

# Influence Of Slab Openings On The Punching Shear Behaviour Of Reinforced Concrete Slabs Supported On L-shaped Columns

Graeme J. Milligan, and Dr. Maria Anna Polak  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering  
University of Waterloo, Canada

Punching Shear of Concrete Slabs: Insights from New  
Materials, Tests, and Analysis, Part 1 of 2  
Tuesday, April 4, 2023, 8:30-10:30am  
ACI Convention



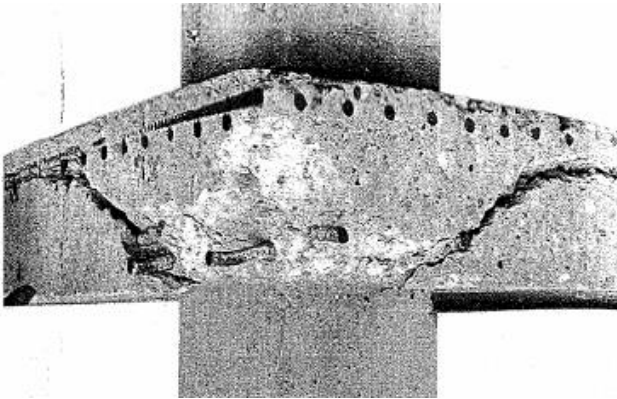
## Outline

1. Introduction
2. Study Overview
3. FEM Calibration
4. Results – Aligned Column Study
5. Conclusions

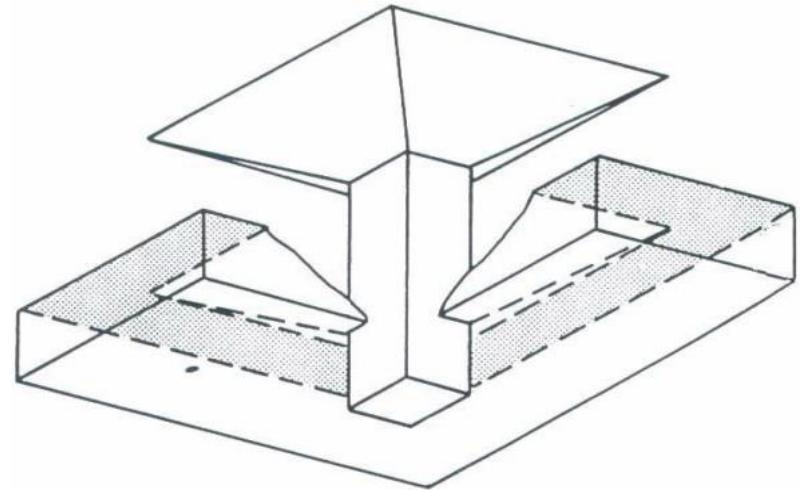


## What is Punching Shear?

- **Brittle** failure mode of reinforced concrete slabs
- Can cause **progressive collapse**
- Occurs due to inclined cracks extending into compression zone



Inclined cracks after punching failure [1]



Punching shear failure surface [1]

## Advantages of Finite Element Analysis

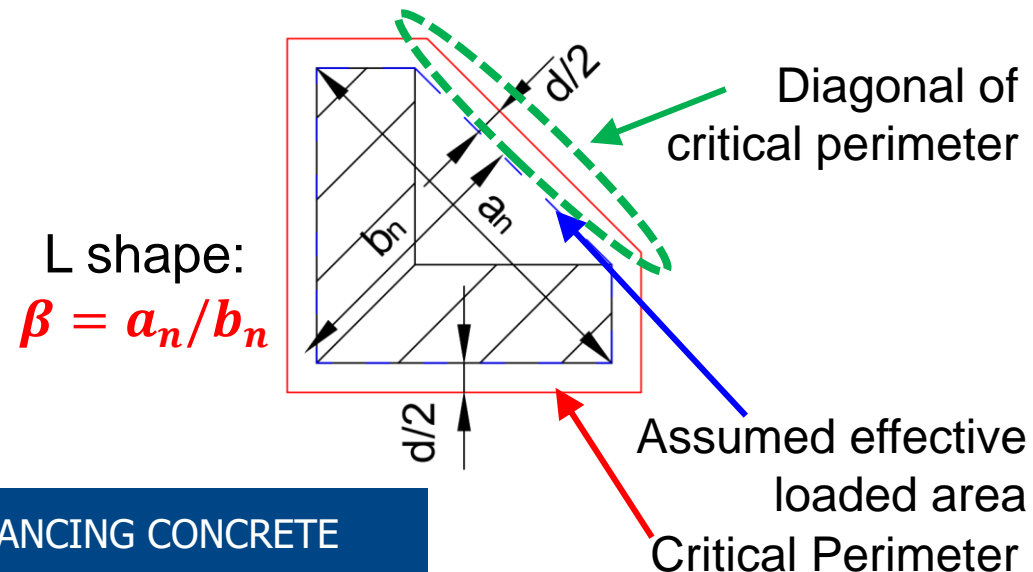
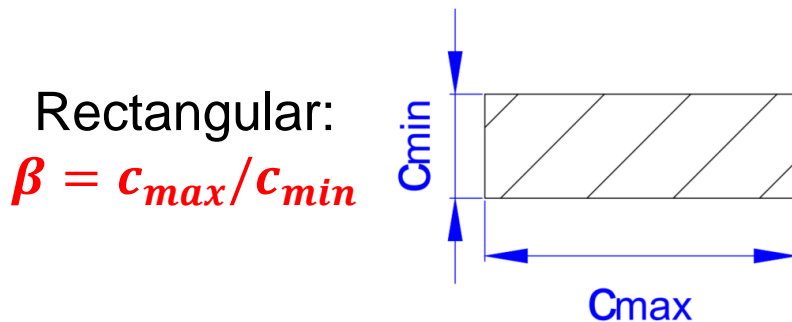
- Experimental database of slab-column connections with different geometries **limited**
- Nonlinear finite element analysis (NLFEA) can be used to supplement database
  - Allows for cost-effective analysis of parameters
  - Can provide insight into structural behaviour

Careful **calibration** of model parameters **required!**



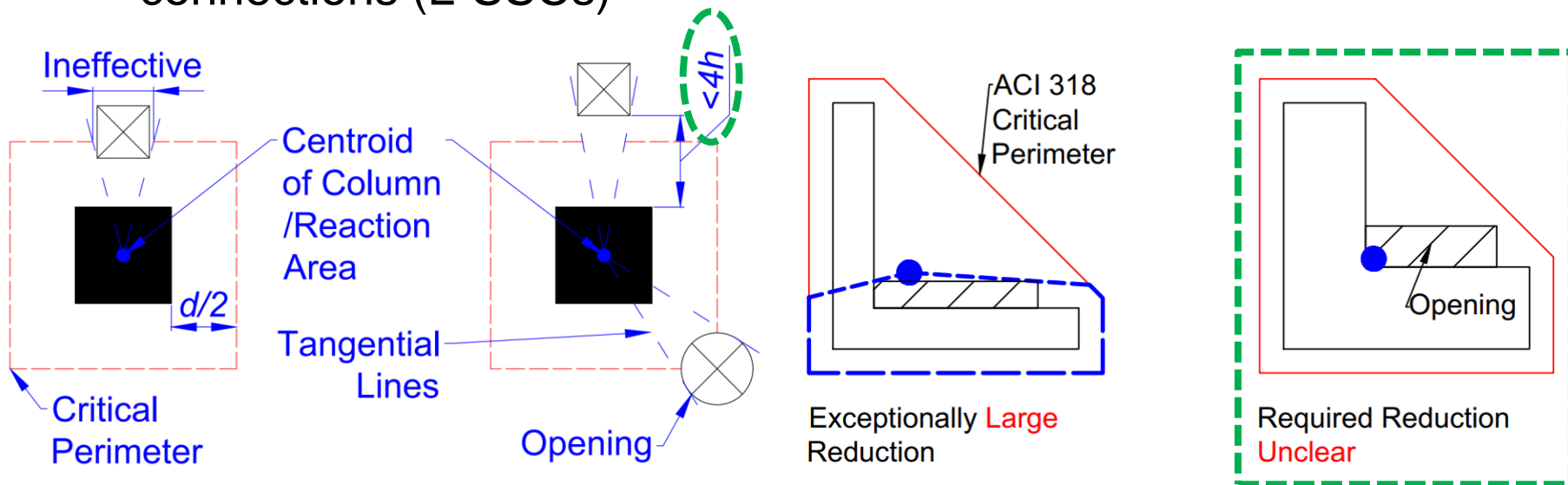
## Research Significance

- Provisions for **special-shaped** slab-column connections (**SS-SCCs**) included in worldwide codes [2, 3, 4]
  - **Extremely limited** experimental database [5, 6, 7]
- ACI 318-19 [2] definition of  $\beta$  leads to higher nominal shear capacities around special-shaped columns compared to rectangular columns
- No limit on diagonal portion of critical perimeter



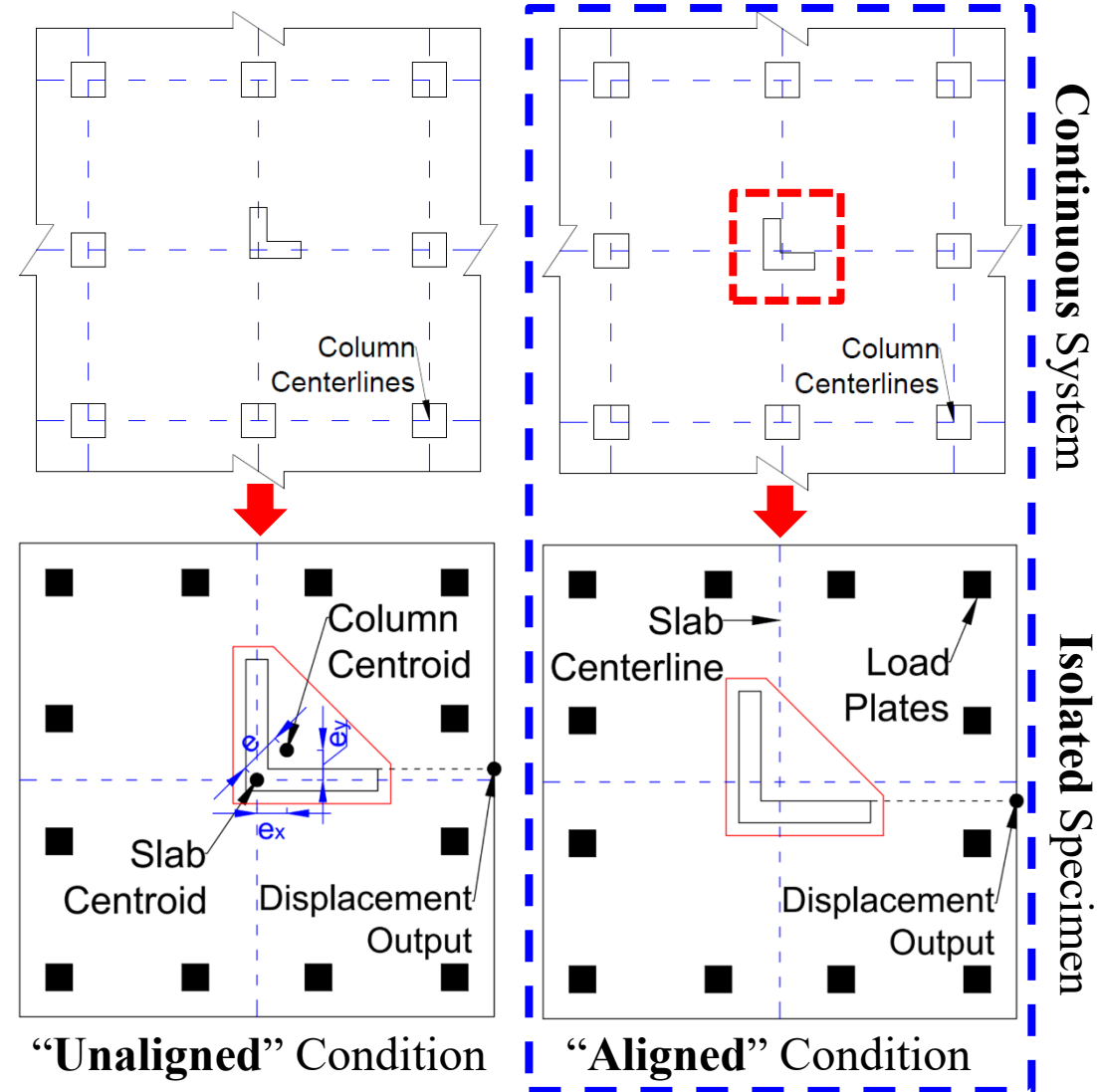
## Research Significance

- Opening provisions in ACI 318 are largely unchanged since 1971
- Neglect portion of critical perimeter bounded by tangential lines from column centroid
  - Can result in **large** reductions for openings between flanges of **SS-SCCs**, or **unclear** reductions for **L-shaped** slab-column connections (L-SSCs)



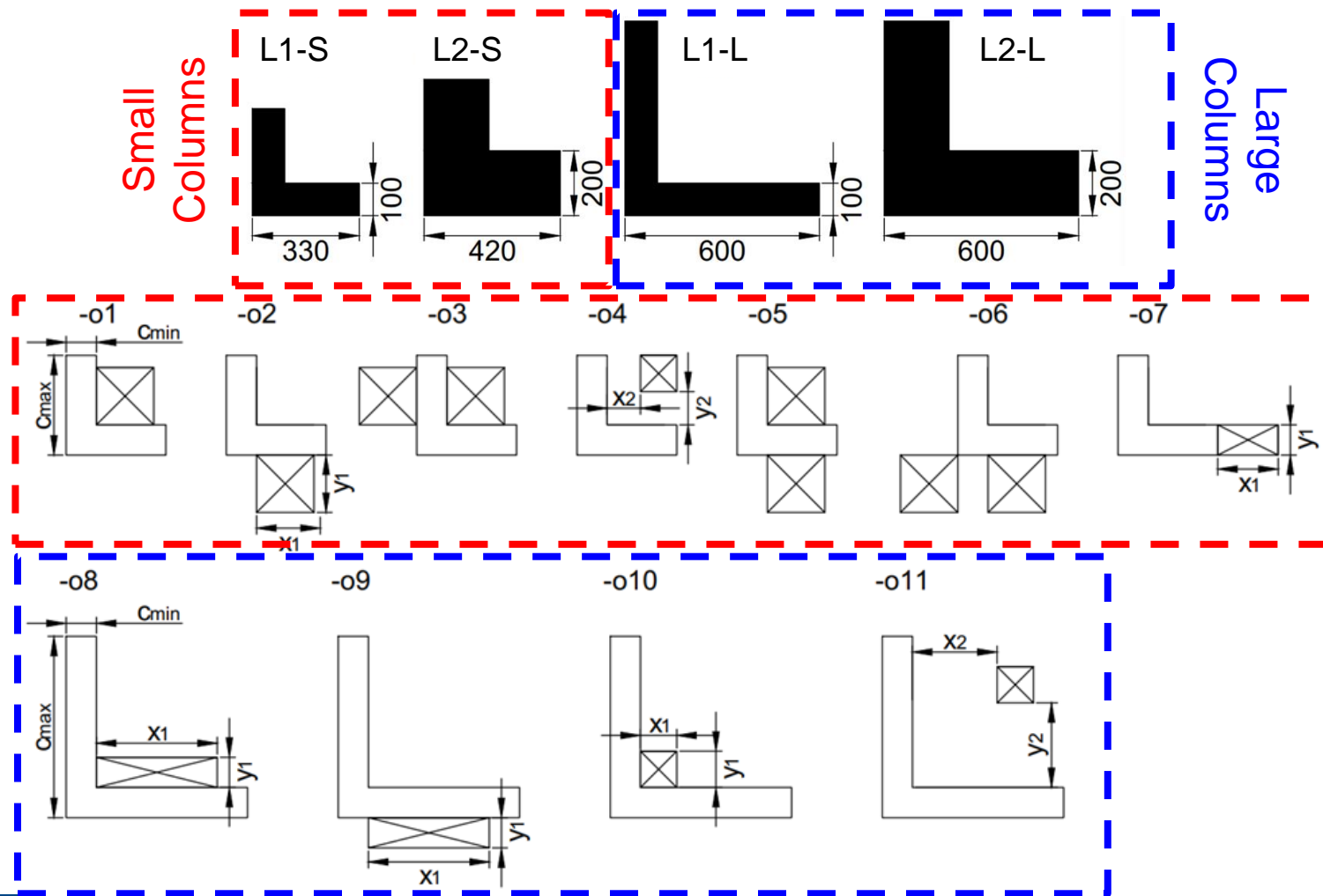
## Column Location

- Column and slab centroids **aligned** in analyzed isolated specimens
- Small eccentricities exist for mesh uniformity (minor impact on results)



## Column Sizes and Opening Layouts

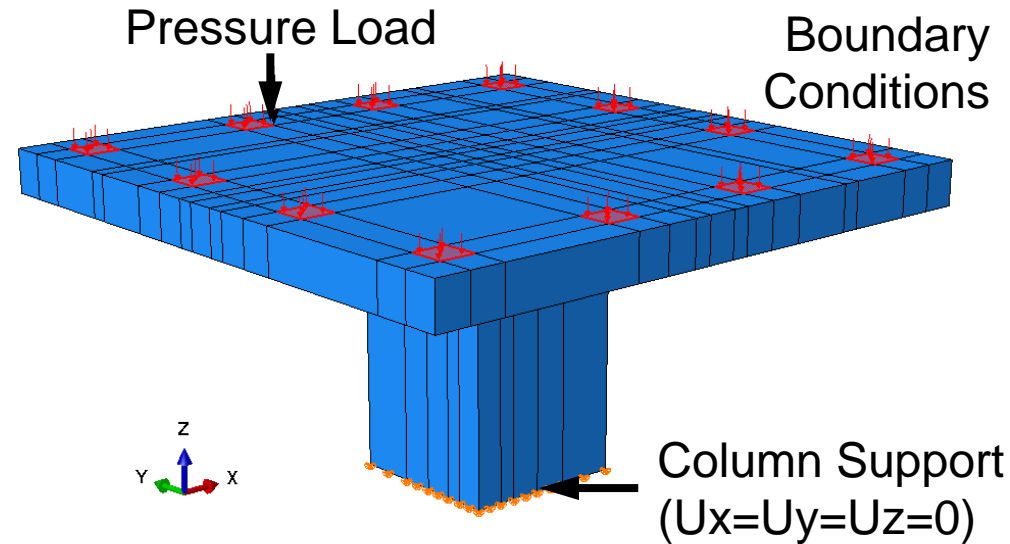
- 4 column sizes and 11 opening layouts investigated





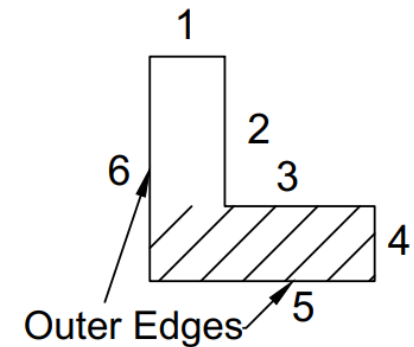
# Specimen Naming and Boundary Conditions

- Study parameters:
  - Column size;
  - Slab openings
- Multiple opening locations studied to determine **ideal location** of openings



**L2-S-o1**

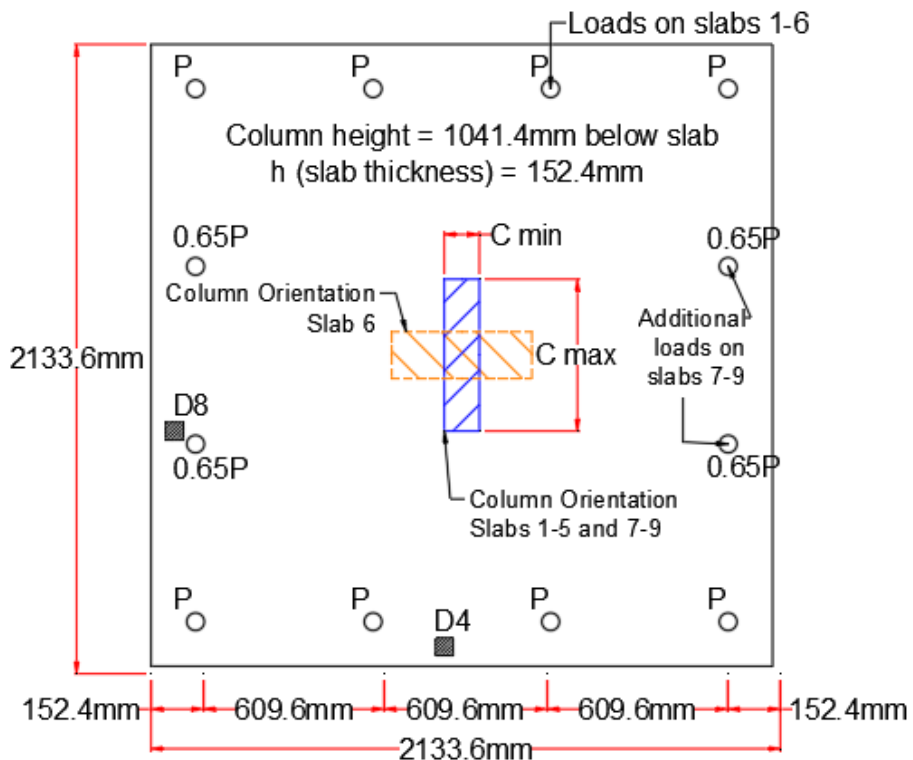
- Opening layout; -0 = No opening
- S: Small Column; L: Large Column
- Column flange thickness: 1=100mm; 2=200mm;
- Column geometry: L: L-shape



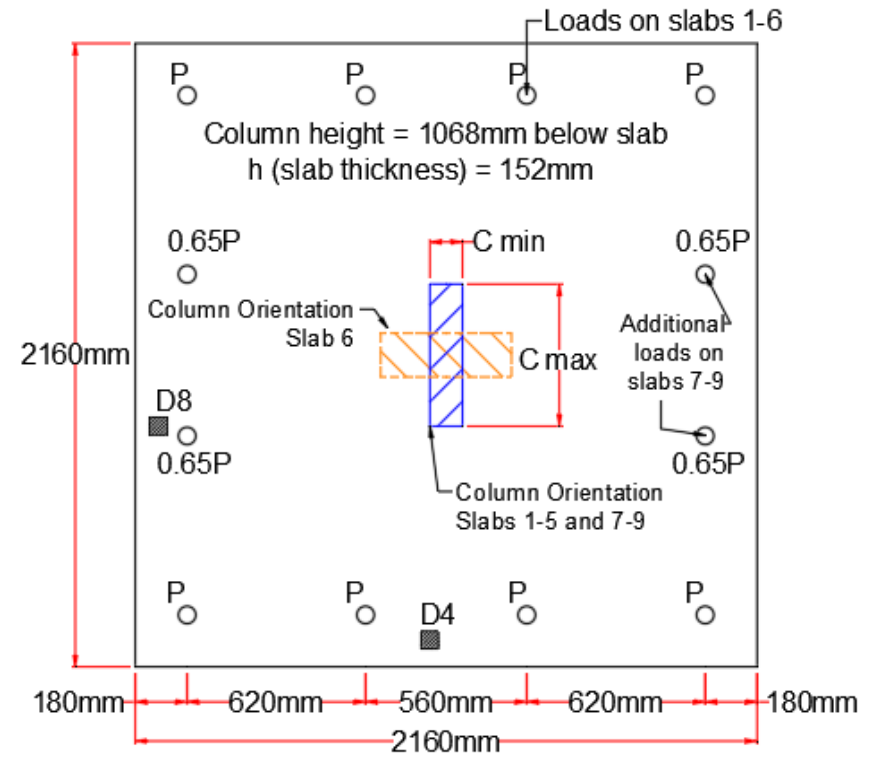
Column flange definition and side numbering

## FEM Calibration – Experimental Specimens

- 9 tests by Hawkins et al. [8] to study impact of column **rectangularity** on punching used for calibration
- Experimental dimensions modified slightly for L-SCCs



Original Slab Dimensions



Modified Slab Dimensions

## FEM Calibration – CDP Parameters

- 3D, nonlinear finite element analysis implemented in Abaqus/Explicit
- Concrete Damaged Plasticity (CDP) Model used for concrete

### Concrete Damaged Plasticity Model Parameters:

Dilation Angle –  $42^\circ$  Eccentricity – 0.1,  
 $\sigma_{bo}/\sigma_{co} - 1.16, K_c - 0.67$

### Uniaxial Compression Model:

Hognestad Parabola,  $E_c - 5000\sqrt{f'_c}$  (MPa),  $\nu - 0.2$

### Uniaxial Tensile Model:

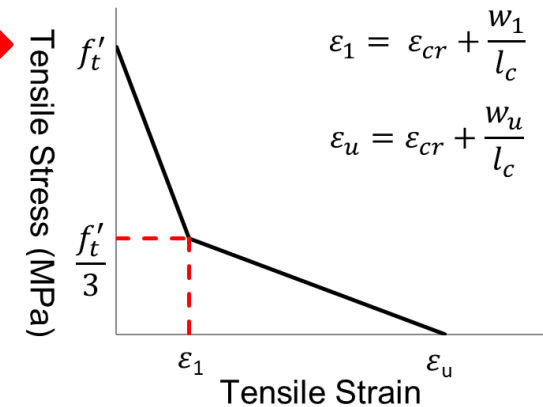
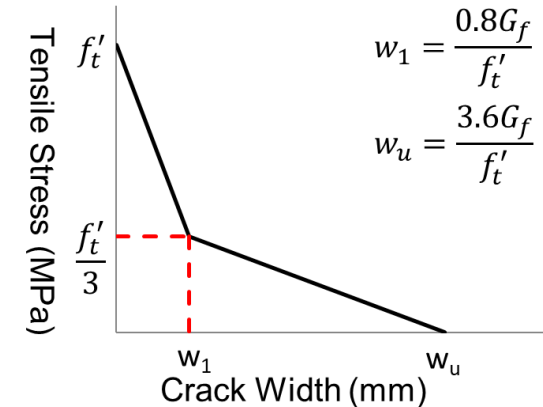
Bi-linear tensile stress-crack width [9],

$G_f - 0.08\text{N/mm}$

Average of all 9 slabs

### Element Details:

Concrete – C3D8R (20mm), Rebar – T3D2 (20mm)



Overview of Assumed  
Tensile Behaviour for  
Concrete

## FEM Calibration – Comparison to Experiments

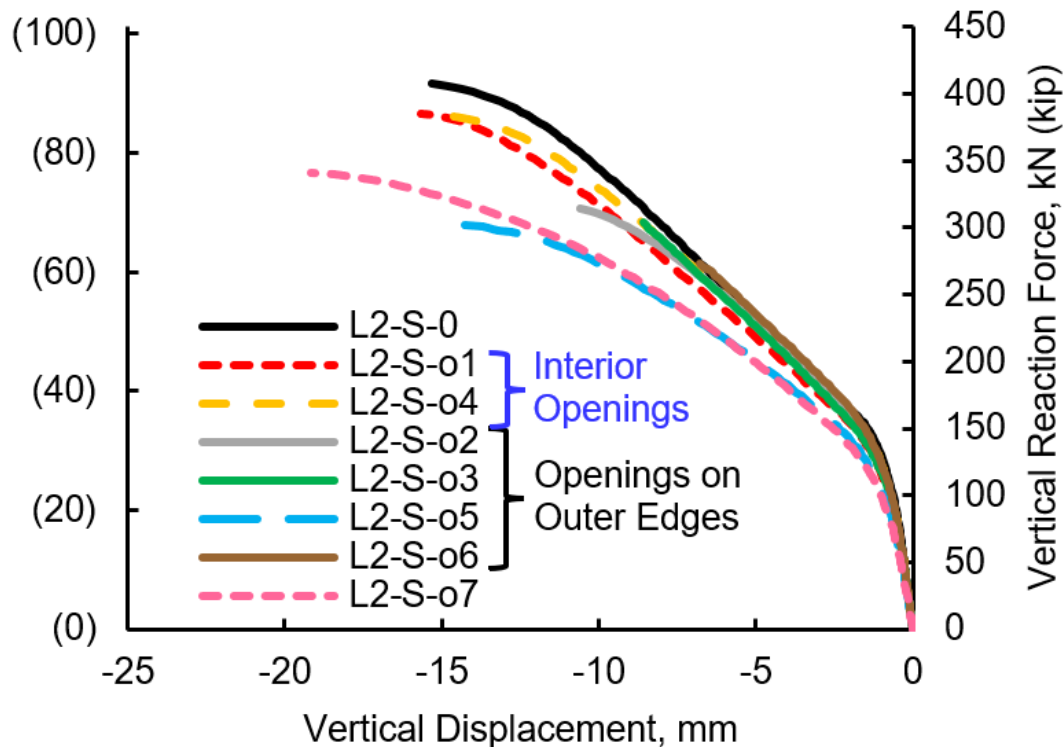
- FEM accurately predicts experimental capacities
- Modifications to dimensions have minor change on predictions for Hawkin's et al. [8] slabs

	Slab	Column Dimensions		$V_{exp}$ (kN)	$V_{FEA}^{(a)}$ (kN)	$V_{FEA}^{(b)}$ (kN)	% Difference
		$C_{max}$ (mm)	$C_{min}$ (mm)				
Max <b>under</b> prediction: 15.1% (slab 1)	1	304.8	304.8	383.9	326.0	336.8	3.28
	2	203.2	406.2	351.4	331.3	332.2	0.25
	3	152.4	457.2	333.2	339.9	351.8	3.48
	4	114.3	495.3	330.5	331.8	337.2	1.63
Max <b>over</b> prediction: 2.0%	5	152.4	457.2	355.0	325.8	332.6	2.09
	6	152.4	457.2	335.8	300.9	308.2	2.43
	7	152.4	457.2	319.8	297.7	307.3	3.24
Average Error: -6.7%	8	114.3	495.3	314.5	292.5	298.4	2.03
	9	152.4	304.8	315.4	285.0	287.7	0.94

$V_{FEA}^{(a)}$  – Original Dimensions,  $V_{FEA}^{(b)}$  – Modified Dimensions

## Predicted Load-Displacement Responses

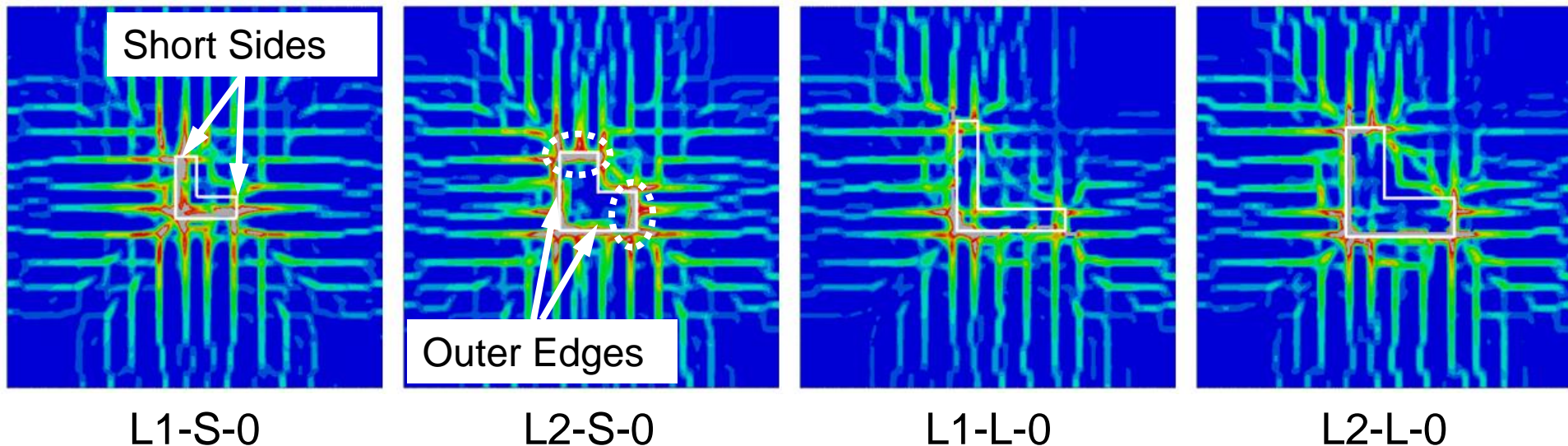
- Openings reduce connection capacity and stiffness
- Impact is dependent on distance from column, and **location with respect to column** (i.e. where around the column opening is located)



Openings **between flanges** have minor impact on concentric behaviour of L-shaped connections

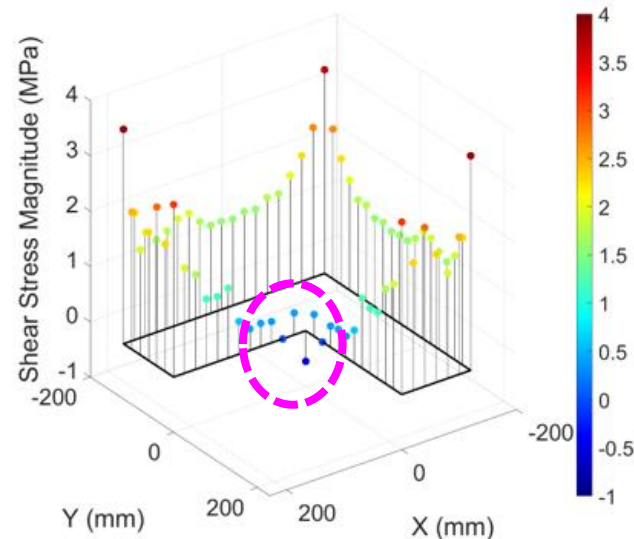
## Predicted Crack Patterns – Without Openings

- Substantial cracking on outer edges of connection
  - Significant amount of load transferred along outer edges
  - One-way shear is significant in these areas
- Crack concentrations predicted near short sides of column flanges

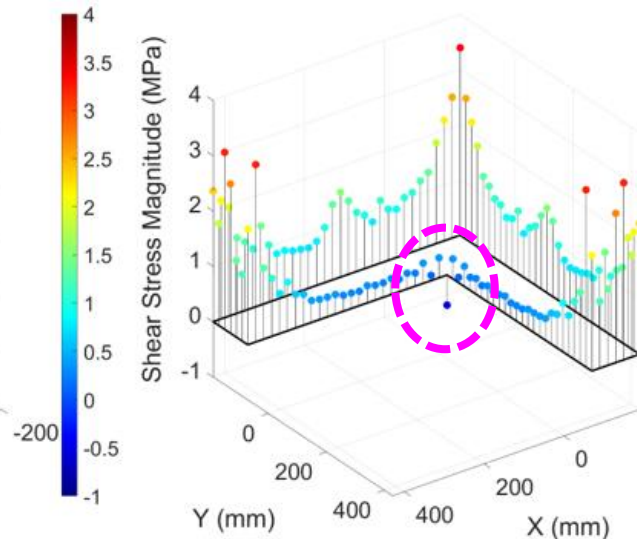


## Column Perimeter Shear Stress Distributions

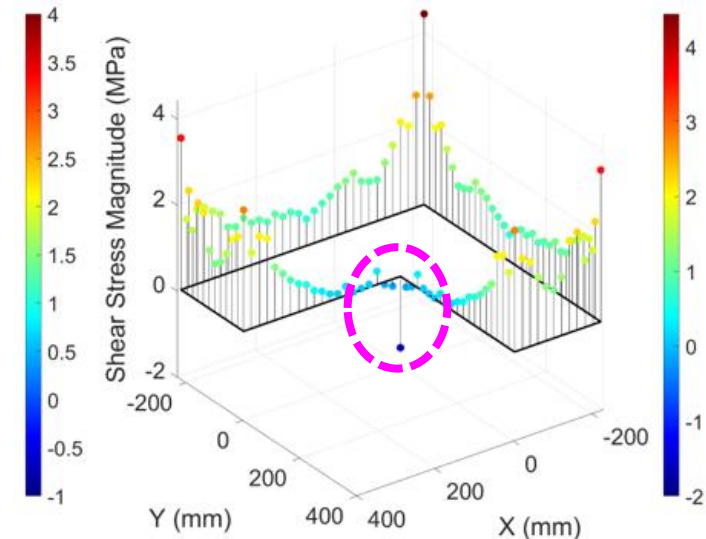
- Column perimeter shear stresses are nonuniform
  - Confirm that all column sides are not equally effective
- Peak shear stresses occur at exterior corners
- Minimum shear stresses near interior corner



L1-S-0



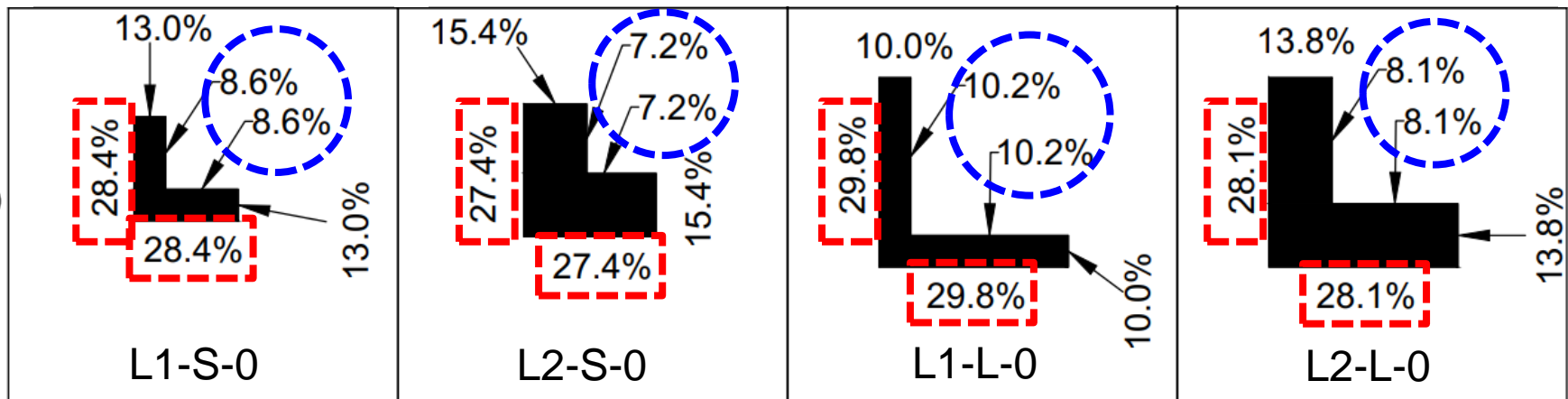
L1-L-0



L2-L-0

## Column Perimeter Shear Force Distribution

- **Outer** edges of L transfer majority of load
- Region between column flanges is relatively ineffective
  - Hence why openings between the column flanges have minimal impact



Results correspond to specimens without openings



## Comparison of FEA and ACI Predictions

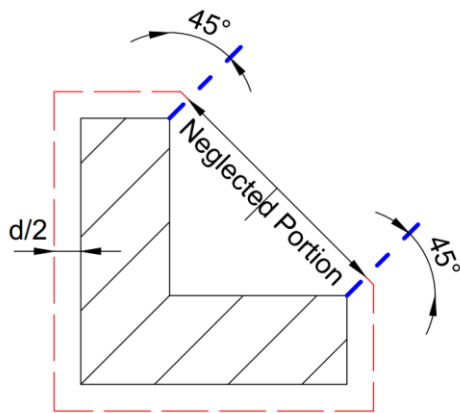
- ACI provisions (318-19 and 421.1R-20) overpredict influence of openings between the column flanges
- 318-19 [2] concentric provisions overpredict capacity of L1-L and L2-L specimens
- 421.1R-20 [9] can be used to conservatively predict concentric punching capacity

ID	$\frac{V_{ACI}}{V_{FEA}}$	$\frac{V_{421}}{V_{FEA}}$	Opening Impact		
			FEA	318	421.1R-20
L2-S-0	1.04	1.03	-	-	-
L2-S-o1	0.89	0.74	-5.4	-19.1	-31.4
L2-S-o2	1.18	1.02	-22.9	-13.0	-23.2
L2-S-o3	0.95	0.76	-25.5	-32.1	-44.9
L2-S-o4	1.03	0.99	-6.0	-7.3	-9.6
L2-S-o5	0.95	0.76	-25.8	-32.1	-44.9
L2-S-o6	1.17	0.87	-33.1	-24.8	-43.6
L2-S-o7	1.09	0.93	-16.3	-12.4	-24.0

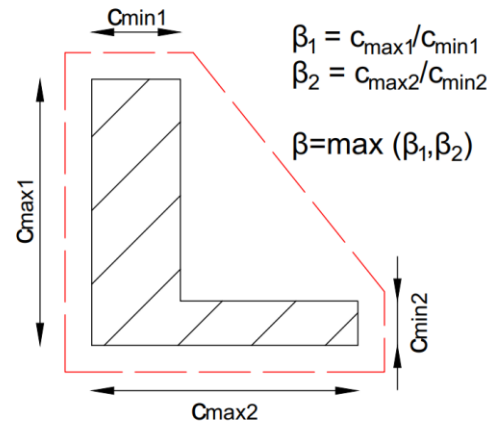
ID	$\left(\frac{V_{ACI}}{V_{FEA}}\right)_{avg}$	$\left(\frac{V_{421}}{V_{FEA}}\right)_{avg}$
L1-S	1.07	0.84
L2-S	1.04	0.89
L1-L	1.35	1.07
L2-L	1.20	1.06

## Proposed Modifications to ACI 318

- While ACI 421.1R-20 method is accurate, it is not suitable for preliminary design
- Use of two modifications to concentric provisions investigated
- Neglecting **diagonal portion** of critical perimeter results in typically conservative punching capacity estimates



Modification 1: Neglecting  
Diagonal Portion of  
Critical Perimeter



Modification 2: Redefining  
 $\beta$  as Maximum of all  
Column Flanges

ID	$\left(\frac{V_{mod1}}{V_{FEA}}\right)_{avg}$	$\left(\frac{V_{mod2}}{V_{FEA}}\right)_{avg}$
L1-S	0.79	0.88
L2-S	0.91	1.04
L1-L	0.96	0.95
L2-L	0.95	1.07

## Conclusions

- Openings reduce connection capacity and stiffness
- Openings between column flanges of L-shaped slab-column connections (L-SCCs) have a minor impact on concentric behaviour
- Majority of force is transferred along outer edges of L-SCCs
  - Significant amount of load is transferred via one-way shear in these areas
- Region between column flanges is relatively ineffective for L-SCCs

## Conclusions

- ACI 318-19 provisions are inaccurate for L-SCCs
  - Capacity of L1-L and L2-L specimens significantly overpredicted
  - Influence of openings between column flanges **overpredicted** (or unclear in some cases)
- Concentric capacity of L-SCCs can be estimated using concentric provisions if diagonal portion of critical perimeter neglected
- **ACI 421.1R-20** can be used to estimate concentric punching capacity of L-SCCs

## Acknowledgements

- Thank you to those who have supported this research
  - Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC)
  - Government of Ontario
  - University of Waterloo



## References

- [1] J. G. MacGregor and F. M. Bartlett, Reinforced Concrete Mechanics and Design - First Canadian Edition, Toronto: Pearson Education Canada Inc., 2000.
- [2] ACI Committee 318, Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318-19) and Commentary on Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete (ACI 318R-19), Farmington Hills, MI: American Concrete Institute, 2019.
- [3] European Committee For Standardization, Eurocode 2: Design of concrete structures - Part 1-1: General Rules and Rules for Buildings, Brussels, Belgium, 2004.
- [4] fédération internationale du béton (fib), fib Model Code for Concrete Structures 2010, Lausanne, Switzerland, 2013.
- [5] Z.-j. Wang, W.-q. Liu, J. Wang, Y.-s. Jing and C. Xu, "Shaking table test for a mid-highrise big-bay RC frame model," Earthquake Engineering and Engineering Vibration, vol. 19, no. 3, pp. 59-64, 1999. (In Chinese)
- [6] W. Liu and C. Huang, "Experimental investigation on punching shear behaviour of concrete slab-nonrectangular column connections," Journal of Building Structures, vol. 25, no. 4, pp. 26-33, 2004. (In Chinese)
- [7] V. C. Pinto, V. Branco and D. R. Oliveira, "Punching in two-way RC flat slabs with openings and L section columns," Engineering Computations, vol. 36, no. 7, pp. 2430-2444, 2019.
- [8] N. M. Hawkins, H. B. Fallsen and R. C. Hinojosa, "Influence of Column Rectangularity on the Behavior of Flat Plate Structures," ACI Special Publication, vol. 30, pp. 127-146, 1971.
- [9] Joint ACI-ASCE Committee 421, ACI 421.1R-20 Guide for Shear Reinforcement for Slabs, Farmington Hills, MI: American Concrete Institute, 2020.

# Questions?