



Consequence-oriented fire intensity optimisation for structural design under uncertainty

A. Franchini, C. Galasso, J. L. Torero
Structures in fire forum
London, 29-07-2023



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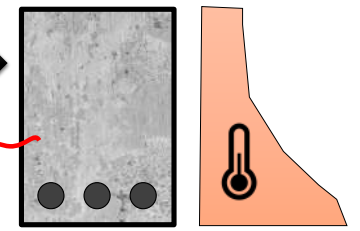
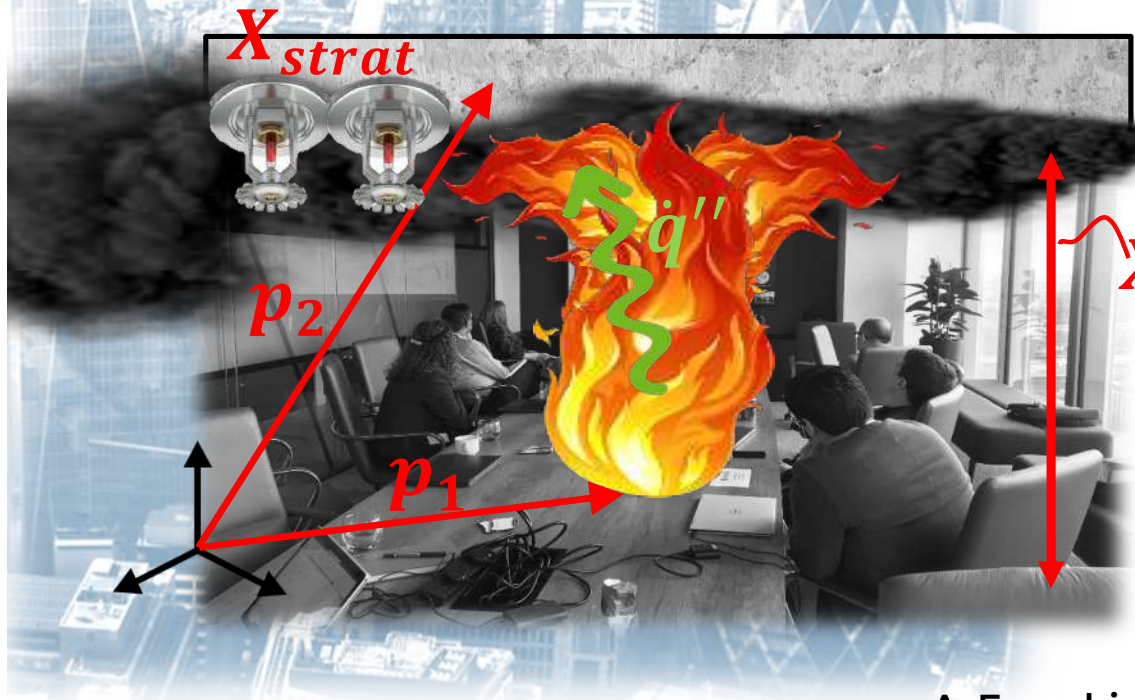
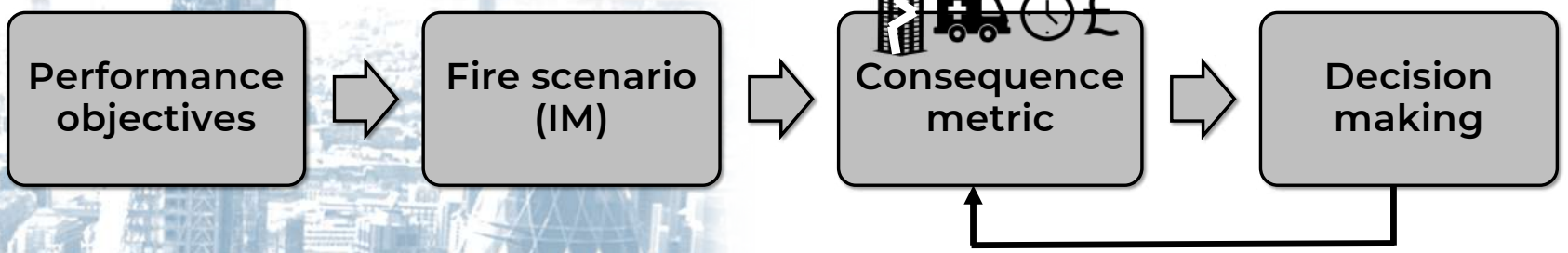




Are fire scenarios a design input or output?

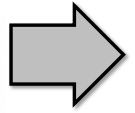
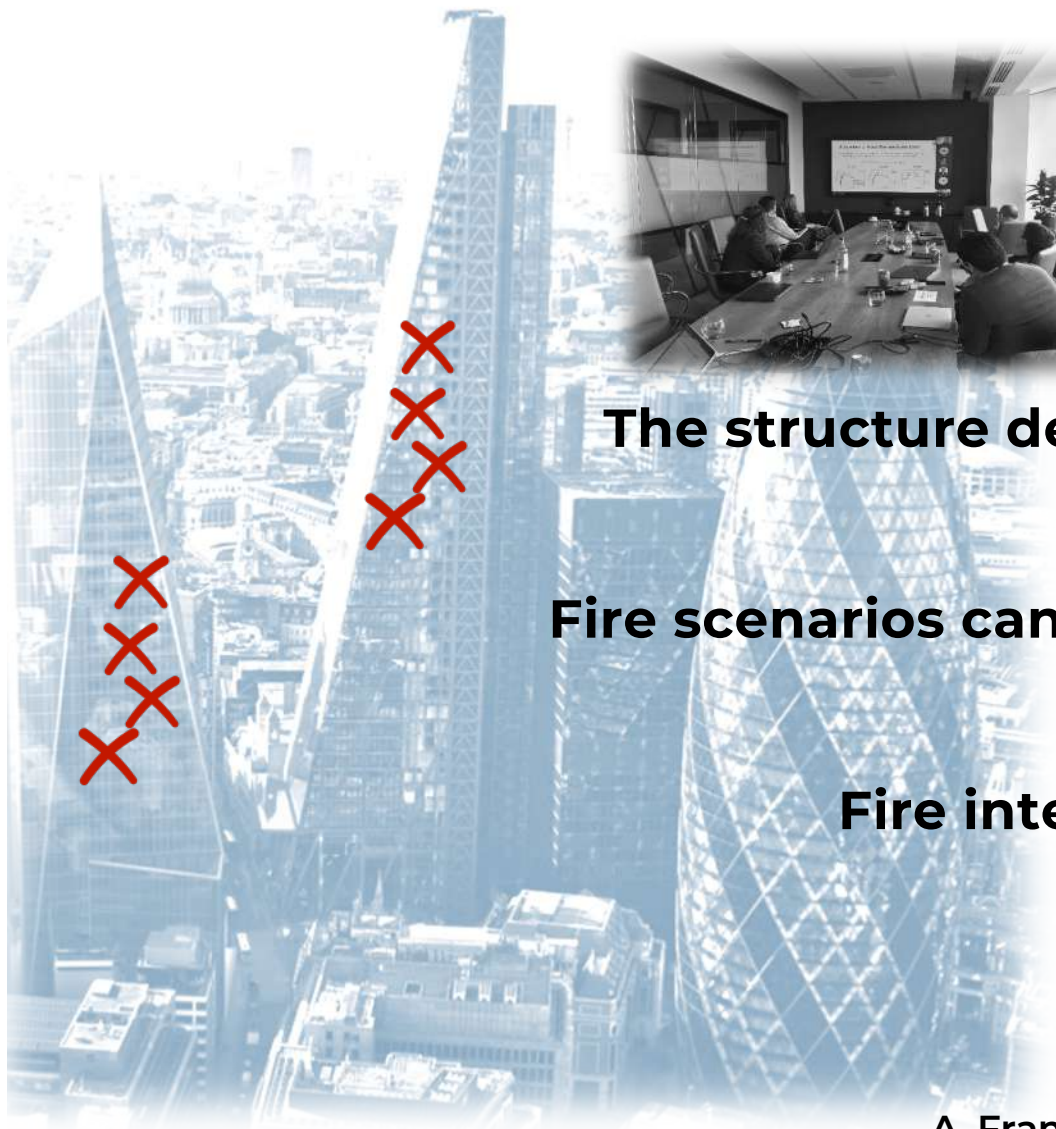
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Probabilistic performance-based design



Fire Intensity Measure?
 $T_{beam} = f(p, time, Design\ var.\ X, \dot{q}''(\dots, X_{strat}, fuel))$

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The structure defines fire intensity

Fire scenarios can be design variables!

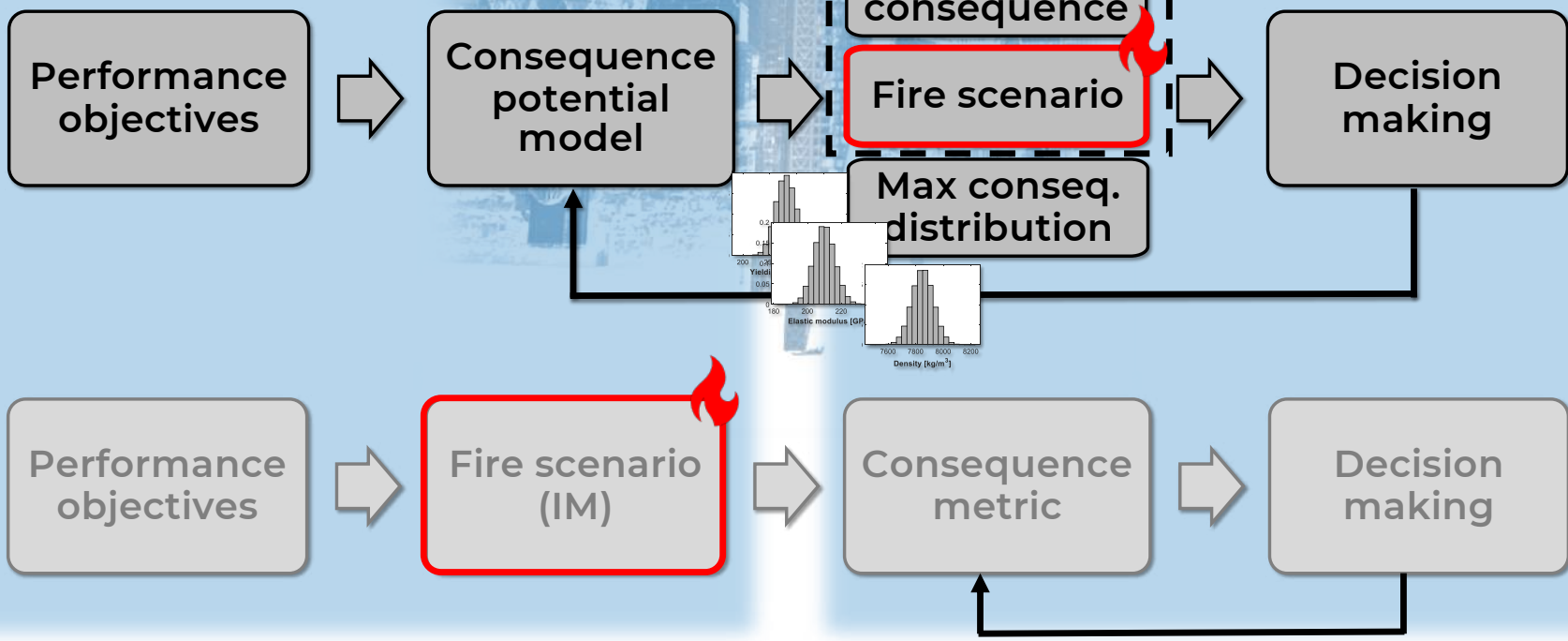
Fire intensity $\rightarrow 0$?

Consequence-oriented Fire intensity Optimisation

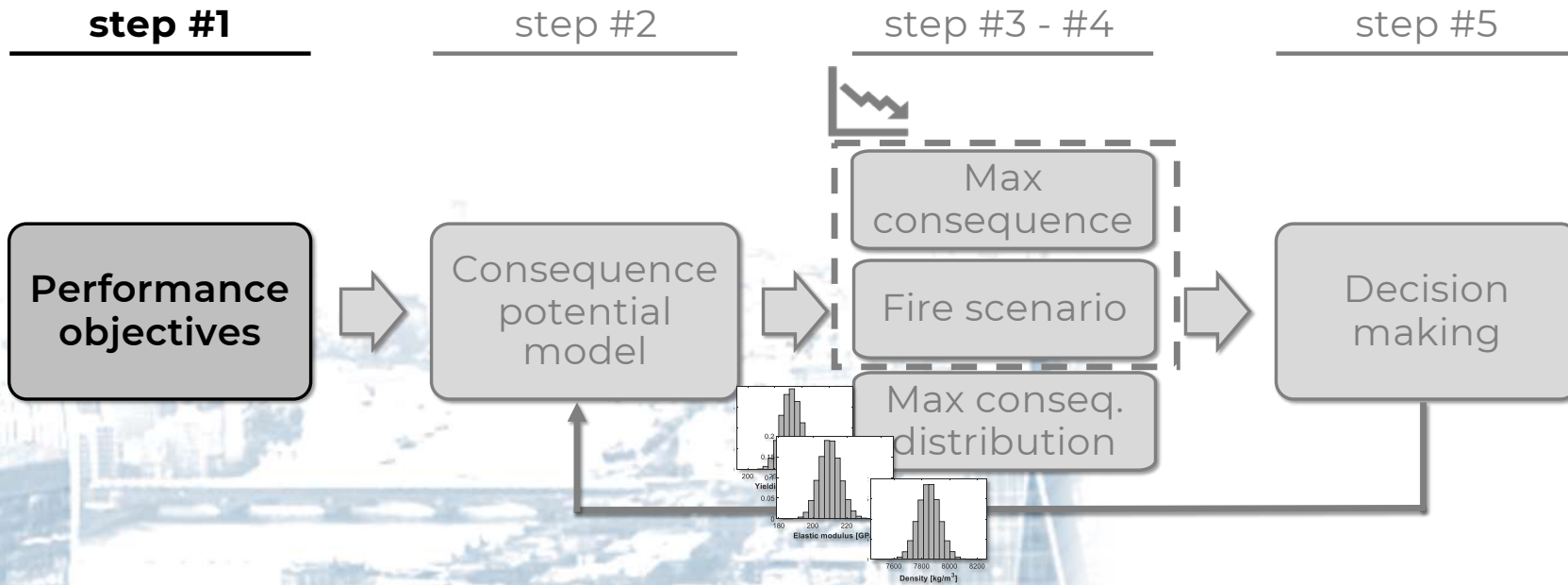
step #1 step #2 step #3 - #4 step #5

INPUTS

OUTPUTS



Illustrative example



Illustrative example

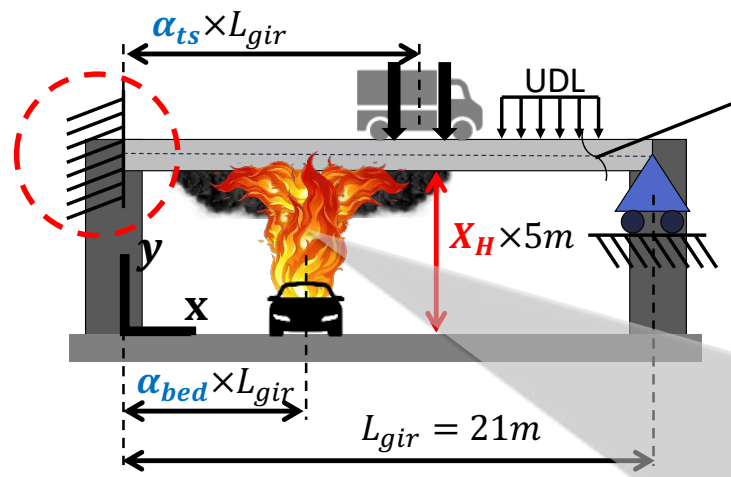
step #1

step #2

step #3 - #4

step #5

PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES AND INITIAL DESIGN



Objective



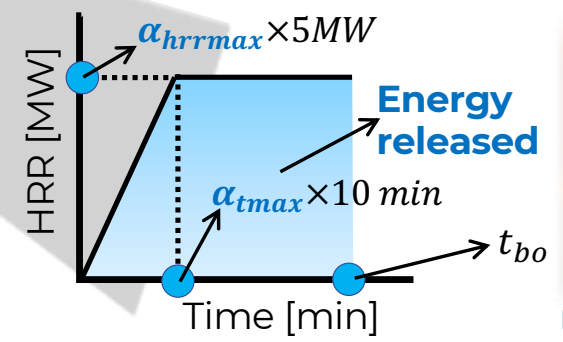
Time to collapse:
 $t_c(\mathbf{X}, \alpha) \geq 20 \text{ min}$

design variables

fire scenario variables

Design variables

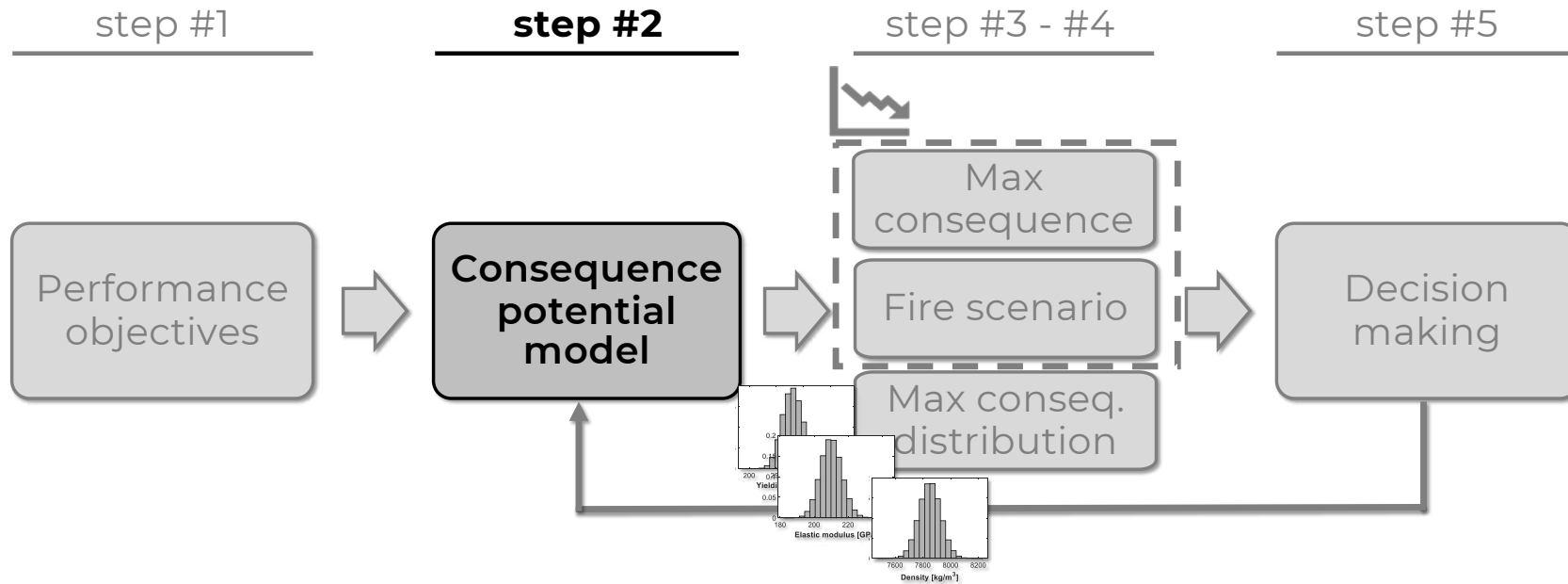
X_H	Bridge clearance
X_{Hgir}	Girder height
X_{wf}	Flange width



Mohod Tohir and Sperarpoint, 2013

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Illustrative example



Illustrative example

step #1

step #2

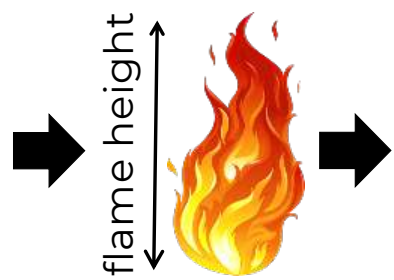
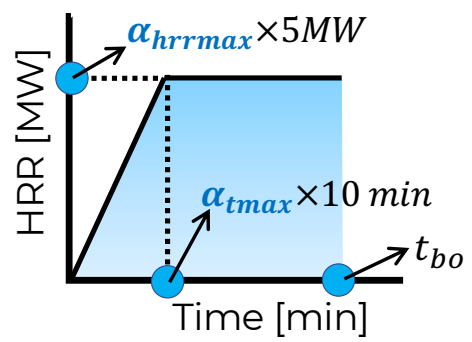
step #3 - #4

step #5

CONSEQUENCE POTENTIAL MODEL

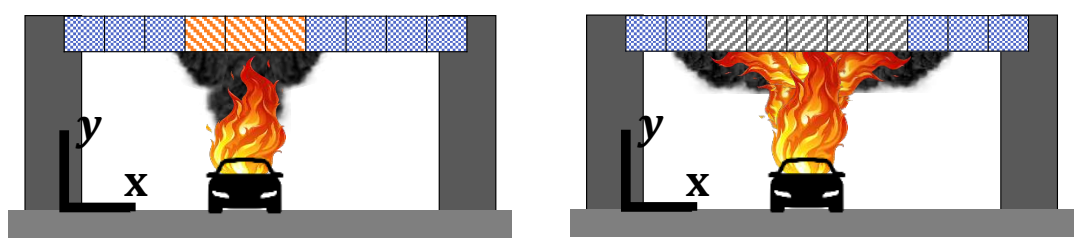
$$t_c(\mathbf{X}, \alpha)$$

design variables fire scenario variables



No flame impingement

Flame impingement



- Point source
- Heskestad's correlation
- Convective heat flux $\dot{q}'' = 85kW/m^2$

Illustrative example

step #1

step #2

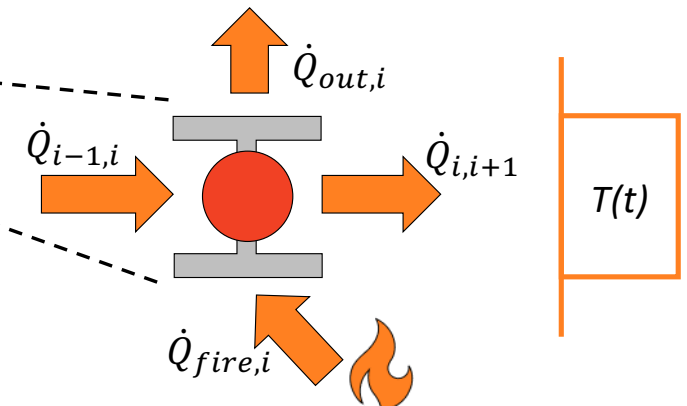
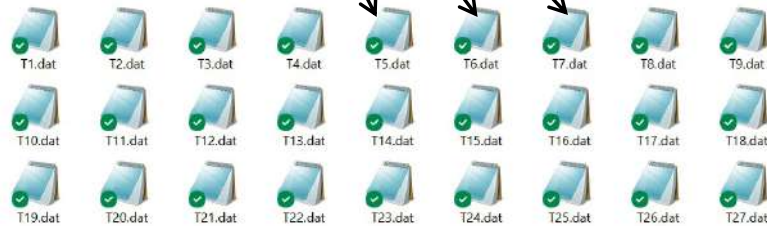
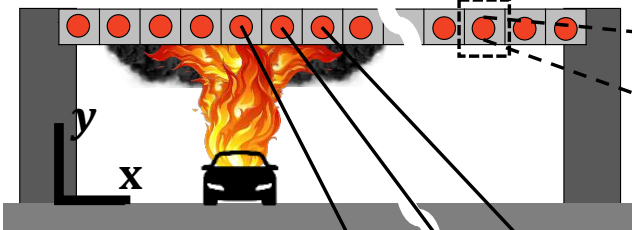
step #3 - #4

step #5

CONSEQUENCE POTENTIAL MODEL

$$\odot t_c(\mathbf{X}, \boldsymbol{\alpha})$$

design variables fire scenario variables



$$\Delta T_i = \frac{dt}{V_i \rho c_p(T)} \times (\dot{Q}_{fire,i} - \dot{Q}_{out,i} + \dot{Q}_{i-1,i} + \dot{Q}_{i,i+1})$$

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Illustrative example

step #1

step #2

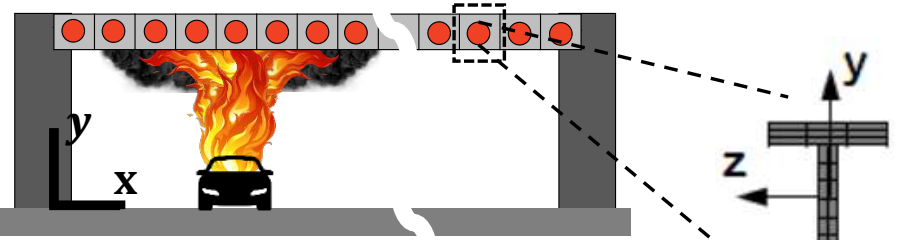
step #3 - #4

step #5

CONSEQUENCE POTENTIAL MODEL

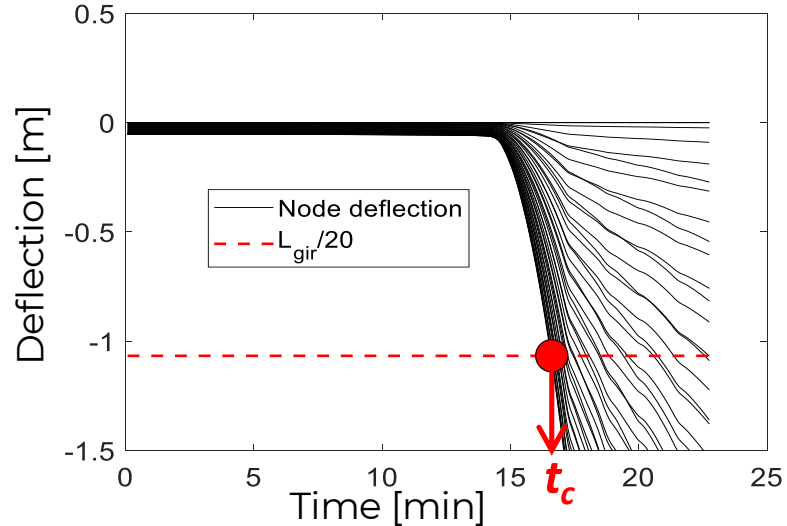
$$t_c(X, \alpha)$$

design variables fire scenario variables



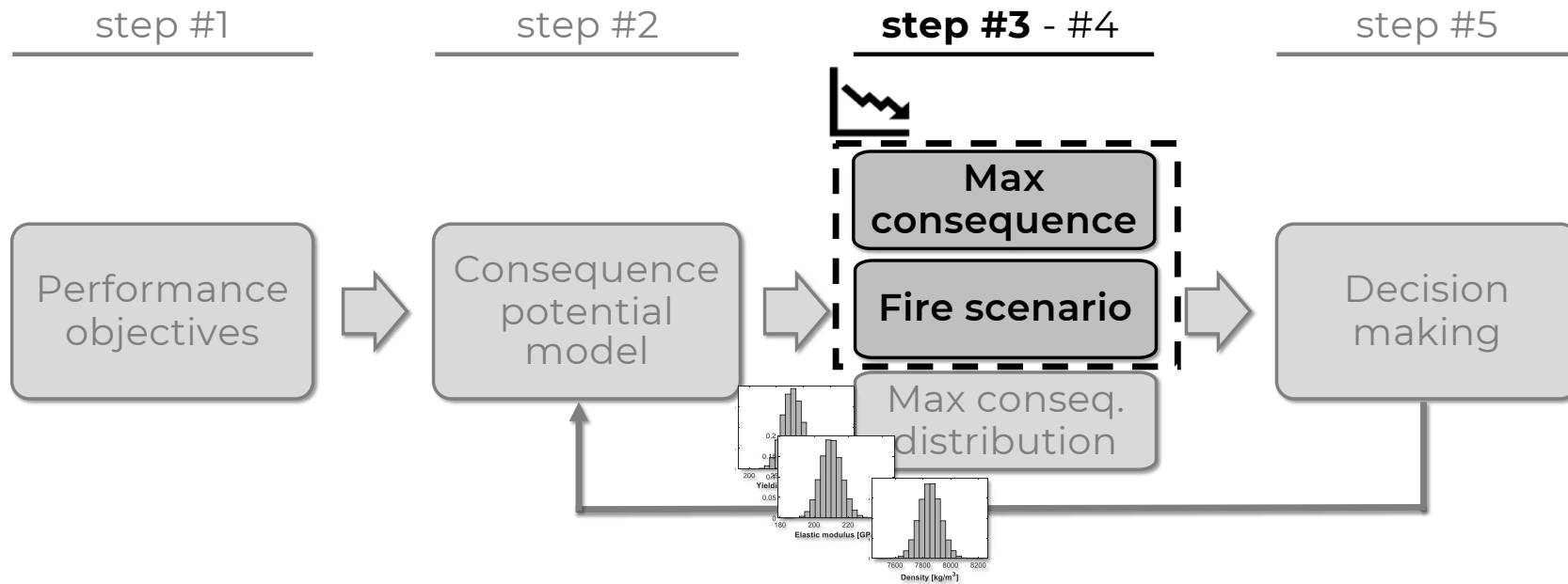
OPENSEES FOR FIRE

Thermal fiber section
 Material: Steel01Thermal
 Elements size: 0.50 m



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Illustrative example



Illustrative example

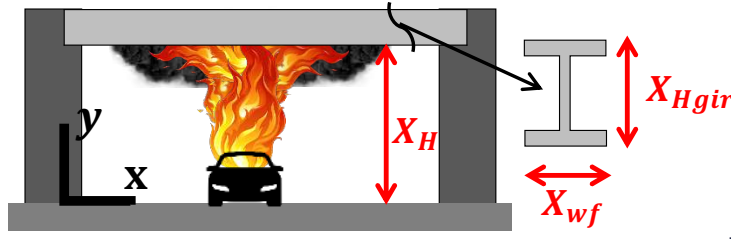
step #1

step #2

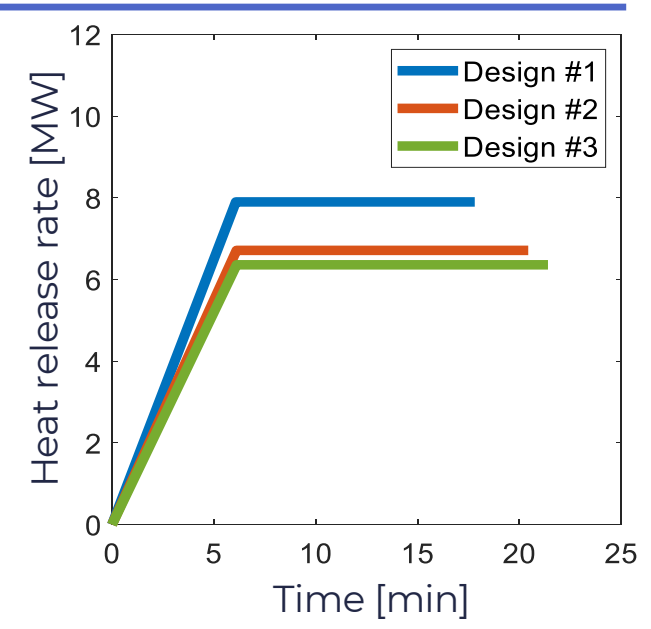
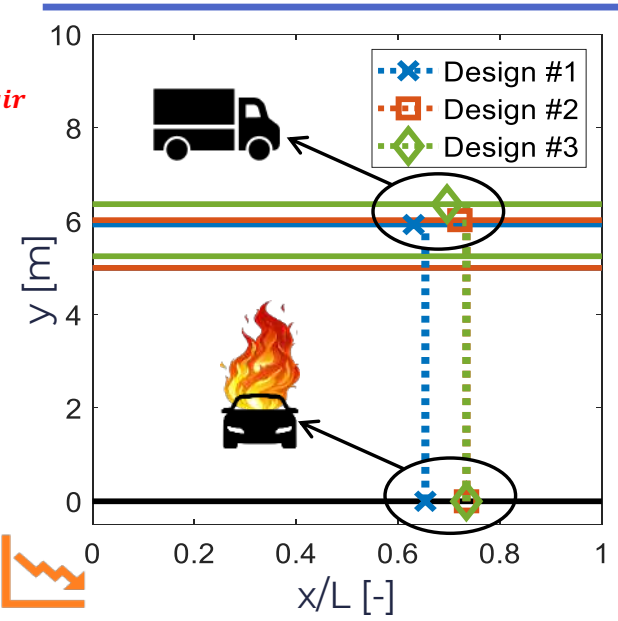
step #3 - #4

step #5

CALCULATE **MAX CONSEQUENCE** AND **FIRE SCENARIO**



Design	#1	#2	#3
X_H [-]	1.00	1.00	1.05
X_{Hgir} [-]	1.00	1.10	1.20
X_{wf} [-]	1.00	1.20	1.15
t_c [min]	11.47	19.33	20.23



Fire scenarios maximising consequences are structure-specific.

Illustrative example

step #1

step #2

step #3 - #4

step #5

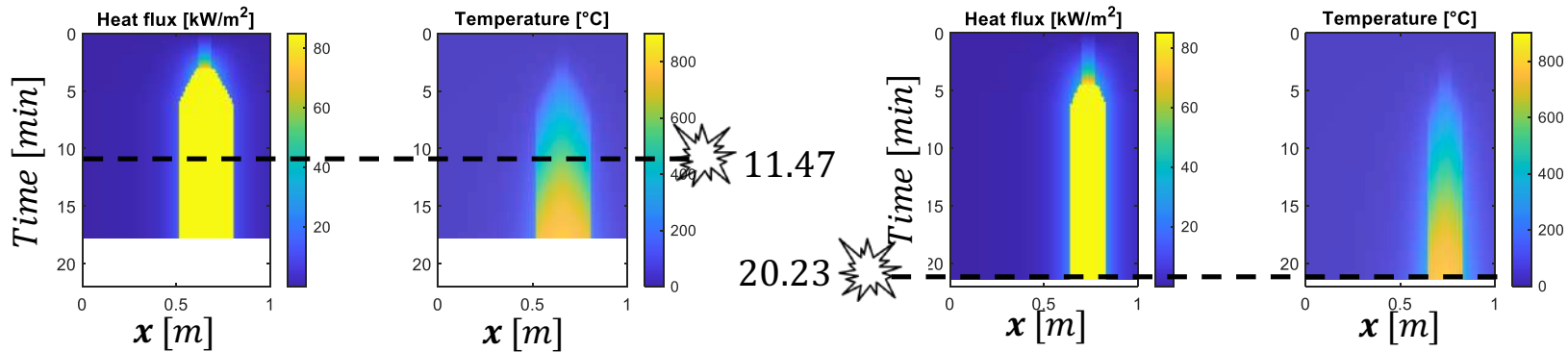
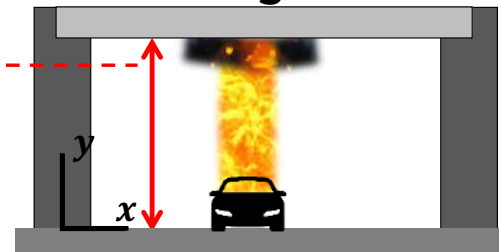
CALCULATE MAX CONSEQUENCE AND **FIRE SCENARIO**

CFO: design both the fire and the structure!

Design #1

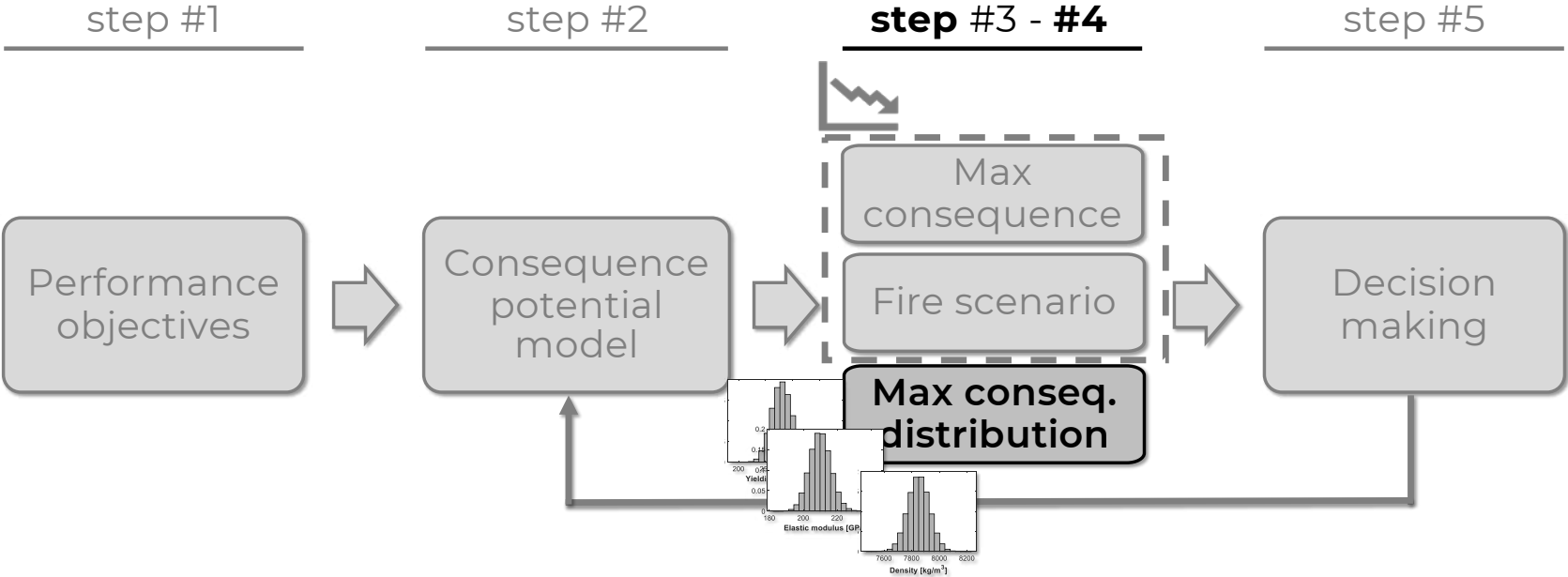


Design #3



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Illustrative example



Illustrative example

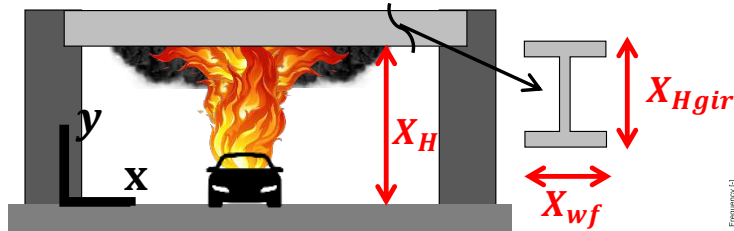
step #1

step #2

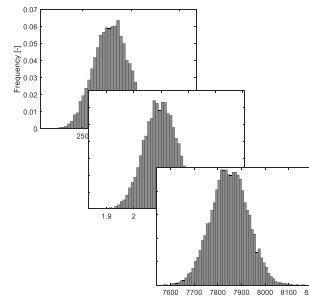
step #3 - #4

step #5

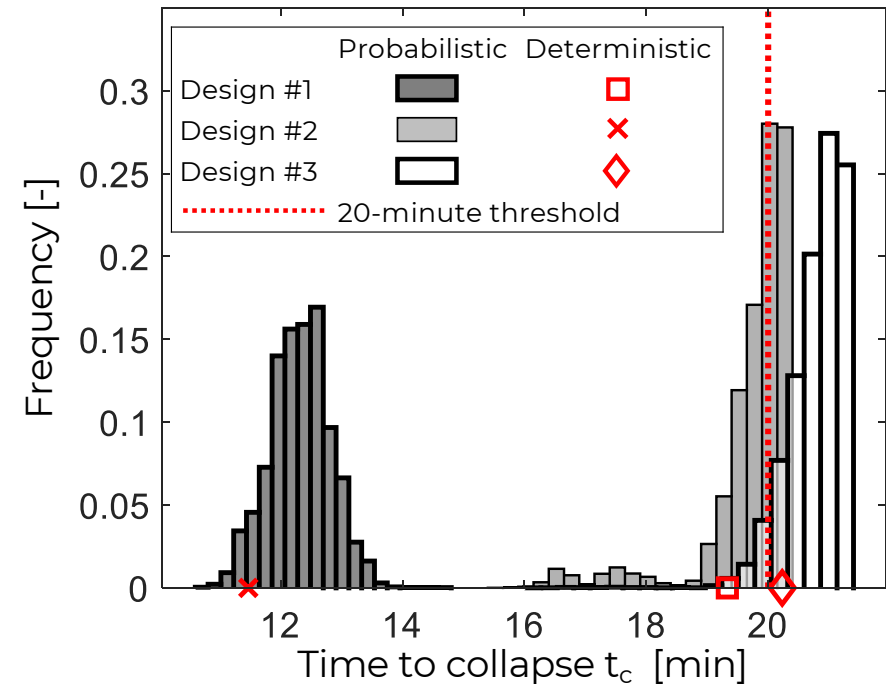
INPUT UNCERTAINTY EFFECT (STEEL MATERIAL)



Design	#1	#2	#3
X_H [-]	1.00	1.00	1.05
X_{Hgir} [-]	1.00	1.10	1.20
X_{wf} [-]	1.00	1.20	1.15
t_c [min]	11.47	19.33	20.23
$Pr(\bar{t}_c < 20)$	1.000	0.216	0.026

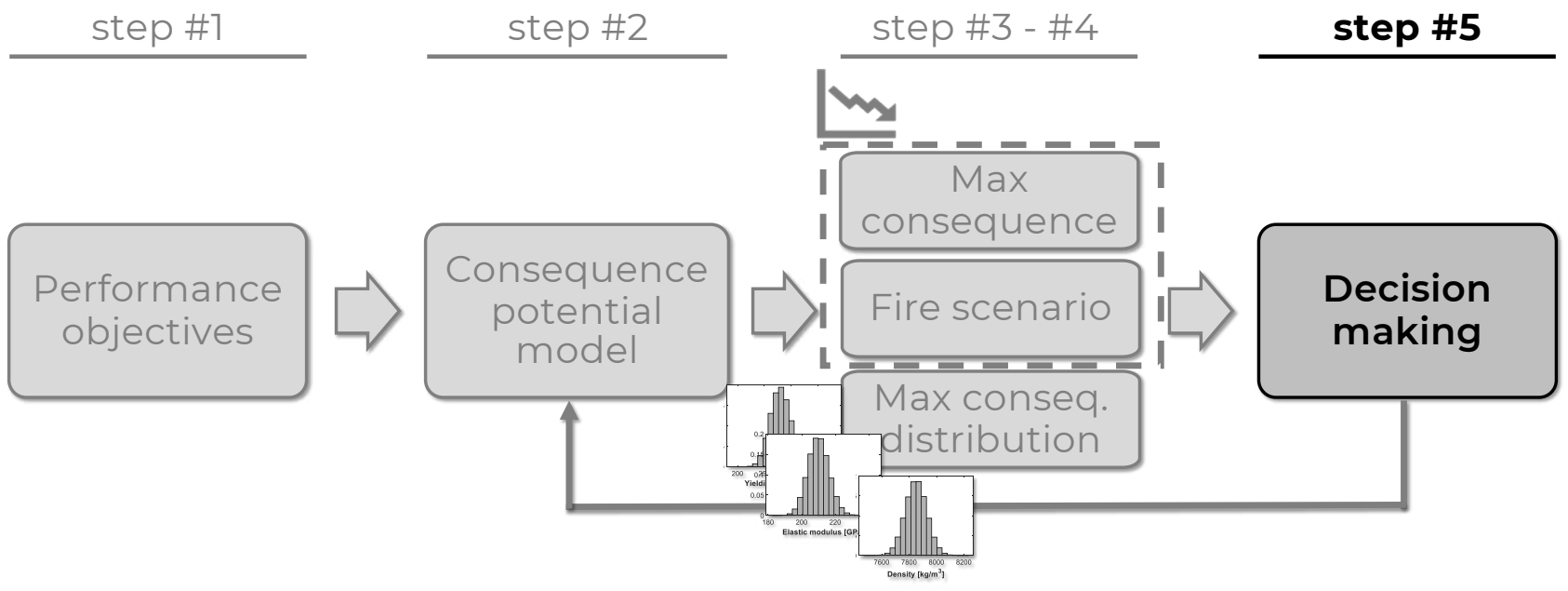


Monte Carlo Simulation



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Illustrative example

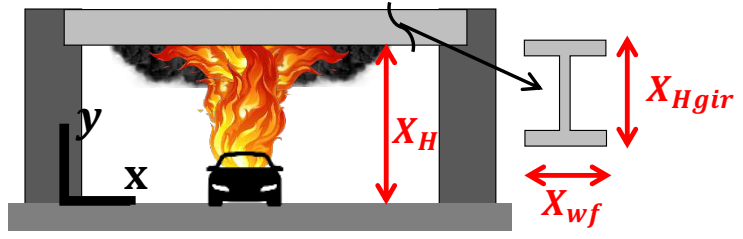


Illustrative example

step #1

step #2

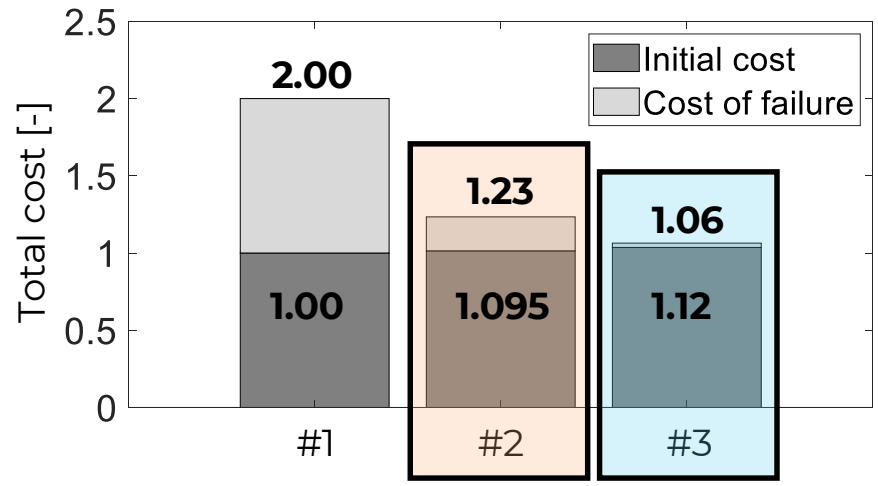
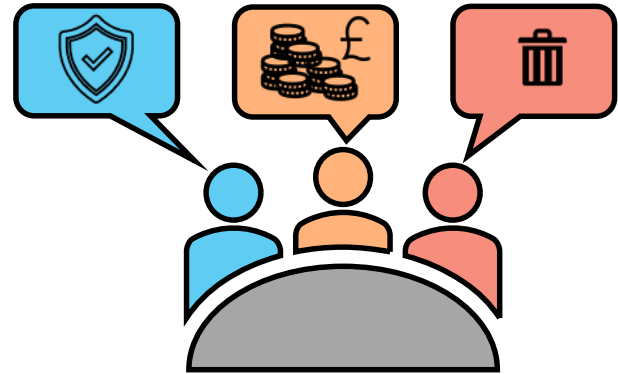
DECISION MAKING



Design	#1	#2	#3
X_H [-]	1.00	1.00	1.05
X_{Hgir} [-]	1.00	1.10	1.20
X_{wf} [-]	1.00	1.20	1.15
t_c [min]	11.47	19.33	20.23
$Pr(\bar{t}_c < 20)$	1.000	0.216	0.026

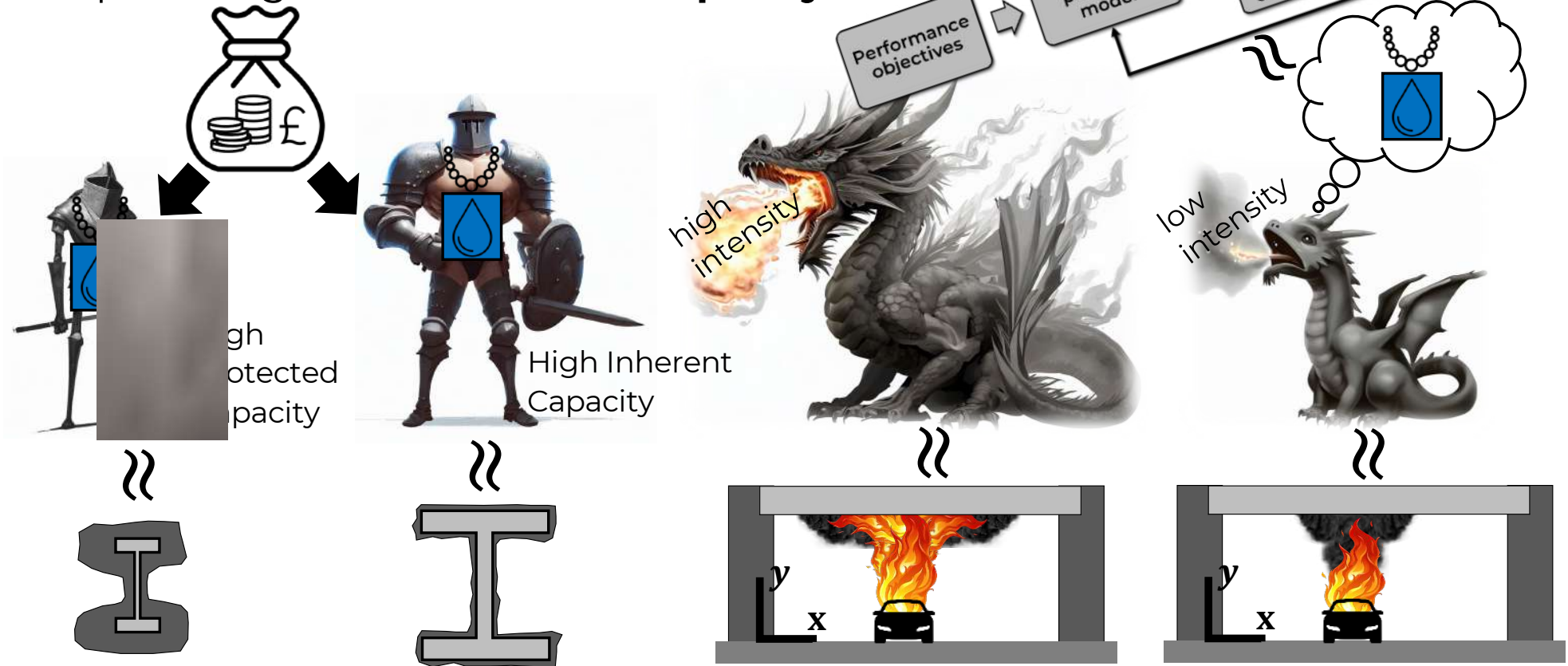
step #3 - #4

step #5



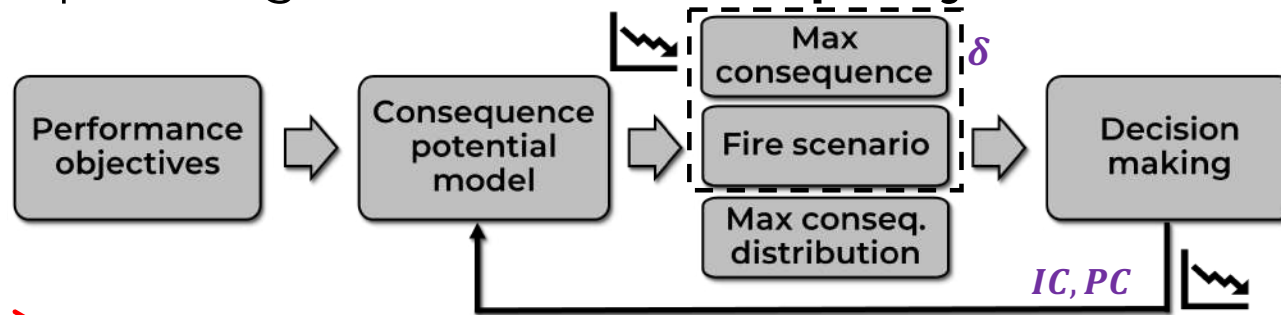
What's next

➤ Optimising the **inherent fire capacity** of structure

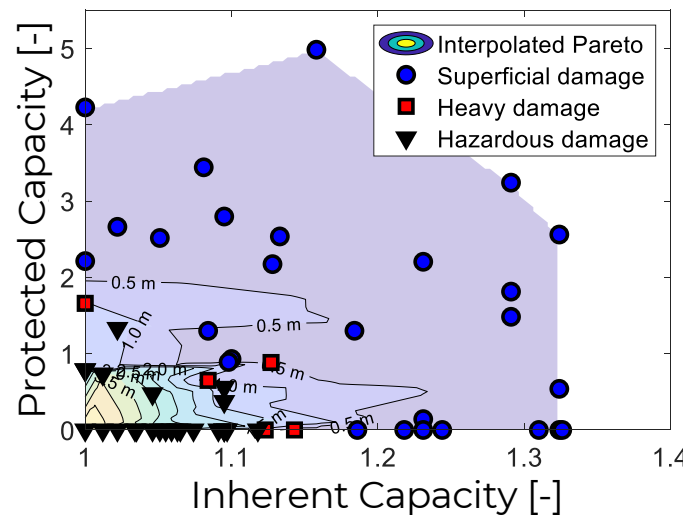
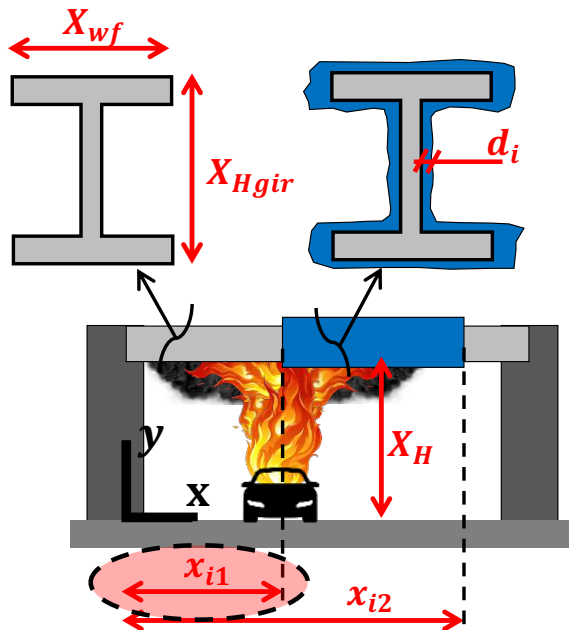


What's next

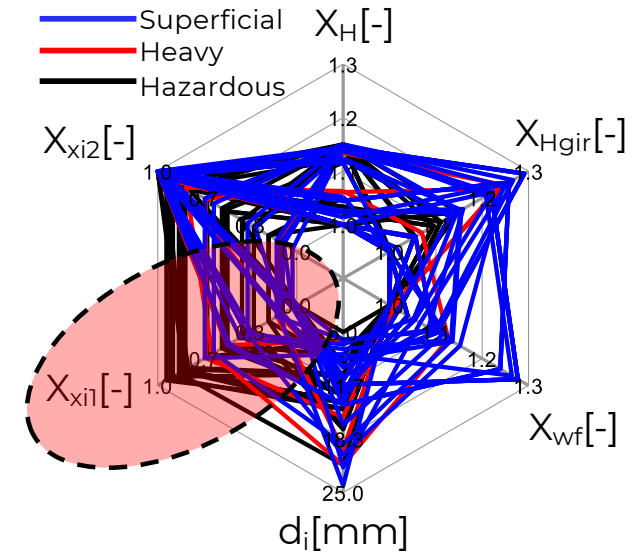
➤ Optimising the **inherent fire capacity** of structures



$$\min \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \delta: \text{deflection @ 1 hr} \\ \text{Inherent Capacity} \\ \text{Protected Capacity} \end{array} \right\}$$



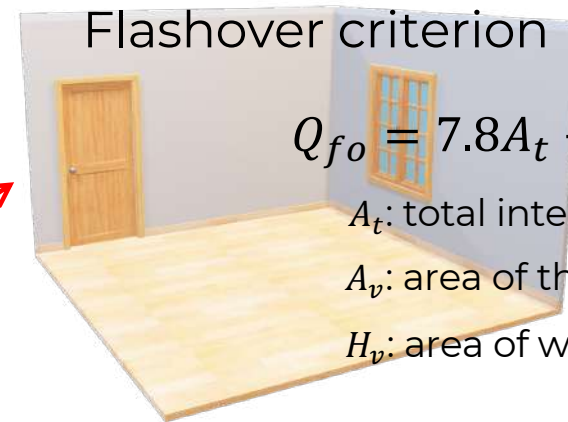
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What's next

- **C**onsequence-oriented **F**ire intensity **O**ptimisation for buildings

Worst ignition location?



Flashover criterion

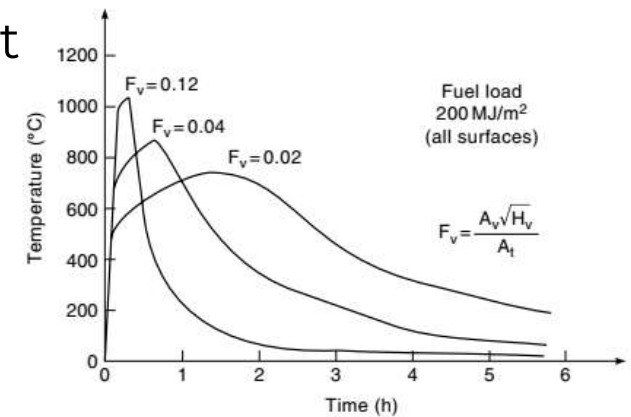
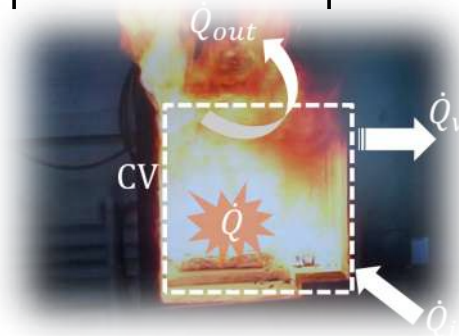
$$Q_{fo} = 7.8A_t + 378A_v\sqrt{H_v}$$

A_t : total internal surface area

A_v : area of the window opening

H_v : area of window opening

Optimise compartment



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Conclusions

- Are fire scenarios a design input or output?
- The structure defines the fire
- Consequence-oriented Fire intensity Optimisation (**CFO**):
 - The **fire scenario is a design variable** (output)
 - More optimised design
- Optimising the **inherent fire capacity** of structures

Thank you!



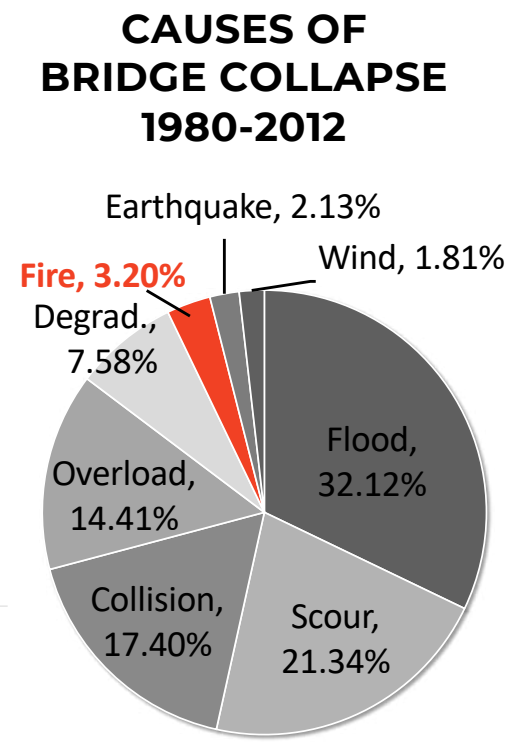
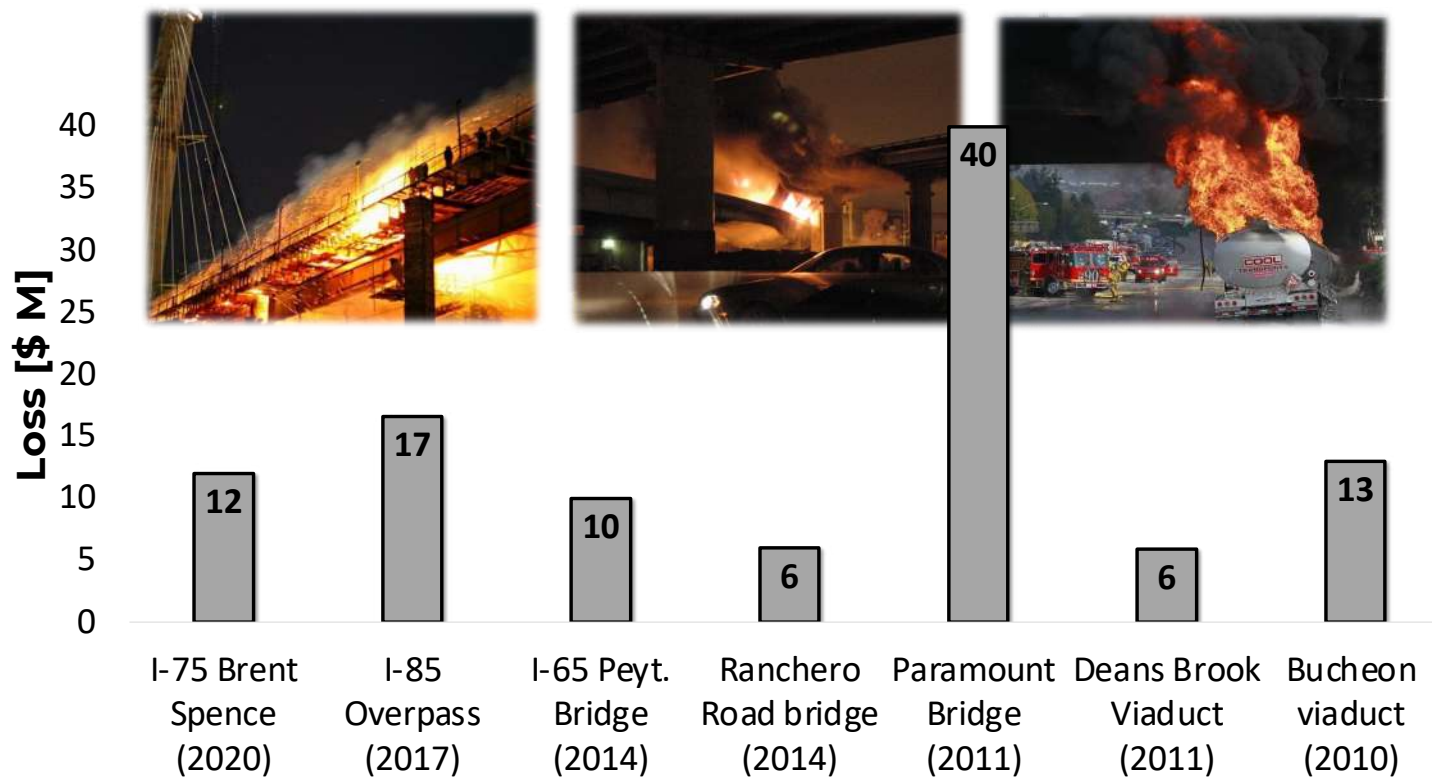
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The Institution of
StructuralEngineers

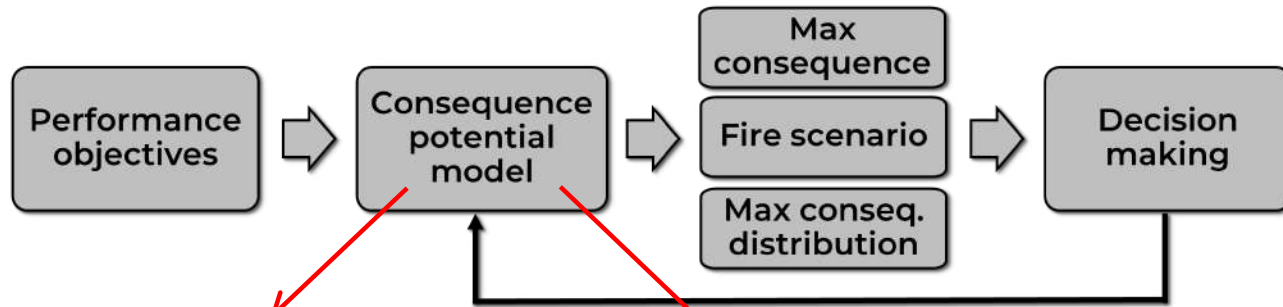
Appendix - Bridge Fires



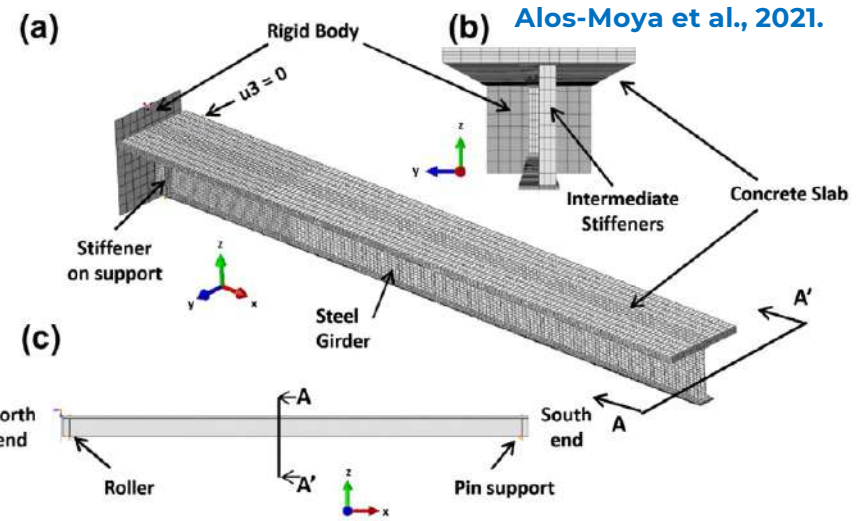
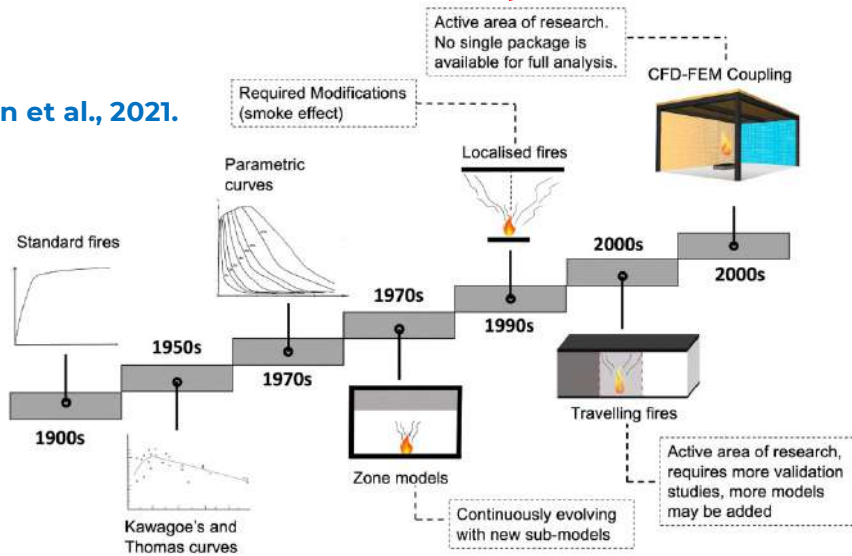
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Appendix – what’s next

➤ Improving the model(s)



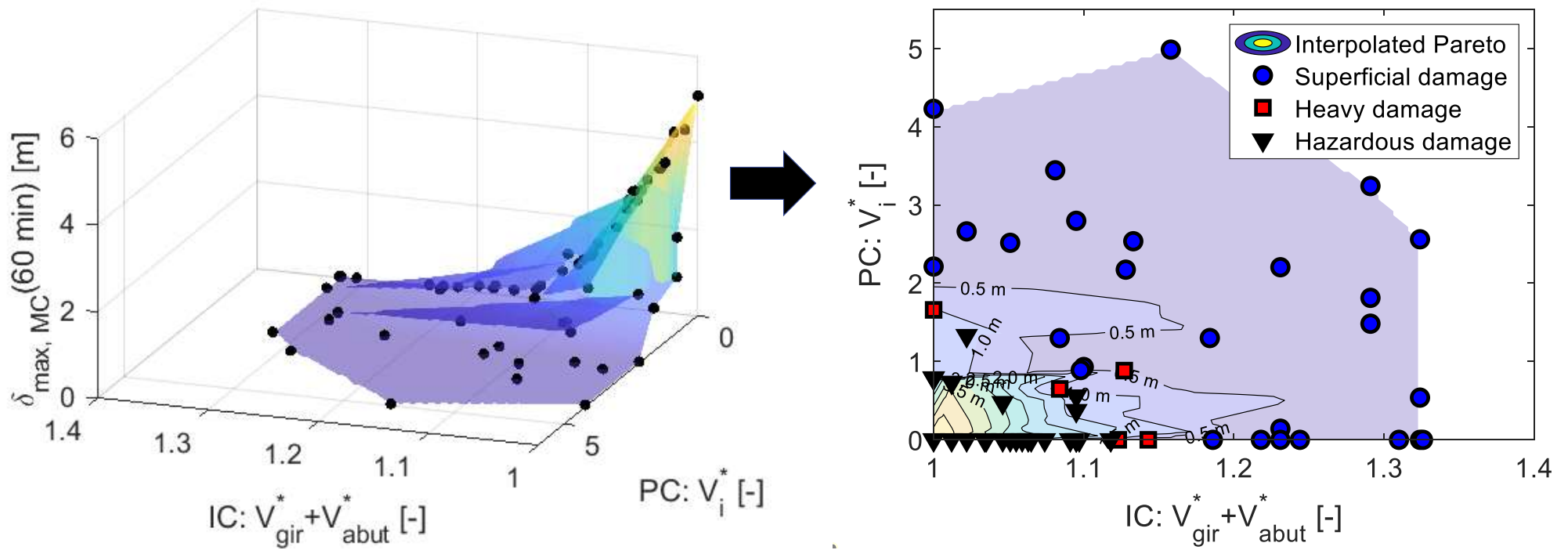
Kahn et al., 2021.



Alos-Moya et al., 2021.

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Appendix – Optimising IC



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