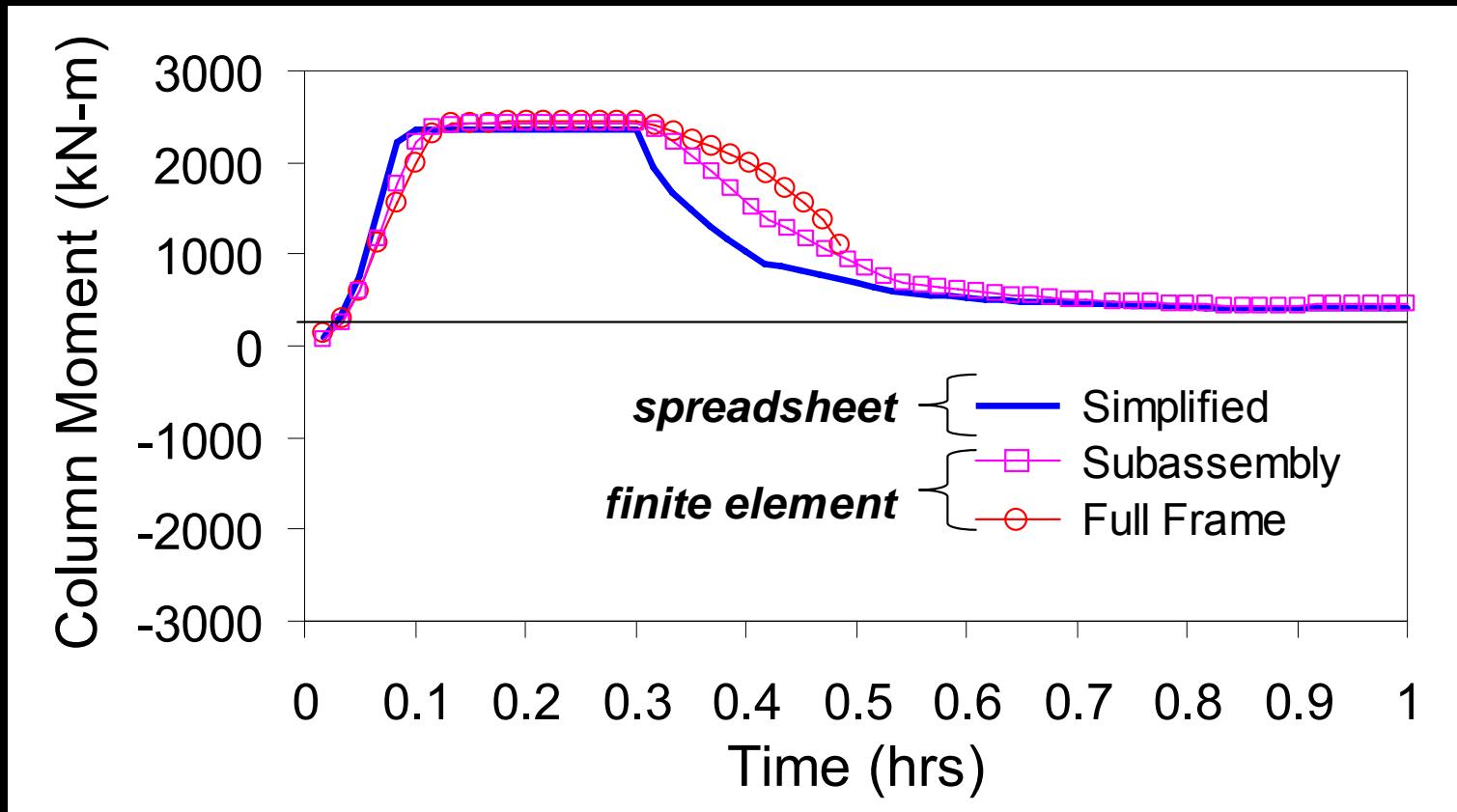
Subassembly Model



Beam-Spring Model

A diagram of a beam-spring model. It shows a horizontal beam supported by a spring at one end and a fixed support at the other. The spring has a stiffness  $k_c = 24EI_c/h^3$  and the beam has a stiffness  $k_b = A_bE/L$ .

# Predicting the Demands



# Summary & Conclusions

- Thermal gradients in the steel section cannot be neglected because they will affect **both** the **capacity** and the **demands** placed on the member.
  - Alters the P-M interaction diagram
  - Induces (reverses) bending moments due to shift in effective centroid

# Summary & Conclusions

- However, other studies (not discussed here) have shown that if  $T_{\max} < 400^{\circ}\text{C}$  in the column, the gradients are smaller and have less effect, and therefore **uniform temperature** is a **reasonable approximation**.
- In this case, the spring-beam model provides a reasonable estimation of the perimeter column behavior.

# Future Studies

- 2D vs. 3D modeling of fire-exposed building frame
- Recent grant from NIST & NSF (with Dr. V. Kodur at MSU)
  - Experiments of beam-columns in a furnace
  - Parametric FE Analyses
    - ✓ Plate slenderness (local buckling), orientation of gradient, P & M combinations, fire, insulation
  - Develop design guidelines

# Acknowledgement

- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Fellowship

*Thank You*

# Prototype

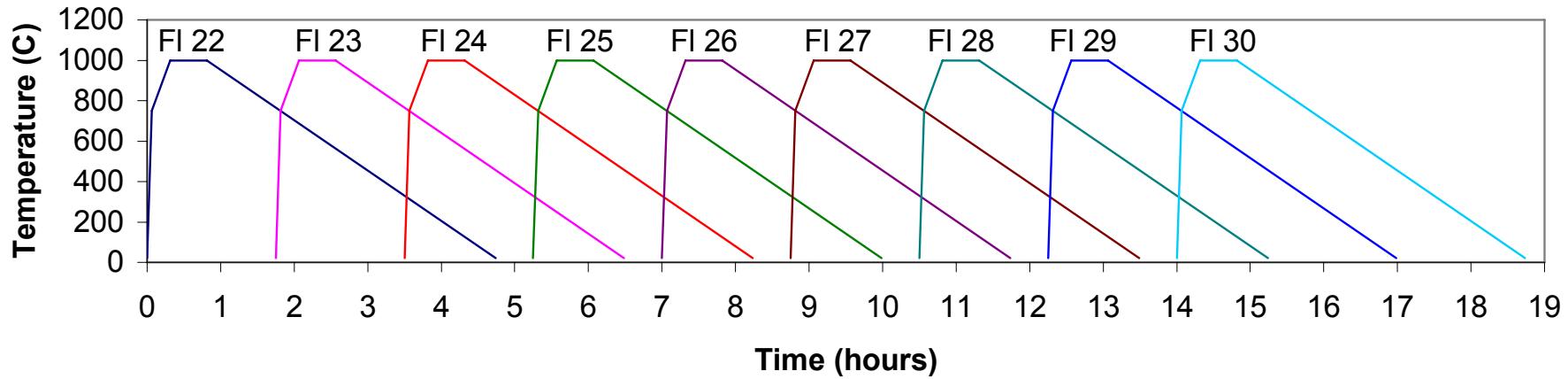
$T_{\max} = 1000^{\circ} \text{ C}$

(based on Eurocode compartment model fire)

Decay rate =  $5^{\circ} \text{ C}$  per minute  
(based on data from large compartment tests)



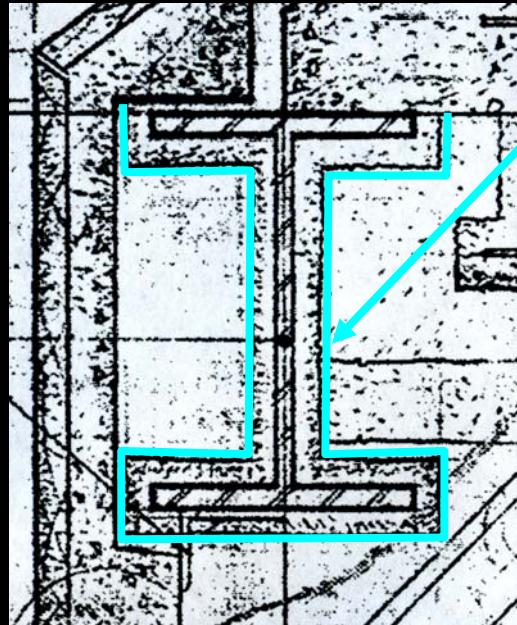
# Perimeter Column: Prototype



- Time-history reasonably consistent with observations during the fire event.

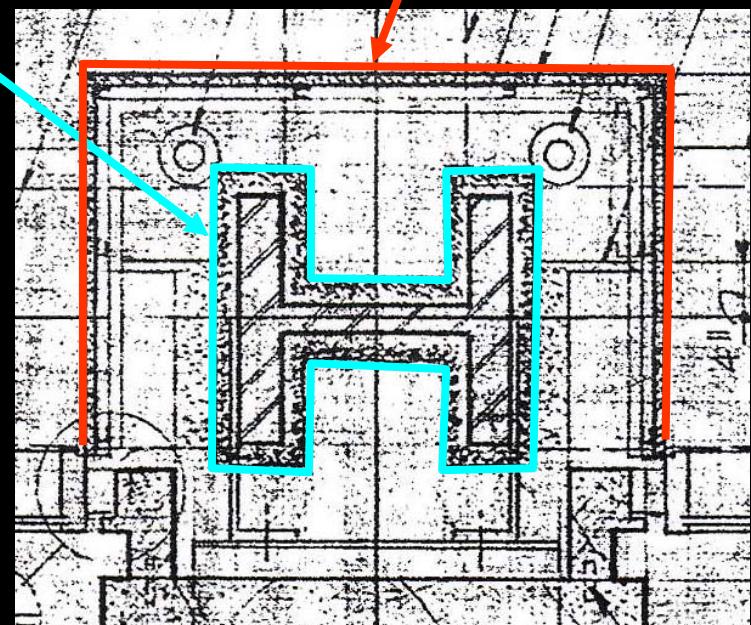
Equivalent to BOCA Type 1B construction

**1½" spray-on**

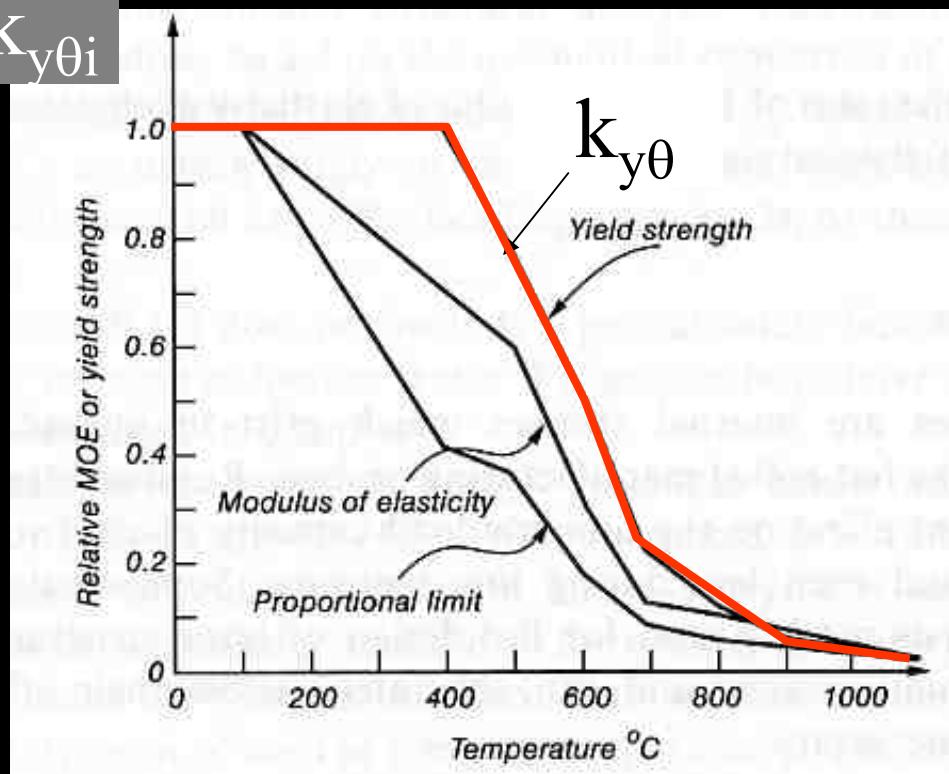
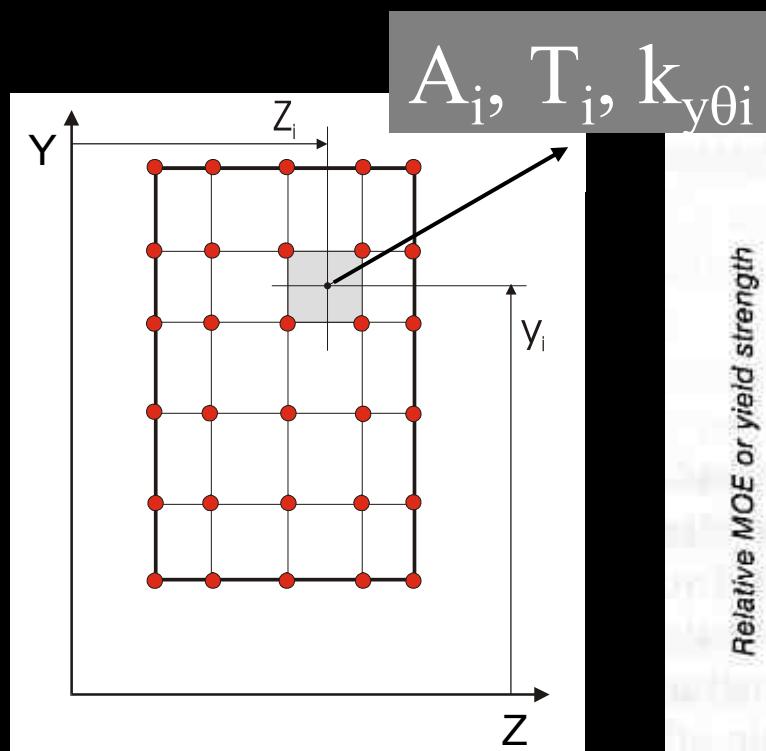


Beam Detail  
(2-hour rated)

**¾" plaster**

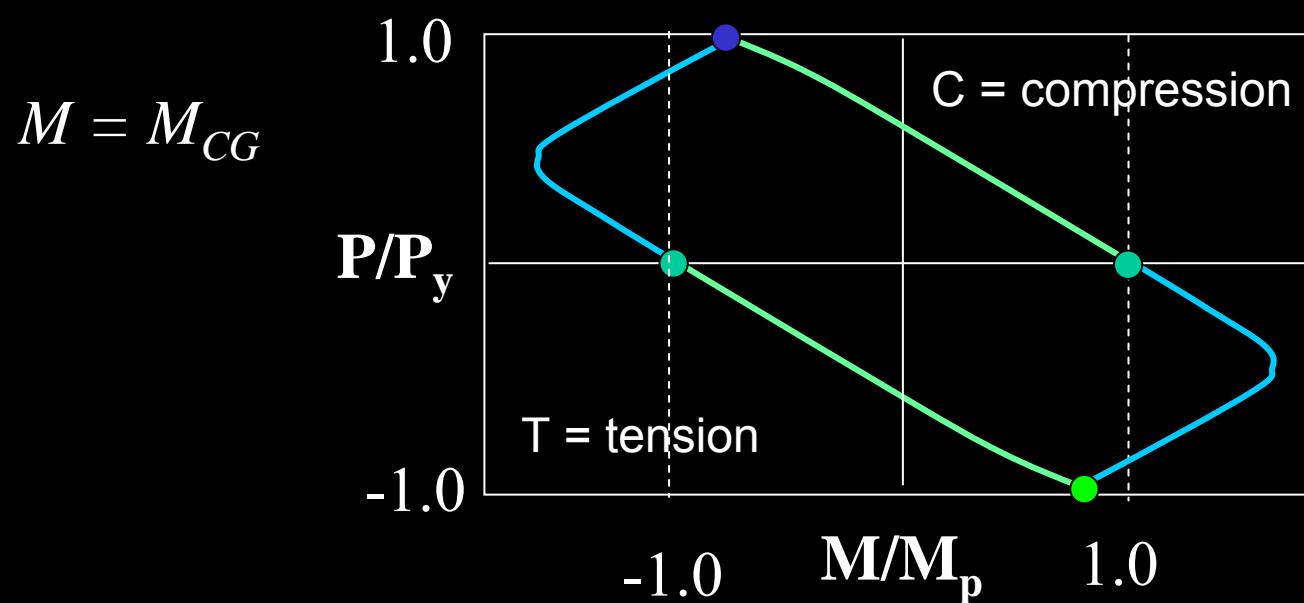
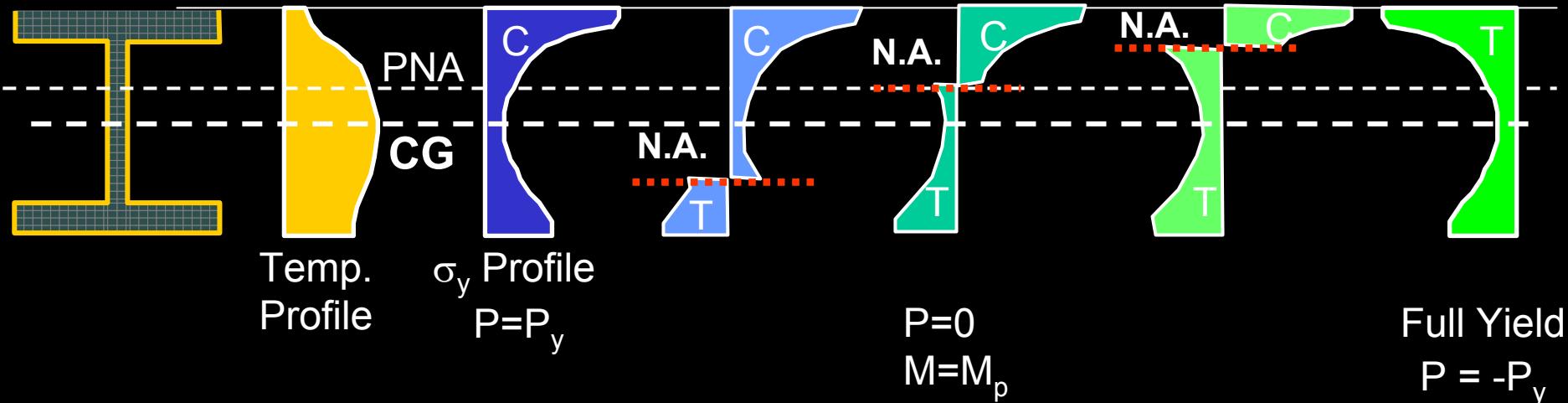


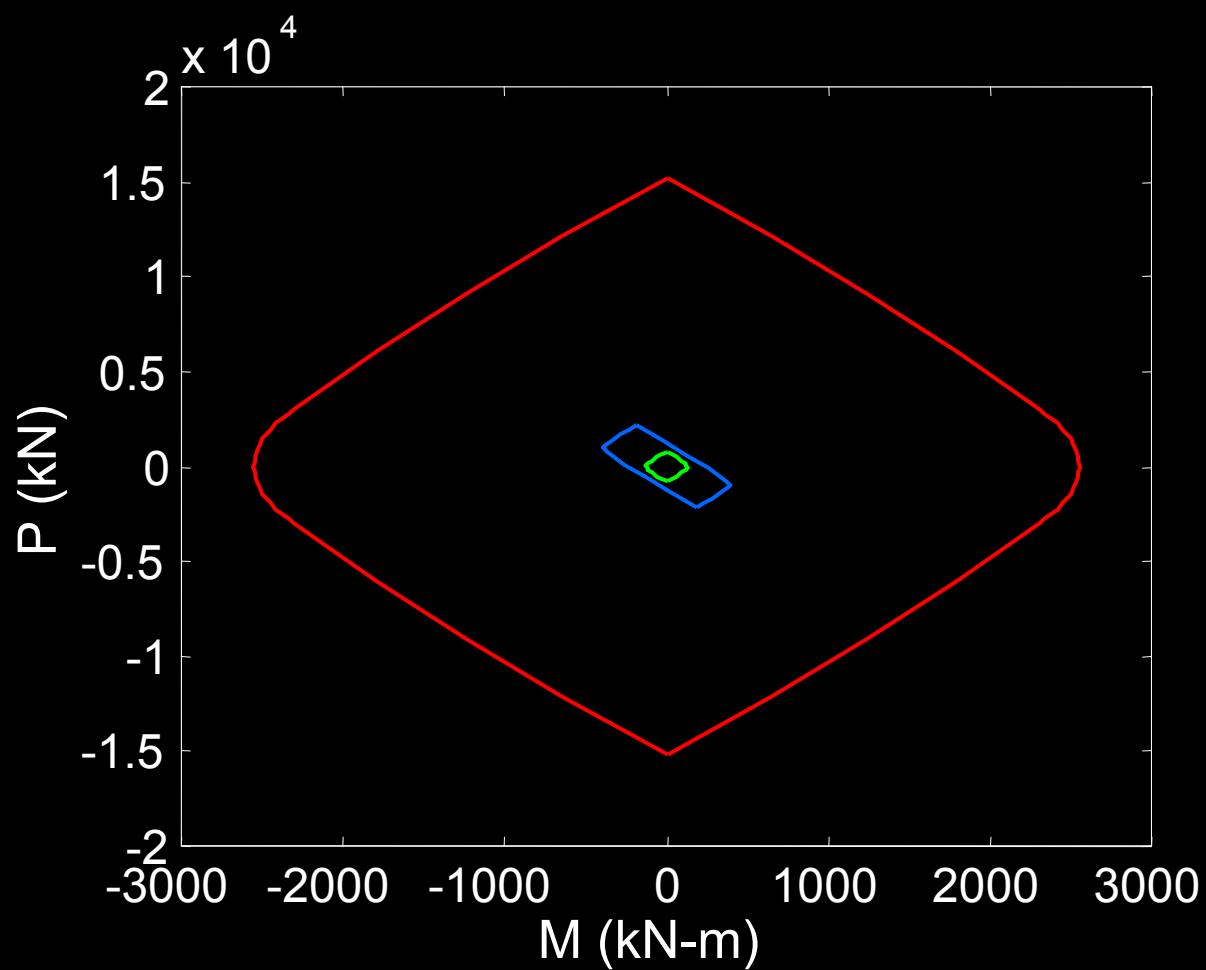
Column Detail  
(3-hour rated)

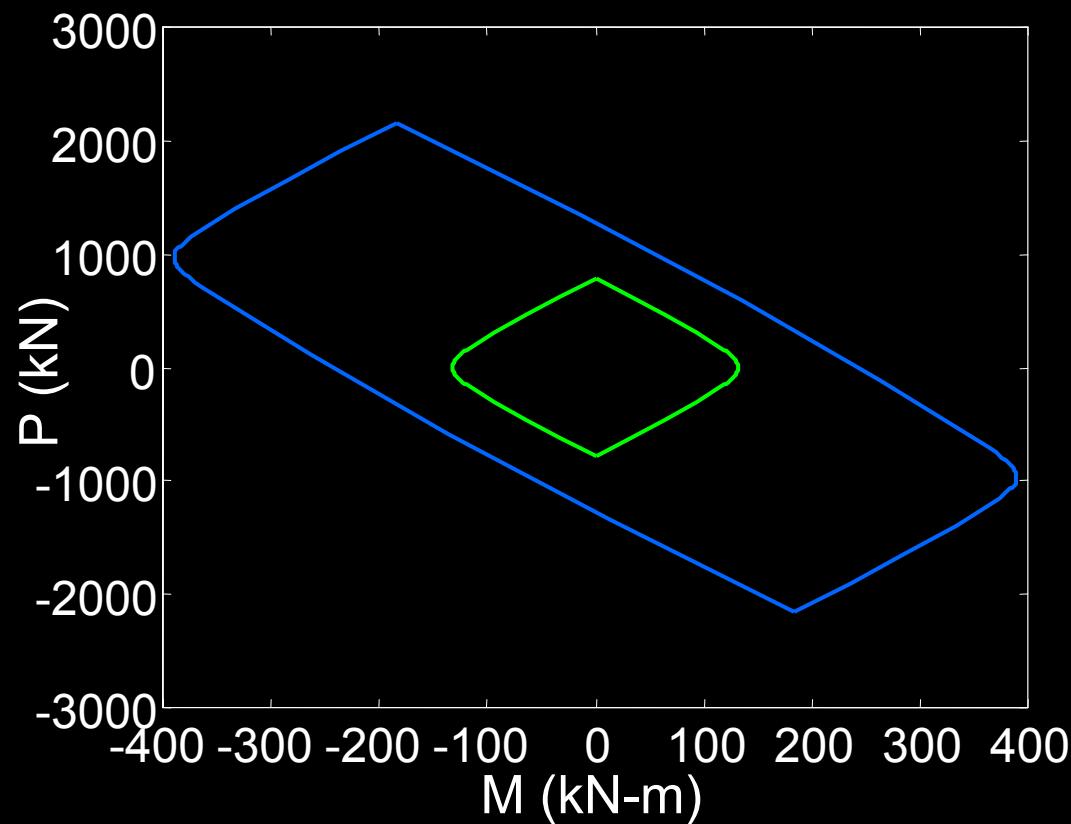


# Constructing the P-M diagram

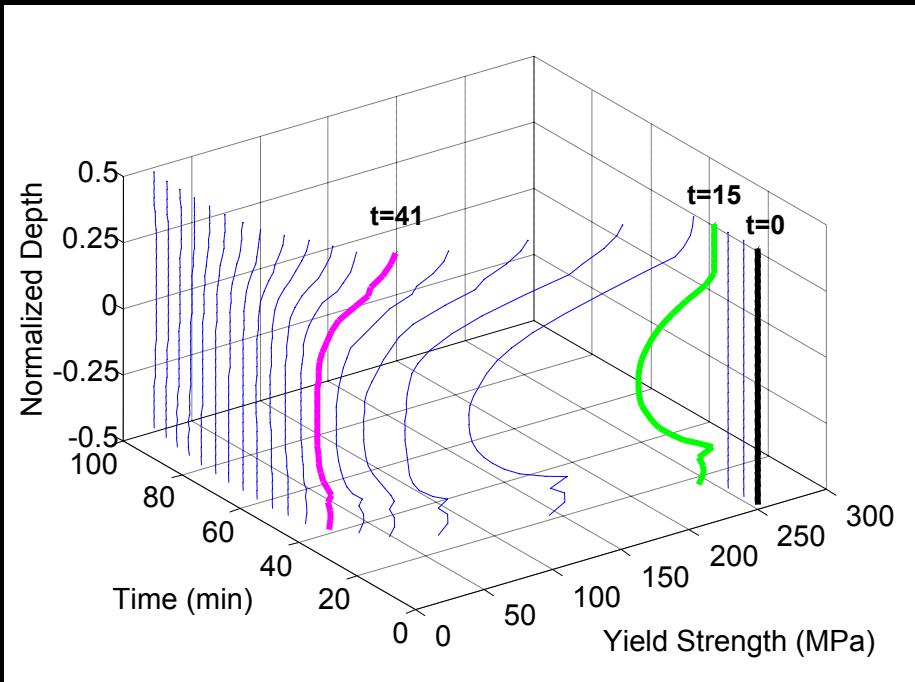
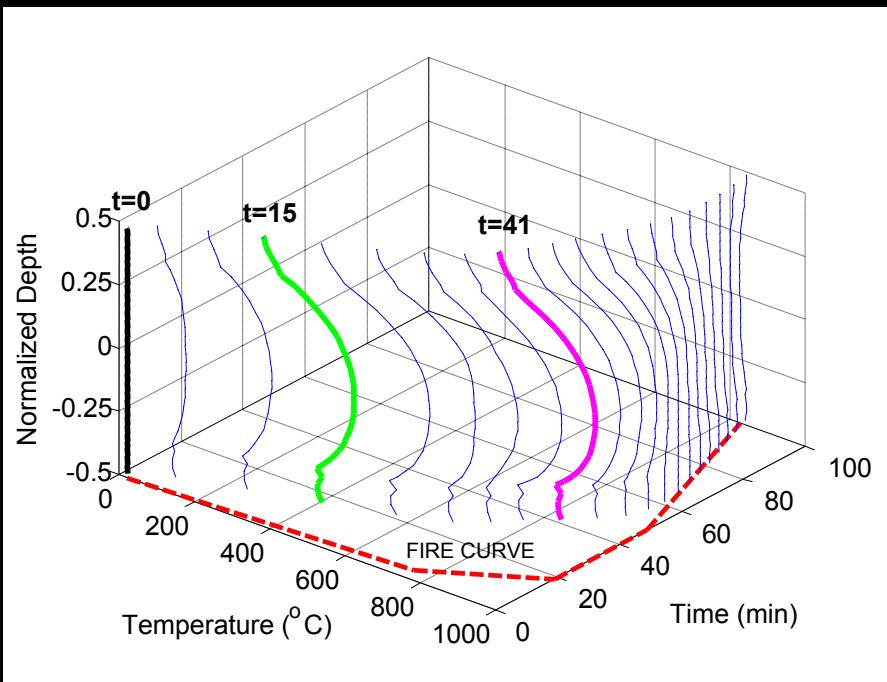
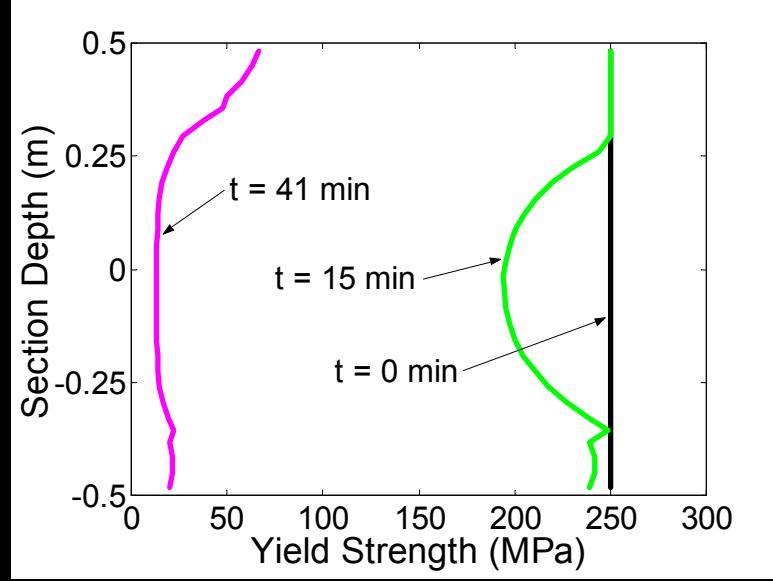
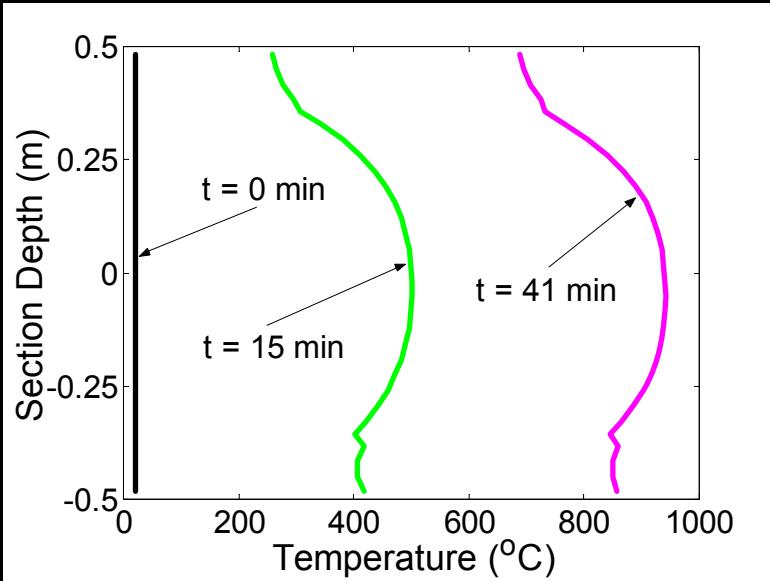
exterior face





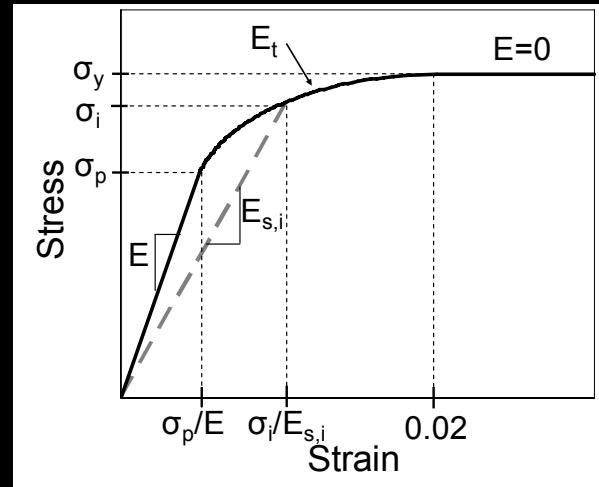


# Unprotected Column



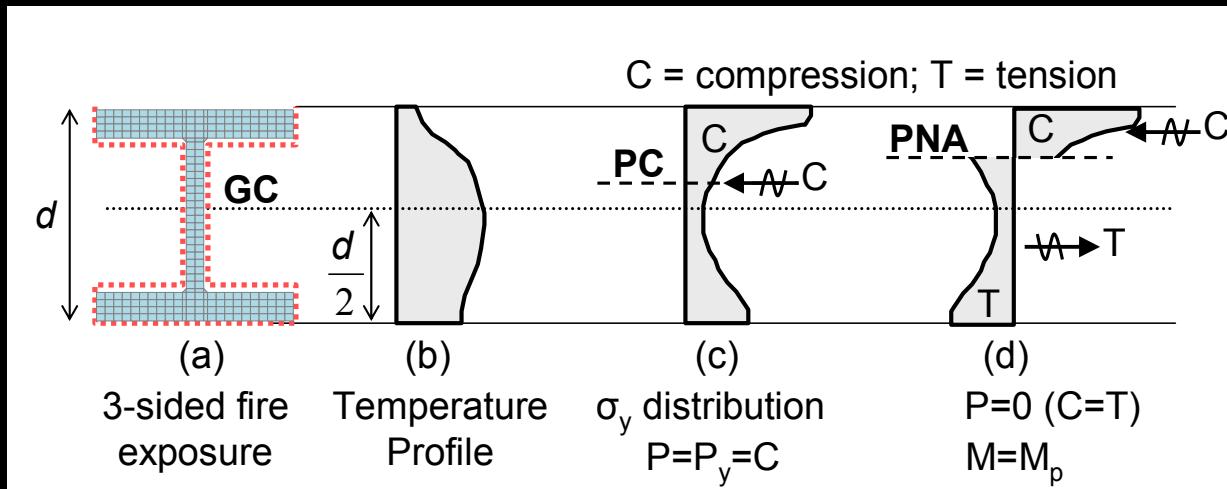
# Definitions of EC, PC, PNA

Effective Centroid (EC)



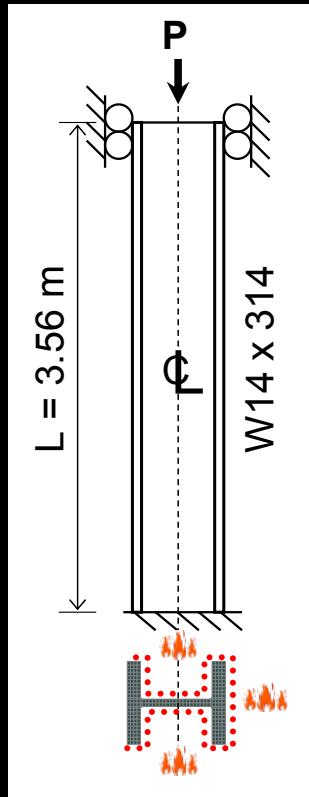
$$y_{EC} = \frac{\sum E_{s,i} y_i A_i}{\sum E_{s,i} A_i}$$

Plastic Centroid (PC) and Plastic Neutral Axis (PNA)

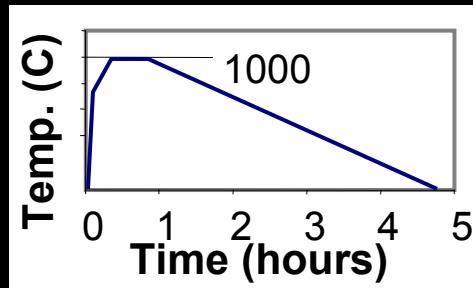
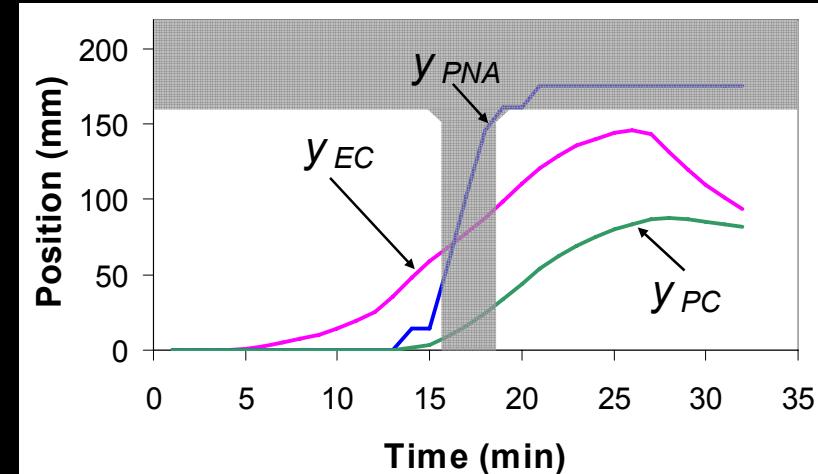


$$y_{PC} = \frac{\sum \sigma_{y,i} y_i A_i}{\sum \sigma_{y,i} A_i}$$

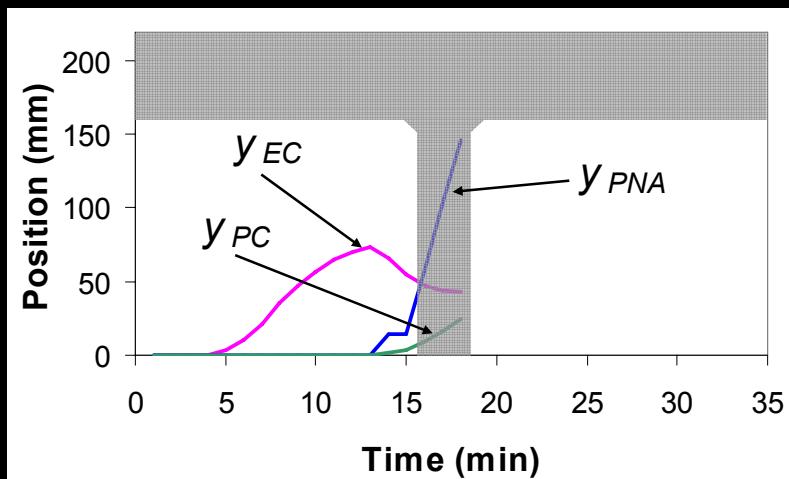
# Movement of EC, PC, PNA



**$P = 25\%$  of initial  $P_y$**

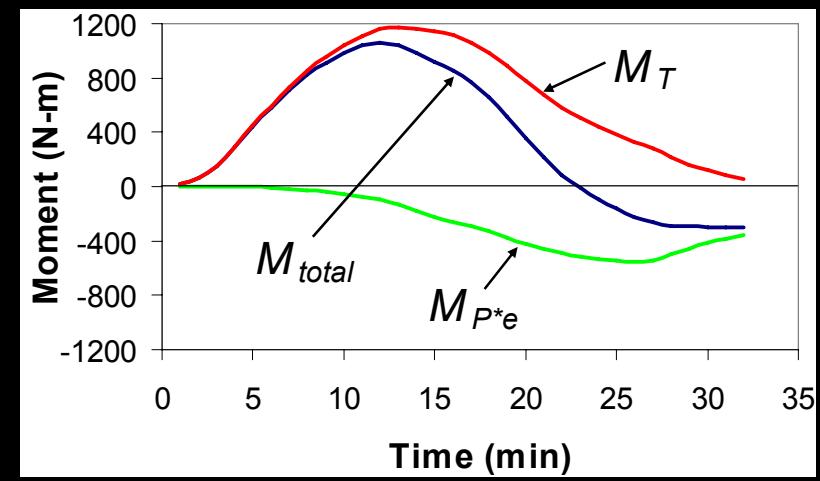
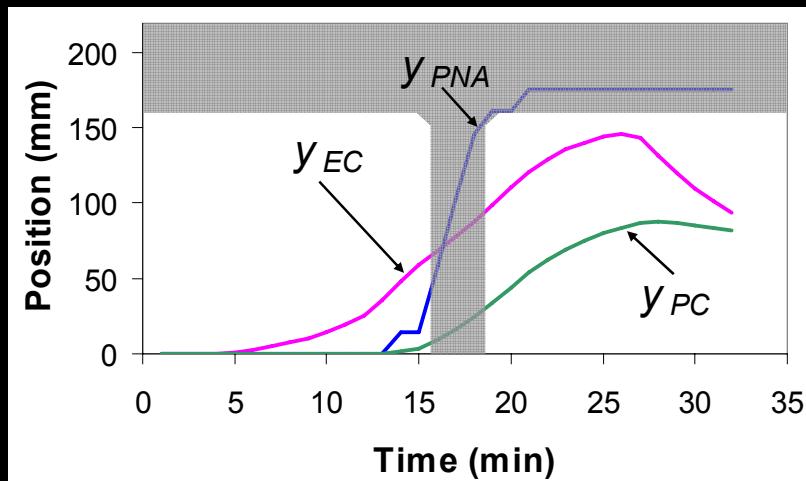


**$P = 75\%$  of initial  $P_y$**

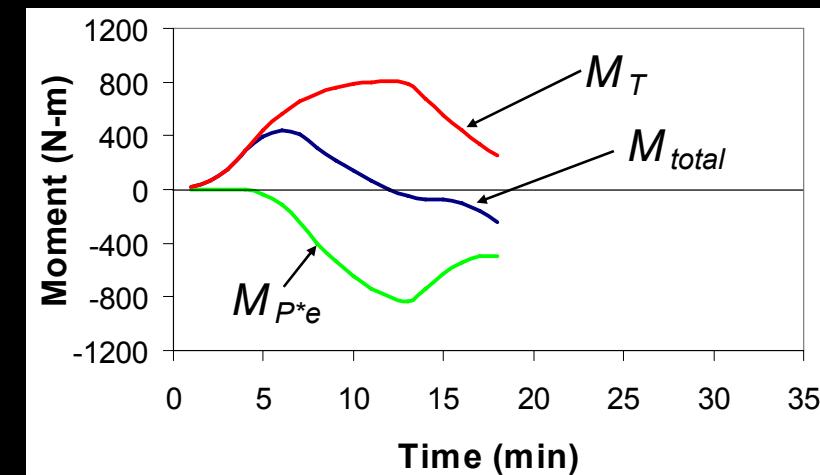
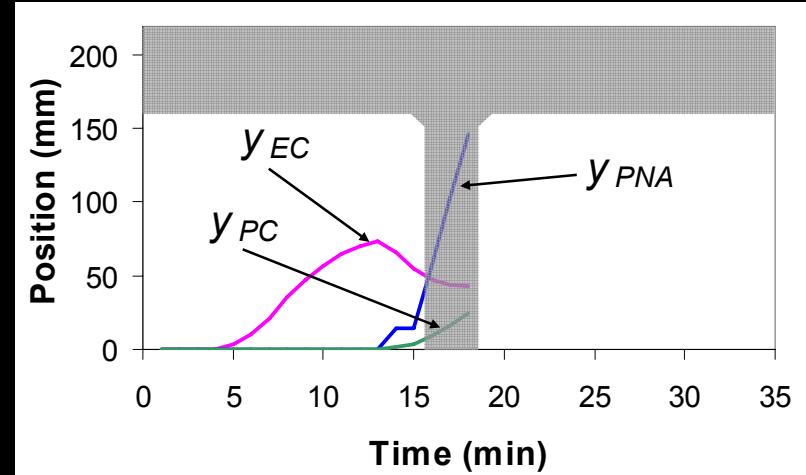


# Mechanics: EC, PC, PNA

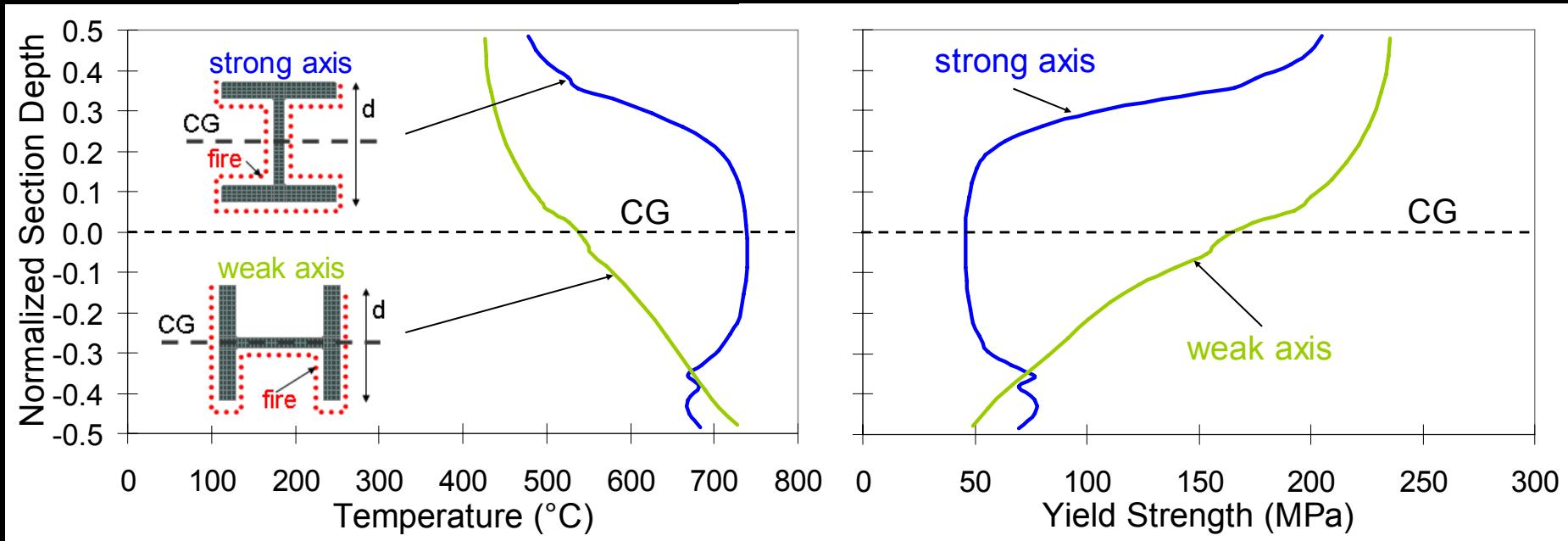
$P = 25\% \text{ of initial } P_y$



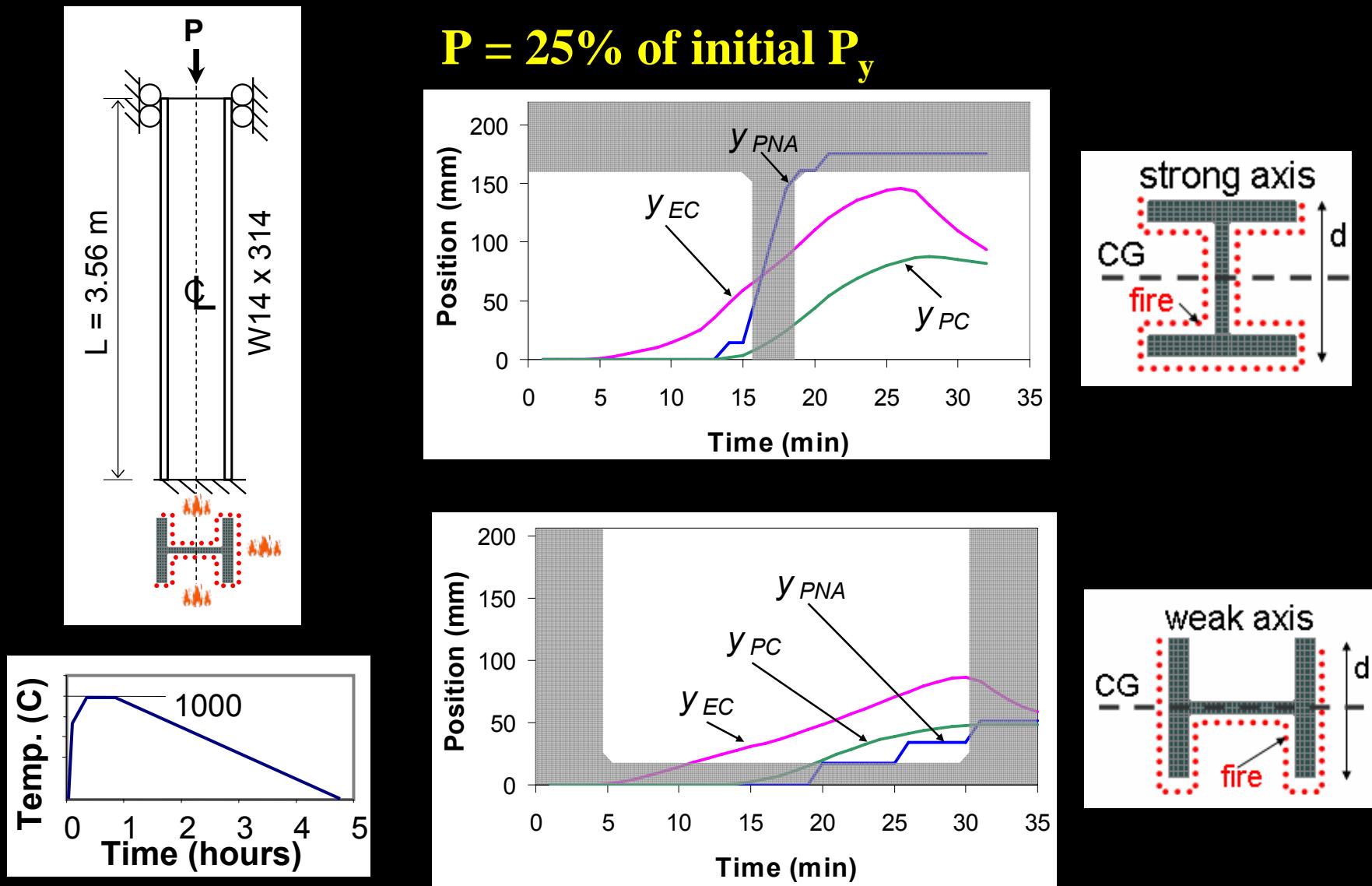
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# Movement of EC, PC, PNA

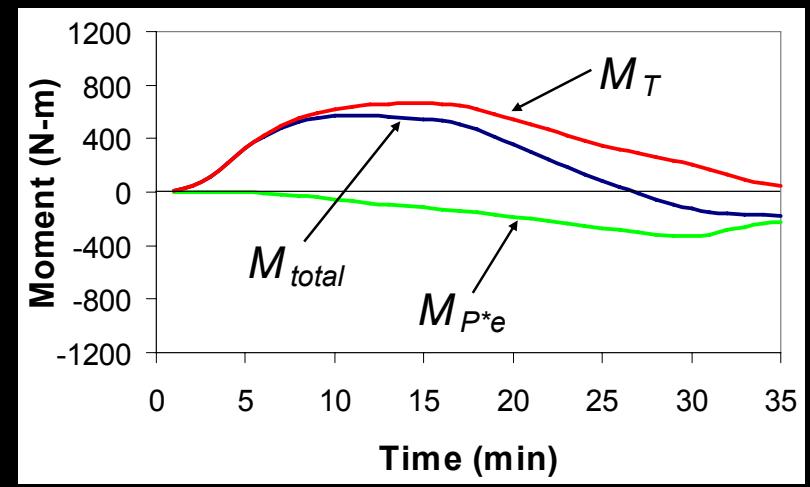
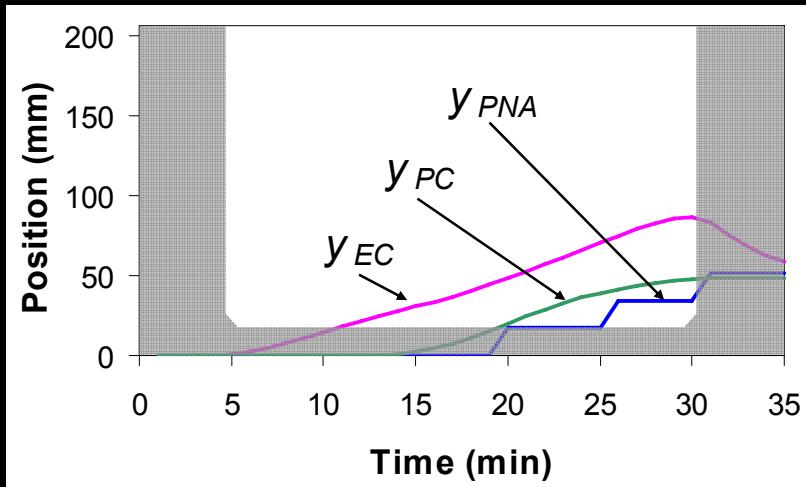
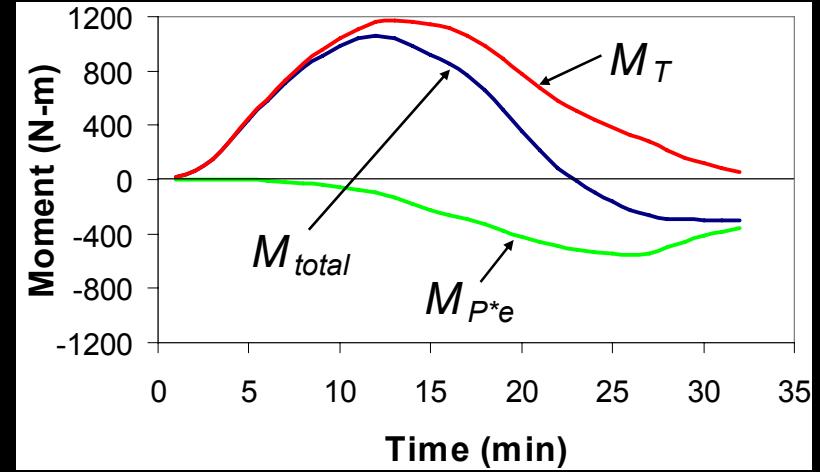
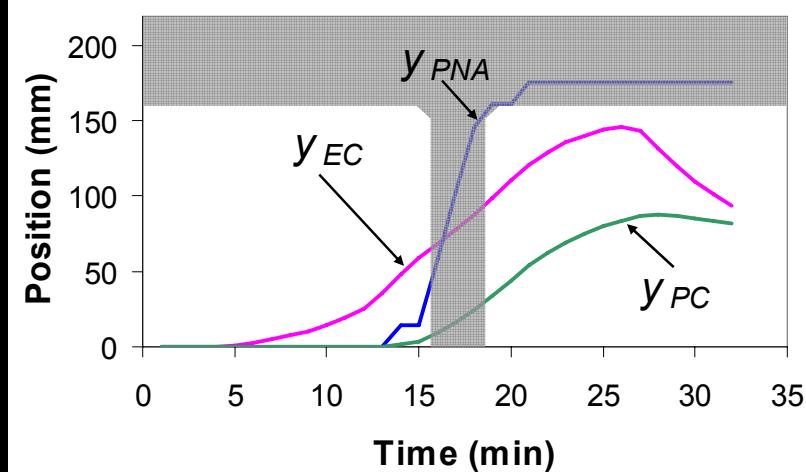


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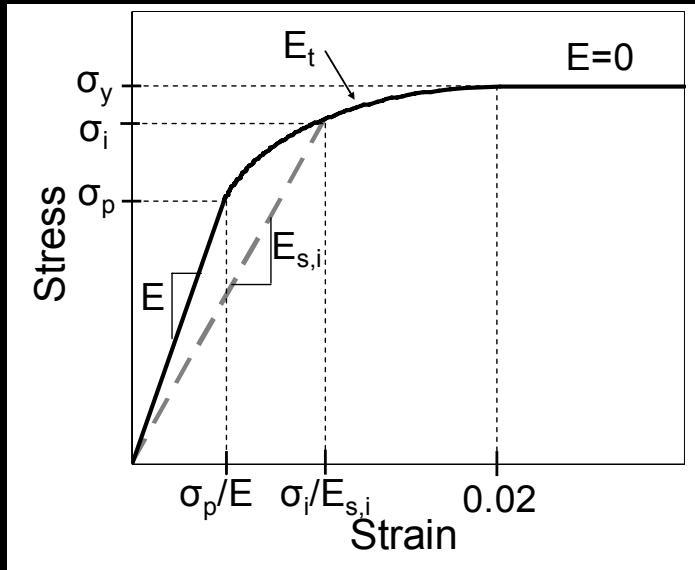


# Mechanics: EC, PC, PNA

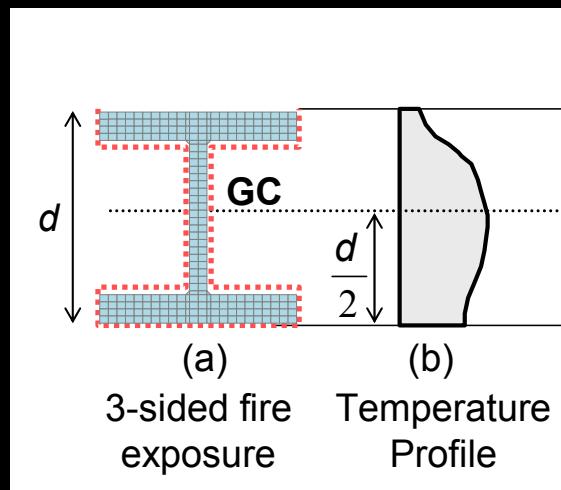
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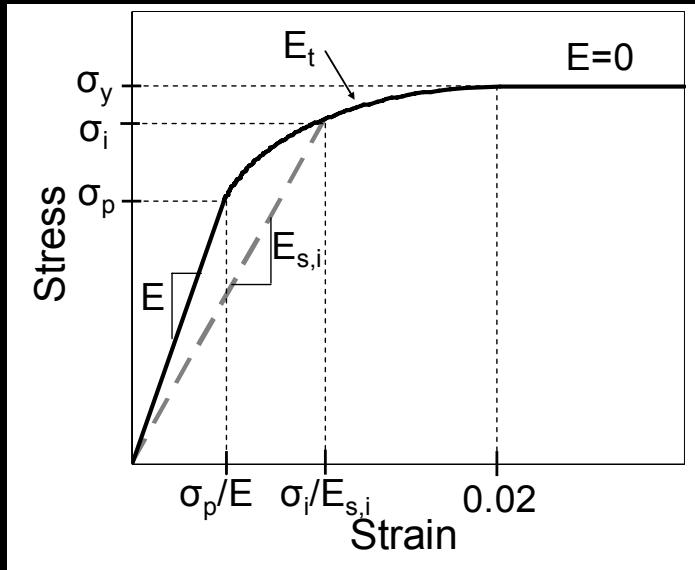
# Effective Centroid



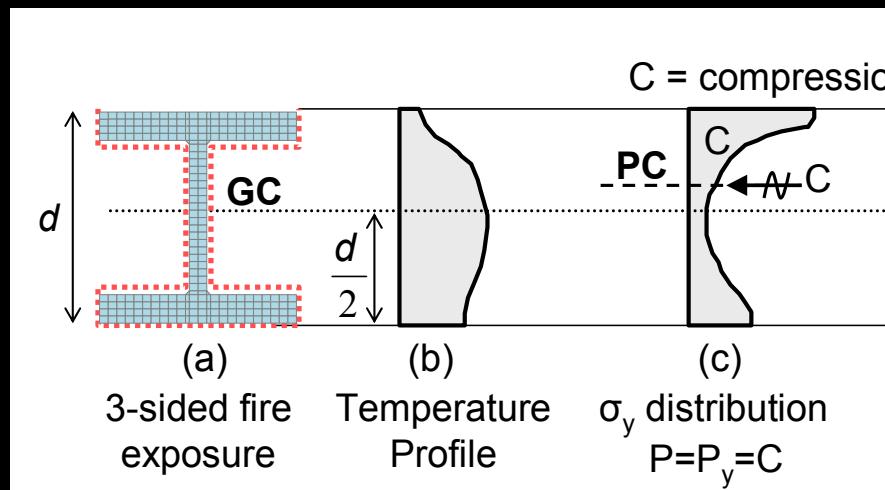
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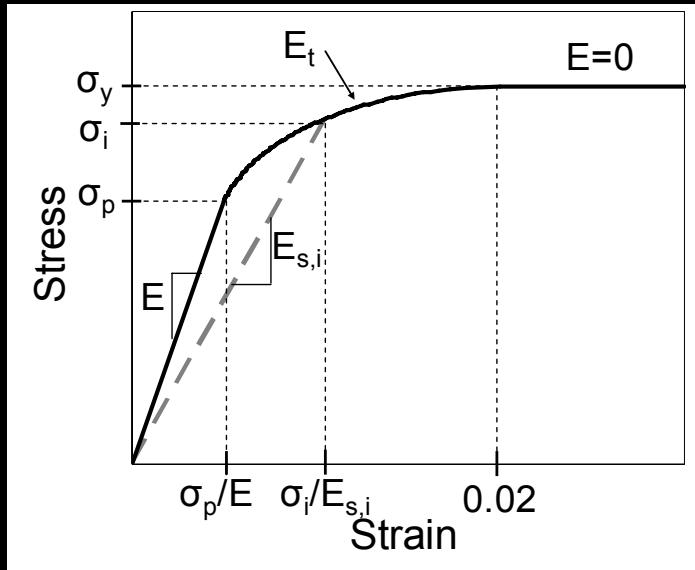
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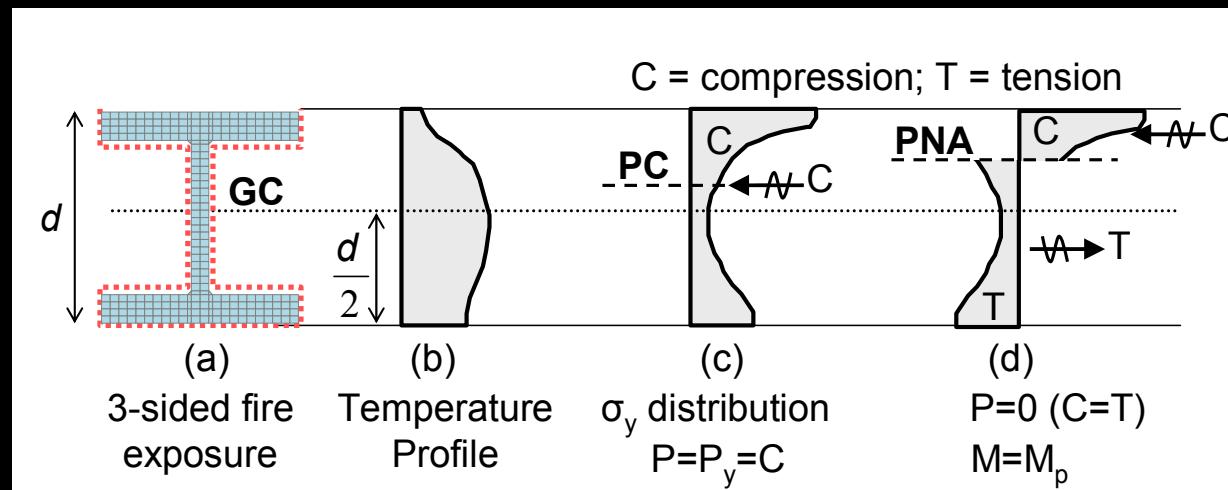
$$y_{EC} = \frac{\sum E_{s,i} y_i A_i}{\sum E_{s,i} A_i}$$



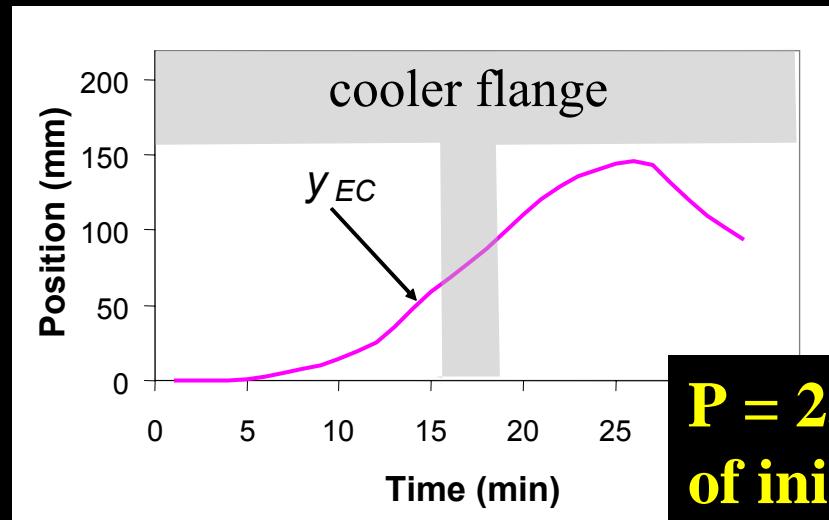
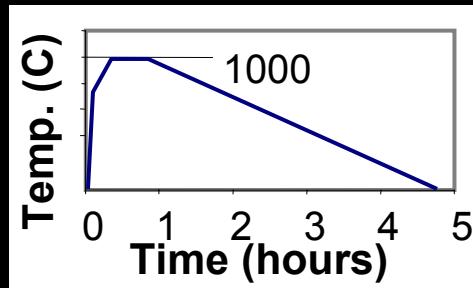
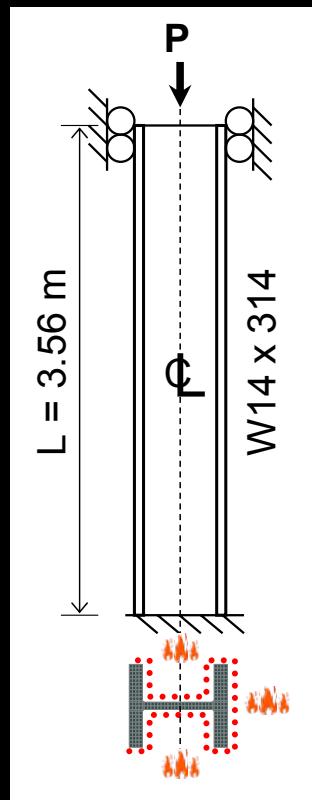
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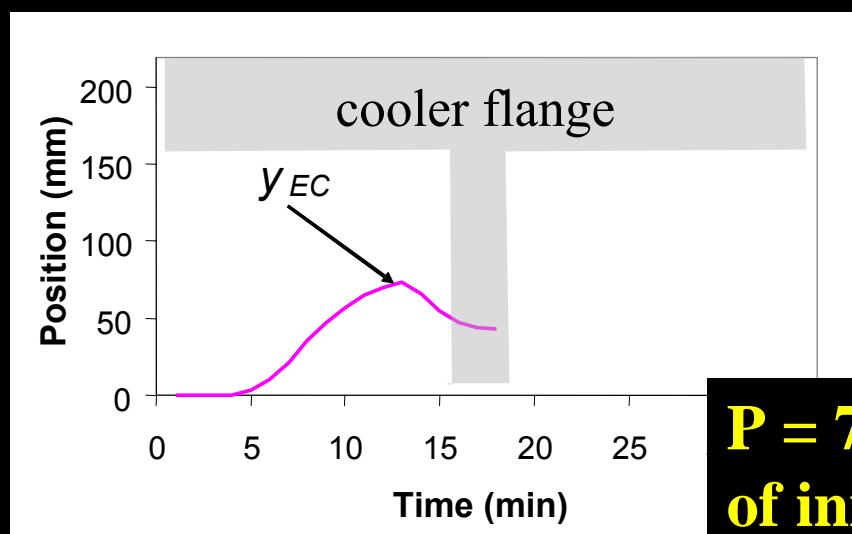
$$y_{EC} = \frac{\sum E_{s,i} y_i A_i}{\sum E_{s,i} A_i}$$



# Movement of Effective Centroid



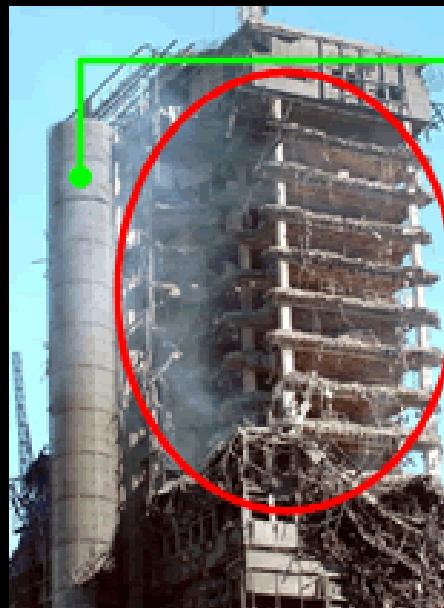
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of initial  $P_y$



$P = 75\%$   
of initial  $P_y$

# Background

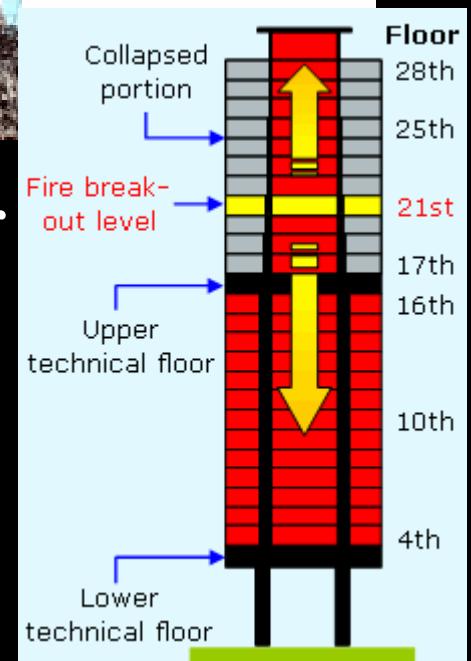
WTC  
NYC 2001



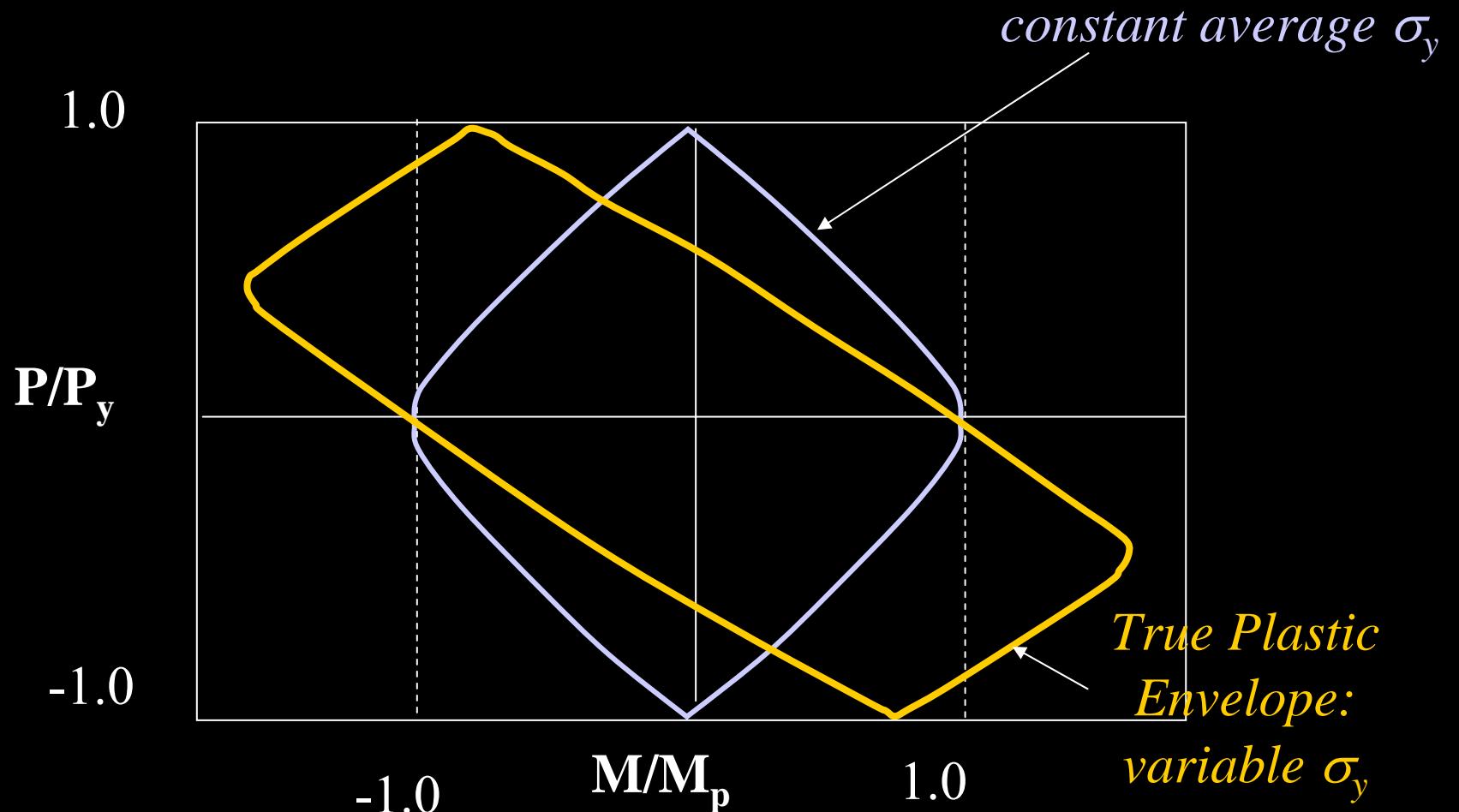
New escape  
stair survived  
in the fire

Perimeter slabs  
largely collapsed  
(5m ~ 10m deep)

Windsor Tower  
Madrid 2005



# Predicting the Capacity



# Predicting the Capacity

