



# Dynamic analysis of masonry structures with DEM

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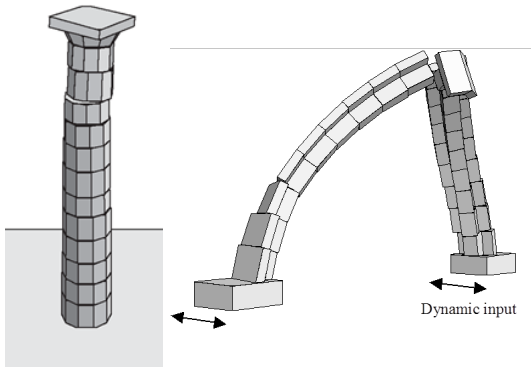
# Dynamic analysis of masonry structures with DEM

## - Outline

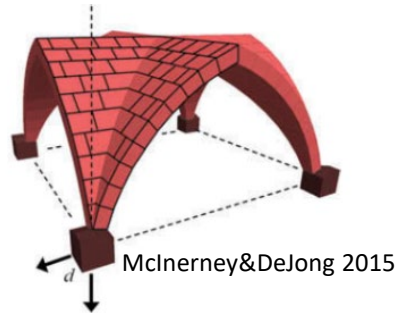
- DEM for masonry
  - Range of problems
- Modelling options
  - Static and dynamic analysis
  - Rigid vs. deformable blocks
  - Block and joint models
  - Eigenvalue solution
  - Model calibration
  - Modelling large, complex, irregular structures
- Dynamics of rocking blocks
- Comparisons with shaking table experiments

# DEM models for masonry structures

## - A wide range of applications

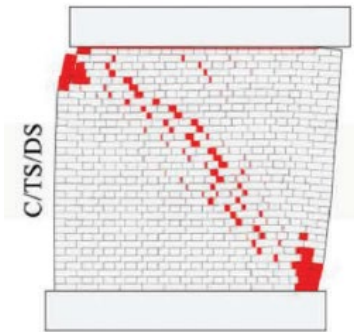


Historical stone block masonry structures



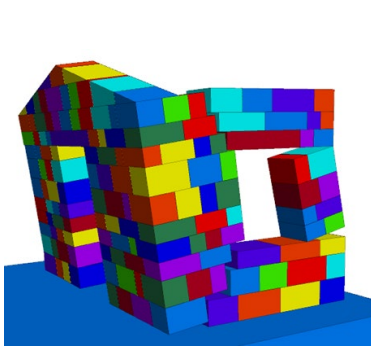
De Felice 2011

Traditional masonry

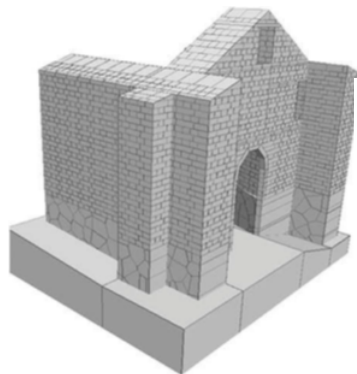


Malomo et al. 2019

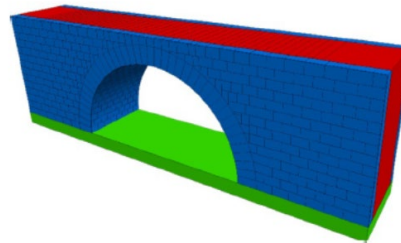
Modern brick masonry walls / panels



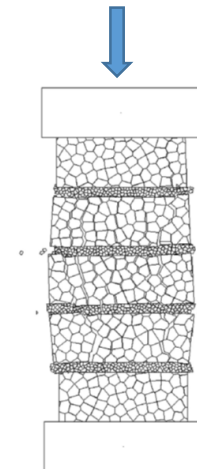
Large / complex structures



Mendes et al. 2018



Pulatsu et al. 2018

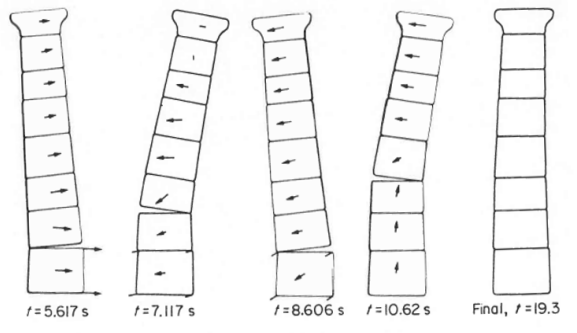


Detailed micro-models

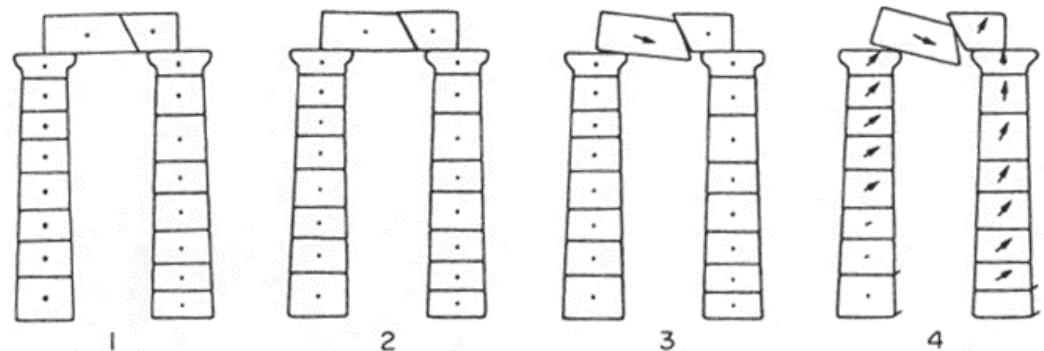
Sarhosis&Lemos 2018

# Early DEM models for masonry dynamics

- In the early '90s, Peter Cundall and Loren Lorig applied UDEC to the analysis of classical columns, in collaboration with Dimitri Papastamatiou and Ioannis Psycharis, from NTU Athens
- Rigid block models of drum columns of the Temple of Apollo (Bassae) under seismic loading were developed



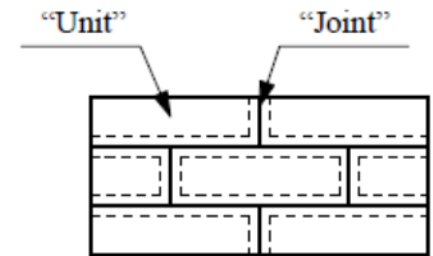
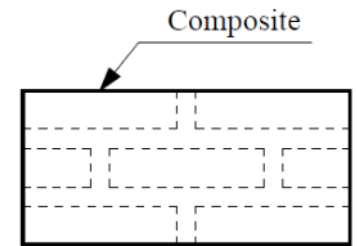
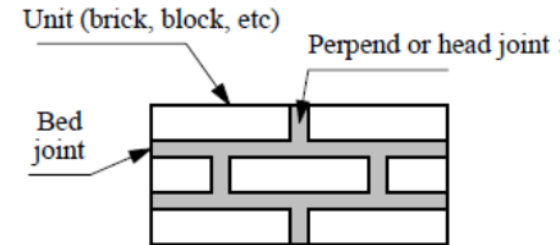
Single column rocking



Architrave collapse

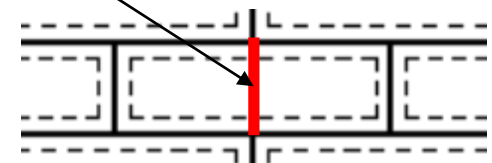
# Masonry modelling

- As in rock mechanics, there are 2 approaches to model masonry:
  - **Equivalent continuum** (usually named “macro-models”)
  - **Discontinuum** (“micro-models”)
- Joints may be **dry** or **mortared**; mortar may be
  - Represented by the **joint constitutive model**, defining stiffness and strength parameters
  - Explicitly discretized in detailed models
- **Block constitutive models**
  - Rigid or elastic in most cases
  - Block fracture: insert discontinuity with tension/cohesion
- **Joint constitutive models**
  - Mohr-Coulomb most widely used
  - Softening models for mortar joints available



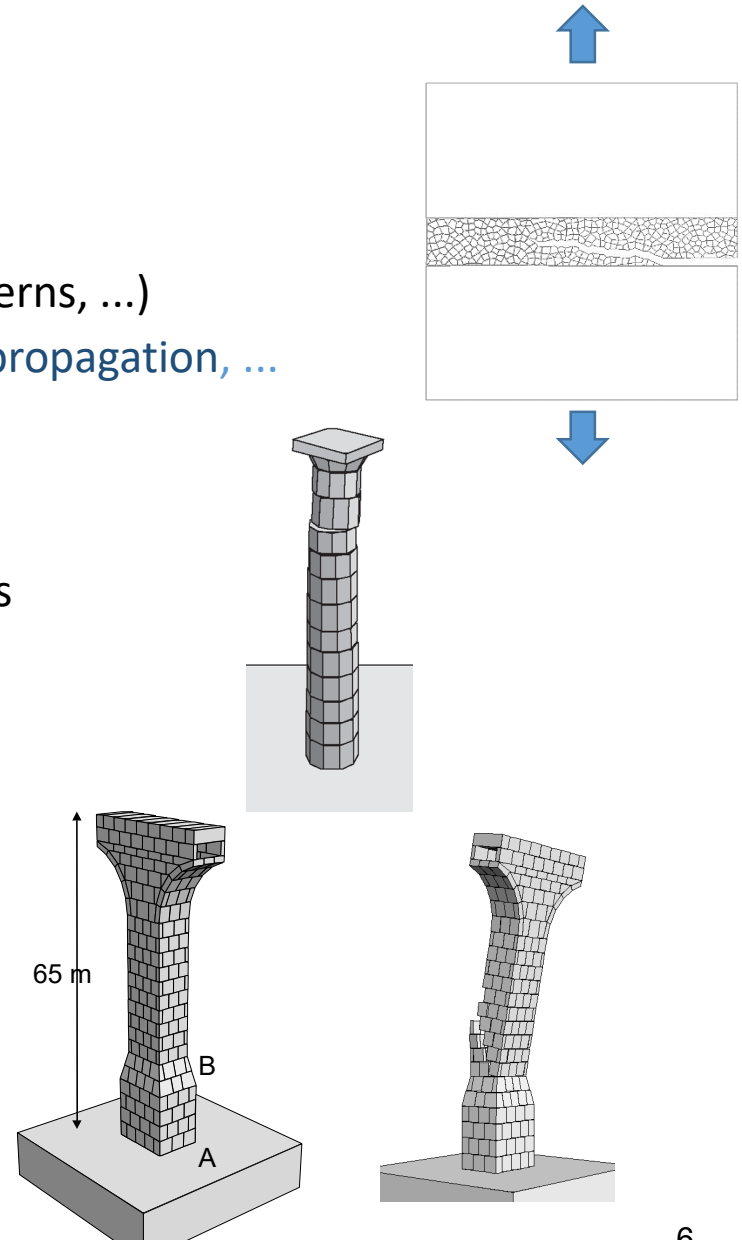
Lourenço 1996

Potential crack



# Scale of DEM analysis

- Detailed models (“meso-scale”)
  - Bonded block models (e.g. Voronoi patterns, ...)
    - > fundamental studies, lab tests, fracture propagation, ...
- One-to-one block representation
  - Model reproduces real block dimensions
    - > simple masonry structures/components
- Simplified block system
  - Numerical blocks larger than real blocks (represent a group of physical blocks)
  - Simplified joint patterns
    - > most complex structures

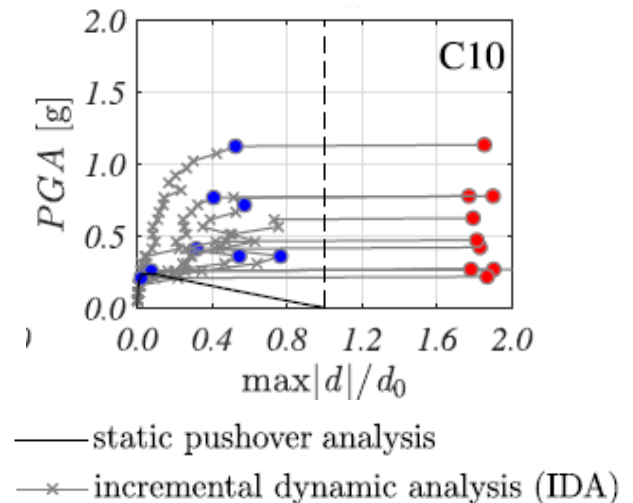
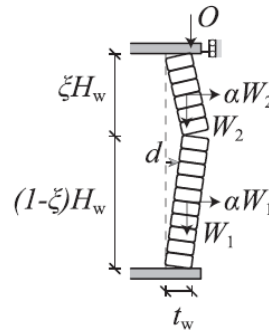


# Modelling seismic loading

- Static analysis (pushover)

- Out of plane failure of panels, Godio&Beyer (2018):

- Experiments and UDEC models
- Comparison of pushover and dynamic analysis

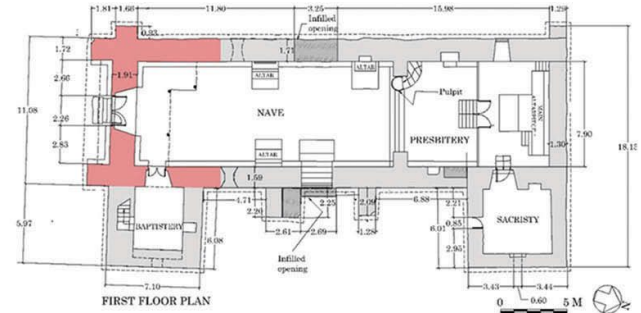
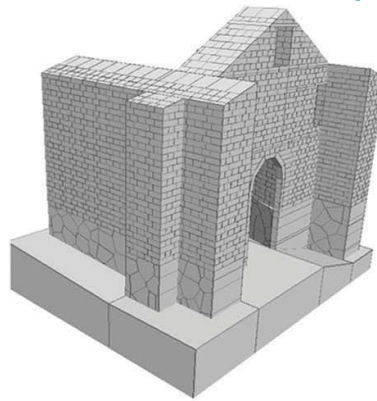


- Dynamic analysis

- Time domain explicit analysis with UDEC/3DEC:
  - Natural frequencies of structure have to be represented
    - For historical structures, **in situ measurements** are recommended
  - Run times are usually large due to small **time steps**
    - Simplifications of model are essential (no. of blocks, details, ...)
    - The stiffness-proportional component of Rayleigh damping may reduce too much the time step

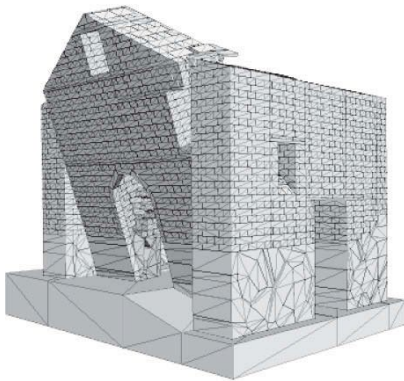
# Pushover analysis

## 3DEC model of adobe church – Kuno Tambo (Peru)

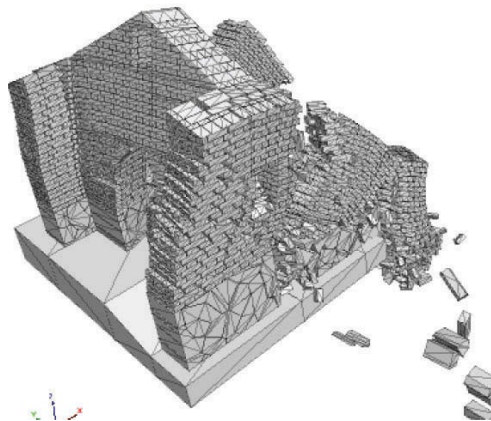


3dec model of the façade and adjacent walls

## Failure modes obtained by static pushover analysis



Outwards failure of the façade (0.19g)



Inwards failure of the façade with collapse of side walls (0.37g)



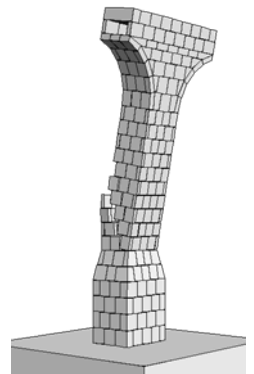
# Rigid blocks vs. deformable blocks

- Rigid block models

- All deformation concentrated at the joints
  - $K_n$ ,  $K_s$  joint stiffnesses represent global structural deformability (units and mortar)
  - For dynamic analysis of historical structures, in situ measurements of natural frequencies allow calibration of stiffnesses
- Mostly useful for dynamic analysis, as they allows larger time steps in explicit codes

- Deformable block models

- Blocks with internal triangular/tetrahedral zones; typically assumed elastic
- Require definition of block  $E$  and joint  $K_n$ ,  $K_s$ 
  - In simplified block models, various options exist for distributing global deformability between joints and blocks



# Eigenvalue analysis

- For **rigid block models**, 3DEC performs calculation of eigenfrequencies and eigenmodes
  - The kinematic variables are 6 degree-of-freedom per rigid block
  - A stiffness matrix is assembled using the contact stiffnesses

## Square pillar – Eigenfrequencies of 3 beam bending modes

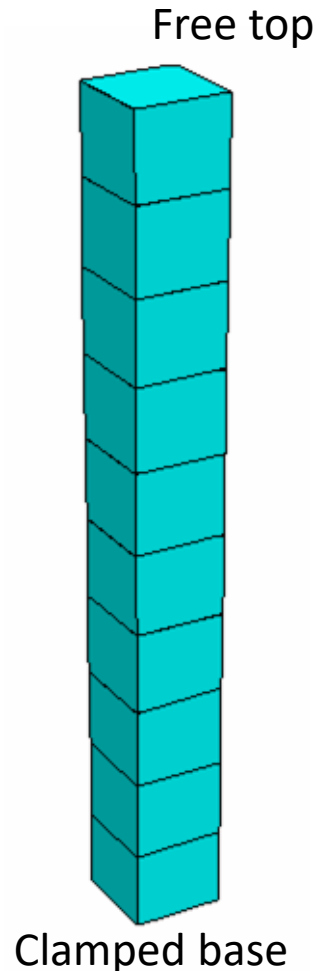
Mode	Euler-Bernoulli theory	Timoshenko beam theory	Model A continuum FE	Model B deformable blocks	Model C rigid blocks
1	1.02	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.92
2	6.40	6.09	6.03	5.61	5.61
3	17.9	16.1	15.7	14.4	15.0

**Model A:** 3dec Feblocks (20-node brick elements, no joints)

**Model B:** 20-node brick FE's + joints

50% of total deformation in the joints

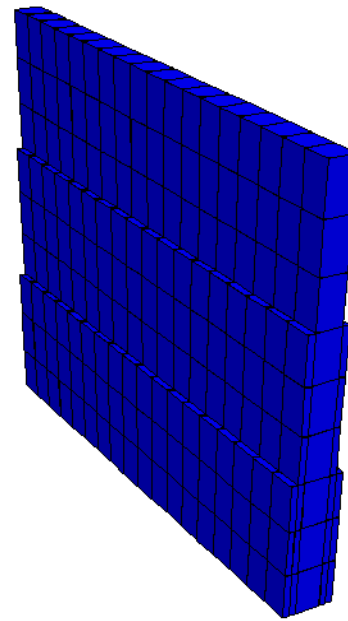
**Model C:** rigid blocks (3x3 contacts in cross-section)



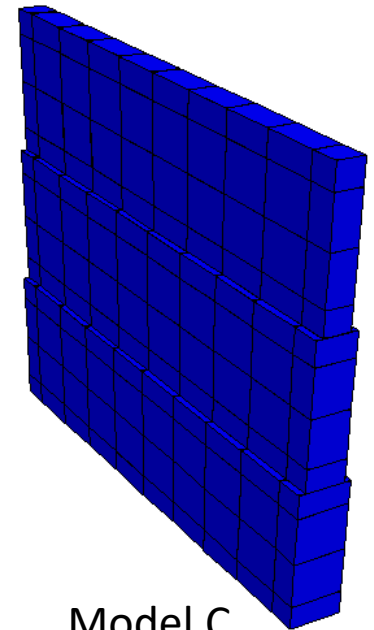
# Stepped cantilever wall - Eigenfrequencies

Mode	Mindlin plate theory	Model A continuum Feblocks (3DEC)	Model C rigid blocks
1	1.40	1.40	1.36
2	2.52	2.50	2.99
3	5.46	5.37	5.48
4	6.18	6.10	6.68

analytical solution:  
Liu & Buchanan 2004



Model A – continuum  
20-node brick elements

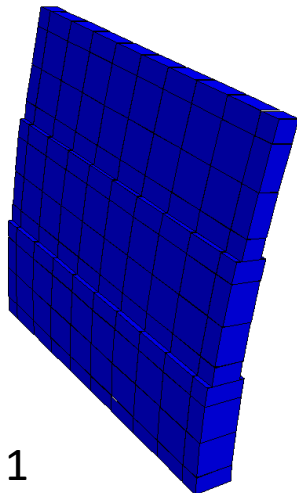


Model C  
– rigid blocks

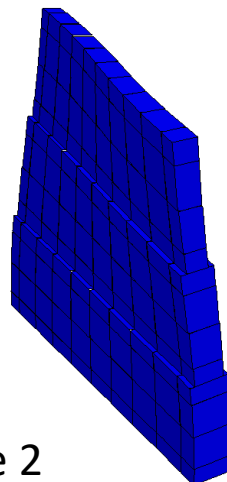
Time step for dynamic analysis:

Model A:  $3.5 \times 10^{-5}$  s

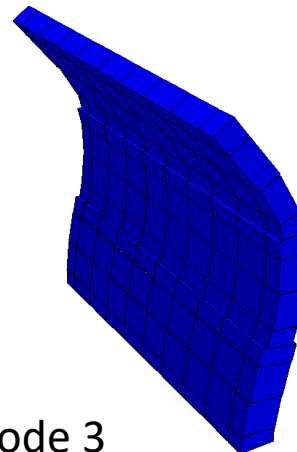
Model C:  $2.4 \times 10^{-4}$  s



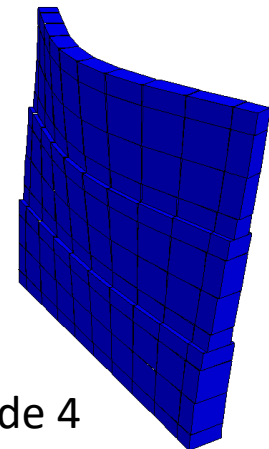
Mode 1



Mode 2



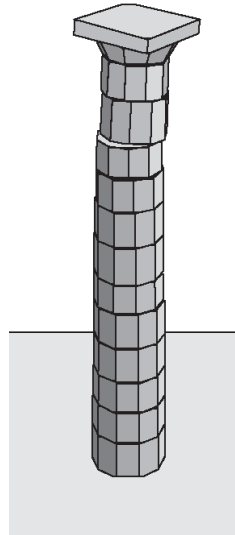
Mode 3



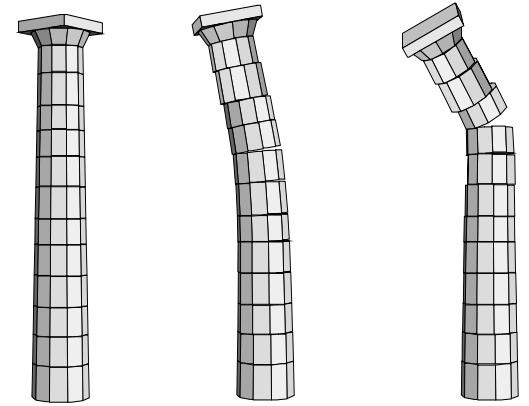
Mode 4

# Seismic modelling of drum columns

## The Parthenon project – NTU Athens

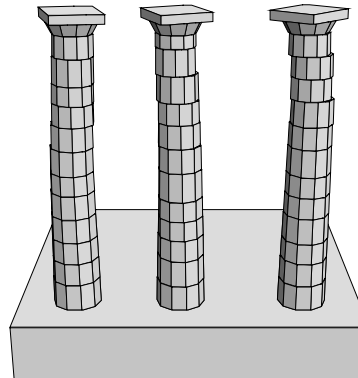


3DEC models, using rigid blocks, frictional joints



Single column - 3 stages of collapse

Shaking table test of marble drum column, 1:3 scale  
NTU Athens  
Papantonopoulos et al. (2002)

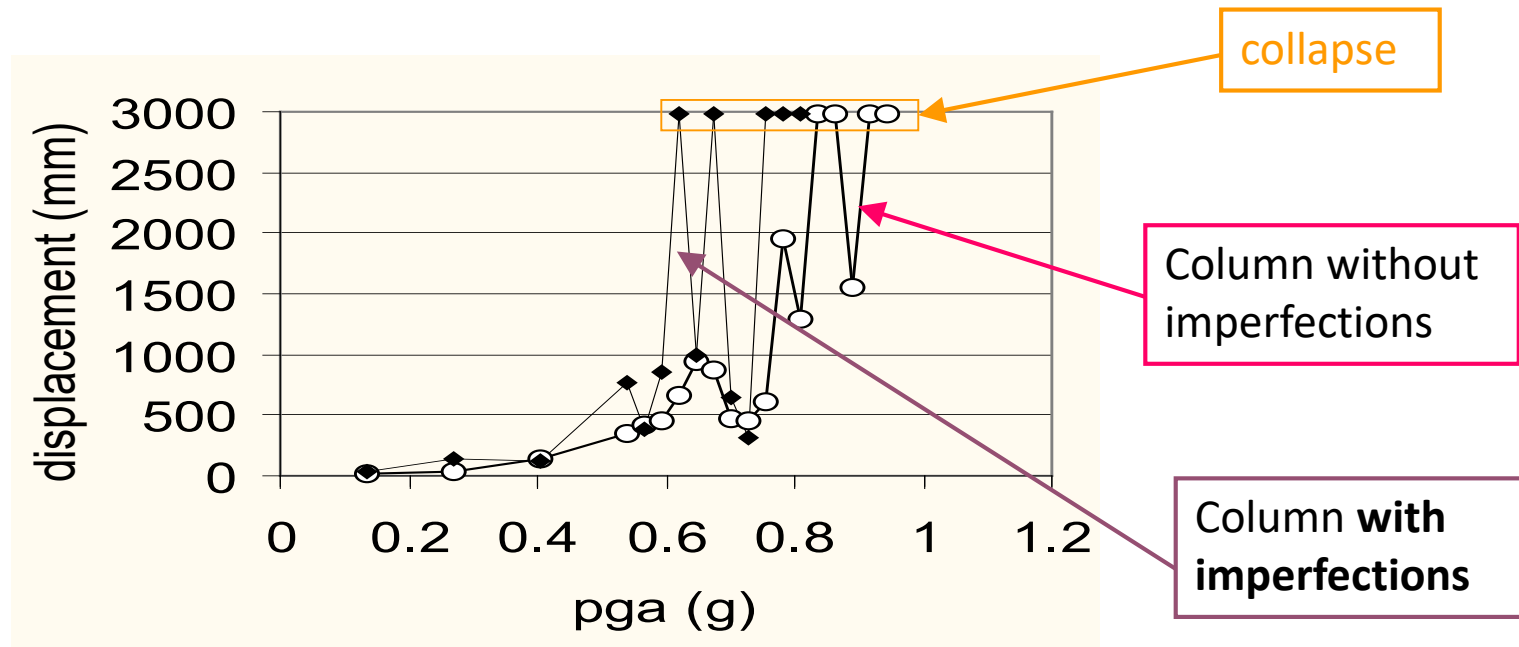


**The variability of rocking dynamics**

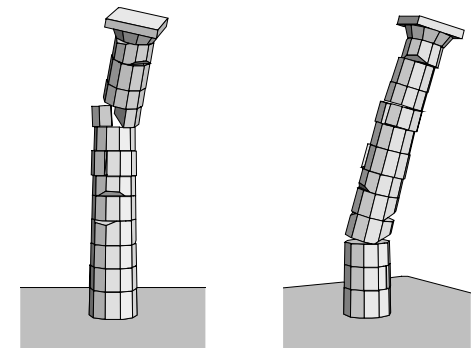
3 similar columns with different drum heights  
(under Kalamata record scaled to 0.7g)

# Variability in rigid block dynamics

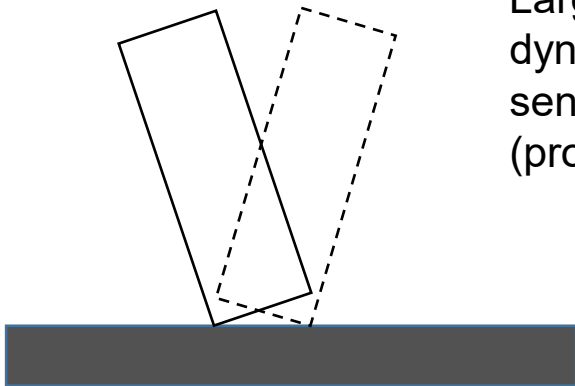
3DEC analysis of single drum column, subject to the scaled Kalamata record



Maximum permanent displacement vs.  
peak input acceleration



# Dynamic block rocking and overturning



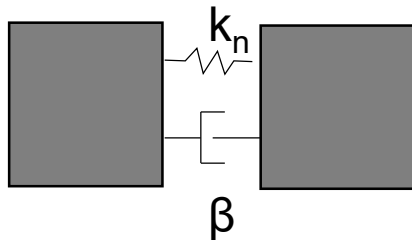
Large amplitude rocking is a non-linear dynamic problem, typically showing sensitivity to small variations in input data (properties, input motion)

- Housner classical analytical solution

- restitution coefficients (energy dissipation on impact)

- DEM numerical solutions

- Spring-dashpot contact models



Pena et al., 2007

Granite blocks with different aspect ratios



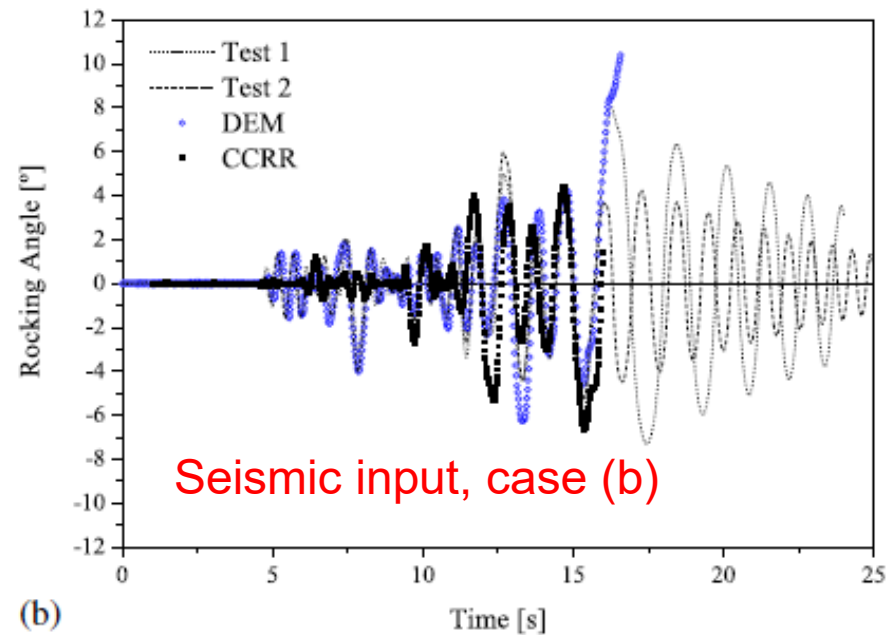
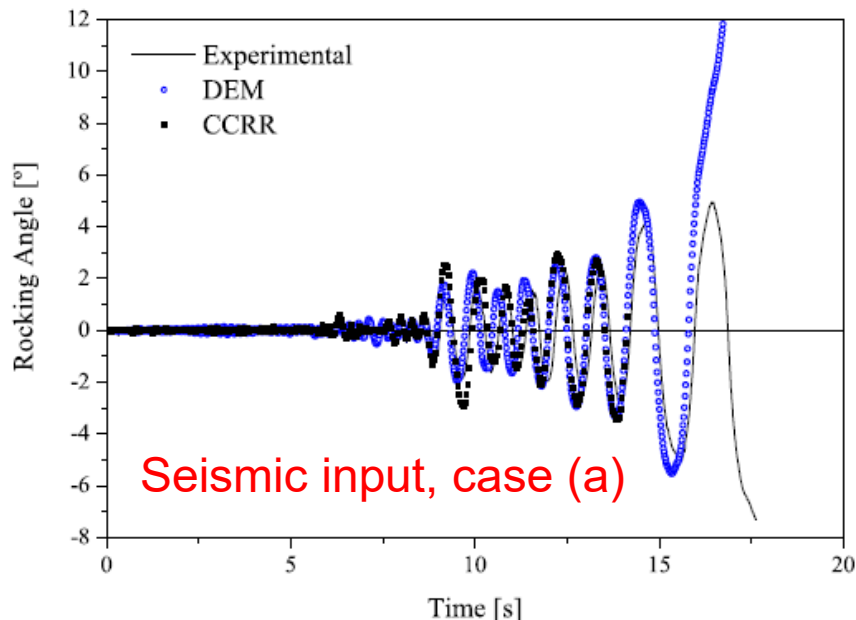
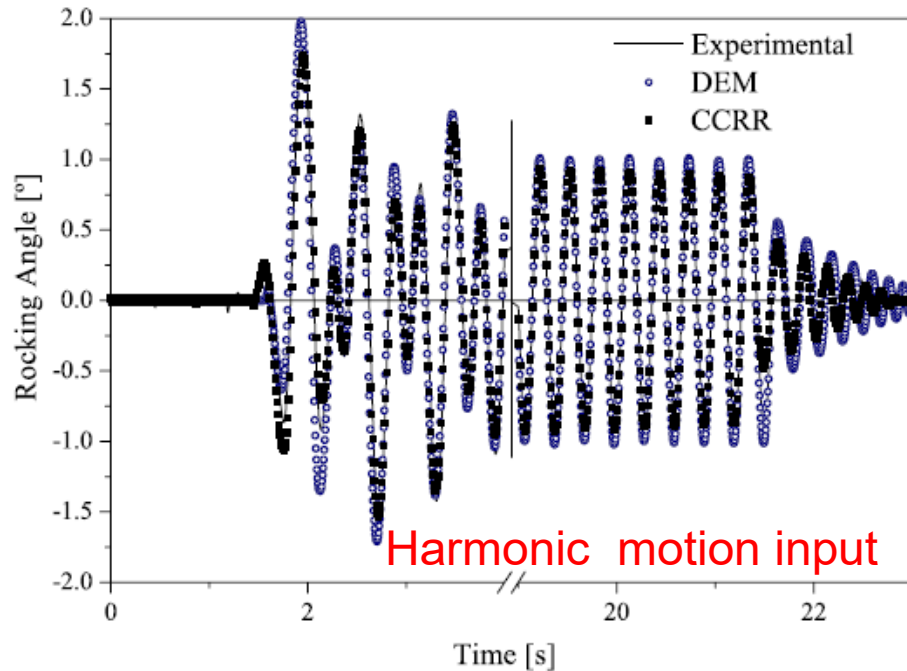
Tests at LNEC shaking table

# Single block rocking – experiments vs. DEM (UDEC)

Pena et al. 2007

DEM – UDEC model

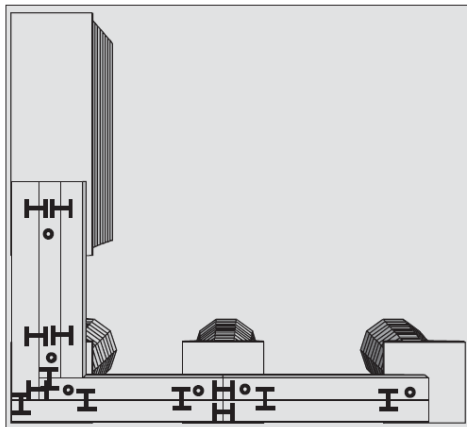
CCRR – analytical (F.Prieto)



# Seismic analysis of the restored Parthenon Pronaos

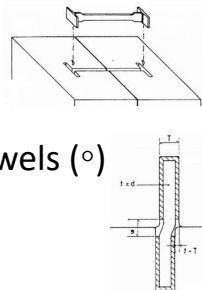
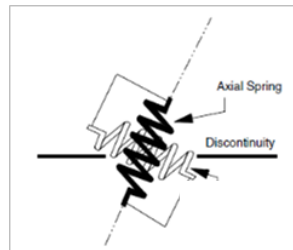
## 3DEC structural axial elements

- nonlinear (breakable) springs
- placed across joints in the normal and shear directions



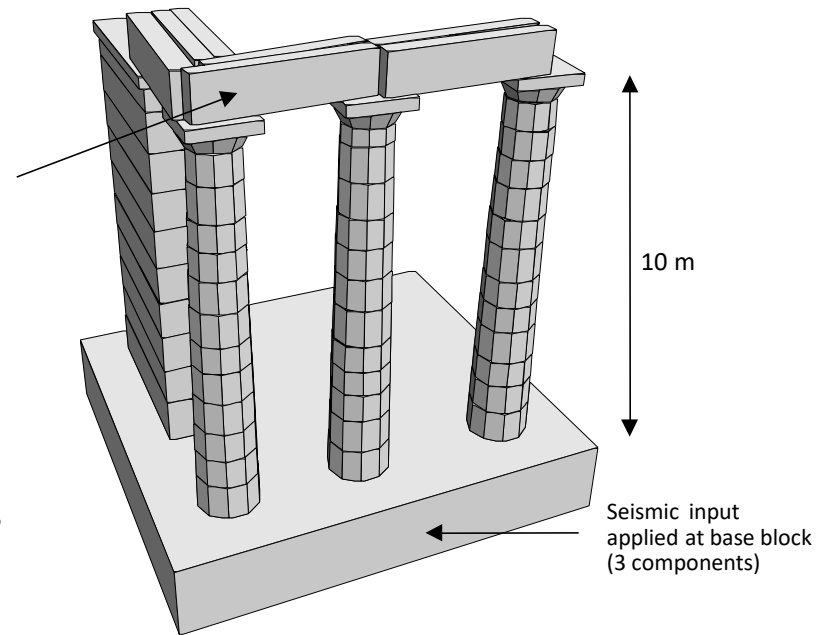
architrave-architrave clamps (I)

architrave-capital vertical shear dowels (°)



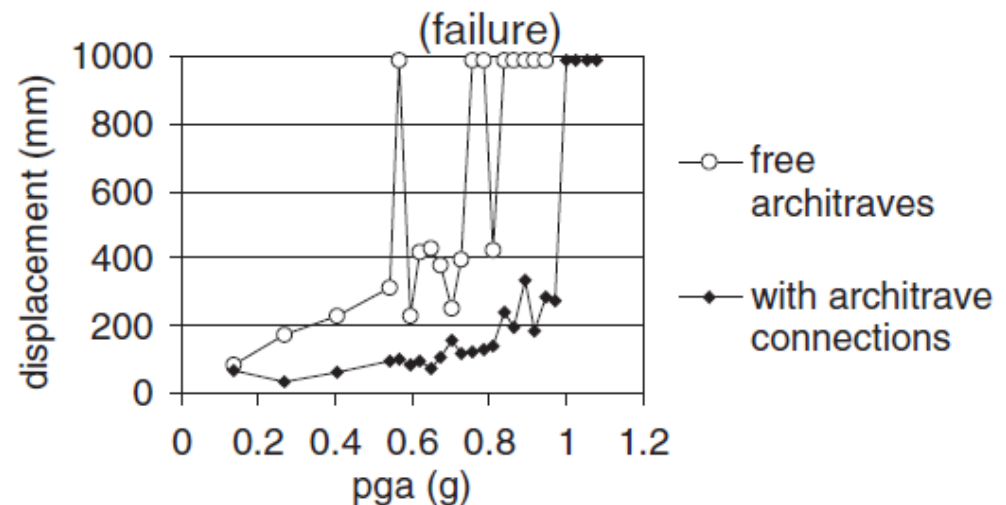
Psycharis et al. 2003

Permanent deformations



## Free architraves

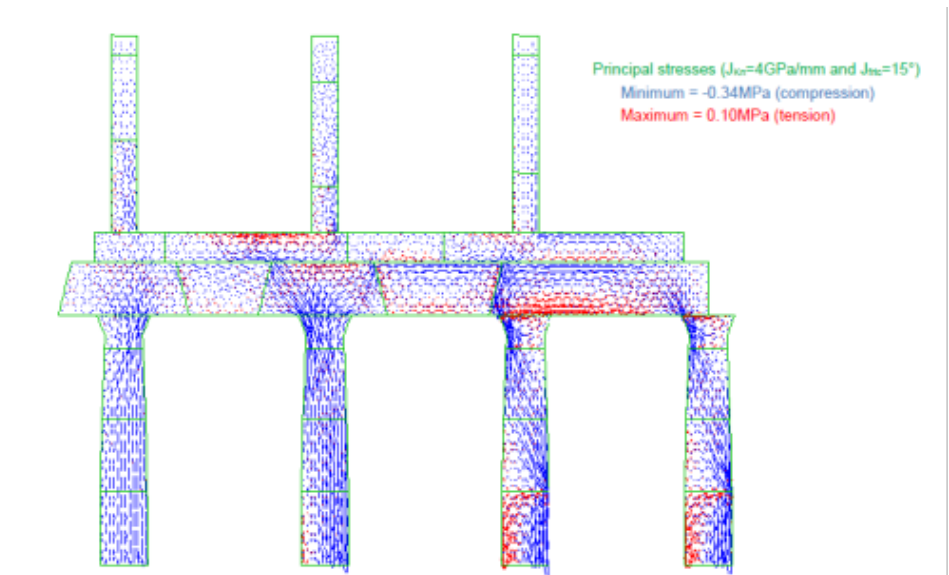
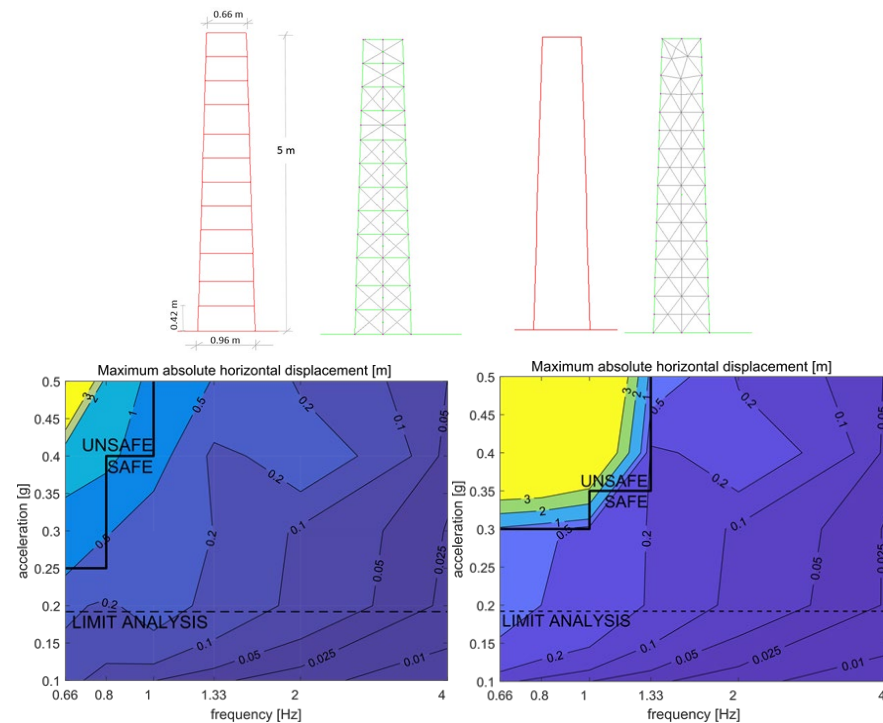
Permanent deformations (max. disp. 0.17 m)  
Kalamata record (0.27g)





# Deformable block models

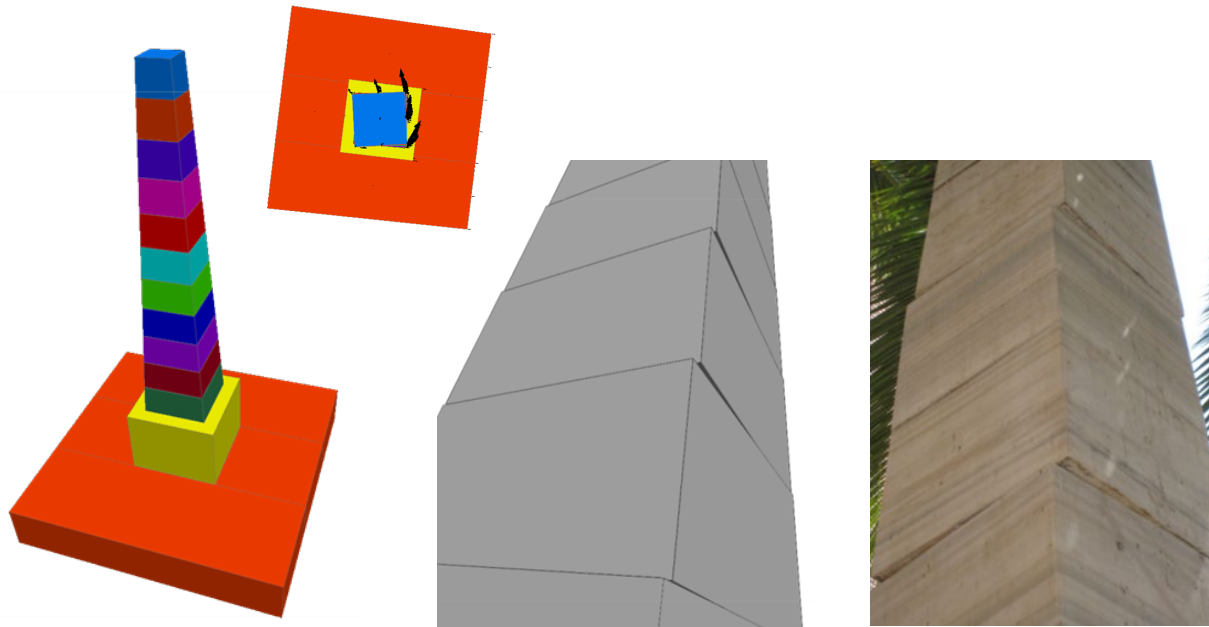
- Deformable blocks models provide internal stresses and finer discretizations of contacts
- Run times may be acceptable in 2D dynamic analysis

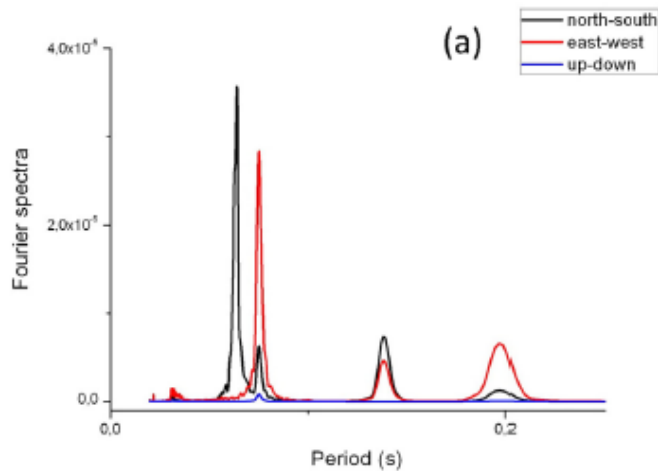


Sarhosis et al. 2015

# Permanent displacements in obelisk subject to the Lorca 2011 earthquake

- 3dec rigid block model
- Joint stiffnesses (including foundation joint) calibrated to match [measured natural frequencies](#)
- Dynamic input: Lorca 11 May 2011 strong motion record (3 components, max = 0.36g)
- Model reproduced the observed [rotational sliding in the earthquake](#)





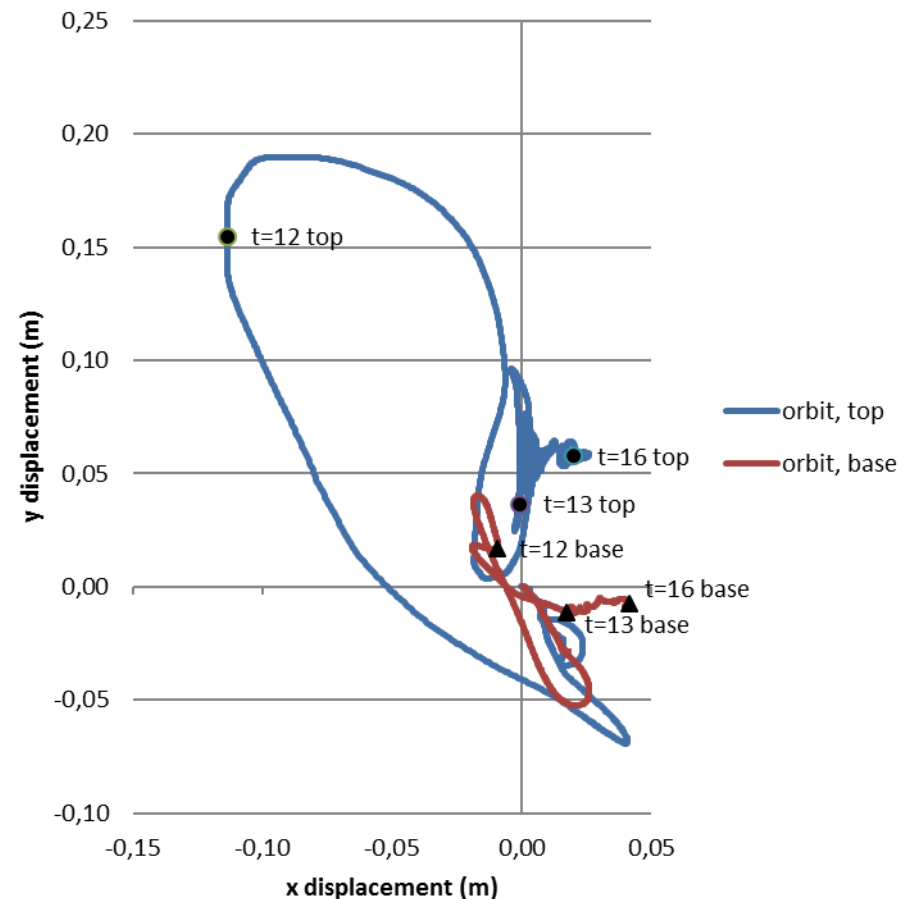
In situ measurements show different natural periods in NS and EW directions (0.06 and 0.08s)

The measured frequencies were reproduced in the model by means of a variable stiffness of the **foundation joint**



Stiffer central section

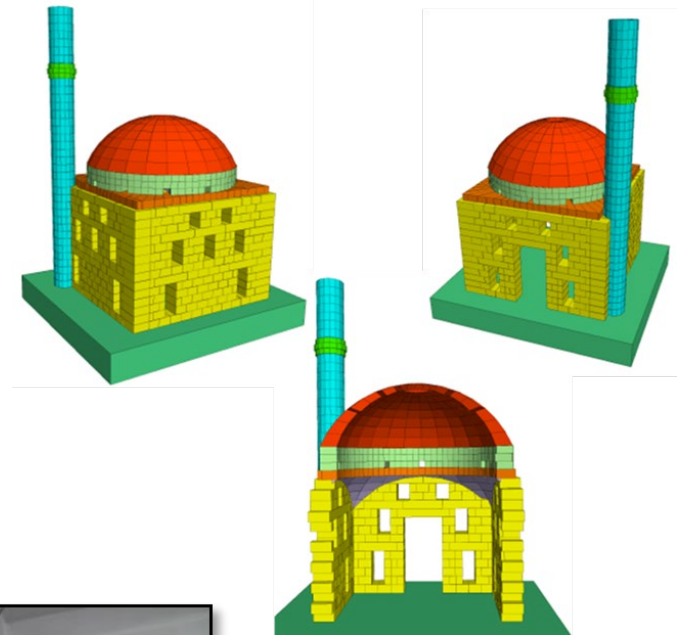
## Numerical simulation: orbit of top of obelisk



# Shaking table test of Skopje mosque model

(Saygili, 2014; Catki et al. 2016)

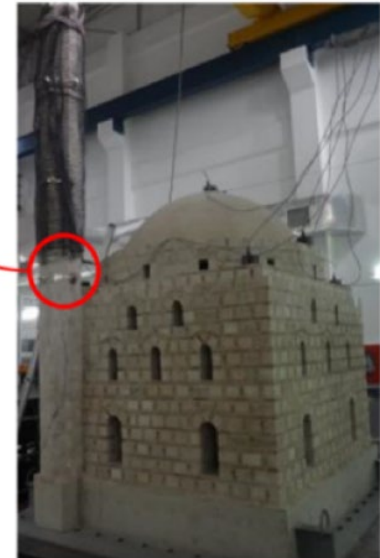
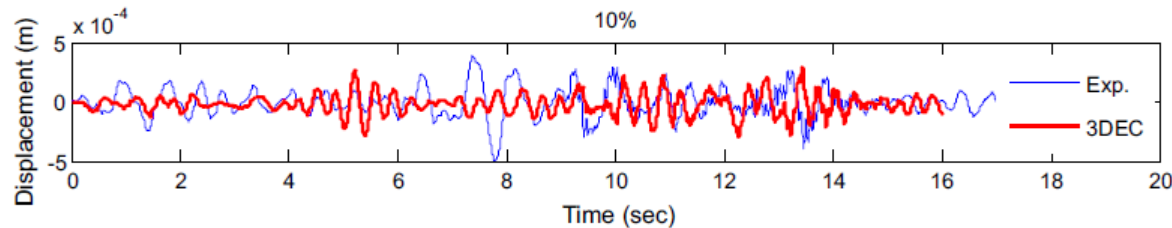
- Dynamic analysis of shaking table tests of 1:10 scale model (minaret 42 m high)
- 3DEC rigid block model
- Seismic input: Montenegro 1979 earthquake (0.4g), scaled from 10% to 250%
- Numerical model reproduces global behavior and damage patterns



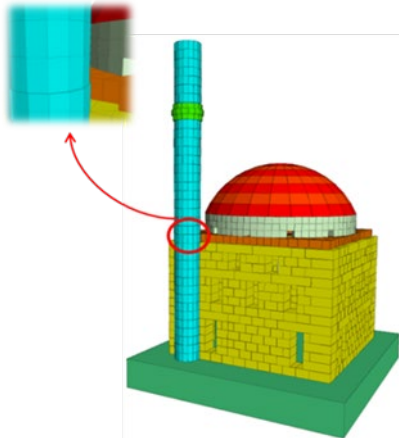
Shaking table tests at  
Bogazici University,  
Istanbul

# Response at top of minaret

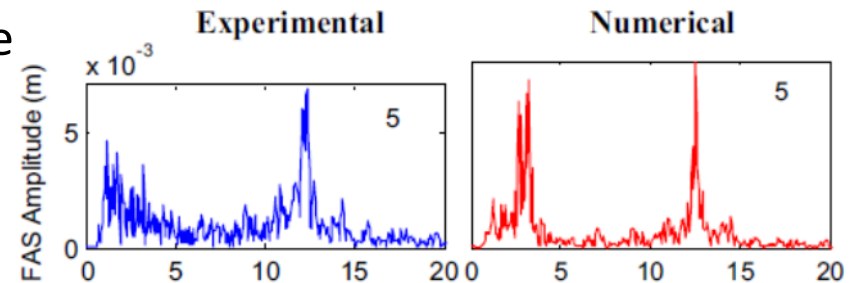
- Test with 10% Montenegro 1979 earthquake (0.04g)



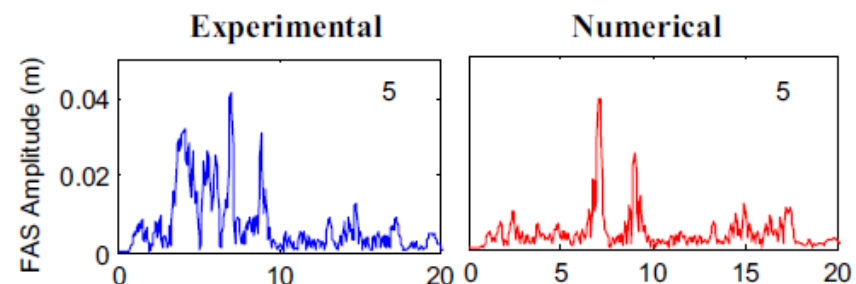
- Amplitude spectrum of response shows the change in **structural frequencies**, mostly due to damage in the minaret-wall connection



- 10% input (0.04g)

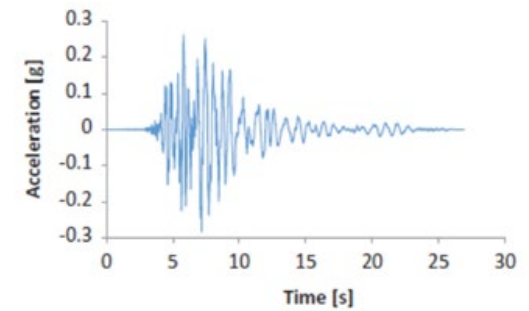


- 100% input (0.4g)





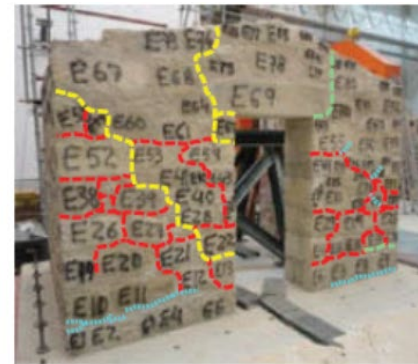
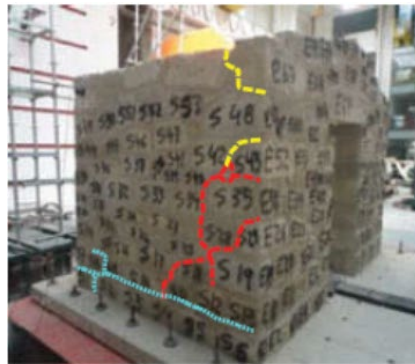
# Shaking table tests of stone masonry house (1:1 scale model)



Seismic input: New Zealand 2011 earthquake, scaled in 5 stages, up to 1.05g

Test predictions with various models:  
Lourenço et al. (2017),  
Int. J. Arch. Heritage

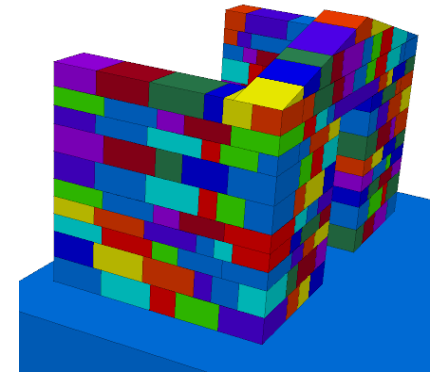
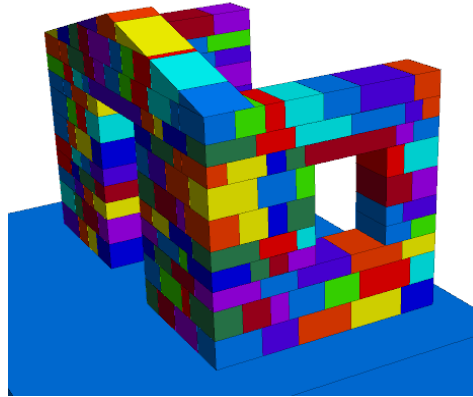
Shaking table tests  
at LNEC, Lisbon



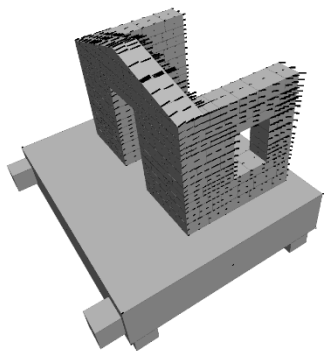
After TEST05 – 1.05 g

# 3DEC model

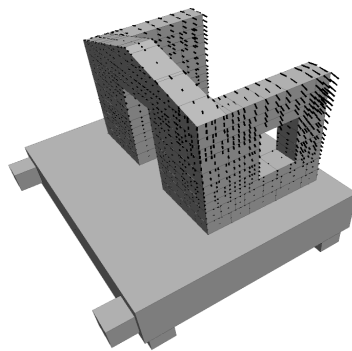
- Rigid block model
- Simplified geometry
  - Horizontal joints
  - Single leaf walls (instead of double leaf)
  - Average block sizes
- Joint stiffness calibrated to approximate measured natural frequencies



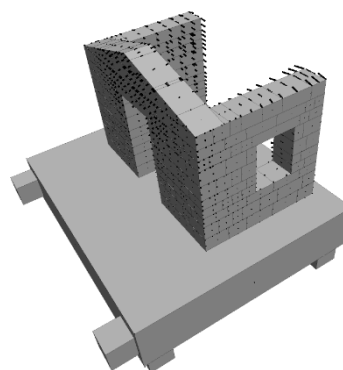
mode	exper.	numer.
1	10.3	10.4
2	15.1	13.2
3	22.8	15.2
4	24.1	17.3



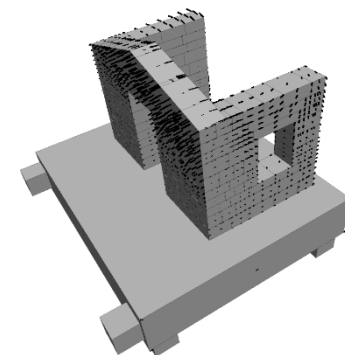
Mode 1



Mode 2

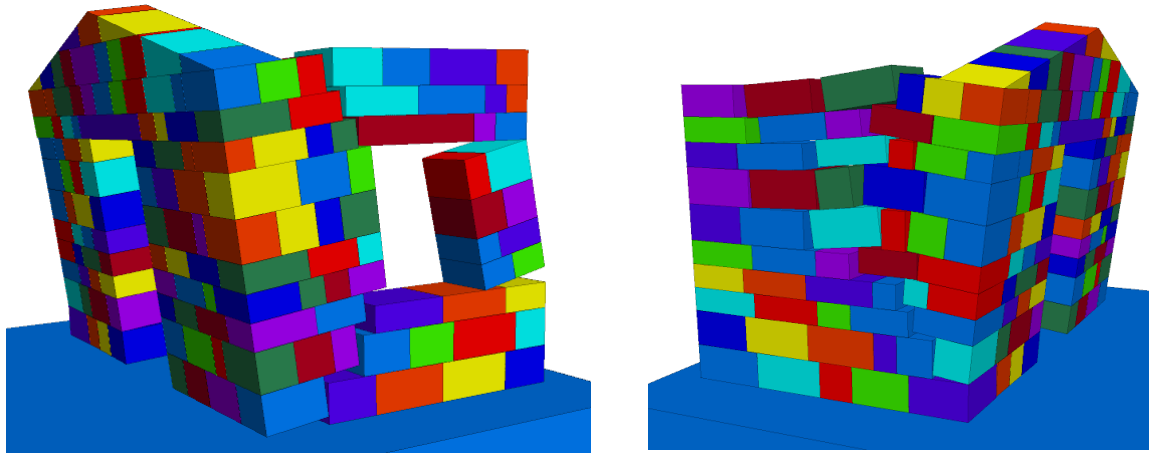


Mode 3

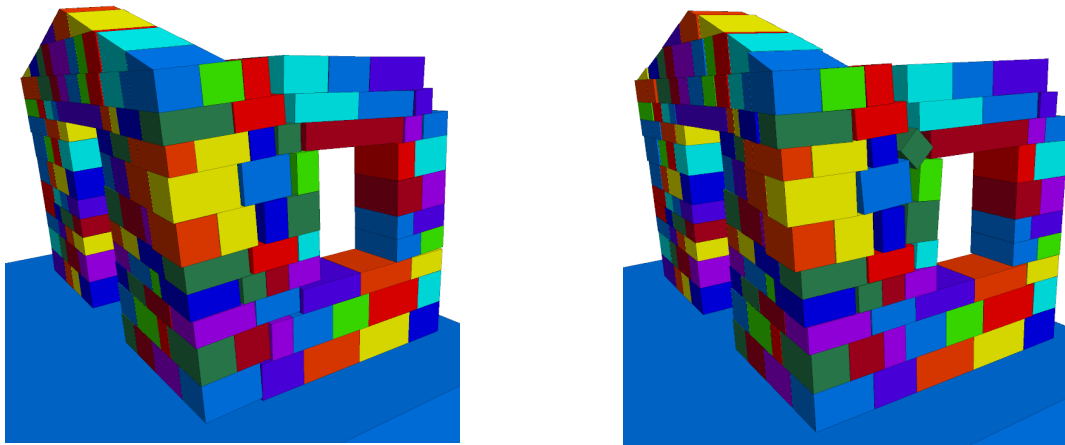


Mode 4

## Pushover failure mode (0.65g)



## Dynamic analysis – stage 5 (1.05g)



Instant of maximum displacement  
(max. disp. = 175 mm)

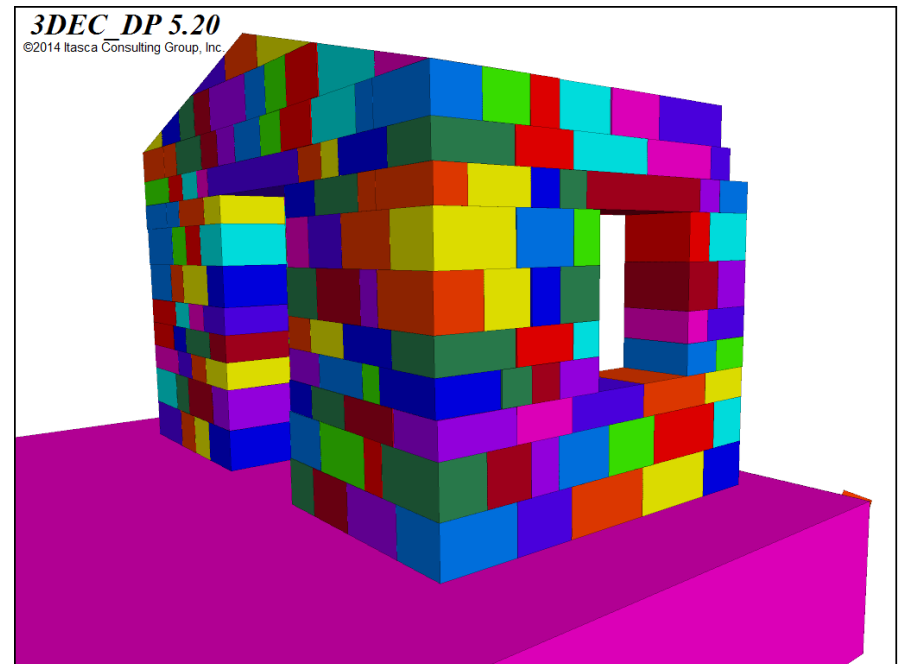
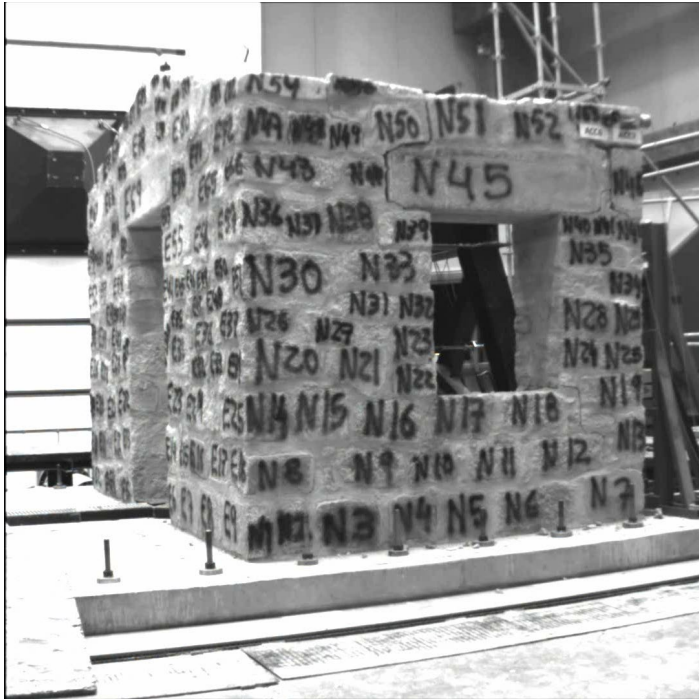
Final configuration  
(max. disp. = 92 mm)



Final shaking table test  
(1.05g)



# Dynamic test – Stage 5



# Concluding remarks

- DEM models have shown a very good performance in the analysis of various types of masonry, in particular **stone block structures**
- **Rigid block** models remain the most efficient option for dynamic analysis
- For historical constructions, **in situ characterization** of the dynamic behavior is essential to calibrate models
- Given the intrinsic **variability of response**, multiple simulations under various seismic records are advisable for safety assessment

