

A novel finite element method for designing floor slabs on grade and pavements with loads at edges

Novedoso método de elementos finitos para diseñar losas para pisos industriales con cargas en los bordes o juntas

H. E. Camero¹

ABSTRACT

In the present paper a methodology to design slabs on grade for industrial floors and pavements using bi-dimensional finite elements and integrating the subgrade in the design is presented. The suggested method to design slabs on grade for industrial floors and pavements has been called the Camero Finite Element Method. An example of an industrial floor designed to be capable of sustaining an infinite number of load applications (or a 50 years lifespan period) is here presented in order to be compared with the results of the Camero Finite Element Method, the PCA (Portland Cement Association), and the WRI's (Wire Reinforcement Institute) simplified methods. In this example, an industrial floor is designed to be capable of sustaining an infinite number of load applications comparing the results of the Camero Finite Element Method and the simplified methods of the PCA and WRI. The industrial floor or pavement will be able to resist an infinite number of load applications if it is designed with the Camero Finite Element Method. On the other hand, if it is designed using the PCA and the WRI methods, it will last a few years (in this example, in one year period, the number of axle load applications is equal to the number of allowable repetitions). To conclude, if an industrial floor or pavement is designed with the Camero Finite Element Method, it will be able to sustain an infinite number of load applications (up to 50 years lifespan period).

Keywords: Floor slab on grade, industrial floor slab, Portland Cement Association, wire reinforcement institute, slab design on grade, floor design, industrial floor slab, concrete floor, concrete slab on grade, pavement, rigid pavement, Camero finite element method.

RESUMEN

En el presente artículo se presenta una metodología para el diseño de losas sobre terreno para pisos industriales y pavimentos utilizando elementos finitos bidimensionales e integrando el suelo en el diseño. El método propuesto para diseñar pisos industriales ha sido llamado Camero Finite Element Method. Un ejemplo de un piso industrial diseñado para soportar un número infinito de repeticiones de carga (o un periodo de vida útil de 50 años) es aquí presentado con el fin de comparar los resultados de Camero Finite Element Method, los métodos simplificados de la PCA (portland Cement association) y la WRI (wire Reinforcement Institute). En el ejemplo, un piso industrial es diseñado para ser capaz de admitir un número infinito de aplicaciones de carga (o un periodo de vida útil de 50 años), comparando los resultados de Camero Finite Element Method y los métodos simplificados de las PCA y la WRI. El piso industrial o pavimento será capaz de resistir un número infinito de aplicaciones de carga (50 años) si es diseñado con Camero Finite Element Method. De otra manera: Si es diseñado por los métodos de la PCA y la WRI únicamente durará pocos años (en este ejemplo, en el periodo de un año el número de aplicaciones del eje cargado es igual al número de repeticiones admisibles). Concluimos que el piso industrial o pavimento será capaz de admitir un número infinito de aplicaciones de carga (periodo de vida útil de 50 años) si es diseñado con Camero Finite Element Method.

Palabras clave: Losa sobre terreno, losa industrial, Portland Cement Association, Wire Reinforcement Institute, diseño de losas sobre terreno, diseño de pisos, placas de pisos industriales, losas de pisos industriales, pisos de concreto, pisos de concreto sobre terreno, pavimentos, pavimentos rígidos, método de elementos finitos de Camero.

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Introduction

Designing slab floors on grade for industry consists in designing slabs for storage and traffic loads produced by vehicles and forklift trucks, these generally being the most critical. This article shows how the Portland Cement Association (PCA) and Wire Reinforcement Institute (WRI) simplified methods for designing slabs for forklift truck traffic, consider the bending moments applied to slabs smaller than tho-

se presented under operational conditions by forklift trucks being misaligned with the slab's longitudinal axis centre (eccentricity between slab centroid and the centre of the forklift's truck loaded axle).

Figure 1 shows the geometry of the forklift's truck loaded axle. WS is wheel spacing of the forklift truck's loaded axle. Figure 2 shows the loaded axle working on the slab. The

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$$[N] = \begin{bmatrix} Ni & 0 & Nj & 0 & Nk & 0 \\ 0 & Ni & 0 & Nj & 0 & Nk \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } \{Un\} = \begin{Bmatrix} \mu i \\ \nu i \\ \mu j \\ \nu j \\ \mu k \\ \nu k \end{Bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

N_i , N_j and N_k are the linear shape functions that by a linear triangular element are (Segerlind, 1984, pp. 51-67):

$$\begin{aligned} Ni &= \frac{1}{2A}[a_i + b_i x + c_i y] \\ Ni &= \frac{1}{2A}[a_j + b_j x + c_j y] \\ Ni &= \frac{1}{2A}[a_k + b_k x + c_k y] \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

And:

$$\begin{aligned} a_i &= X_j Y_k - X_k Y_j & b_i &= Y_j - Y_k & c_i &= X_k - X_j \\ a_j &= X_k Y_i - X_i Y_k & b_j &= Y_k - Y_i & c_j &= X_i - X_k \\ a_k &= X_i Y_j - X_j Y_i & b_k &= Y_i - Y_j & c_k &= X_j - X_i \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

The strain components and displacements are related. These relationships are called the strain-displacement equations and are derived in all elasticity books (Linero and Garzón, 2010 and Timoshenko and Goodier, 1970). They are:

$$\varepsilon_{xx} = \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial x}, \quad \varepsilon_{yy} = \frac{\partial \nu}{\partial y}, \quad \varepsilon_{xy} = \frac{\partial \mu}{\partial y} + \frac{\partial \nu}{\partial x} \quad (11)$$

Using matrix notation, the vector strain with Equations (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), and Equation (11), is:

$$\{\varepsilon\} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial y} & \frac{\partial}{\partial x} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} Ni & 0 & Nj & 0 & Nk & 0 \\ 0 & Ni & 0 & Nj & 0 & Nk \end{bmatrix} \begin{Bmatrix} \mu i \\ \nu i \\ \mu j \\ \nu j \\ \mu k \\ \nu k \end{Bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Using matrix notation, the Equation (12) can be written as:

$$\{\varepsilon\} = [B]\{Un\} \quad (13)$$

Equation (13) defines the gradient matrix $[B]$ for the triangular element. It is a 3×6 matrix.

The linear triangular element shown in Figure 3 has straight sides and three nodes, one at each corner.

In each node of the linear triangular element or in each node of the grid the designer has to evaluate the equilibrium among the strain energy equations and the forces acting on the system: work done by the forces due to concentrated loads, work done by the stress components acting on the outside surface and work done by the body forces (Linero, Garzón and Ramirez, 2013, chapter 2, Linero and Garzón, 2010, chapter 4 and Segerlind, 1984, chapter 18, 21, and 22), This is the principle of minimum potential energy.

The general form of the finite element equations for potential energy formulation is:

$$[K]\{Un\} = \{f\} \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Where } [K] = \int_A [B]^T [D][B] t \, dA \quad (15)$$

Where $[B]$ is defined by (13), $[D]$ is defined by (3) and $\{Un\}$ is defined by (8). The element has a volume V that is equal to its area, A by its thickness, t .

If calculating $[K]$ according to Equation (15) by linear triangular element:

$$[K] = \frac{tE}{4A(1-\nu^2)} \begin{bmatrix} K_{11} & K_{12} & K_{13} & K_{14} & K_{15} & K_{16} \\ & K_{22} & K_{23} & K_{24} & K_{25} & K_{26} \\ & & K_{33} & K_{34} & K_{35} & K_{36} \\ & & & K_{44} & K_{45} & K_{46} \\ & & & & K_{55} & K_{56} \\ & & & & & K_{66} \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

SYM

Where

$$K_{11} = b_i^2 + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_i^2 \right]; \quad K_{12} = \left[\nu + \frac{(1-\nu)}{2} \right] b_i c_i$$

$$K_{13} = b_i b_j + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_i c_j \right]; \quad K_{14} = \nu b_i c_j + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_j c_i \right]$$

$$K_{15} = b_i b_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_i c_k \right]; \quad K_{16} = \nu b_i c_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_j c_k \right]$$

$$K_{22} = c_i^2 + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_i^2 \right]; \quad K_{23} = \nu b_j c_i + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_i c_j \right]$$

$$K_{24} = c_i c_j + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_i b_j \right]; \quad K_{25} = \nu b_k c_i + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_i c_k \right]$$

$$K_{26} = c_i c_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_i b_k \right]; \quad K_{33} = b_j^2 + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_j^2 \right]$$

$$K_{34} = \nu \left[\nu + \frac{(1-\nu)}{2} \right] b_j c_j; \quad K_{35} = b_j b_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} c_j c_k \right]$$

$$K_{36} = \nu b_j c_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_j c_j \right]; \quad K_{44} = c_j^2 + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_j^2 \right]$$

$$K_{45} = \nu b_k c_j + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_j c_k \right]; \quad K_{46} = c_j c_k + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_j b_k \right]$$

$$K_{66} = c_k^2 + \left[\frac{(1-\nu)}{2} b_k^2 \right]$$

$[K]$ is symmetric and b_i , b_j , b_k , c_i , c_j , and c_k are definite by Equation (10). A is the area of the triangle. $[K]$ is called the stiffness matrix.

In the Equation (14), $\{f\}$ is the force vector. If a Triangular Linear Element (Figure 3) has surface stress on the side i_j , p_x and p_y , body force, b_x and b_y (bulk unit weight), and concentrated load, P on node k , the resulting equation is:

$$\{f\} = \frac{tL}{2} \begin{Bmatrix} p_{xi} \\ p_{yi} \\ p_{xj} \\ p_{yj} \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{Bmatrix} + \frac{tA}{3} \begin{Bmatrix} b_{xi} \\ b_{yi} \\ b_{xj} \\ b_{yj} \\ b_{xk} \\ b_{yk} \end{Bmatrix} + \begin{Bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ P \end{Bmatrix} \quad (17)$$

As the linear triangular element has six degree of freedom, if there are concentrated loads, it goes in $\{f\}$ in the position of its degree of freedom. L is the length of each side of the element.

The Equation (14) is evaluated for each element of the grid. The global stiffness matrix and the global force vector $\{f\}$ come from element contributions. The $[K]$ and $\{f\}$ of each element are introduced in $[K]$ and $\{f\}$ global for all structural problem in function of each degree of freedom of each element.

To solve Equation (14), find $\{Un\}$ and with Equations (13) and (1) find the stress σ .

For a plain concrete slab it has been demonstrated in texts on the mechanics of materials that the relationship between bending moment and stress is as follows:

$$\sigma_{max\ bending} = \frac{Mc}{I} \quad (18)$$

In the Equation (18), M (bending moment) = M_{zz} , and the moment of inertia regarding the neuter axis is I , and $I = I_{zz}$. The direction of the axes is illustrated in Figure 2.

Proposed method to design (Camero Finite Element Method):

The following procedure is proposed:

1. Calculate the bending moment considering that the vehicle is in the edge of the slab (See example). This is if the axle load from a moving vehicle will move along the floor or pavement and eventually crosses a joint. Other loadings, such as rack posts, swing lift trucks, or columns must be considered. PCA and WRI charts give thicknesses based on loadings at the interior of the floor slab (if the forklift's truck centre longitudinal axis, C_{Ct} coincide with the slab's centre longitudinal axis ϕ). Remember that the stress, σ , was obtained by finite element, and for each element with Equation (18) we calculate the bending moment.
2. From 1, the engineer obtains the maximum bending moment and with the results of finite element he obtains the maximum bending stress. He can also calculate the maximum bending stress applied to the slab (or pavement) with Equation (18).

3. Establish allowable stresses: the stresses should not exceed the elastic limit at any point. The following maximum compression and tension

$$\sigma_{max\ compression} = 0.45 f'c \quad (19),$$

is allowable concrete compression.

$$\sigma_{max\ tension} = \frac{1.6\sqrt{f'c}}{Safety\ Factor} \quad (20),$$

is allowable concrete tensile stress and the designer must specific passive steel as control for shrinkage and concrete temperature effects.

4. Calculate the thickness of the slab or pavement.

The typical way to calculate the thickness (t) of the slab or pavement is using a 1.0 meter-wide slab trip (or 1.0 foot-wide slab strip or 1.0 inch – wide slab trip). The Equation (18) takes the form:

$$\sigma_{max\ bending} = \frac{M}{\frac{b * t^2}{6}} \quad (21)$$

Where b is the width of the transversal section of the slab or pavement being analyzed, taken as 1 meter (m.), 1 foot (12 inches) or 1 inch; and t is the slab or pavement thickness (Camero, 2007, and Ringo and Anderson, 1996).

5. Verify that the applied stress calculated in Equation (21) is smaller than allowable, Equations (19) and (20). If it is not satisfactory, increase the slab thickness.
6. Verify that the reaction on the sub-grade is smaller than the bearing capacity of the same. Since soil cannot take tension stresses, the engineer must verify it (Bowles, 1975, pp. 504-514).
7. Verify slab shear stress resistance due to load action.
8. If the designer wants to design a structurally reinforced slab, select the load factor to give the design moment (greater than the applied moment). To this design moment, which is an ultimate moment, calculate the required steel areas and spacing. Use the theory of reinforcement concrete to calculate the required steel areas.
9. Calculate the angular distortion. With finite element, for each node of the grid we have found the settlement. The results in Equation (14) gives us directly the settlement in each point of application of loading and helps us to calculate the angular distortion. For Flat floors a distortion angular limit = 1/1000 is recommended. Lambe and Whitman (1989, pp. 210-242) show an example.

In the following example, the slab adjacent and the mass of soil in the area of influence are considered. To determine this mass of soil, the attenuation of stress with its depth must be calculated. This can be done with Equation (14) and a big grid. The stress distribution can also be calculated following Perloff (1975) suggestion. The examples showed

by Perloff (1975) indicate that the use of an equivalent circular area is an excellent approximation. Perloff (1975) shows it at the centerline: the stress due to the loaded area is maximum immediately below the loaded area, and attenuates to less than 10 percent of the initial vertical stress at a depth equal to twice the width of the loaded area or effective diameter of contact area.

Example to calculate bending moments

Example 1: Calculate the bending moment for designing an industrial floor with the following values:

Characteristics of the materials, site:

Concrete:

Concrete modulus of elasticity: $E_c = 21\,000\text{ MPa}$
(3000 kpsi = $21 \times 10^6\text{ kN/m}^2$)

Modulus of rupture: $MR = 4.2\text{ MPa}$ (600 psi).

Concrete Poisson's ratio, $\nu = 0.24$ (See Mindess, young and Darwin, 2003).

Concrete, bulk unit weight: 24 kN/m^3 (149.8 lb/ft³)

Soil:

Subgrade soil modulus of elasticity, E

Soil: $= 25\,100\text{ kN/m}^2$ (3570 psi)

Soil, bulk unit weight: 18 kN/m^3 (112.4 lb/ft³)

Soil Poisson's ratio, $\nu = 0.50$

Safety Factor: 2.0

Slab width: $3.66\text{ m} = 12\text{ ft}$.

Depth of analysis to consider (area of influence):

$0.9\text{ m} = 2.95\text{ ft}$.

Wide of analysis of slab adjacent:

Consider $0.90\text{ m} = 2.95\text{ ft}$.

Forklift truck specifications:

Total axle load: $13\,000\text{ kg}$ ($28.6\text{ kips} = 127.4\text{ kN}$), with equal wheel axle kpsi, then in Figure 2, $P_1 = P_2 = 6500\text{ kg}$ ($14.3\text{ Kips} = 63.7\text{ kN}$ for calculates,

I have taken 65 kN).

Post Load in Slab Adjacent: $70.0\text{ kN} = 15.75\text{ kpsi}$.

Wheel Spacing (WS): 1.83 m (72 in).

Tire Pressure: 65 kg/cm^2 (930 psi). The wheel tread is a very hard material.

When the tire pressure is low (example:

$5.6\text{ kg/cm}^2 = 80\text{ psi}$), building the grid of finite element including the tire is recommended.

Slab width where the forklift truck goes was determined by (Figures 2):

$A = 1.76\text{ m}$ (69.29 in)

$B = 0.07\text{ m}$ (2.76 in)

$C = 3.59\text{ m}$ (141.34 in)

$L = 3.66\text{ m}$ (144.09 in)

In Figure 4:

Wide joint: 0.01 m (0.39 in)

In Slab adjacent: $A = 0.05\text{ m}$ (1.97 in) In this point there is a post load.

Slab thickness: $0.193\text{ m} = 7.6\text{ in}$.

We will lay a grid as shown on Figure 4 and 5 with triangular elements on slab (transversal section). The boundary conditions can be seen: the line of soil where vertical dis-

placements are zero ($v_r, v_l, v_k = 0$ in the Equation (8) on the bottom line, Figure 4 -/////).

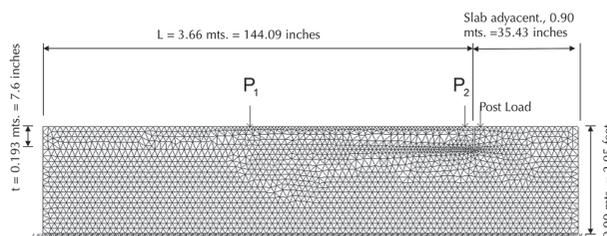


Figure 4. Grid of transversal section of slab with triangular elements (1 in = 0.0254 m)

The Grid has 4974 elements and 2647 nodes.

To solve the Equation (14) we have created a software. This software was created taking as a guide the software PEFICA (Linerio, 2010). Examples of computer output are shown in Figures 6, 7 and 8.

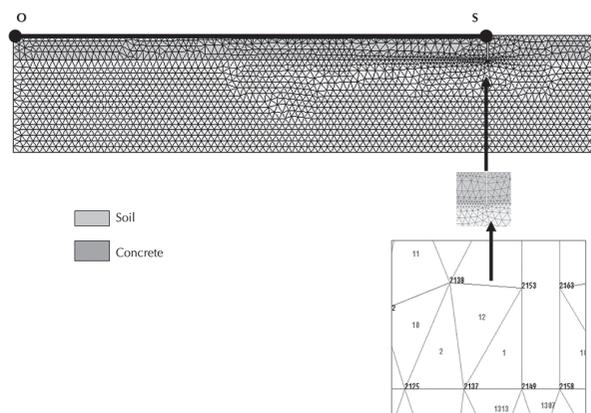


Figure 5. Detail about the materials on grid. Detail of joint into slab to design and slab adjacent. Details on elements 1 and 2 – Grid with nodes.

The following moments were found by calculating the bending moment applied according to PCA and WRI methodologies (their design charts are given in Ringo and Anderson, 1996 and ACI 360, 2010). These documents present information on the design of slabs on grade with methods attributed to the PCA and WRI and examples that appear in the appendix. The design chart of PCA is shown in Gunalan, 1986, as well):

$$M_{\text{PCA method}} = 2900\text{ lb-in/in} = 1.32\text{ T-m/m} = 12.9\text{ kN-m/m}$$

$$M_{\text{WRI method}} = 2850\text{ lb-in/in} = 1.3\text{ T-m/m} = 12.7\text{ kN-m/m}$$

The following is obtained if the applied bending moment is calculated according to Camero Finite Element Method (Figure 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8):

$$M_{\text{CAMERO Finite Element method}} = 4718\text{ lb-in/in} = 2.14\text{ T-m/m} = 20.973\text{ kN-m/m}$$

For this example it was found that the real bending moment applied to the slab was 65% greater than the one calculated by the PCA and/or WRI methods.

Figure 9. Illustrates the bending moment applied on the slab calculated with Camero Finite Element Method (on line "OS" in Figure 5).

More accurate values for bending moment are obtained using grids with a larger number of linear triangular elements to obtain the converging value. The maximum bending moments for the various grids are summarized in Table 1. If we are interested in quantities, then we need a fine grid of linear triangular elements or other types like several quadratic elements.

Table 1. Computer Solutions with Software Camero Finite Element Method.

Grid (number of elements)	Maximum Bending Moment [Pounds-in /in]	Maximum Bending Moment (kN-m/m).
1478	-3262	-14,5
1716	-3937	-17,5
2901	-4432	-19,7
4011	-4612	-20,5
4974	-4718	-20,97

**** Software camero finite element method with two dimensional elements ****

Xyz() (2647x2) nodal coordinates (only are shown some nodes).

	X (m)	y (m)
F2125	3,6293	0,7070
F2137	3,6448	0,7070
F2138	3,6411	0,7266

Element data (only are shown some elements)

Ele	n _i	n _j	n _k
2	2125	2137	2138

Concentrated forces

Node	kN	kN
	f _x	f _y
1010	0,000	-65,000
2128	0,000	-65,000
2225	0,000	-70,000

Surface stress and body forces on elements (only are shown some elements)

Elem	kN/m ³	kN/m ³
	b _x	b _y
1	0,00	-24,00

Figure 6. Results for example 1.

**** Software camero finite element method with two dimensional elements ****

Valor modulo elasticidad elemento2 (1x1)

21.000.000,00

Valor relacion de poisson2 (1x1)

0,24

Valor espesor elemento2 (1x1)

1

Matriz de rigidez triangular lineal de elasticidad, elemento2 (6x6)

Element stiffness matrix for element 2 (6x6)

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
F1	14251169,07	1633503,46	-13457993,65	1040520,31	-793175,42	-2674023,77
F2	1633503,46	5837753,67	2600367,51	-3750449,94	-4233870,97	-2087303,73
F3	-13457993,65	2600367,51	16019064,14	-5274391,28	-2561070,49	2674023,77

	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6
F4	1040520,31	-3750449,94	-5274391,28	10490109,13	4233870,97	-6739659,19
F5	-793175,42	-4233870,97	-2561070,49	4233870,97	3354245,91	0,00
F6	-2674023,77	-2087303,73	2674023,77	-6739659,19	0,00	8826962,93

Dxy() desplazamiento ordenados de cada nudo (2647x2)
Dxy() nodal displacment values, m using Equation (14) for all structure (2647x2)
(only are shown some nodes)

	C1	C2
F1	-3,1233E-04	0,0000E+00
F2125	1,2652E-04	-3,8146E-03
F2137	1,2666E-04	-3,8552E-03
F2138	1,7739E-04	-3,8455E-03
F2139	1,6682E-03	-2,0268E-04
F2149	1,2680E-04	-3,8951E-03

Figure 7. Results for example 1.

**** Software camero finite element method with two dimensional elements ****

List of nodes on superior line "os", on the slab (110x1)
(only are shown some nodes)

	C1
F1	2183
F2	2165
F3	2128
F4	2113
F5	2096
F6	2055
F7	2040
F8	2025
F9	2010
F10	1994

σ _{xx} (kN/m ²), stress average in nodes of superior	Nodal coordinates.	Bending moment applied on the slab, kN-m
line "os" on the slab, σ _{xx} for node (110x1) (only are shown some nodes)	Nodes on superior line of slab. (m)	

	C1		
F1	-3,3579	3,66	0,0208
F2	-30,9051	3,63	0,1919
F3	-433,9163	3,59	2,6938
F4	-82,1369	3,57	0,5099
F5	341,3994	3,55	-2,1195
F6	925,9585	3,49	-5,7485
F7	1048,9263	3,47	-6,5119
F8	1197,0083	3,45	-7,4312
F9	1344,6360	3,43	-8,3477
F10	1456,2993	3,41	-9,0409
F11	1877,8004	3,35	-11,6577
F12	1959,2321	3,33	-12,1632
F13	2108,6861	3,31	-13,0911

Figure 8. Results for example 1.

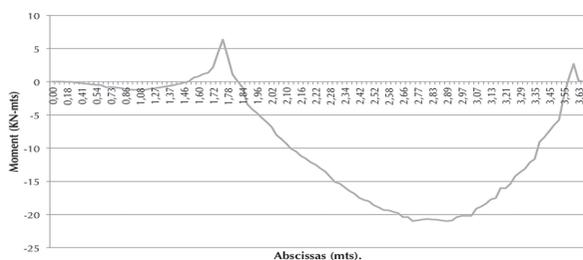


Figure 9. Bending moment caused by the lift truck, Example 1 (kN/m = 224.96 Pounds -in/in).

Results discussion

If the maximum stresses applied to the slab were calculated with PCA and WRI methods, the thickness of slab (applying Equation (21)) would be $t=7.6$ in (19.3 cm.), $M= 2900$ lb-in/in (12.9 kN-m/m) and safety factor of 2.0, and with Equation (18):

$$\sigma_{\text{maximum applied tensile stress}} = 300 \text{ psi} = 2.1 \text{ MPa.} = 21 \text{ kg/cm}^2$$

If the stress applied to the slab (pavement) is calculated according to the applied bending moment found with CAMERO Finite Element Method, the thickness of the plain concrete slab (with safety factor of 2.0, and with Equation 21), should be, $t = 9.71$ in (24.7 cm).

It can be found that with $t = 7.6$ in (19.3 cm) and $M=4718$ lb-in/in (20.97 kN-m/m):

$$\sigma_{\text{maximum applied tensile stress}} = 490 \text{ psi (lb/in}^2\text{)} = 3.4 \text{ MPa.} = 34.5 \text{ kg/cm}^2 \text{ (This value is obtained with the software; see Figure 9).}$$

If the $\sigma_{\text{applied}}/MR$ relationship is calculated, then the following is found:

$$\frac{\sigma_{\text{applied}}}{MR} = \frac{490}{600} = 0.81$$

Plain concrete slabs will generally sustain an infinite number of load repetitions (infinite amount of forklift truck traffic), as long as extreme fiber stress does not exceed 50% of static modulus of rupture (see Camero, 2007, pp. 93-100 and Yoder and Witczak, 1975, p. 603).

Minor's charts (published in Yoder *et al.*, 1975, p. 566, 603) show that there are 90 allowable repetitions of loaded axles of 13000 kg (127.4 kN), when $\sigma_{\text{applied}}/MR = 0.81$. PCA and WRI safety factor for this example is 1.2 and not 2.0 as we believed according to PCA and WRI design charts. MA Minor found that if a load produces bending stress greater than half concrete rupture modulus, then such load induces material fatigue.

With the bending moment found with Camero Finite Element Method and safety factor of 2.0 we must select the Slab thickness. A plain concrete slabs design with Camero Finite Element Method will generally sustain an infinite number of load repetitions (infinite amount of forklift truck traffic), because the extreme fiber stress does not exceed 50% of static modulus of rupture (Yoder *et al.*, 1975,

p. 602). In structural terms, the slab designed or pavement designed with Camero Finite Element Method has a lifelong useful life. The durability of concrete is very important too. If properly designed for the environment to which it will be exposed, and if carefully produced with good quality control, concrete is capable of maintenance free performance for decades without the need of protective coatings. The engineer can find an example of this in Mindess *et al.*, 2003.

Conclusion

A new method to design slabs on grade for industrial floors is presented in this paper. The Camero Finite Element Method is the new solution to design slabs on grade and pavements.

The Camero Finite Element Method shows that the bending moment applied by the forklift truck on the slab is bigger than those considered by the simplified PCA and WRI design methods. This article explains how the traditional way of designing industrial floors critically reduces the lifespan of the floor.

Industrial floor design using the Camero Finite Element Method can sustain an infinite amount of traffic; while floors designed by traditional methods will only sustain a limited amount of traffic (limited number of load repetitions).

Industrial floors using the PCA and WRI methods can only support a smaller amount of traffic due to concrete fatigue. Even though 2.0 was used as a safety factor (calculated in relation to the modulus of rupture), this happens when the forklift truck's centroid loaded axle is eccentric with the slab's centroid. When the preceding occurs, the bending moment applied by the forklift truck loads is greater than that proposed by the PCA and WRI methods. The designed slabs (with PCA and WRI methods) allow a smaller amount of load repetitions to fail by fatigue. Ringo and Anderson, 1996, p. 29 quote: "PCA charts give thicknesses based on loading at the interior of the floor slab. The same is true for WRI charts". In other words, if the axle load from a moving vehicle travels along the floor and eventually cross a joint, the CAMERO FINITE ELEMENT METHOD is the best and recommended method to be used.

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