

# BACKGROUND IN FIRE ENGINEERING

# Fire and Structures

Fire is a LOAD on Structures !



Caracas



Taipei



Los Angeles

## I Fire load and fire scenarios

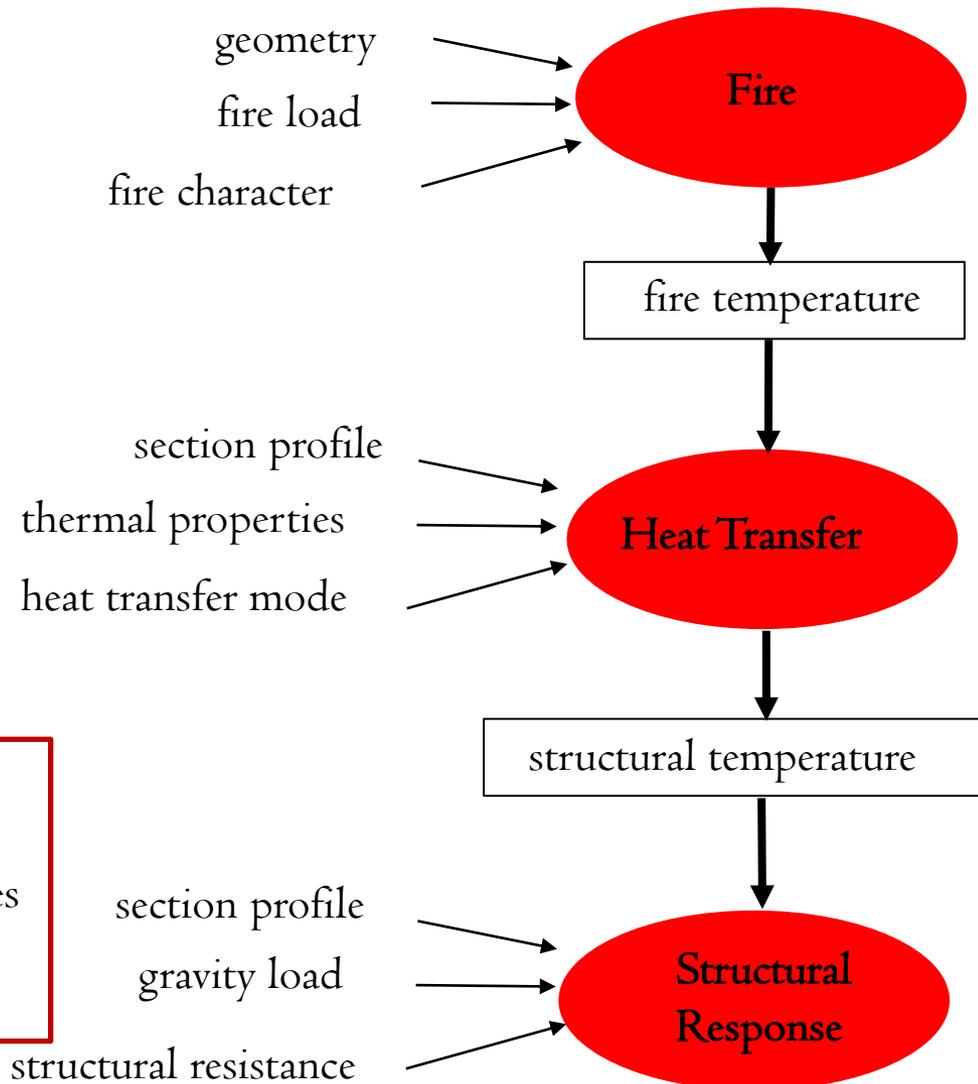
- Probability of fire initiation
- Fire growth models
- Fire location / fire spread
- Egress

## II Heat transfer to structural members

- 1D analysis
- 2D and 3D analysis

## III Thermo-mechanical analysis

- Material properties at elevated temperatures
- Behavior of isolated members
- System response



# Building fires – Pre-flashover



# Building fires: Pre-flashover



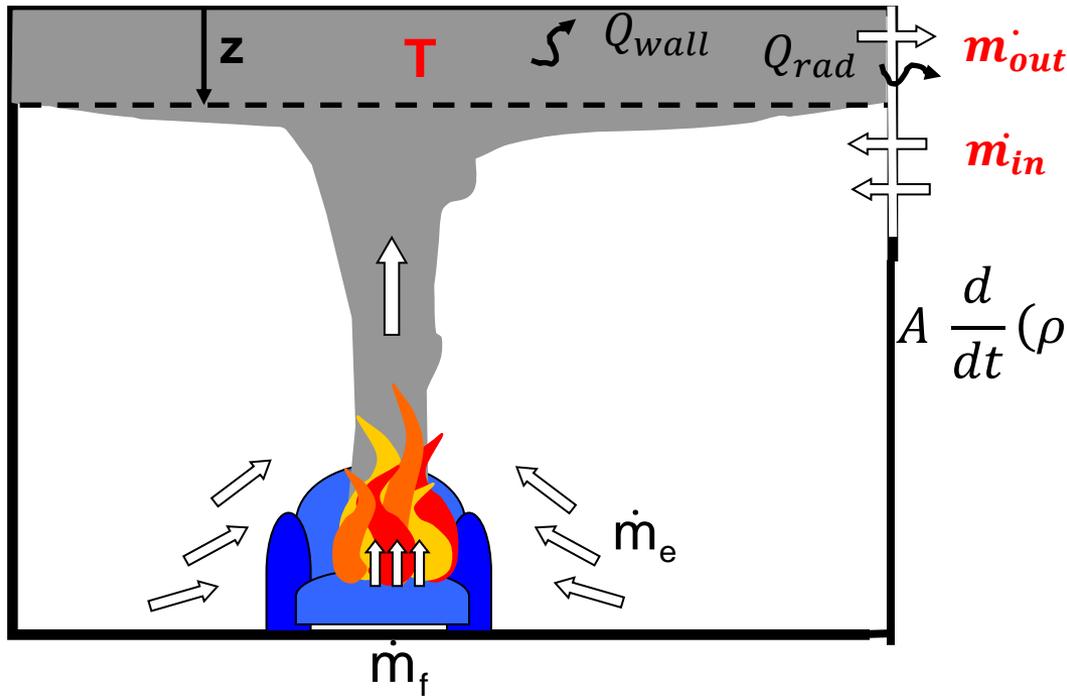
# Building fires: Pre-flashover



# Building fires: Flashover



# Compartment Fire Models



Mass balance

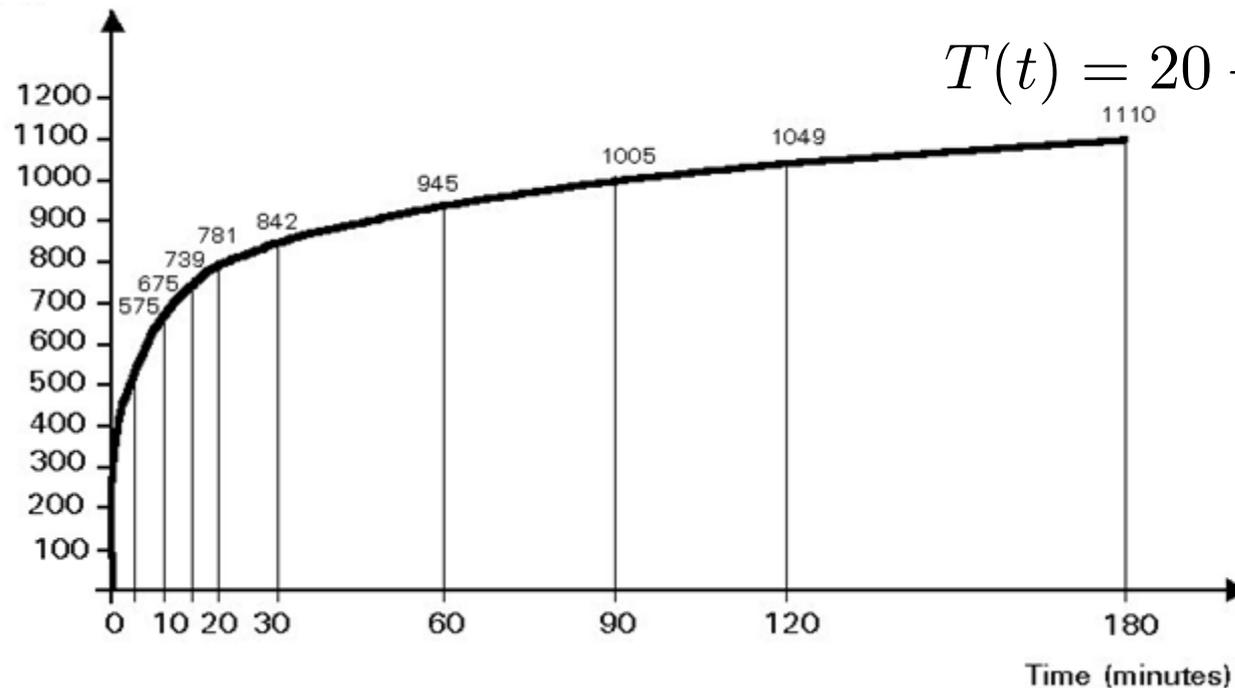
$$A \frac{d}{dt} (\rho z) + (\dot{m}_{out} - \dot{m}_{in} - \dot{m}_e - \dot{m}_f) = 0$$

Energy balance

$$\underbrace{\rho c_p z A \frac{dT}{dt}}_{\text{change of internal energy}} - \underbrace{z A \frac{dp}{dt}}_{\text{work done}} + c_p \sum_{j=1}^J \dot{m}_j (T_j - T) = \dot{m}_f \Delta H_c - Q_{wall} - Q_{rad}$$

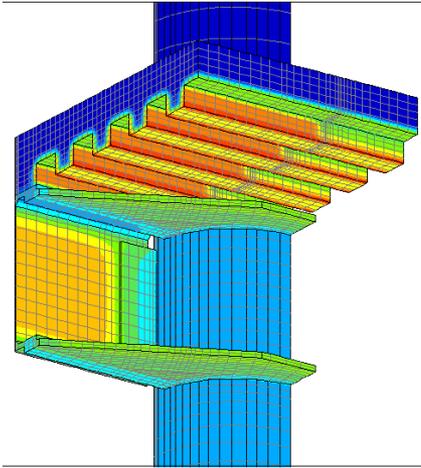
# Standard Fire

- The time-temperature curve used in full-size fire resistance tests is called 'Standard Fire'. The most widely used ones are ASTM E119 (USA) and ISO834 (Europe).
- It is derived assuming that the bulk of the combustible material taken as **cellulosic** burns all together.
- Standard Fire is NOT a real fire, but it assumes to represent the fire load on a typical structural element. Standard Fire does NOT have a decay phase.



$$T(t) = 20 + 345 \log_{10}(8t + 1)$$

# Heat Transfer



$$\nabla^2 T = \frac{\rho c}{k} \frac{\delta T}{\delta t}$$

HEAT  
EQUATION

$$\frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} = \frac{\rho c}{k} \frac{\partial T}{\partial t}$$

$$-k \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} = \underbrace{\varepsilon \sigma (T^4 - T_{fire}^4)}_{\text{radiation}} + \underbrace{h (T - T_{fire})}_{\text{convection}}$$

ON THE  
BOUNDARY

Thermal Properties of Steel:

$k$  : conductivity [W/mK]

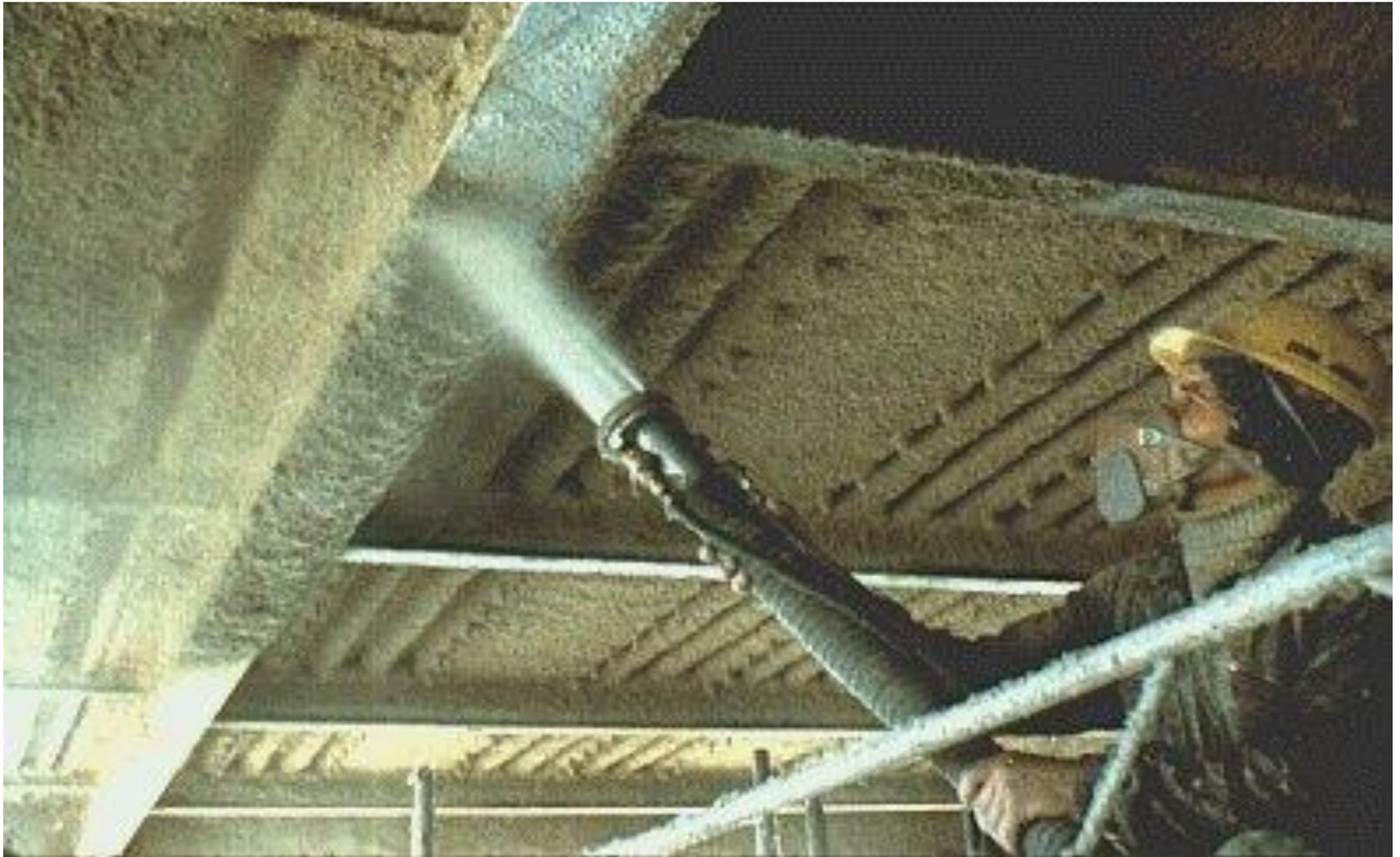
$\rho$  : Density 7850 [kg/m<sup>3</sup>] - constant with temp.

$c$  : Specific heat [J/kgK]

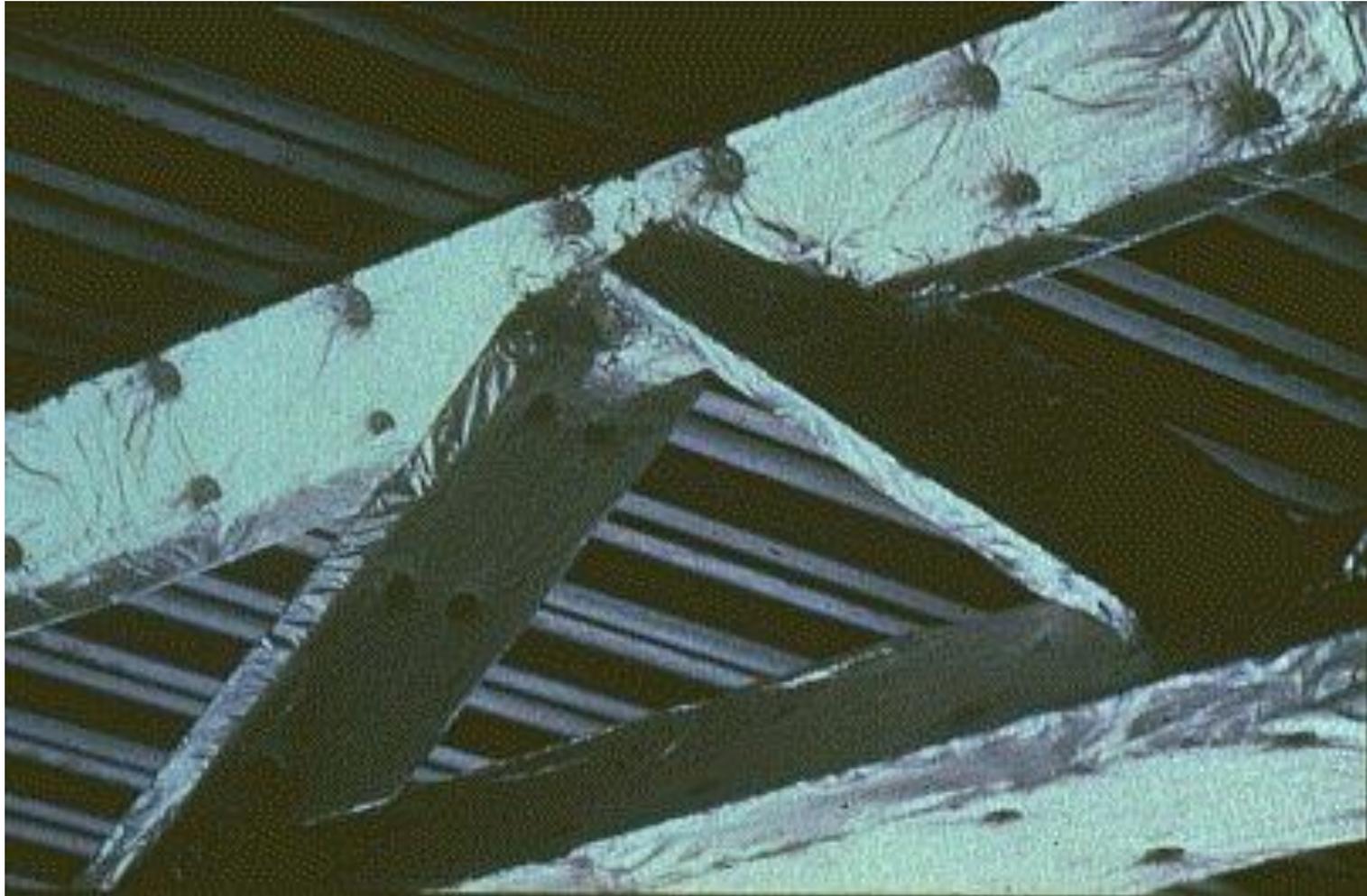
## Board protection



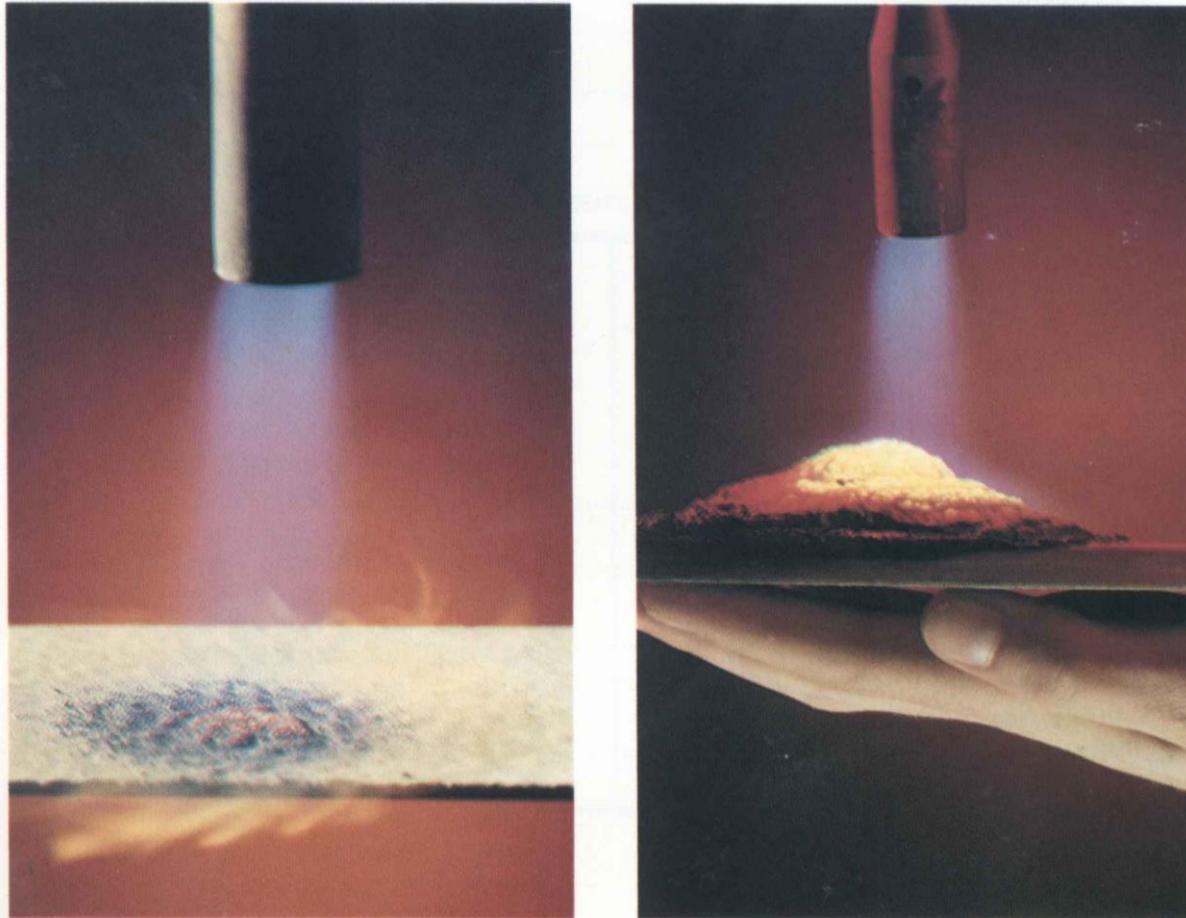
## Spray protection



## Blanket Protection



## Intumescent Paint protection



# SFRM in Construction Site



# III – Thermo-mechanical Analysis

# Structural Fire Analysis

Structural analysis for fire design is essentially the same as structural analysis for normal temperature design, but it is complicated by the effects of elevated temperatures on the internal forces and the properties of materials.

- Nonlinearity in material – direct consequence of high temperatures
- Composite behavior – direct consequence of nonuniform temperature distribution
- Nonlinearity in geometry (2nd order effects  $\sigma'$ ) – direct consequence of elongation / contraction
- Varying internal forces (thermally induced stress  $\sigma_T$ ) – direct consequence of axial and rotational restraint (time-history analysis)
- smaller safety factors (especially for live loads) can be used because of low probability of a fire event

$$\sigma_{total} = \sigma_m + \sigma_T + \sigma'$$

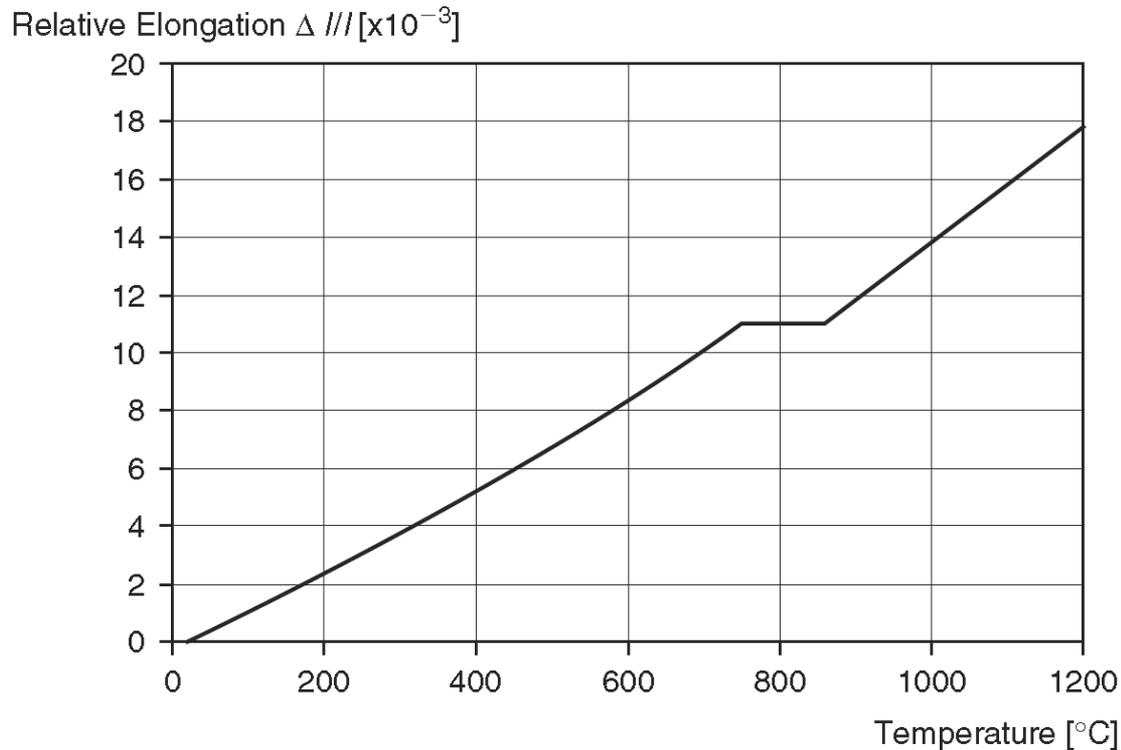
$$\varepsilon_{total} = \varepsilon_m + \varepsilon_{th} + \varepsilon'$$

# Thermal Elongation of Steel

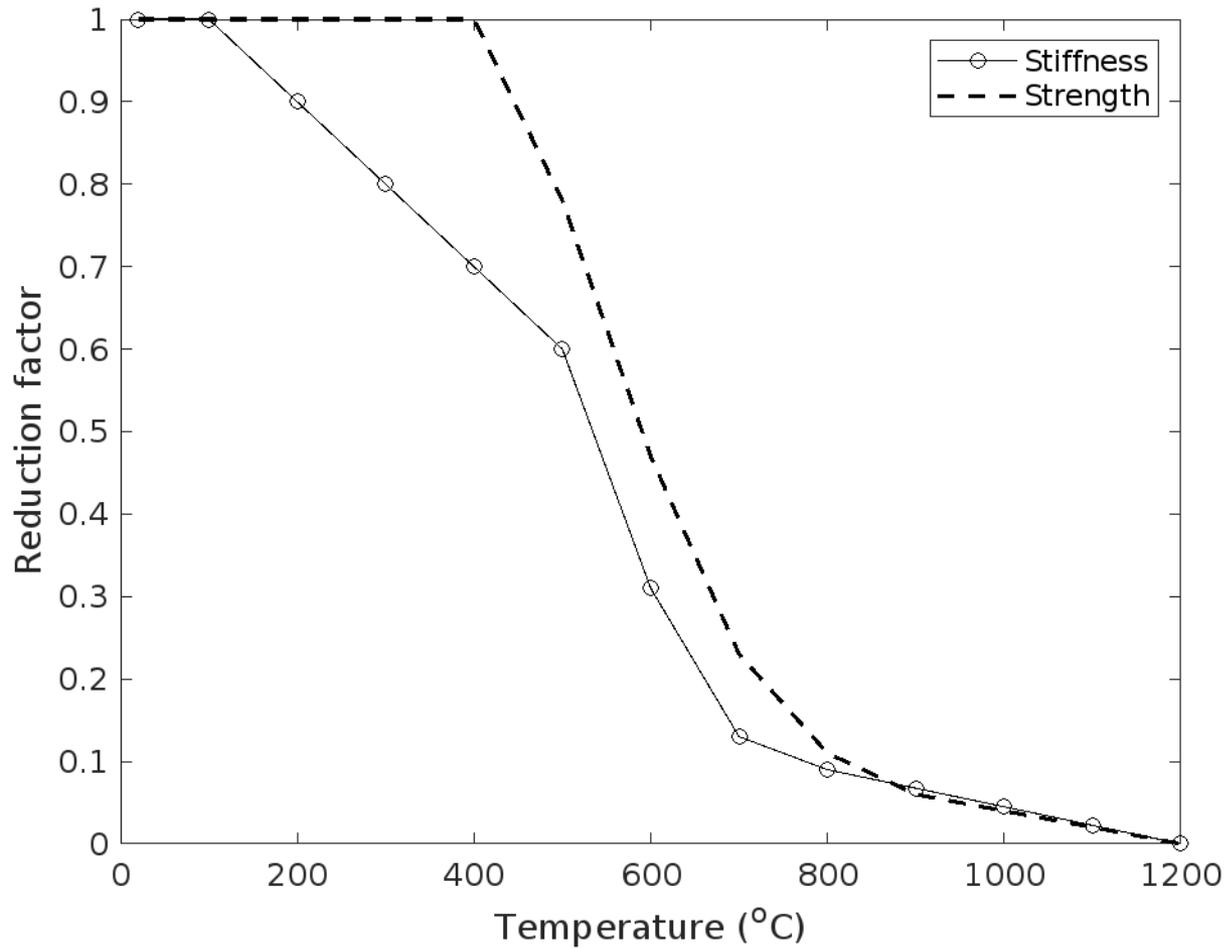
$$\varepsilon_{th} = 1.2 \times 10^{-5} T + 0.4 \times 10^{-8} T^2 - 2.416 \times 10^{-4} \quad 20^\circ\text{C} \leq T \leq 750^\circ\text{C}$$

$$\varepsilon_{th} = 1.1 \times 10^{-2} \quad 750^\circ\text{C} \leq T \leq 860^\circ\text{C}$$

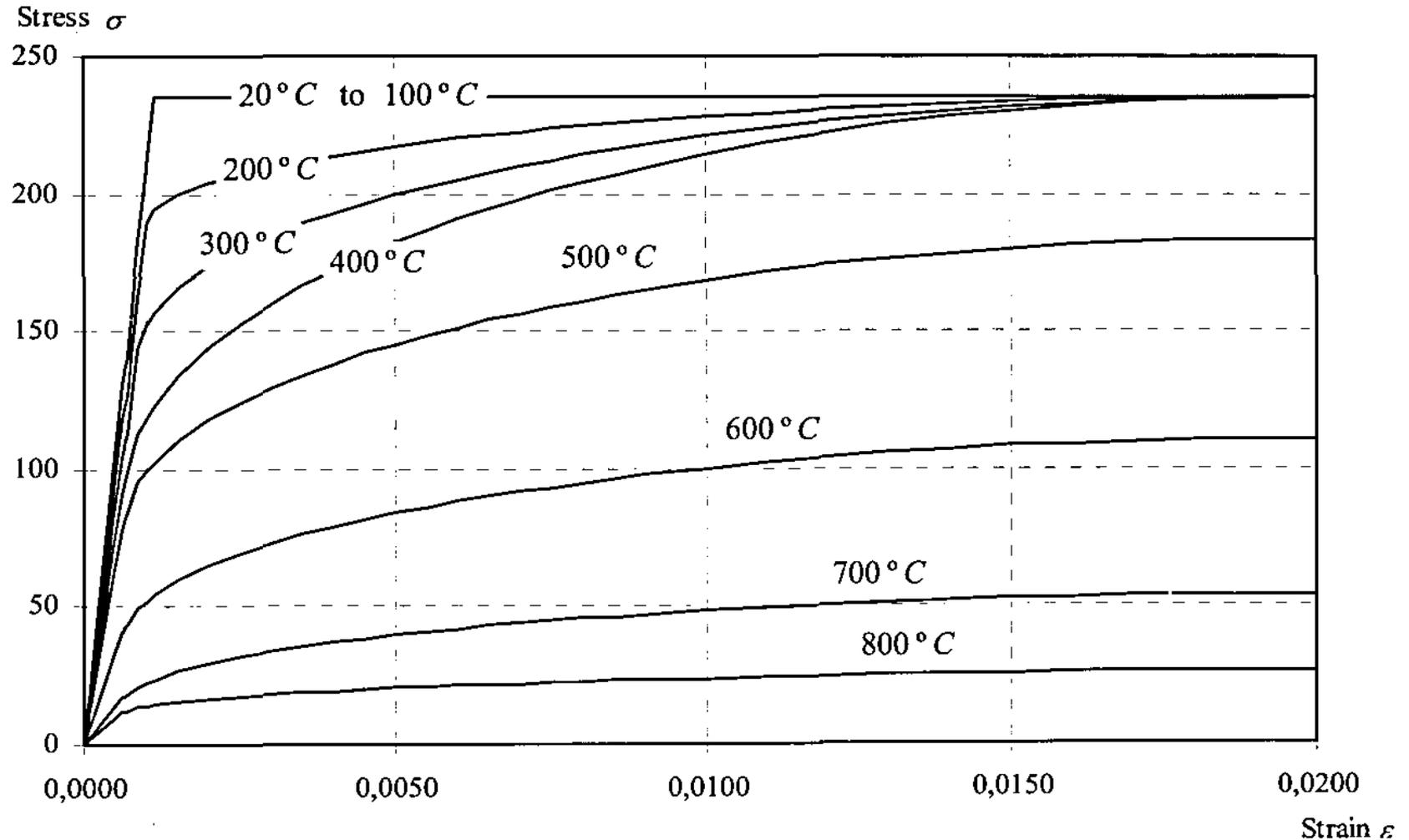
$$\varepsilon_{th} = 2 \times 10^{-5} T - 6.2 \times 10^{-3} \quad 860^\circ\text{C} \leq T \leq 1200^\circ\text{C}$$



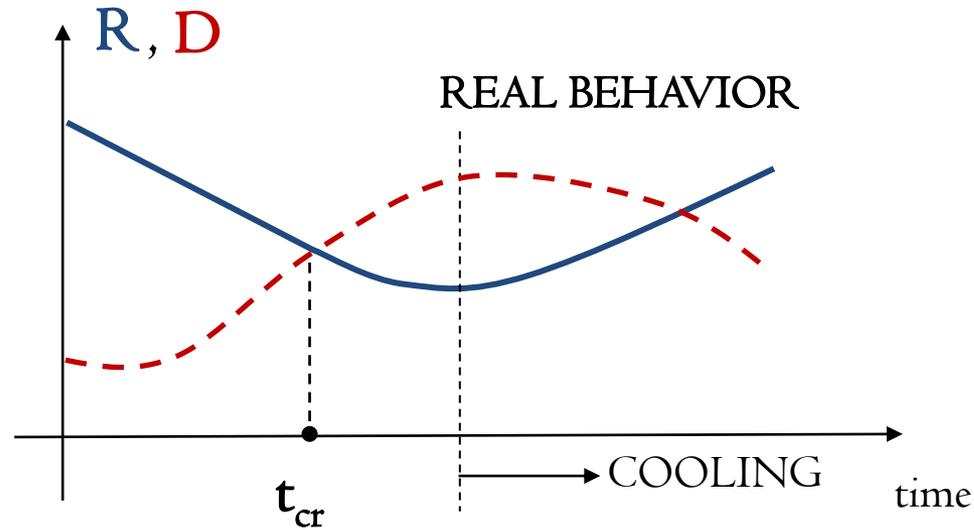
# Reduced Stiffness / Strength



# Stress-Strain Curve (Steel)



# Demand vs Capacity



Capacity ( $R$ ) reduces with decreasing stiffness and strength during heating.

Demand ( $D$ ) increases with restraint to thermal elongation. As the yield strength reduces, the demand drops. During cooling, the thermal contraction causes the demand to change as well.

$$Demand = D_{Gravity} + \Delta D$$

$$f(A, I, E, \sigma_Y, \Delta T, \nabla T, boun.)$$