



# INTERACTION PHENOMENA OF COLD-FORMED TRUSS MEMBERS AND JOINTS

Gábor Jakab\*, László Dunai\*\*

\* Assistant Professor      Budapest University of Technology and Economics,  
\*\* Professor                      Department Of Structural Engineering

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# BACKGROUND

- R&D project with industrial background
- Aim:
  - Development of a truss system and design method
  - Verification of the design method
- Main characteristics of the system:
  - Using only cold-formed C-sections
  - Flexible system allowing free design
  - Out-of-box solutions

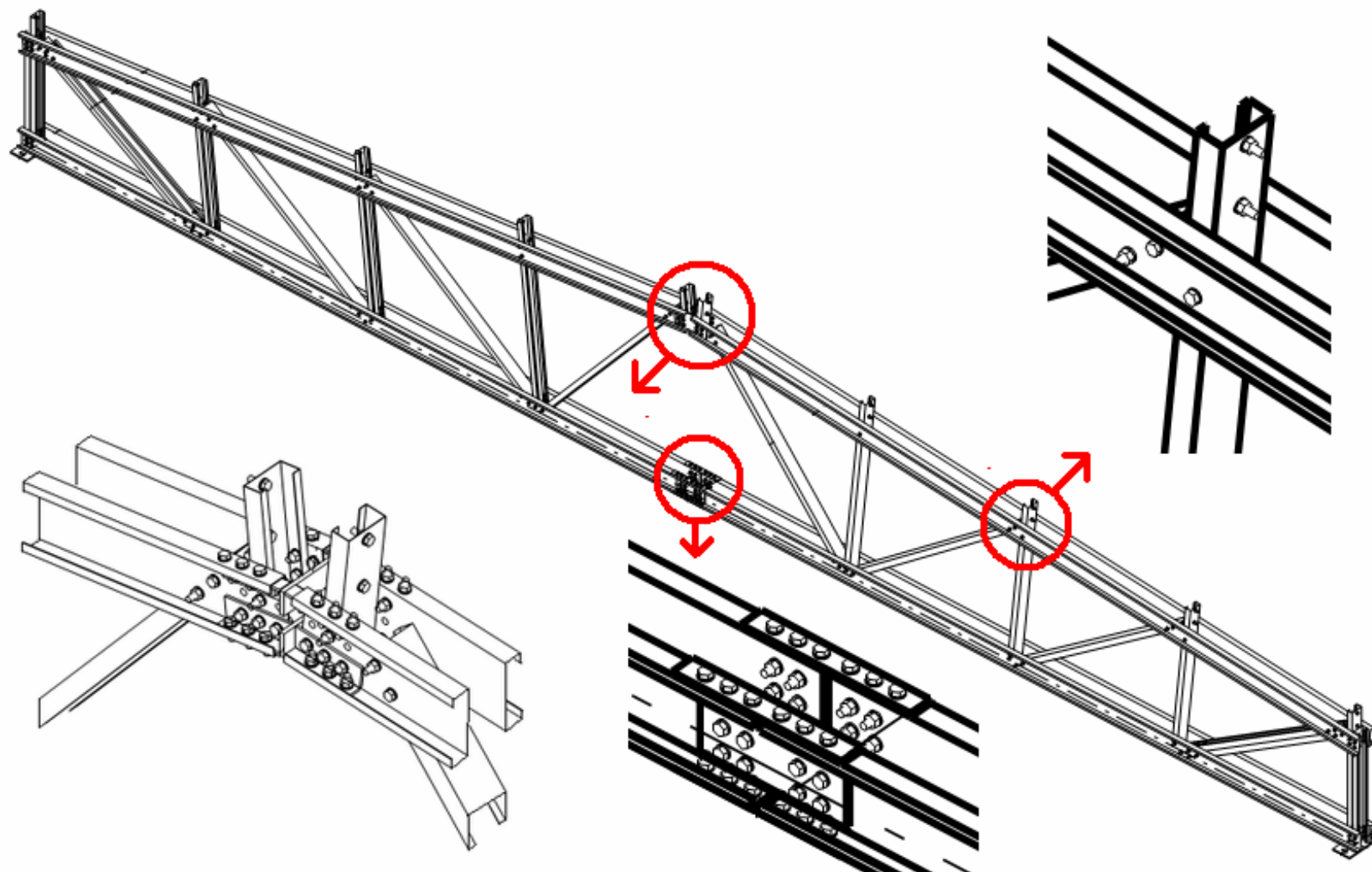
# BACKGROUND



# STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENT

- Span: 12...24 meter
- Structural elements
  - Chord: two C-sections in back-to-back arrangement
  - Bracing: single C-sections, doubled at the supports
- Structural joints
  - Eccentric bolted connections

# STRUCTURAL ARRANGEMENT

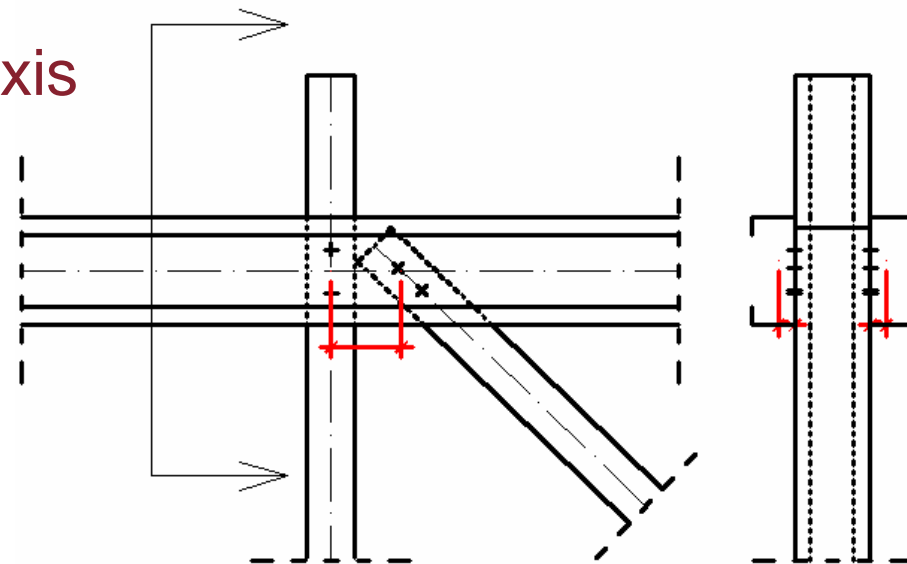


# INTERNAL ACTIONS

## BRACE MEMBERS

Axial force and bending

- In-plane bending: weak axis



## CHORD MEMBERS

Axial force and bending about both axes

- In-plane bending: strong axis
- Out-of-plane bending: weak axis

# PROBLEM STATEMENT

CHORDS  
+  
BRACING



JOINT

Stability issues ✓

– EC-based design

Similar problems solved

Eccentricity ?

– in-plane, out-of-plane

Load-bearing capacity,  
local stability behaviour

Rigidity, interaction with  
members

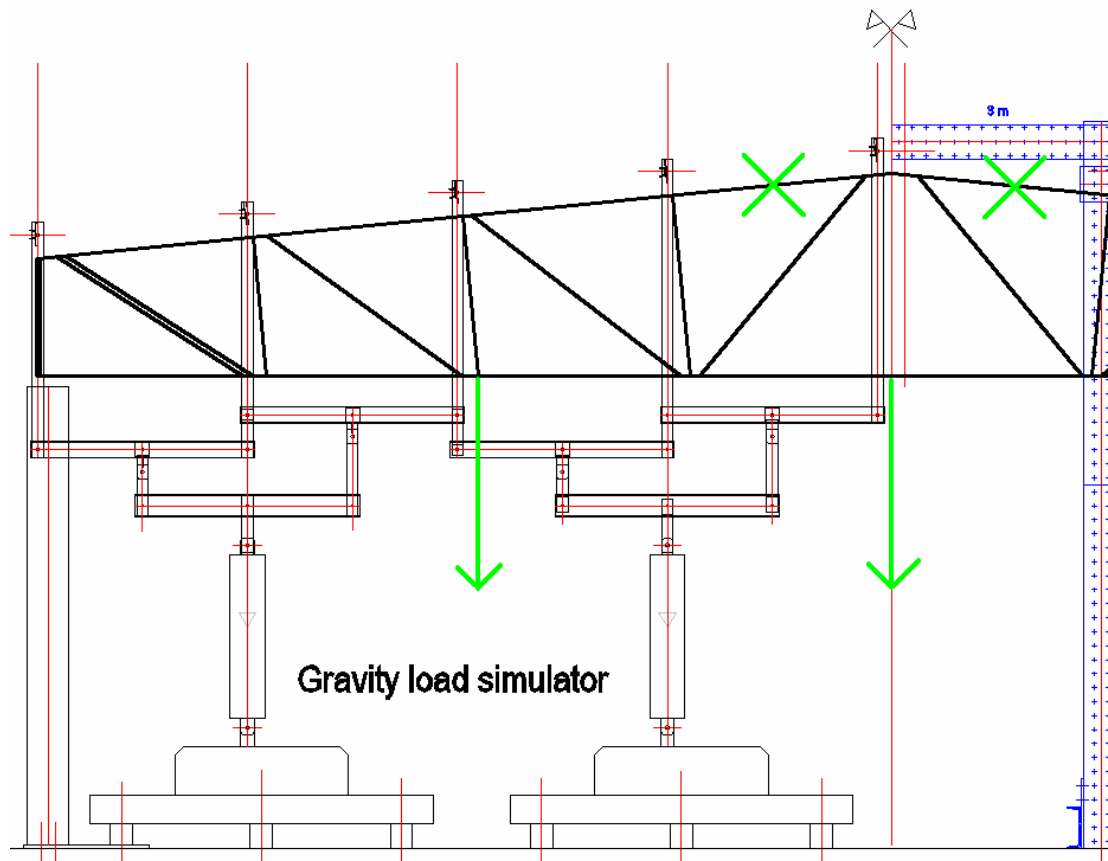


# LABORATORY TESTING - SETUP



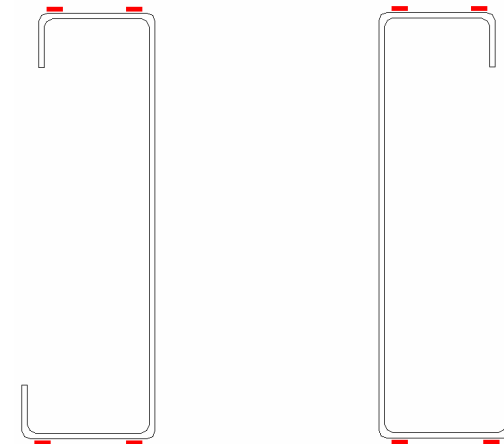


# LABORATORY TESTING - SETUP



## MEASUREMENT

Load via oil pressure  
Strains – strain gage  
Displacements



# LABORATORY TESTING – TEST 1

## Test 1, final failure



failure in the upper chord; interaction of bending and flexural buckling (weak axis)

Load: 28.5 kN/jack

# LABORATORY TESTING – TEST 5

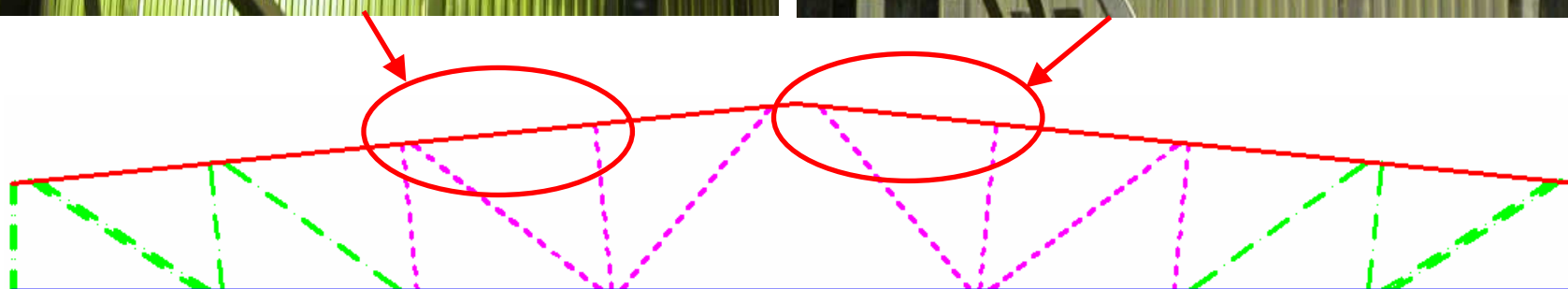
## Test 5, final failure



Failure of the  
compression chord;  
interaction of bending  
and flexural buckling

Load: 47.4 kN/jack

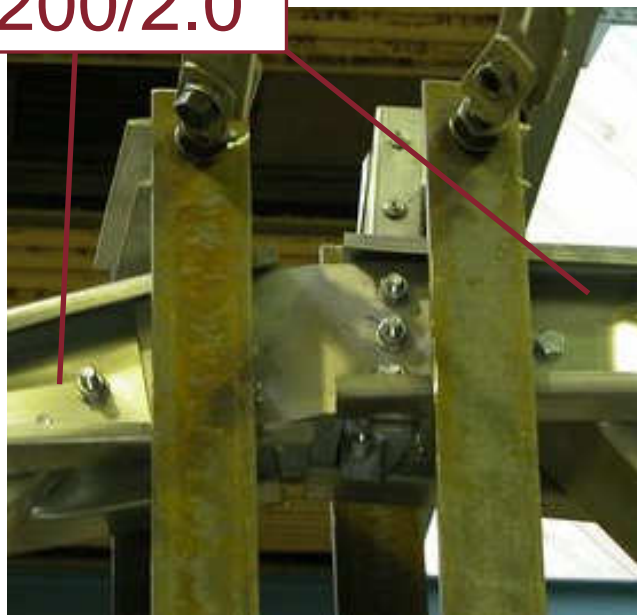
# INTERACTIONS – UPPER CHORD



## INTERACTIONS – UPPER CHORD

Interaction of bending and flexural buckling vs. joint type

C200/2.0



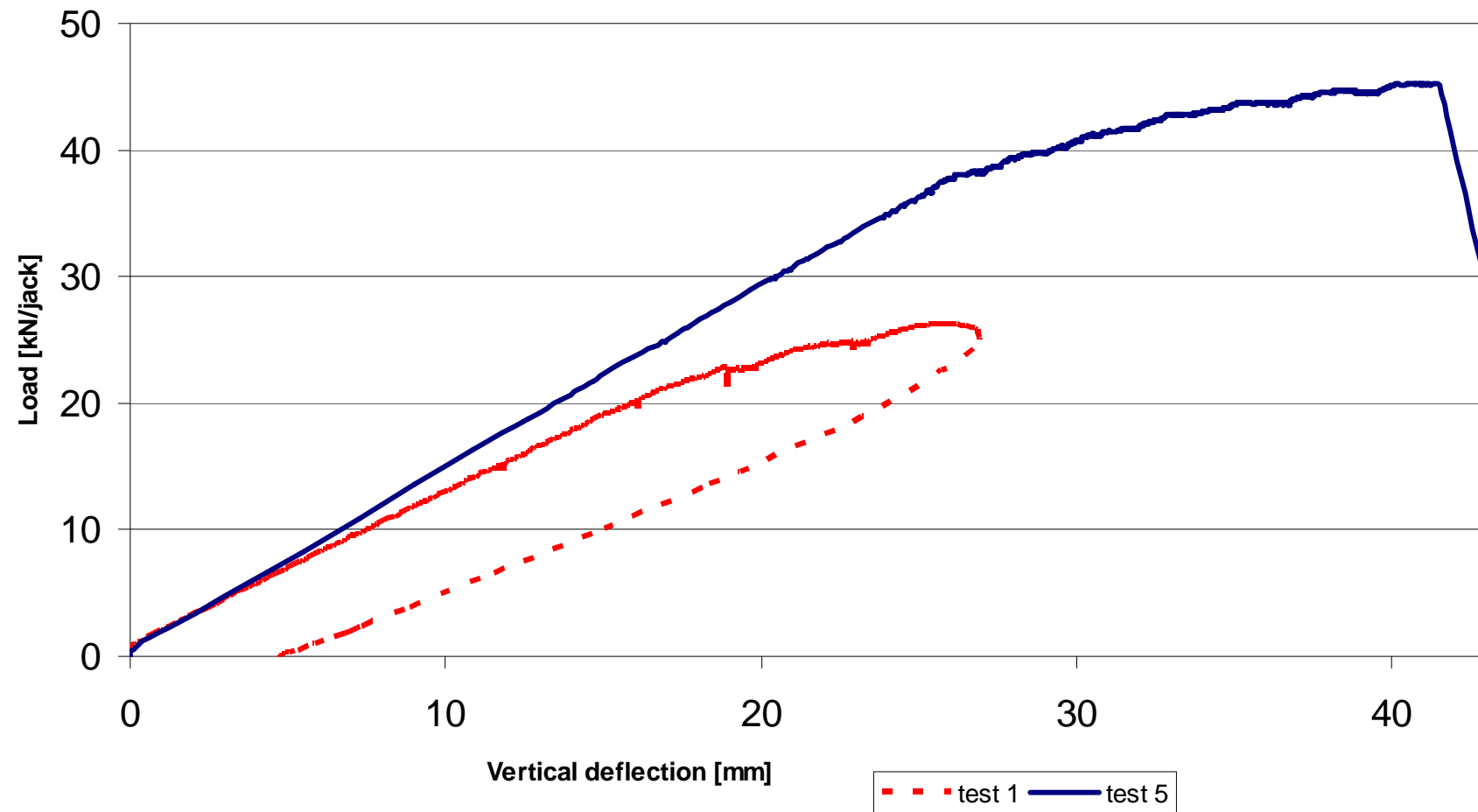
Test 1

C200/2.5

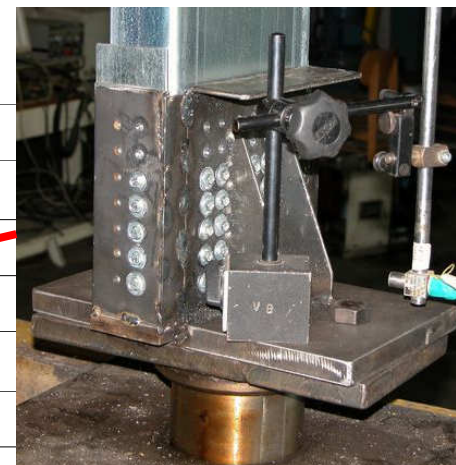
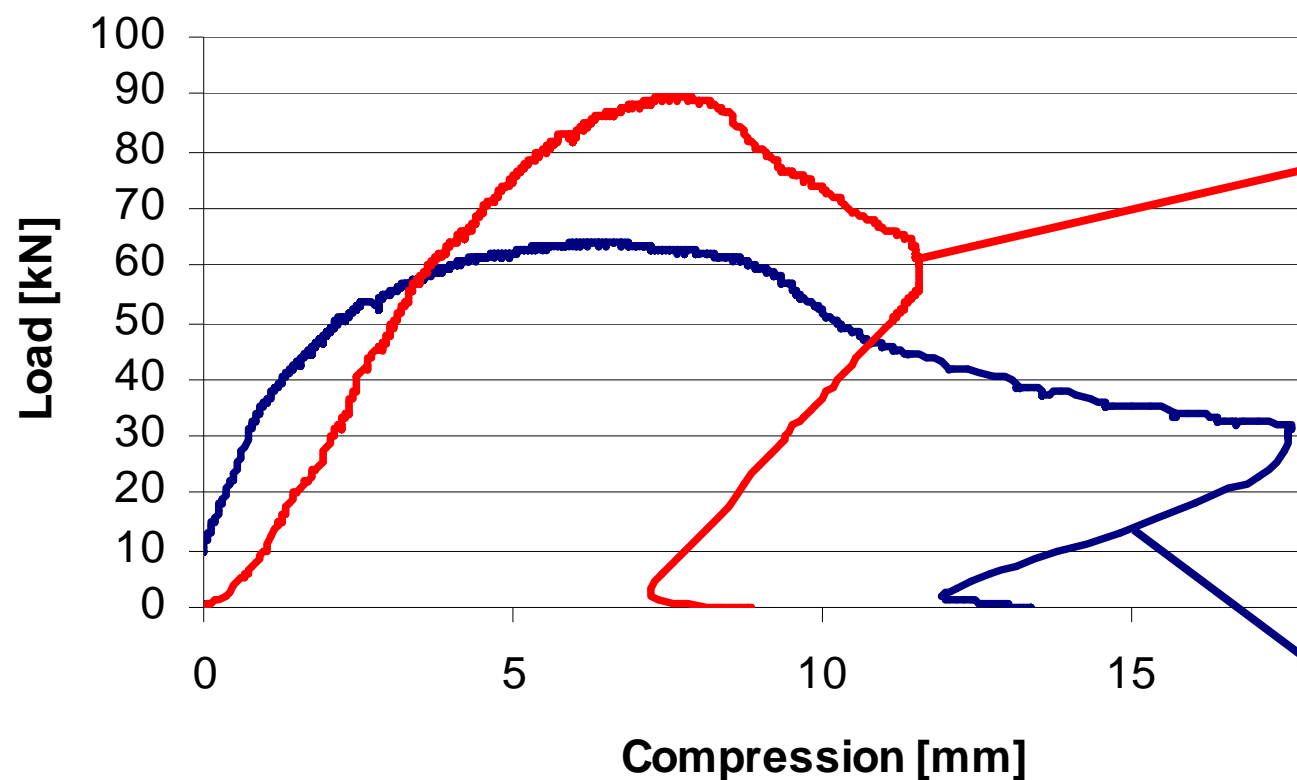


Test 5

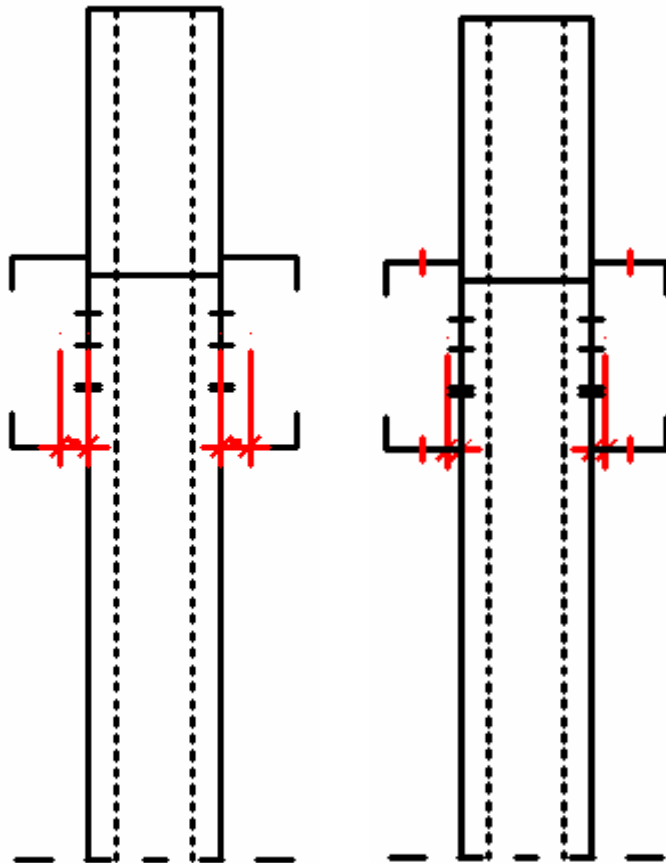
# INTERACTIONS – UPPER CHORD



# EFFECT OF LOAD INTRODUCTON



# INTERACTIONS – UPPER CHORD



Nominal value of in-plane eccentricity: distance of centroid to the web

Based on strain measurement and measured load-bearing capacity, if both web and flanges are connected in the peak joint the nominal value may be reduced by 50%.



## UPPER CHORD – DESIGN METHOD

$$\frac{N_{Ed}}{\chi_z \cdot A_{eff} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} + \frac{\kappa_y \cdot M_{y,Ed}}{W_{eff,y} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} + \frac{\kappa_z \cdot N_{Ed} \cdot e_{N,y}}{W_{eff,z} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} \leq 1$$

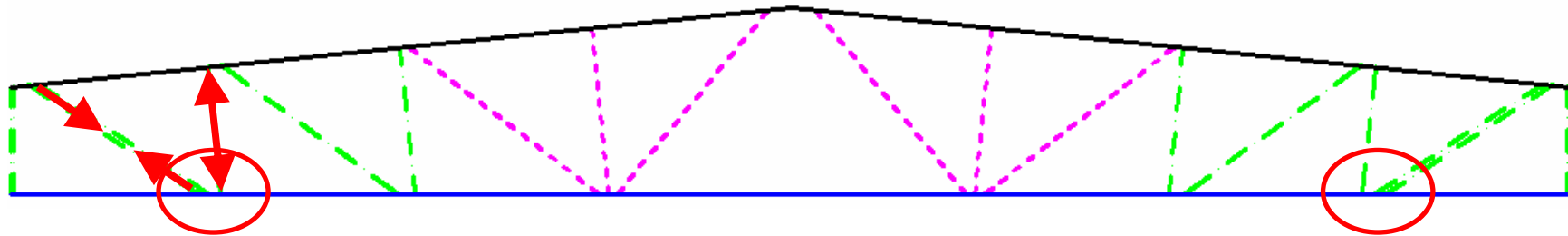
$$45.8\% + 7.8\% + 46.4\% = 100\%$$

$$\frac{N_{Ed}}{\chi_z \cdot A_{eff} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} + \frac{\kappa_y \cdot M_{y,Ed}}{W_{eff,y} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} + \frac{\kappa_z \cdot N_{Ed} \cdot 0.5 \cdot e_{N,y}}{W_{eff,z} \cdot f_{yb} / \gamma_{M1}} \leq 1$$

$$45.8\% + 7.8\% + 23.2\% = 76.8\%$$

# INTERACTIONS – LOWER CHORD

## Test 5: Interaction of axial tension and shear

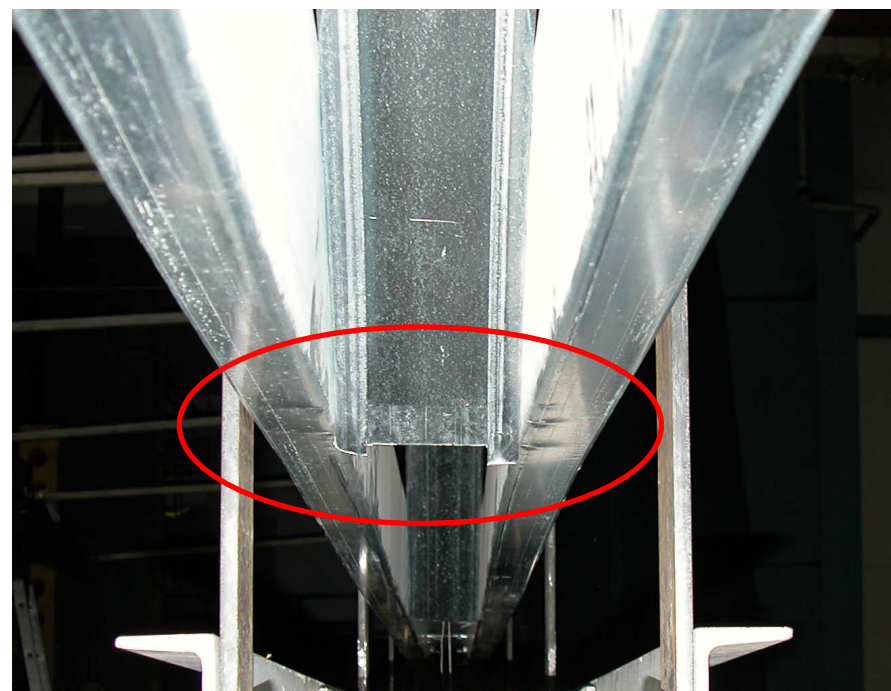


Most utilized brace members

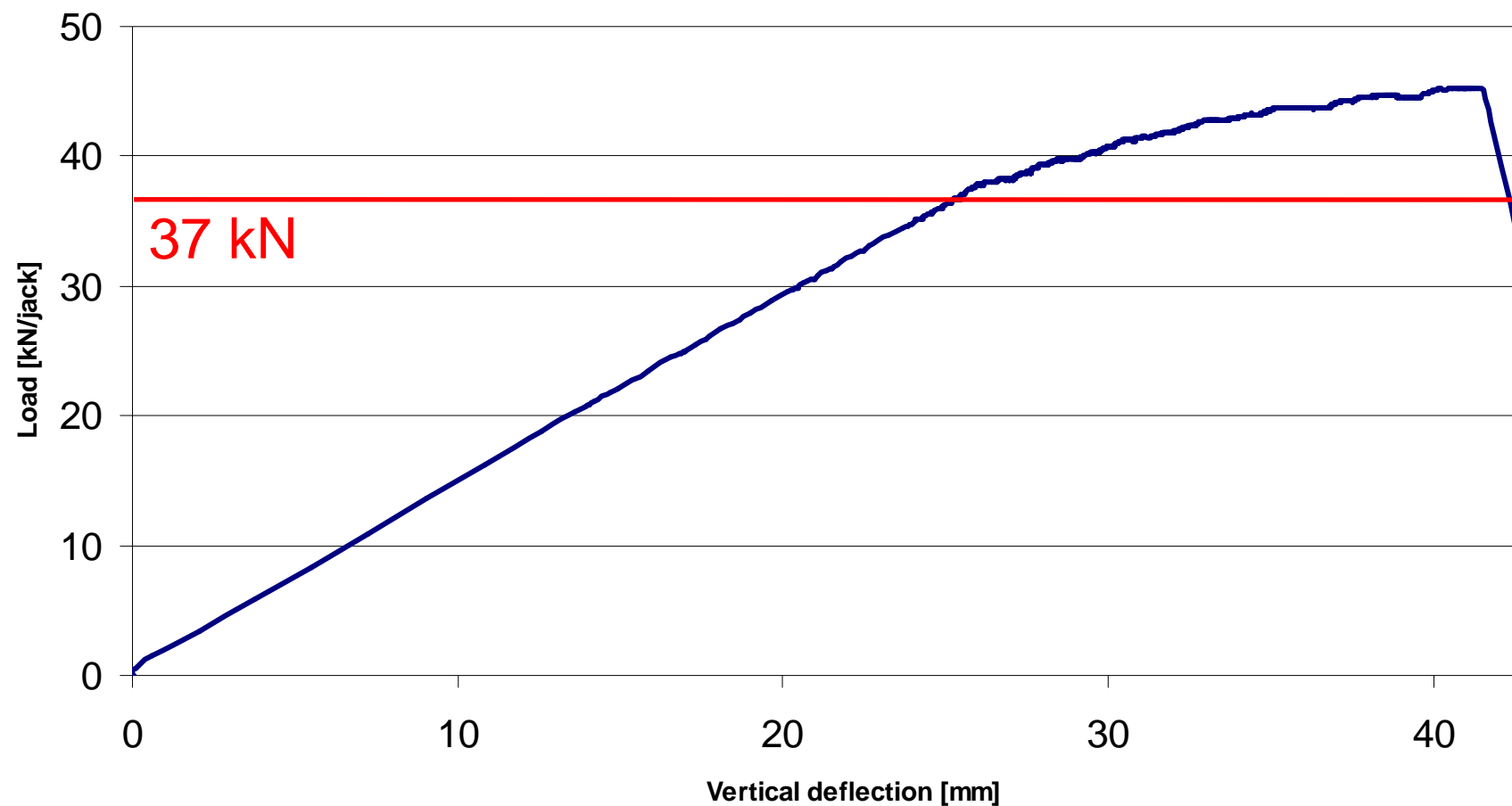
Double C-section tension brace member

Not final failure

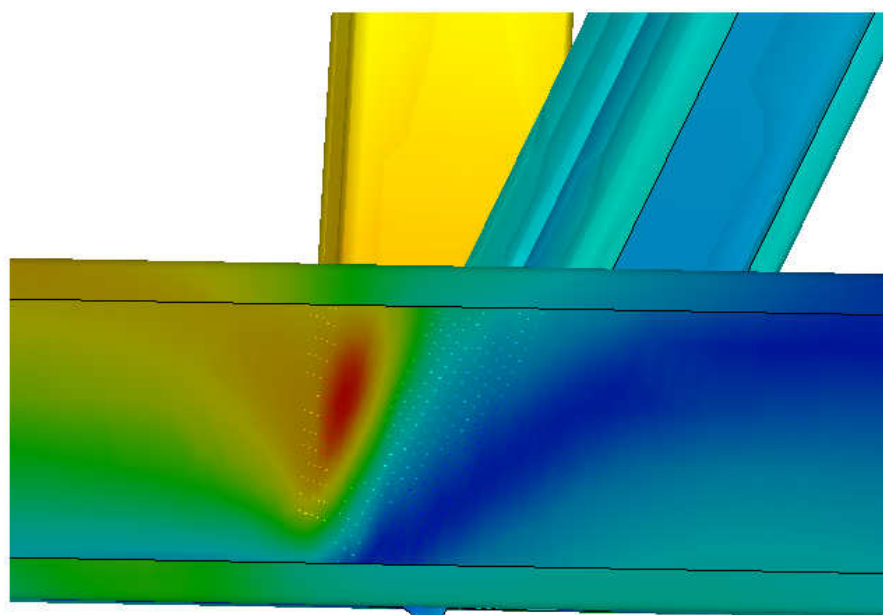
# LABORATORY TESTING – TEST 5



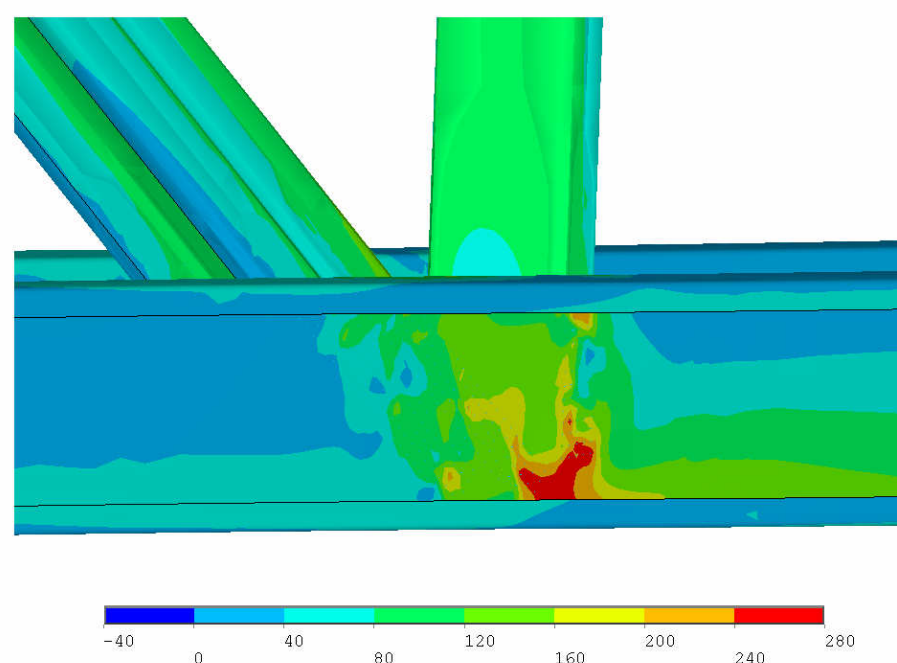
# LABORATORY TESTING – TEST 5



# FINITE ELEMENT MODELLING – TEST 5



Eigenshape from  
bifurcation analysis



Von Mises stress distribution  
from linear static analysis

## DESIGN METHOD

### Design resistance of a tension chord joint

$$N_{0,Rd} = \left[ (A_0 - A_v) \cdot f_{y0} + A_v \cdot f_{y0} \cdot \sqrt{1 - (V_{Ed} / V_{b,Rd})^2} \right] / \gamma_{M5}$$

$$V_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi_w \cdot f_{y0} \cdot A_v}{\sqrt{3} \cdot \gamma_{M5}}$$

### Design resistance of a compression chord joint

$$N_{0,Rd} = \left[ (A_{0,eff} - A_{v,eff}) \cdot f_{y0} + A_{v,eff} \cdot f_{y0} \cdot \sqrt{1 - (V_{Ed} / V_{b,Rd})^2} \right] / \gamma_{M5}$$

$$V_{b,Rd} = \frac{\chi_w \cdot f_{y0} \cdot A_{v,eff}}{\sqrt{3} \cdot \gamma_{M5}}$$

## SUMMARY

- A new truss system is outlined
- Laboratory tests carried out
- Stability phenomena, failure modes introduced
  - Effect of detailing
- EC3-based design formulae developed based on observed failure modes
  
- It is shown, that the use of laboratory tests is inevitable for the non-conservative design of unconventional structural arrangements



Thank you for your attention!