

## **Acknowledgements**

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## Table of Contents

Chapter 1 :Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background .....	1
1.2 Historical events of building progressive collapse.....	1
1.3 Objectives and scope of study .....	4
1.4 Research arrangement .....	5
<b>Chapter 2 : Literature Review .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 General .....	7
2.2 Definition of progressive collapse.....	7
2.3 Introduction to reinforced concrete flat slab structures.....	8
2.4 Types of progressive collapse .....	9
2.4.1 Pancake-type collapse .....	9
2.4.2 Zipper-type collapse .....	10
2.4.3 Domino-type collapse .....	11
2.4.4 Section-type collapse.....	12
2.4.5 Instability-type collapse .....	12
2.4.6 Mixed-type collapse .....	13
2.5 Progressive collapse analysis and design procedures .....	13
2.5.1 Indirect design method .....	13
2.5.2 Direct design method .....	14
2.6 Previous research on progressive collapse in flat slab structures.....	20
2.7 Catenary and membrane actions in solid and flat slab structures.....	25
2.8 Applied element method (AEM).....	26
2.8.1 Reinforced concrete model.....	27
2.8.2 Analysis concept .....	31
2.8.3 Extreme Loading for Structures (ELS) software procedure.....	31
<b>Chapter 3 : Experimental Program.....</b>	<b>32</b>
3.1 General .....	32
3.2 Structural prototype.....	32
3.3 Similitude requirements for the prototype modelling .....	34
3.3.1 Concrete modeling .....	34
3.3.2 Reinforcement Modeling.....	35
3.3.3 Geometry and loading modeling .....	36
3.4 Description of the structural model .....	37

3.5	Material properties .....	41
3.5.1	Concrete .....	41
3.5.2	Reinforcement .....	41
3.6	Preparation and construction of the tested model .....	42
3.7	Test set-up .....	42
3.8	Instrumentation.....	42
3.8.1	Displacement transducers (LVDTs).....	43
3.8.2	Strain gauges .....	43
3.8.3	Accelerometer .....	43
3.9	Columns removals tests procedures .....	45
<b>Chapter 4 : Presentation of Experimental Results.....</b>		<b>59</b>
4.1	General .....	59
4.2	Experimental estimation of the model frequencies .....	59
4.2.1	Test set-up and instrumentation .....	59
4.2.2	Test procedure .....	59
4.2.3	Signal data processes.....	62
4.3	First column removal test (dead load only).....	71
4.3.1	Loading calculations .....	71
4.3.2	Displacements and cracks observations .....	72
4.3.3	Reinforcement strains.....	72
4.3.4	Acceleration response during column removal .....	72
4.3.5	Estimation of column removal time .....	73
4.3.6	Displacements with time using accelerations data .....	73
4.4	First column removal test (dead load + live load).....	81
4.4.1	Loading calculations .....	81
4.4.2	Displacements and cracks observations .....	82
4.4.3	Reinforcement strains.....	82
4.4.4	Displacements with time using accelerations data .....	85
4.5	Second column removal test (dead load + live load) .....	86
4.5.1	Global displacements .....	86
4.5.2	Cracks observations.....	87
4.5.3	Reinforcement strains.....	87
4.5.4	Displacement with time using acceleration data .....	87
4.6	Third column removal test .....	95
4.6.1	Global displacements .....	95

4.6.2 Cracks observations.....	95
4.7 Partially fourth column removal test.....	101
4.7.1 Cracks observations.....	101
<b>Chapter 5 : Computational Modeling and Analysis of Results.....</b>	<b>108</b>
5.1 General .....	108
5.2 Analytical Model for the Tested Flat Slab Structure.....	108
5.2.1 Material properties of the analytical model.....	109
5.2.2 Analytical estimation of the model fundamental period .....	110
5.3 Computational model columns removal results .....	112
5.3.1 First column removal analysis (Dead load only).....	112
5.3.2 First column removal analysis (Dead load + Live load) .....	119
5.3.3 Second column removal analysis (Dead load + Live load).....	124
5.3.4 Third column removal analysis (Dead load + Live load).....	131
5.3.5 Fourth column removal analysis .....	134
<b>Chapter 6 : Analytical Parametric Studies .....</b>	<b>136</b>
6.1 General .....	136
6.2 Effects of slab thickness .....	136
6.3 Effects of depth column section .....	141
6.4 Effects of slab continuity.....	144
6.5 Effects of number of floors .....	147
6.6 Effects of bottom reinforcement ratio .....	150
6.7 Effects of top reinforcement ratio .....	154
<b>6.8 Effects of column removal duration .....</b>	<b>158</b>
6.9 Comparison with beam-slab analytical model .....	161
<b>Chapter 7 : Conclusions and Recommendations.....</b>	<b>163</b>
7.1 Challenges of the research.....	163
7.2 Conclusions .....	164
<b>7.3 General recommendations to mitigate the progressive collapse of reinforced concrete flat slab structures .....</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>7.4 Recommendations for Future Research.....</b>	<b>168</b>
<b>References .....</b>	<b>169</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1.1 Ronan Point building after the May 1968 partial collapse [9].....	2
Figure 1.2 Alfred P. Murrah building collapse - terrorist attack, 1995 [45].....	2
Figure 1.3 Harbour Cay Condominium collapse [46].....	3
Figure 2.1. Classification of flat slab construction.....	9
Figure 2.2 Stages of the pancake-type progressive collapse.....	10
Figure 2.3. Tacoma Narrows bridge after collapse [48].....	11
Figure 2.4. Stages of the domino-type collapse .....	12
Figure 2.5. Stages of instability-type progressive collapse.....	12
Figure 2.6 Applicability flow chart (GSA-2013).....	16
Figure 2.7 Loads and load locations for external and internal column removal for linear and nonlinear static models (left side demonstrates external column removal; right side shows internal column removal) (GSA-2013) [7].....	18
Figure 2.8. Reinforcement detailing a) gravity load only b) progressive collapse resistance .....	19
Figure 2.9 Different types of ties incorporated to provide structural integrity [2].....	20
Figure 2.10 Post punching behavior of top and bottom reinforcement [13].....	21
Figure 2.11. Destruction of the first central column (Kokot 2010).....	22
Figure 2.12. Overview of typical specimen in position ready for testing [16] .....	23
Figure 2.13. Comparison of vertical load and horizontal reaction force versus vertical deflection (ND series and corresponding WD series specimens) [16].....	23
Figure 2.14 Elevation view for the tested flat slab structure [41].....	24
Figure 2.15. Schematic view of test model [41] .....	24
Figure 2.16. Load transfer by catenary action in reinforced concrete beams [27].....	25
Figure 2.17. Membrane actions of simply supported slab. (a) In a simply supported slab. (b), (c) Associated with inner and external column loss [17].....	25
Figure 2.18 Modeling of structure to AEM [5] .....	26
Figure 2.19 Stresses in springs due to relative displacement [5] .....	27
Figure 2.20 Stress-Strain curves for concrete .....	28
Figure 2.21 Stress-Strain curves for reinforcement.....	28
Figure 2.22 Cracking criterion of concrete .....	29
Figure 2.23 Behavior of concrete elements after cracking.....	29
Figure 2.24 Separation strain.....	30
Figure 2.25. Elements separate and re-contact again .....	30
Figure 3.1 Prototype floor top reinforcement details and concrete dimensions.....	33
Figure 3.2 Prototype floor bottom reinforcement detail and concrete dimensions.....	33
Figure 3.3 Prototype Section 1-1 .....	34
Figure 3.4 Reinforcement and concrete similitude requirements .....	36
Figure 3.5 Model floor top reinforcement details and concrete dimensions.....	38
Figure 3.6 Model floor bottom reinforcement details and concrete dimensions .....	38
Figure 3.7 Plan at footing level of the model .....	39
Figure 3.8. Section 1-1 in the Model building .....	40
Figure 3.9. Pin-hinge steel column mechanism .....	40
Figure 3.10 Reinforcing cage and concrete form work for two slabs footings .....	47
Figure 3.11 Casting of first floor columns .....	47

Figure 3.12 Locating of the base plate immediately after casting of the footing.....	48
Figure 3.13 Reinforcing cage and form work of the first floor slab .....	48
Figure 3.14 Casting of the first floor slab .....	49
Figure 3.15 Casting of the second floor columns.....	49
Figure 3.16 Casting of the second floor slab.....	50
Figure 3.17 Structural model after complete of construction.....	50
Figure 3.18 Exterior column pin-hinge mechanism.....	51
Figure 3.19 Loading of the model using sand bags.....	51
Figure 3.20 Locations of completely removed columns .....	52
Figure 3.21 Circled columns of the building were removed during the experiment. ....	52
Figure 3.22 Floor plan showing LVDTs and accelerometer locations and direction of measurement.....	53
Figure 3.23 Model instrumentation and loading arrangement .....	53
Figure 3.24 Floor plan showing strain gauge locations .....	54
Figure 3.25 Piezoelectric accelerometers functions .....	54
Figure 3.26 Signal conditioner QTC-350 type.....	55
Figure 3.27 Functional description of signal conditioning system .....	55
Figure 3.28 Data acquisition system and signal processing.....	56
Figure 3.29 Steel column after removal .....	56
Figure 3.30 Removing of concrete covers and supporting floor using heavy timber ....	57
Figure 3.31 Demolishing of reinforced concrete column using electrical hammer .....	57
Figure 3.32 Third column after removing test .....	58
Figure 4.1 Modal test set-up and instrumentation.....	60
Figure 4.2 Locations and measurement directions of the used accelerometers .....	60
Figure 4.3 First accelerometer location.....	61
Figure 4.4 Second accelerometer location .....	61
Figure 4.5 Part of signal time domain for channel 1 .....	65
Figure 4.6 Part of signal time domain for channel 2.....	65
Figure 4.7 Signal processing prior FFT extraction.....	65
Figure 4.8 Signal processing prior FFT extraction.....	66
Figure 4.9 Part of channel (1) signal before and after linear trending .....	66
Figure 4.10 Channel 1 decay at first point .....	67
Figure 4.11 Channel 1 decay at second point.....	68
Figure 4.12 Channel 1 decay at third point .....	68
Figure 4.13 Channel 1 FFT at first point.....	69
Figure 4.14 Channel 1 FFT at second point .....	69
Figure 4.15 Channel 1 FFT at third point.....	70
Figure 4.16 Channel 2 FFT at first point.....	70
Figure 4.17 Channel 2 FFT at second point .....	71
Figure 4.18 Locations of the removed columns and points of measurements .....	74
Figure 4.19 Circled columns of the model that were completely removed during the experiments. ....	75
Figure 4.20 Loading of model (dead loads only) before first column removal .....	75
Figure 4.21 Vertical displacement response at points A & B after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal .	76
Figure 4.22 Reinforcement strain at points A, I after first column removal test ( <i>dead loads only</i> ) .....	76

Figure 4.23 Vertical acceleration at point (A) during and just after the first column removal.....	77
Figure 4.24 FFT of the vertical response at point (A) during 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal .....	77
Figure 4.25 FFT of the horizontal response at point (H) during 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal ....	78
Figure 4.26. Impact model, $F$ = dynamic interaction force (EN 1991-1-7) [47].....	78
Figure 4.27. Vertical acceleration at point A (the impulsive part).....	79
Figure 4.28 Complete rotation of the steel column after 1.418 second .....	79
Figure 4.29 Procedure of the displacement calculating from the acceleration data.....	80
Figure 4.30 Vertical displacement at point A after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal .....	81
Figure 4.31 Loading of the model (DL+ L.L) before the first column removal .....	82
Figure 4.32 Vertical displacement response after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal (DL+L.L).....	83
Figure 4.33 Bottom slab surface of the first floor level after first column removal test (DL+L.L).....	84
Figure 4.34 First floor slab reinforcement strain after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal test (DL+L.L)84	
Figure 4.35 Vertical acceleration at point (A) at first column removal time.....	85
Figure 4.36 Vertical displacement history at point A after first column removal test (D.L+L.L).....	86
Figure 4.37 Structural model second column removal.....	88
Figure 4.38 Vertical displacement of point A after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal .....	89
Figure 4.39 Vertical displacement of point C after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal.....	89
Figure 4.40 Vertical displacement of point G after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal.....	90
Figure 4.41 Vertical displacement of point K after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal.....	90
Figure 4.42 Bottom slab cracks at second floor (second column removal) .....	91
Figure 4.43 Top slab cracks at second floor (second column removal) .....	91
Figure 4.44 Top slab cracks at first floor (second column removal).....	92
Figure 4.45 Final slab Top and Bottom cracks (second column removal).....	92
Figure 4.46 Strain of first floor slab bottom reinforcement after first & second column removals .....	93
Figure 4.47 Strain of first floor slab top reinforcement after first & second column removals .....	93
Figure 4.48 Vertical displacement of point A after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal .....	94
Figure 4.49 Vertical displacement of point C after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal.....	94
Figure 4.50. Structural model after third column removal.....	96
Figure 4.51 Vertical displacement of point A after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> column removal ...	96
Figure 4.52 Vertical displacement of point C after 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> column removal .....	97
Figure 4.53 Vertical displacement of point E after 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> column removal .....	97
Figure 4.54 Vertical displacement of point G after 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> column removal .....	98
Figure 4.55 Bottom and top slab cracks after third column removal .....	98
Figure 4.56 Bottom slab cracks at first floor (third column removal) .....	99
Figure 4.57 Top slab crack at first floor (third column removal).....	99
Figure 4.58 Top slab crack width (third column removal).....	100
Figure 4.59 Final slab top and bottom cracks (Third column removal).....	100
Figure 4.60 Tensile transversal cracks at second floor edge columns after third column removal test .....	101
Figure 4.61 Partially removal of fourth column and using heavy timber as vertical support.....	102

Figure 4.62 Fourth column after partially removal .....	102
Figure 4.63 Estimation of slab defection after 4 <sup>th</sup> column partially removed.....	103
Figure 4.64 Estimation of slab defection after 4 <sup>th</sup> column partially removed.....	103
Figure 4.65 Bottom slab cracks at first floor (4 <sup>th</sup> column removal).....	104
Figure 4.66 Maximum bottom slab cracks width at second floor (4 <sup>th</sup> column removal).....	104
Figure 4.67 Top slab flexural cracking failure at second floor exterior column .....	105
Figure 4.68 Top slab flexural cracking failure at second floor exterior column .....	105
Figure 4.69 Top slab flexural cracking failure at first floor exterior column.....	106
Figure 4.70 Final cracking pattern for top slab surface.....	106
Figure 4.71 Final cracking pattern for bottom slab surface .....	107
Figure 5.1 Overview of ELS Model for the tested structure .....	109
Figure 5.2 The first four modes with corresponding frequencies .....	111
Figure 5.3 ninth and tenth modes with corresponding frequencies.....	112
Figure 5.4 Locations of the removed columns and points of measurements .....	114
Figure 5.5 Deflection contours due to central column removal (unites in mm) .....	115
Figure 5.6 Experimental displacement at points A & B after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal.....	115
Figure 5.7 Analytical displacement at points A & B after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal .....	116
Figure 5.8 Experimental and analytical vertical displacements versus time of point A at first floor level after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal ( <i>D.L only</i> ) .....	116
Figure 5.9 Final strain contours in the X-direction at top slab surface due to the central column removal (D.L loading only).....	117
Figure 5.10 Final strain contours in the X-direction at bottom slab surface due to the central column removal (D.L loading only) .....	117
Figure 5.11 Experimental reinforcement strain at points A, I after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal ( <i>D.L only</i> ) .....	118
Figure 5.12 Analytical reinforcement strain at points A, I after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal ( <i>D.L only</i> ).....	118
Figure 5.13 Deflection contours due to the central column removal (unites in mm) ..	120
Figure 5.14 Experimental displacement at points A & K and G after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal.....	121
Figure 5.15 Analytical displacement at points A & K and G after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal	121
Figure 5.16 Experimental and analytical vertical displacements versus time of point A in first floor after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal (D.L + L.L) .....	122
Figure 5.17 Final strain contours in the Y-direction at top slab surface due to the central column removal (D.L + L.L).....	122
Figure 5.18 Final strain contours in the Y-direction at bottom slab surface due to the central column removal (D.L + L.L) .....	123
Figure 5.19 Experimental RFT strain at first floor slab after first column removal (DL+L.L).....	123
Figure 5.20 Analytical RFT strain at 1 <sup>st</sup> floor slab after 1 <sup>st</sup> column removal ( <i>DL+L.L</i> )	124
Figure 5.21 Final analytical deflection contours due to the first and second column removal (unites in mm) .....	125
Figure 5.22 Experimental and analytical vertical displacements versus time for point A at first floor after 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal ( <i>D.L + L.L</i> ) .....	126
Figure 5.23 Experimental and analytical vertical displacements versus time of point C at first floor after 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal (D.L + L.L) .....	126



Figure 5.24 Final strain contours in the Y-direction after second column removal analysis for top and bottom first floor slab surface with the experimental observed cracks pattern. ....	128
Figure 5.25 Experimental with analytical bottom reinforcement strain at first floor level after 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal (D.L + L.L) .....	129
Figure 5.26 Experimental with analytical top reinforcement strain at first floor level after 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> column removal (D.L + L.L) .....	130
Figure 5.27 Final analytical deflection contours after third column removal analysis (unites in mm) .....	131
Figure 5.28 Experimental and analytical vertical displacements of point (A) at first floor after 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> columns removal (D.L + L.L).....	132
Figure 5.29 Final strain contours in the Y-direction after 3 <sup>rd</sup> column removal for top and bottom first floor slab surface with the experimental observed cracks. ....	133
Figure 5.30 Building collapse after the fourth column removal analysis .....	134
Figure 5.31 Strain contours in Y-direction after the fourth column removal with the experimental observed cracks pattern at top slab surface. ....	135
Figure 5.32 Strain contours in Y-direction after the fourth column removal with the experimental observed cracks at second floor corner column .....	135
Figure 6.1 Locations of the removed columns and points of measurements .....	138
Figure 6.2 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different slabs thickness after columns removal scenarios .....	138
Figure 6.3 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different slabs thickness after columns removal scenarios .....	139
Figure 6.4 Analytical maximum permanent vertical displacements for models with different slabs thickness for different columns removal scenarios .....	139
Figure 6.5 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different slabs thickness after columns removal scenarios .....	140
Figure 6.6 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different slabs thickness after columns removal scenarios .....	140
Figure 6.7 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different depthes of column sections after columns removal scenarios.....	142
Figure 6.8 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different depthes of column sections after columns removal scenarios.....	142
Figure 6.9 Analytical maximum permanent vertical displacements for models with different depthes of column section for different columns removal scenarios	143
Figure 6.10 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different depthes of column sections after columns removal scenarios.....	143
Figure 6.11 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different depthes of column sections after columns removal scenarios.....	144
Figure 6.12 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with and without edge slab cantilever after columns removal scenarios .....	145
Figure 6.13 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with and without edge slab cantilever after columns removal scenarios .....	146
Figure 6.14 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with and without edge slab cantilever after columns removal scenarios .....	146

Figure 6.15 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with and without edge slab cantilever after columns removal scenarios .....	147
Figure 6.16 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different number of floors after columns removal scenarios .....	148
Figure 6.17 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different number of floors after columns removal scenarios .....	149
Figure 6.18 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different number of floors after columns removal scenarios .....	149
Figure 6.19 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different number of floors after columns removal scenarios .....	150
Figure 6.20 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different slab bottom reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios ..	152
Figure 6.21 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different slab bottom reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios ..	152
Figure 6.22 Analytical maximum permanent slab deflection for models with different slab bottom reinforcement ratios for different columns removal scenarios.....	153
Figure 6.23 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different slab bottom reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	153
Figure 6.24 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different slab bottom reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	154
Figure 6.25 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different slab top additional reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	155
Figure 6.26 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different slab top additional reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	156
Figure 6.27 Analytical maximum permanent slab deflection for models with different slab top reinforcement ratios for different columns removal scenarios .....	156
Figure 6.28 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different slab top additional reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	157
Figure 6.29 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different slab top additional reinforcement ratios after columns removal scenarios .....	157
Figure 6.30 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different column removal duration after columns removal scenarios .....	159
Figure 6.31 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different column removal duration after columns removal scenarios .....	159
Figure 6.32 Analytical bending moment history at point (A) for models with different column removal duration after columns removal scenarios .....	160
Figure 6.33 Analytical bending moment history at point (I) for models with different column removal duration after columns removal scenarios .....	160
Figure 6.34 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (A) for models with different structural system after columns removal scenarios .....	162
Figure 6.35 Analytical vertical displacements history at point (C) for models with different structural system after columns removal scenarios .....	162

## List of Tables

Table 3.1 Summary of scale factor for geometry and loading modeling [19].....	37
Table 3.2 Concrete Mix Design.....	41
Table 3.3 Concrete strength (mean values) .....	41
Table 3.4. Mechanical Properties of Reinforcing Steel.....	41
Table 3.5. Summary of instrumentation .....	46
Table 5.1 Concrete properties for the model structural element .....	109
Table 5.2 Mechanical Properties of Reinforcing Steel.....	110
Table 5.3 First ten modes frequencies .....	111
Table 6.1 Reinforcement details and concrete dimensions for the flat slab and beams- slab analytical models .....	161

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$A_s$	Area of the reinforcing steel;
$a$	Element length;
$a(t)$	acceleration at time $t$
$b$	Element height, or beam width;
$(C)$	The damping matrix;
$d$	The distance between each spring, the diameter of the circle that fits into the element, or beam depth;
$D$	Dead load including façade loads
$E$	Young's modules;
$E_c$	Young's modulus of concrete;
$E_s$	Young's modulus of steel;
$E_{sp}$	The post-yield stiffness;
$E_t$	The post-yield tangent modulus;
$E_y$	The initial elastic stiffness;
$\{f\}$	The applied load vector;
$F_i^*$	The modified load vector value of degree of freedom " $i$ ";
$F_{ult}$	The ultimate stress capacity of the material;
$F_{cu}$	Concrete compressive strength;
$f_y$	Steel yield stress;
$G$	Shear modules;
$G_{LD}$	Increased gravity loads for Linear Static analysis
$h$	Beam total depth;
$K$	stiffness
$(K)$	The stiffness matrix;
$L$	Live load
$(M)$	Mass matrix;
$m$	mass
$Q_i$	Load effect
$(R)$	Transformation matrix;

$R_n$	Nominal strength
$S$	Snow load
$s(t)$	displacement at time t
$S_L$	geometric scale factor
$T$	Element thickness;
$t$	Time in second
$v_0$	initial velocity
$U_u$	total bond force
$[X]$	The displacement vector;
$\Delta_j$	The assumed displacement of degree of freedom number "j";
$\Delta f(t)$	The incremental applied load vector;
$\delta_o$	The yield displacement;
$\varepsilon_{ult}$	The ultimate strain capacity of the material;
$\varepsilon_u$	The ultimate strain of the concrete;
$\omega$	The natural circular frequency of a structure;
$\omega_1$	The first natural frequency;
$\zeta$	The damping ratio;
$\Phi$	Strength reduction factor
$\theta_{pra}$	plastic rotation angle
$\theta_y$	yield rotation angle
$\Omega_{LD}$	Load increase factor used for linear static analysis
$\mu$	Poisson's ratio
$\sigma$	stress
$\rho$	density of concrete

## ABSTRACT

The progressive collapse of buildings is initiated when one or more vertical load carrying members (typically columns) is removed or collapsed. After losing of the original load path due to column removal, the load may be transferred to an alternate path. For flat slab buildings, when a supporting column is instantaneously removed, the likelihood of disproportionate collapse depends on the strength and deformation capacity of the neighboring slab column connections as well as the forces and deformations demands caused by the dynamic loading effects.

Numerous tests have been conducted on isolated slab-column connections with lack of in-plane restraints and dynamic load applied to the specimens. The Non-existence of these tested specimens in an actual flat-slab system makes tests data questionable to be used for accurately defining of the strength and stiffness properties of slab-column connections. Additionally, only a few flat-slab specimens with multiple slab panels have been tested and static rather than dynamic loading was applied to these specimens. The combination of lack of knowledge about the dynamic disproportionate collapse performance and extensive use of flat-plate structures makes this research important to be carried out to protect the occupants of flat-plate buildings. The research presented herein is motivated by the existing gap in knowledge regarding to the vulnerability of the associated risk of progressive collapse in flat plate structures.

The research proposed herein seeks to fill in the gap in existing knowledge for the dynamic disproportionate collapse potential of the flat slab buildings by providing analytical and experimental modeling approaches. To achieve this objective, a three dimensional, 1/4-scale flat slab model building was constructed for progressive collapse testing. The flat-slab model was tested by subjecting it to a sudden loss of its supporting columns. Three columns were completely removed from the structural model one each time. As each column was removed, the reinforcement strains, displacements and accelerations were measured to be analyzed and compared with the analytical results extracted from analysis using the Applied Element Method. By adopting agreement between the analytical and experimental results, a numerical study for the effects of the design parameters considered in assessing the progressive collapse potential of flat slab structures was conducted. The analytical results showed that, flat slab structure systems have greater vulnerability to progressive collapse compared to beam-column-slab structures. The analytical results also showed that, the increase of column size enhance flat slab building resistance to progressive collapse and that, the modification of continuity of flat slab model by only 0.25m cantilever indicate significant effects on the flat slab structure resistance to progressive collapse.

# Chapter 1 : Introduction

## 1.1 Background

The topic of progressive collapse has taken the attention of many researchers in recent years due to many structural collapse associated with accidents or terrorist attacks or failure of structural elements. The progressive collapse of buildings is initiated when one or more vertical load carrying members (typically columns) is removed or collapsed. After losing the original load path due to column removal, the load may be transfer to an alternate path. The loads from the upper floors will be redistributed quickly within a few milliseconds. As a result, all floors above the first floor will deflect identically and dynamically under uniform gravity loads to seek a new equilibrium path. The building will not collapse immediately due to spatial action of structure and catenary action of the frame beams or slabs.

The term of progressive collapse has been used to describe the propagate of an initial local failure in a style like a chain reaction that causes to partial or total collapse of the structure. The basic characteristic of the progressive collapse that the end state of the destructions is disproportionately greater than the failure that initiate the collapse. The design guidelines (ASCE 7-10, DoD 2009, ACI 318-11) guarding against disproportionate collapse are based mainly on engineering experience as well as limited numerical and experimental studies. The research proposed herein seeks to fill in the gap in existing knowledge for the dynamic disproportionate collapse potential of flat-slab structures by providing experimental and numerical modeling approaches.

## 1.2 Historical events of building progressive collapse

In this section, attempt has made to provide brief information on some of the significant structural failures in past which have presented the worldwide opportunities to evaluate the validity of engineering approaches and design procedures. The research regarding progressive collapse was initiated by the well-known collapse of Ronan Point apartment tower on May 16, 1968 as shown in Figure 1.1, due to an internal gas explosion at the 18<sup>th</sup> floor, which knocked out load bearing precast concrete panels near one corner of the building [30].

Another recent event takes the attention of civil engineers in 1995 after the collapse of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma, USA. A bomb explosion occurred at the ground level next to the nine-story reinforced concrete office building. The side facing the blast had corner columns and four other perimeter columns. The blast shock wave disintegrated one of the  $0.50 \times 0.92$  meter perimeter columns and caused brittle failures of two others [9]. The transfer girder at the third level above these columns failed, and the upper-story floors collapsed in a progressive fashion. Approximately 70 percent of the building experienced dramatic collapse. One hundred sixty-eight people died, many of them as a direct result of progressive collapse. Damage might have been less if this structure not relied on transfer girders for support of upper floors, if there had been better detailing for ductility and greater redundancy [Figure 1.2].