

DEVELOPING SPECIALIZED SOFTWARE FOR PROGRESSIVE COLLAPSE ANALYSIS OF PLANE FRAME STRUCTURES USING THE PLASTIC DAMAGE INDEX

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Abstract

In this study, the authors developed software named Sonar to analyze the progressive collapse of structural elements. This software is capable of assessing the level of damage to each structural component and automatically updating the structural model for subsequent analyses. The software features a user-friendly interface, intuitive graphics, easy input of parameters, and presents computational results in 2D graphics. Through the use of the developed software, damaged structures were analyzed and studied to conclude that considering the progressive collapse of elements based on the plastic damage index serves as a basis for investigating specific design problems to propose more optimal design solutions.

Keywords: *Software; progressive collapse; plastic damage index.*

1. Introduction

When considering a structure, the failure of the first element results in a reduction in the overall stiffness of the structural system, leading to the subsequent failure of the second element. The failure of the second element further weakens the stiffness of the structural system, leading to the failure of the third element and so on. This phenomenon occurs as a chain reaction and is referred to as progressive collapse or progressive damage.

On May 16, 1968, a partial collapse of the 22-story Ronan Point apartment building occurred due to a gas explosion on the 18th floor. The explosion blew out the load-bearing walls on the 18th floor, resulting in a progressive collapse downward due to gravity. Lack of structural redundancy was identified as the fundamental cause leading to the collapse of Ronan Point.

Since then, research on this issue has gradually been conducted, with significant acceleration occurring after terrorist attacks on the Alfred P. Murrah Building in Oklahoma City in 1995 and the World Trade Center in New York City in 2001.

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DOI: 10.56651/lqdtu.jst.v7.n01.835.sce

To prevent or reduce the risk of progressive collapse in structures, many building codes have incorporated indirect design methods into technical specifications through mandatory requirements for strength, ductility, and continuity [1-3]. Research efforts for design and analysis methods for progressive collapse have been conducted to assess the risk and potential for progressive collapse of structures. Below are the commonly used methods for analyzing progressive collapse of structures.



Fig. 1. Ronan Point apartment building was collapse in London in 1968.

2. Methods for analyzing progressive collapse of structures

2.1. Finite Element Method

Marjanishvili and Agnew (2004), Izzuddin et al. (2008), Powell (2009), Khandelwal and El-Tawil (2005) conducted research by eliminating sudden removal and using the alternate load path method. Kaewkulchai and Williamson (2002) analyzed nonlinear dynamic progressive collapse considering the influence of beam-column connections using a damage index to predict the damaged state at the onset of the incident [4, 5].

2.2. Extended Distinct Element Method (EDEM)

From the Distinct Element Method (DEM) proposed by Cundall and Strack (1979), Meguro and Santo further developed it into the (EDEM) in 1996. Hakuno and Meguro (1993) extended the distinct element method to compute the failure of structures, resulting in the Extended Distinct Element Method. The element model consists of a rigid element connected with two springs, one in the horizontal direction and one in the vertical direction. These springs are used to represent the material properties of the modeled material [4, 6].

2.3. Adaptive Shift Integration (ASI) method

Toi in 1991 and was further developed by Isobe and Toi in 2000 to solve non-continuous frames due to end-to-end failure of elements under the action of dynamic loads. The Adaptive Shift Integration (ASI) method modifies the initial integration points to calculate the progressive collapse of frame structures. This method shifts the integration points of elements to the locations of plastic hinges using defined relationships between the initial integration points and the new integration points [4, 7].

2.4. Direct use of commercial software

Fu (2009) utilized the finite element software ABAQUS (ABAQUS, 2005) and the alternate load path method proposed by GSA (2003).

Sadek (2008), Kwasniewski (2009), and Yu et al. (2010) all employed the finite element software LS-DYNA (Hallquist, 2006) by eliminating sudden columns removal and using the alternate load path method as proposed in GSA (2003) [4, 8].

So, in the published research works, the main focus is primarily on the "Alternate Load Path" method. This method aims to investigate the progressive collapse state of a structure caused by the random failure of certain elements. With this problem formulation, the initial failure of elements is not attributed to any predetermined loads.

3. Dynamic analysis method for progressive collapse of frame structures

3.1. Plastic damage index

The problem of progressive collapse of structures based on the plastic damage index has been studied in [9]. The computational assumptions for the ideal elastic-plastic frame system, structural analysis method (finite element method), along with its fundamental algorithmic equations (nonlinear dynamic equations of motion, Newmark direct integration method combined with the variable-damping Newton-Raphson method for solving the equations of motion), and the solution sequence for the progressive collapse problem established in [9] are still being employed here. Accordingly, the criterion for failure based on the rotational displacement of the element section - a criterion applicable to ideal elastic materials and suitable for monotonic loading types - is utilized. According to this criterion, the elastic-plastic connection (or beam-section) will fail when the rotational displacement of the section reaches the limit value [10]:

$$\theta = \theta_u = \mu\theta_y \tag{1}$$

where θ_y is the rotation angle of the section at the onset of plastic flow; θ_u is the limiting rotation angle of the section after plastic flow (corresponding to the moment when the elastic-plastic connection is disrupted); μ is the Plastic Damage Index or Plastic Damage Criteria of the section (Fig. 2).

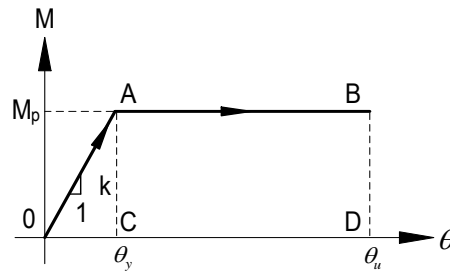


Fig. 2. Model of section damage in elastic-plastic beam element according to rotational displacement.

In Fig. 2, during the loading process, as the bending moment at the end of the member M increases, the rotation angle also increases. When the bending moment at the end of the member M reaches the plastic moment M_p , a plastic hinge forms at that point (the rotation angle reaches a value θ_y). Subsequently, even if the load continues to increase, this moment remains constant while the rotation angle (θ) at that point continues to increase. When this rotation angle reaches a certain limit value (θ_u), which depends on the type of material, the section fails (breaks).

The Eq. (1) is referred to as the analytical plastic damage model for the idealized elastic-plastic beam element of frame structures [10, 11].

3.2. Development of progressive collapse analysis software

The main objective of this study is to develop a program for analyzing progressive collapse based on the plastic damage index μ .

The problem addressed here (taking into account the failure of the plastic hinges) involves the failure of plastic hinges when the rotational displacement at these hinges reaches a certain limit according to a specific failure criterion, such as formula (1). When a plastic hinge fails, the beam section at that location is fractured and detached from the structure. If a beam element has both ends fractured and detached from the frame (possibly not simultaneously), the element is considered to be completely failed and removed from the structure.

The Sonar software, developed and programmed by the authoring team, adopts the

finite element method to analyze progressive collapse. The program encompasses model building, analysis, damage assessment, graphical simulation, and more. Through an integrated system, various scenarios of progressive collapse can be easily simulated. The integrated system utilizes computations based on the plastic damage index according to user-defined plastic damage criteria and automatically modifies the structural model for each step of the progressive collapse analysis.

Sonar is programmed in C++ language and features a Vietnamese interface with user-friendly and visually intuitive menu and toolbars. It facilitates easy updating, adjustment, and display of all types of input data as well as the calculated results of the problem.

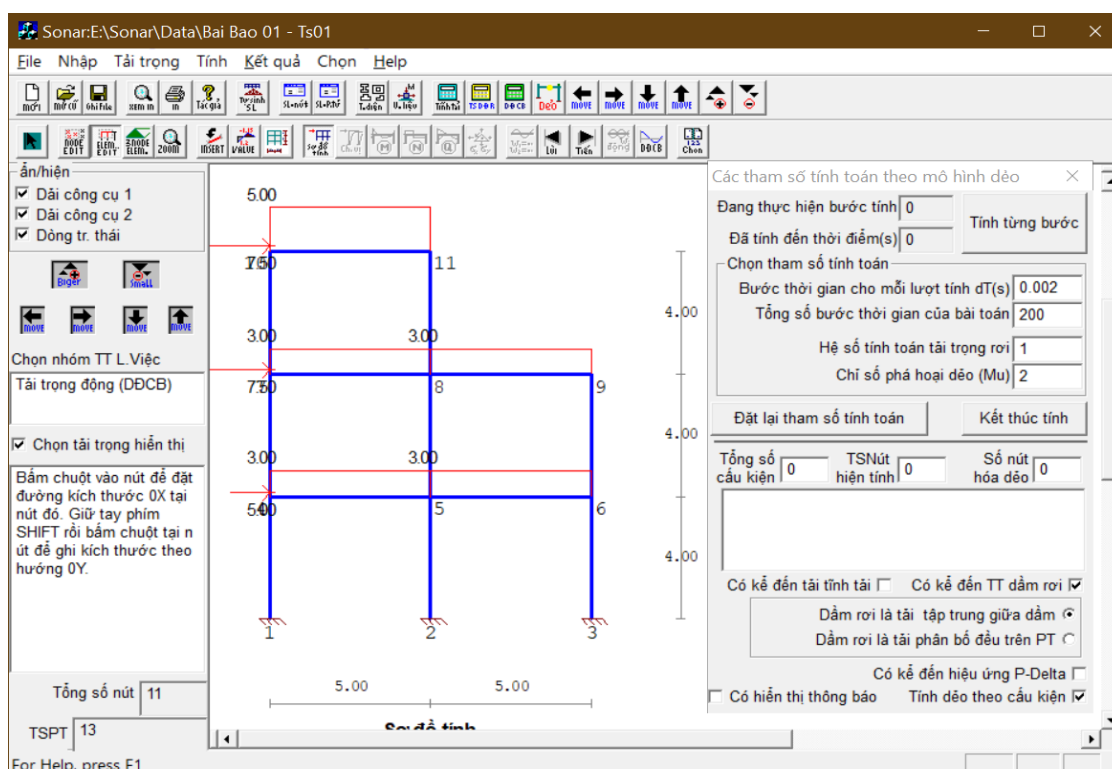


Fig. 3. Main interface screen of Sonar software.

The initial data input section includes entering the calculation scheme, material model, cross-section, loads, and boundary conditions, similar to other versatile structural analysis software.

Figure 4 depicts the block diagram of the progressive collapse analysis problem, starting from setting up the computational model, inputting initial data such as the plastic damage index, time steps, and so on. The program will conduct checks at each time step.

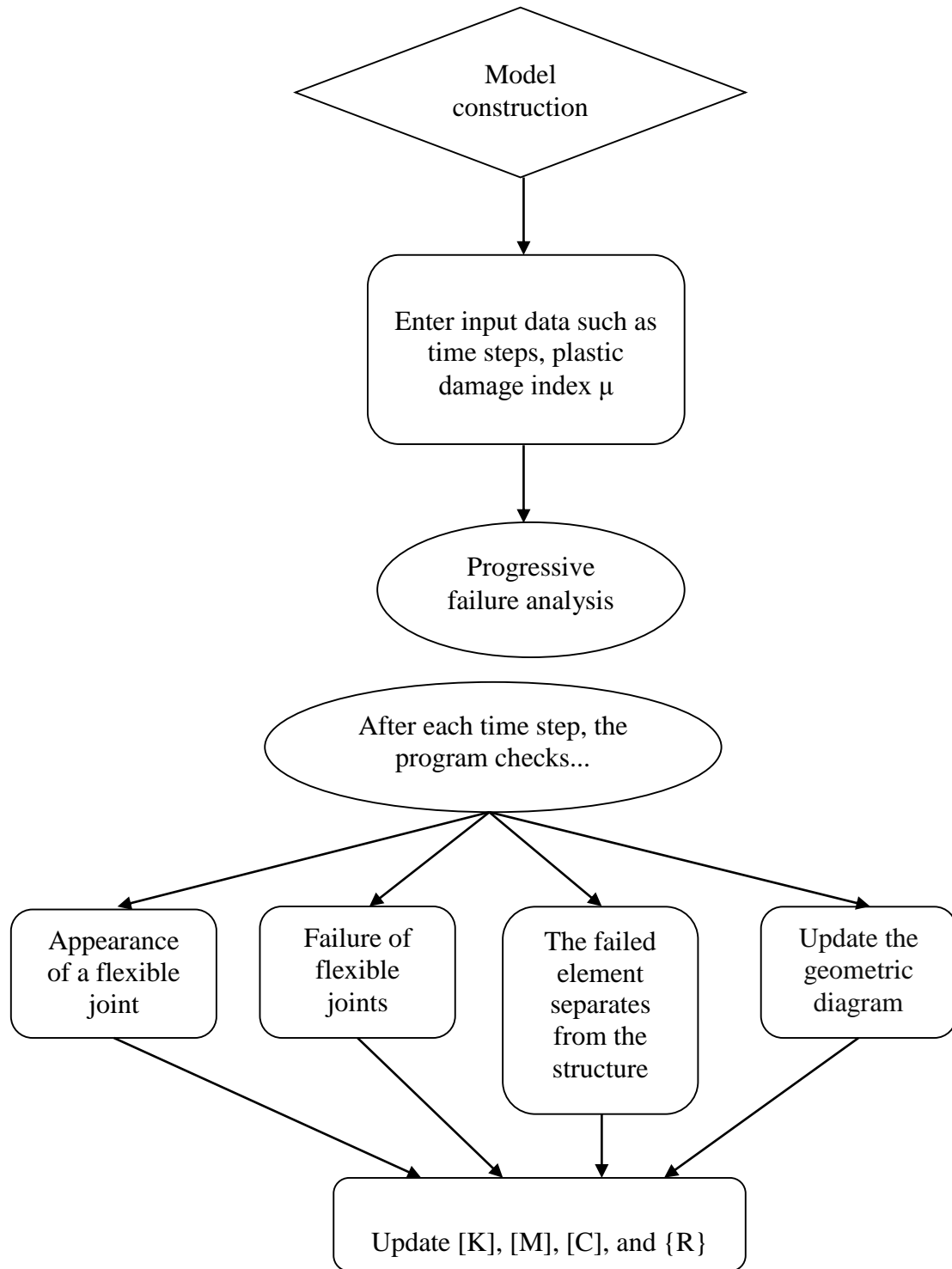


Fig. 4. Block diagram of progressive collapse analysis problem.

Figure 5 illustrates that in progressive collapse analysis, it can begin by inputting the plastic damage index over time for one analysis as well as the total number of analyses. After performing the nonlinear dynamic analysis, the program will reassess the plastic damage index of all structural components. Only when the plastic damage index meets certain conditions will the program automatically remove the damaged component and generate a new analysis model for the next nonlinear dynamic analysis step. This process continues until no more structural elements are damaged or until the structure becomes unstable and collapses completely.

4. Numerical examples

Below are the numerical results obtained using the Sonar software for the progressive collapse analysis of an idealized elastic frame (Fig. 6a) subjected to short-term dynamic loading with a predefined plastic damage index μ .

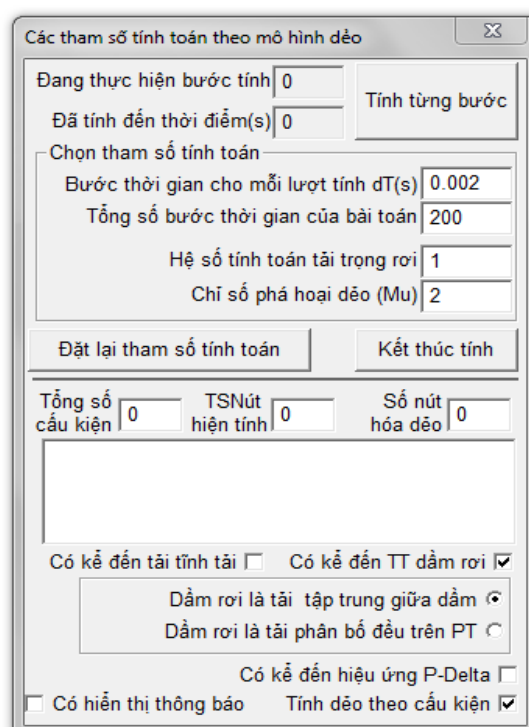


Fig. 5. Selection of computational parameters for plastic damage model.

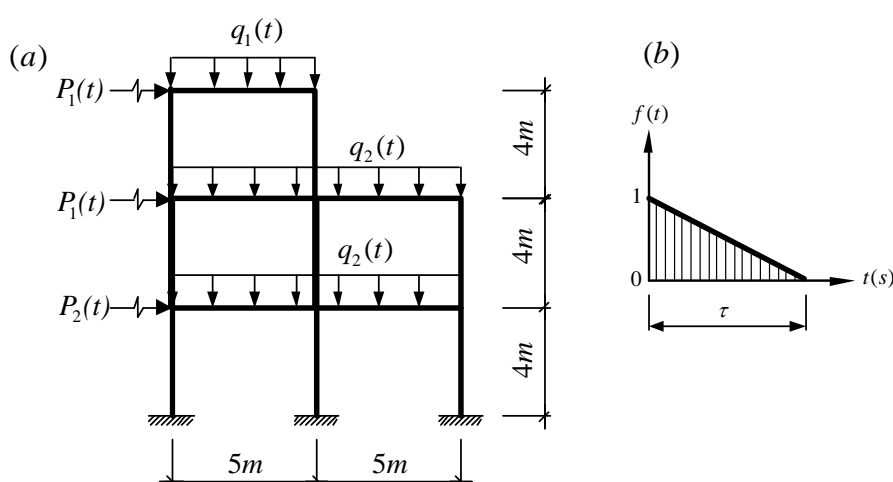
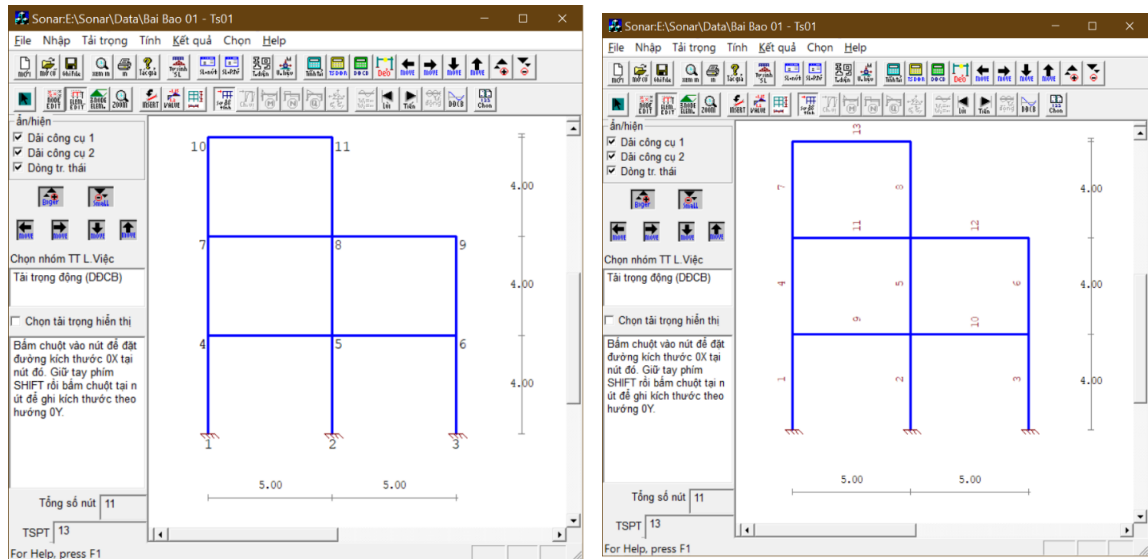


Fig. 6. Structural diagram (a) and short-term dynamic loading pattern (b).

The structure is made of steel material in I-beam shape, with beam section dimensions of $(200 \times 100 \times 5.5 \times 8 \text{ mm})$, column dimensions of I-beam $(300 \times 150 \times 6.5 \times 9 \text{ mm})$, material elastic modulus $E = 2.1e+5 \text{ MPa}$, and yield stress $\sigma = 210 \text{ MPa}$. The dynamic loads acting on the structure consist of concentrated loads: $P_1(t) = 75f(t) \text{ kN}$, $P_2(t) = 50f(t) \text{ kN}$, and uniformly distributed loads $q_1(t) = 50f(t) \text{ kN}$, $q_2(t) = 30f(t) \text{ kN}$, where $f(t)$ is a short-term triangular time function (Fig. 6b), with a loading duration time of $\tau = 0.2 \text{ (s)}$. The damping ratio is selected as $\xi_1 = \xi_2 = 0.05$. Below are the investigation results obtained using the Sonar program with plastic damage indices $\mu = 2$. The time step for each calculation is 0.002 seconds.



a) Numbering scheme of the problem nodes

b) Numbering scheme of the problem elements

Fig. 7. Node and element numbering scheme of the numerical test problem.

The numerical results for the progressive collapse analysis of the frame are presented sequentially for each time step from Fig. 8 to Fig. 12.

In Fig. 8, during the analysis at step 48 (corresponding to a time of 0.096 seconds), the parameter display on the screen indicates that there are 2 beams with yielded ends, with 2 yielding faces at nodes 5(9) and 6(10), along with a detailed illustration of the locations where the flexible joints appear.

In Fig. 9, during the analysis at step 53 (corresponding to a time of 0.106 seconds), the parameter display on the screen indicates that there are 3 beams with yielded ends, with 3 yielding faces at nodes 5(9), 6(10), and 8(11), along with a detailed illustration of the locations where the flexible joints appear.

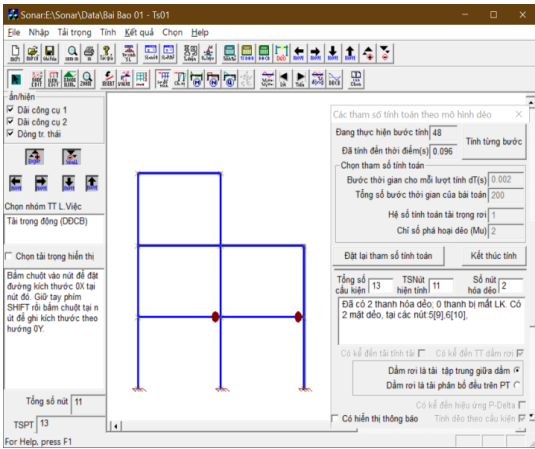


Fig. 8. Analyzing the structure up to step 48.

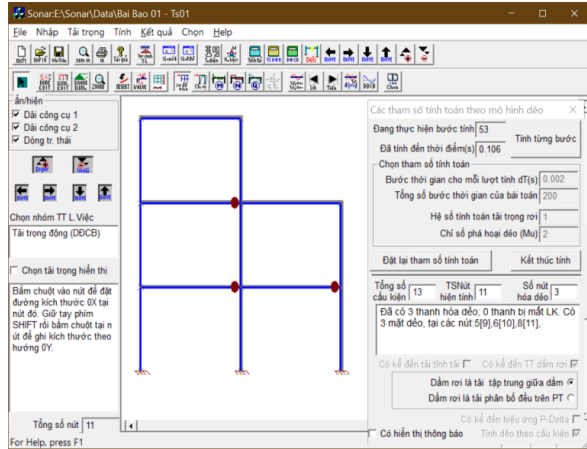


Fig. 9. Analyzing the structure up to step 53.

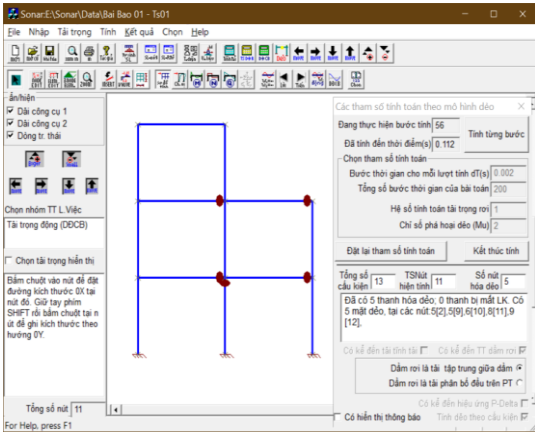


Fig. 10. Analyzing the structure up to step 56.

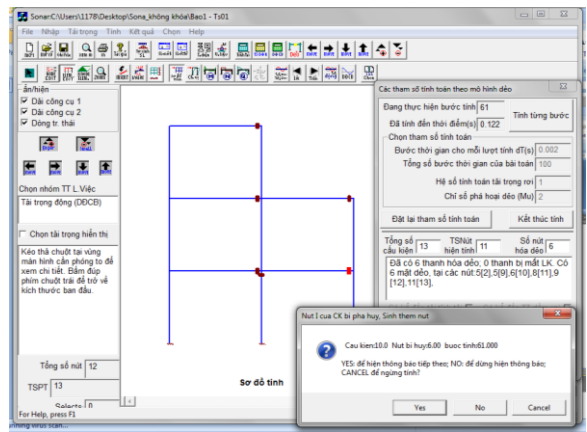


Fig. 11. Analyzing the structure up to step 61.

In Fig. 10, at the 56th analysis step (corresponding to a computation time of 0.112 seconds), the parameter screen indicates that 5 elements have yielded, with 5 yielding faces at nodes 5(2), 5(9), 6(10), 8(11), and 9(12), along with a detailed diagram showing the locations of the yielded joints.

In Fig. 11, at the 61st step of the analysis (corresponding to a time of 0.122 seconds), the parameter screen indicates that element 10 has completely failed at a node. There are now 5 members with yielded ends, with 6 yielded faces at nodes 5(2), 5(9), 6(10), 8(11), 9(12), and 11(13), along with a detailed illustration of the locations of the yielded joints and the positions of the members with broken connections (marked in red dots).

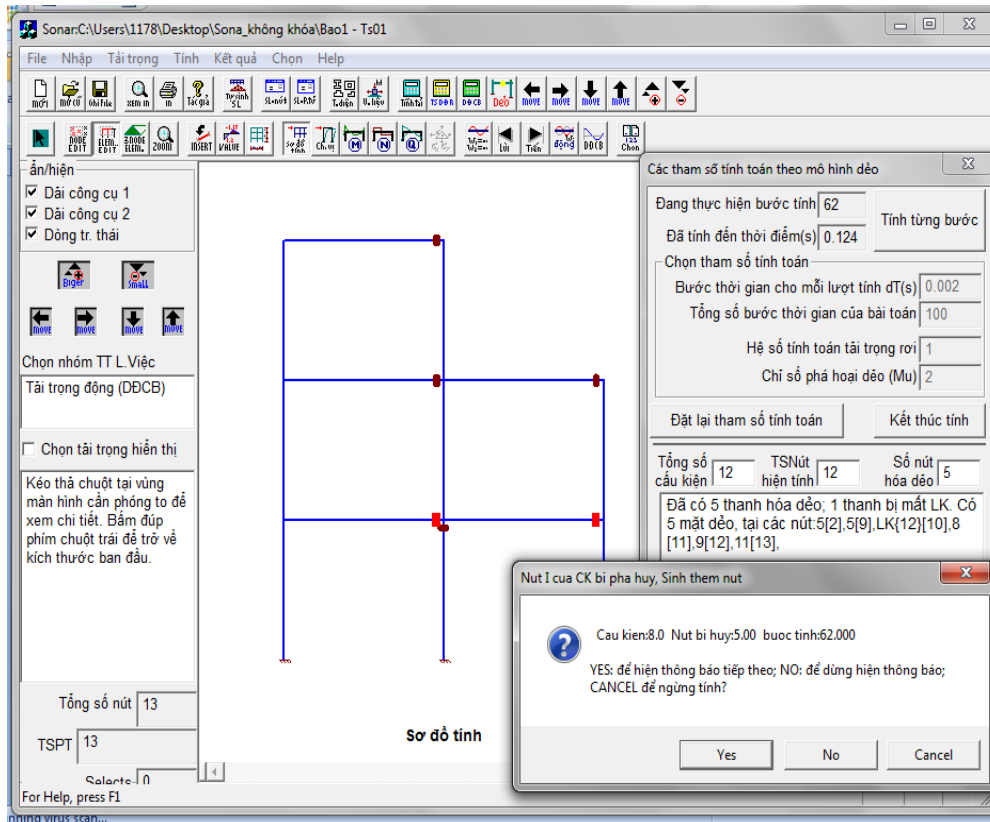


Fig. 12. Analysis image of the structure in the program up to the 62nd step.

In Fig. 12, at the 62nd step (corresponding to the computational time of 0.124 seconds), the parameter screen shows a notification that element 8 has additional failure of connection at node 5. There are now 5 members with yielding ends at nodes 5(2), 5(9), LK{12}(10), 8(11), 9(12), and 11(13), along with a specific illustration of the locations of the yielded joints as well as the locations of the members with severed connections (marked in red dots).

The numerical research process provides us with an overall picture of the progressive collapse process of the structure, showing which members yield first, which yield later, which ones fail, and at what point in time. This helps in studying and designing reinforcement measures for the members to achieve the highest effectiveness in resisting collapse.

5. Conclusion

This article utilized specialized software to analyze progressive collapse in order to evaluate the extent of damage to each component and to develop modified structural

models for subsequent analysis steps. It also demonstrated that damaged structures were analyzed over time steps to observe the sequence of structural collapse. This research can assist engineers and structural researchers in conducting dynamic analyses by using various modeled parameters and comparing different damage mechanisms based on different damage indices. Consequently, it enhances the capability to assess progressive collapse, leading to more accurate evaluations of damaged structures and reducing time and effort in the surveying process.

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XÂY DỰNG PHẦN MỀM CHUYÊN DỤNG PHÂN TÍCH PHÁ HOẠI LŨY TIẾN CỦA KẾT CẤU KHUNG PHẪNG THEO CHỈ SỐ PHÁ HOẠI DẸO

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Tóm tắt: Trong nghiên cứu này, nhóm tác giả đã xây dựng phần mềm mang tên Sonar, để phân tích phá hoại lũy tiến của các phần tử kết cấu, có thể đánh giá mức độ hư hỏng của từng bộ phận kết cấu và tự động cập nhật mô hình kết cấu cho các bước phân tích tiếp theo. Phần mềm được phát triển với giao diện người dùng, đồ họa trực quan, dễ nhập các thông số đầu vào, thể hiện kết quả tính toán bằng đồ họa 2D. Bằng cách sử dụng phần mềm đã xây dựng, các kết cấu bị hư hỏng đã được phân tích và nghiên cứu để đi đến kết luận là việc kể đến phá hoại lũy tiến của phần tử theo chỉ số phá hoại dẻo, từ đó làm cơ sở để khảo sát các bài toán cụ thể nhằm đưa ra được các phương án thiết kế tối ưu hơn.

Từ khóa: Phần mềm; phá hoại lũy tiến; chỉ số phá hoại dẻo.

Received: 05/04/2024; Revised: 18/06/2024; Accepted for publication: 28/06/2024

