



#### Monitoring Building Tilt, Bridge Dynamic Deflections, and Floor Vibrations during Construction Activities for Structural Performance and Client Satisfaction

### **Structural Health Monitoring**

Prasad Samarajiva, Ph.D., P.E. Narendra Gosain, Ph.D., P.E. Dilip Choudhuri, P.E. Structural Diagnostics Services Walter P Moore March 16, 2011

#### The Absolutes of Life

#### • The Gosain Dictum No. 1

 - "So long as structures will keep on getting built, failures will keep on occurring."

- The Gosain Dictum No. 2
  - "Failures will keep Forensics Engineers busy for a long time"

- Primary Causes of Engineering Failures
  - Deferred maintenance
  - Design flaws
  - Material failures
  - Overloading
  - Combination of all the above

- Gosain and Prasad Observation No. 1
  - Fear of failure will spur some owners to action!

• Gosain and Prasad Observation No. 2

- An action may be Structural Health Monitoring!

#### Nature of Failures

• Some failures are sudden and catastrophic, and some failures just take their time...

### How Can We Reduce Engineering Failures?

- Structural Health Monitoring (SHM) can be very helpful in serving as an alarm system for preventing both types of failures .....
- But what is Structural Health Monitoring?

### What is Structural Health Monitoring (SHM)?

Definition: The process of implementing a distress or damage detection strategy for aerospace, mechanical and civil engineering structures is referred to as Structural Health Monitoring or SHM.
Not a new concept

-Has been around for several decades

 Advances in electronics made it easier to implement.

Several non-destructive evaluation (NDE) tools available for monitoring.

#### How old is SHM?

- SHM work goes back almost 80 years.
- Limited to major structures
  - Dams
  - Bridges
  - Some early high rises
  - Unique structures
  - Significant interest in the past 10 years.
    - -Life-safety issues
  - -Economic benefits
    - -Performance evaluation
    - -Affordable

## Case History from the Past ...

#### 1981 Study

- 1. Monument suspected to have tilt: Measured tilt to be within construction tolerances
- 2. Excessive settlement suspected: Monument supported by a monolithic mat foundation. Top of mat built exposed.
- 3. Discovered that a settlement monitoring program was set up during construction in 1936
- 4. Searched archives for data: Found documents in the archives of the Houston Public Library
- 5. A Geotechnical engineer was retained to review past data



San Jacinto Monument Built 1936 La Porte, Texas

NEW, AM, BOG, GIV, ENG ROBERT J. CUMMINS CONSULTING ENGINEER HOUSTON, TEXAS BANKERS MONTGAGE BUILDING May 1, 1936 San Jacinto Memorial Mr. A. C. Finn, Architect, Bankers Mortgage Building, Houston, Texas. Dear Sir: In compliance with your request we take pleasure in stating that the San Jacinto Memorial has been designed to withstand a wind velocity of 125 miles per hour, which according to the best authorities produces a pressure of 50 pounds per square foot on a flat surface, normal to the direction of the wind. Our calculations show that the soil pressure with no wind on the shaft will be 4700 pounds per square foot. With the wind blowing parallel to two sides of the shaft the maximum pressure on the soil will be 5700 pounds per square foot, and with the wind blowing in the direction of a diagonal the maximum soil pressure will be 6300 pounds per square foot. According to the tests conducted by the Research Department of the University of Texas, the soil on which this monument will rest will safely sustain these loads, and the settlement over a period of years will not be excessive, amounting - according to the report submitted by the University - to eventually 5g in 250 years, or 5" in 100 years, or about 25"in 5 years. Yours very ENGINEER.

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According to the tests conducted by the Research Department of the University of Texas, the soil on which this monument will rest will safely sustain these loads, and the settlement over a period of years will not be excessive, amounting - according to the report submitted by the University - to eventually  $5_{\rm E}^{\rm H}$  in 250 years, or 5" in 100 years, or about  $2_{\rm E}^{\rm H}$  in 5 years.

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			Dockst No. Houston	TEX-1975	R
			San Jacinto	Memorial	
	Mr. R. J. Cummins, Bankers Mortgage Bldg., Houston, Texas.				
	Dear lir, Cummins:		1.4.1.2.		
	Since one of the major probl San Jacinto Memorial Tower c adequacy of the foundation, means of checking the comple assumptions, and of keeping soil conditions, it might be cells at such points under t Especially during the period first months of existence of essential that careful watch behavior. If you will carefully consid and then feel inclined to su an installation of soil pres bench marks for the purpose tions we shall be glad to ca of additional cost as you ma	oncerns the it occurs i ted structu informed as advisable the tower as of constru- the comple be mainted be mainted the this phu- hmit a chap sure cells of checkin, refully co	a safety and to us that, ure with des s to actual to install a you might action and t action and t at over for ase of the p ase of the p and permane g foundation	as a sub- pressure determine the tt is pundation project o add ent n condi-	
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nd <sub>10-1</sub>		For the Ad	ministrator		
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If you will carefully consider this phase of the project and then feel inclined to submit a change order to add an installation of soil pressure cells and permanent bench marks for the purpose of checking foundation conditions we shall be glad to carefully consider such items of additional cost as you may propose.

Sincerely yours,

JULIAN MONTGOMERY State Director

Sgd. By: Uel Stephens UEL STEPHENS Chief Engineer, PWA (Texas) For the Administrator

(Reprinted from Civin, Britemmanno for September 1928)

#### Settlement Studies on San Jacinto Monument

Field Observations Supply Data on Behavior of Isolated Footing on Deep Bed of Clay

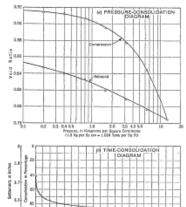
FROM A PAPER PRESENTED BEFORE THE TEXAS SECTION By RAYMOND F. DAWSON

MENDER AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS TESTING EMGNERS, BUREAU OF ESCINEERING RESEARCH THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS, AUSTIN, TEX.

N ideal opportunity to observe the action of an iso-A lated footing on a deep bea or cary a Houston, by the San Jacinto Monument, near Houston, Bureau of Engineering Research of the University of Texas, include both laboratory tests and a continuing series of settlement observations on the structure itself, and have already provided valuable data on the coordination of laboratory and field results.

CE-405

Design and construction of the San Jacinto Monument were covered in an article by Robert J. Cummins, M. Am. Soc. C.E., in the July 1937 issue of CIVIL ENGL-NERRING. As he explains, the foundation is a monolithic concrete base 124 ft square, reinforced with 2-in. square bars spaced 61/2 in, on centers in each direction. This footing rests on red clay 15 ft below the natural ground level, and the unit dead load on the underlying soil is 2.35 tons per sq ft. Borings show that the clay continues to a depth of 100 ft, and logs of wells drilled in the vicinity indicate that it extends to a depth of 220 ft and is underlain by a bed of sand. Physical characteristics of the clay are given in Table I.



400 500 600 Time in Years

380

FIG. 1. DATA FROM LABORATORY TERTS

A go far towards confirming or challenging the accuracy of settlement predictions has been in progress for almost two years at the San Jacinto Monument. in Texas. The monument rests on a 220-ft layer of clay, and the footing is a monolithic slab 124 ft on a side. At time intervals determined by the rate of settlement, the elevations of 44 points on this slab are carefully determined, and the settlements are compared with those previously predicted from laboratory tests and theoretical considerations. The accompanying article describes the technique of making the observations and presents the outstanding results to date.

Prior to the construction of the monument, samples of undisturbed soil were obtained from the foundation area. coated with paraffin to prevent loss of moisture, and taken to the Bureau of Engineering Research for consolidation tests. (The general method of performing such tests was described by Spencer J. Buchanan, Assoc. M. Am. Soc. C.E., in the August 1937 issue.) Results from a typical specimen are presented in Fig. 1.

FIELD research project that should

A load applied to the surface of the ground distributes itself throughout the soil in diminishing intensity in both the vertical and the horizontal direction away from the axis of the loading. Therefore, in order to estimate the probable settlement under a loaded area, it is necessary to determine the pressure distribution at a number of

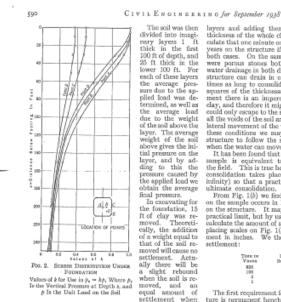
TABLE L. AMALVEES OF CLAY SOIL FROM MONUMERY SITT

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Liquid lines				 	M. Commenter
Plantic Brait					43
Plasticity infer				41	1010
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Service to benefit					12.6
V olume shrinka	too (hused on wet	values			6 ner cont
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Shrinkage ratio				 	ONT
Absoluto sporiti	e gravity			 	795

points under the area. Vertical pressures were computed at various depths for points under the foundation by a method given in Circular No. 24 of the University of Illinois Engineering Experiment Station. This is an integration for the Boussinesq equation, which assumes a homogeneous elastic solid of indefinite extent. As soils in general are not homogeneous, isotropic, or perfectly elastic, accurate results cannot be expected. Typical pressure profiles at five points under the footing are given in Fig. 2. These points were so chosen that the average of the pressures beneath them at any given elevation should be approximately the average of the pressure beneath the entire footing at that elevation.

#### From City of Houston Public Library Archives

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settlement when the equivalent load is applied. In this case the soil weighed 120 lb per cu ft, and a layer 15 ft deep weighed 0.9 ton, giving an effective load of 1.45 tons per sq ft on the soil instead of the calculated load of 2.35 tons per sq ft. Taking the first layer of 10 ft under the footing. we find that the average initial pressure due to the weight of the soil is  $\left(15 + \frac{10}{2}\right) \frac{120}{2,000}$  or 1.2 tons per sq ft. The

average added pressure due to a load of 1.45 tons per sq ft, reduced according to the pressure distribution curves. is 1.13 tons per sq ft. This gives a final pressure of 2.33 tons per sq ft. From Fig. 1(a) we find that these pressures give an initial void-ratio of 0.901 and a final voidratio of 0.887. Then we can calculate the settlement in this layer by  $q = (a_i - a_i)h/(1 + a_i)$  where q is the settle-ment of the layer;  $a_i$ , the initial void ratio;  $\phi_i$ , the final void ratio; and h, the height of the layer. For the given conditions, q = 0.88 in.

In a similar manner the settlement of each of the other layers was calculated, and also the total settlement equal to the summation of the settlement of all the layers, expressed as follows:  $Q = \Sigma q = 7.35$  in.

According to the theory of the consolidation process, the rates of compression of two layers of the same material under the same pressure conditions are directly proportional to the squares of the "reduced thicknesses" of the layers. The reduced thickness of a soil is the thickness of the solids with all voids removed. It is the true thickness divided by 1 plus the void ratio.

By determining the reduced thicknesses of the various

layers and adding them, we can obtain the reduced The soil was then divided into imagithickness of the whole clay stratum. From this we calculate that one minute on the sample is equivalent to five ft thick in the first years on the structure if the conditions are the same in both cases. On the sample in the consolidometer there 100 ft of depth, and were porous stones both top and bottom, permitting 25 ft thick in the lower 100 ft. For water drainage in both directions. If the clay under the each of these layers structure can drain in only one direction it will take 4 the average prestimes as long to consolidate, since the rates vary as the sure due to the apsquares of the thicknesses. On the San Jacinto Monuplied load was dement there is an impermeable concrete mat above the termined, as well as clay, and therefore it might be considered that the water the average load could only escape to the sand below. On the other hand, due to the weight all the voids of the soil are not filled with water, so that a of the soil above the lateral movement of the water is also permitted. Under layer. The average these conditions we may expect the settlement of the weight of the soil structure to follow the sample, especially at early ages above gives the iniwhen the water can move faterally.

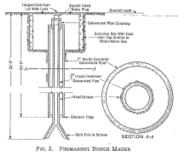
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It has been found that 90 per cent consolidation on the layer, and by adsample is equivalent to 100 per cent settlement in ding to this the the field. This is true because the last 10 per cent of the consolidation takes place very slowly (theoretically-atpressure caused by the applied load we infinity) so that a practical limit is set for the time of obtain the average ultimate consolidation.

From Fig. 1(b) we find that 90 per cent consolidation In excavating for on the sample occurs in 160 minutes, which is 800 years the foundation, 15 on the structure. It may well be asked if 800 years is a practical limit, but by using this figure as a basis we can Theoreticalculate the amount of settlement for shorter periods by placing scales on Fig. 1(b) for time in years and settlement in inches. We then find the following predicted settlement:

TIME IN YEARS	PER CANZ BRICLEMENT	ENCIES STUTIONED BY
500	100	7.35
190	72	5.54
5	80	3.65
1	35	8.87

The first requirement for settlement studies on a structure is permanent bench marks. The type selected for the monument observations is shown in Fig. 3. The essential parts consist of a 2-in. galvanized pipe 22 ft long used to case off the inner pipe from the soil. This depth is believed to be sufficient since the ground elevation is only about 18 ft above sea level. The outer pipe fits snugly in a hole bored in the ground and is approximately 4 ft shorter than the smaller pipe. The additional length of the inner pipe was driven into the ground. A



#### Vol. 8, No. 9 CIVIL ENGINEERING for September 1938

brass plug in the top of the inner pipe is used as the bench mark. The top of the pipe is inclosed in a concrete box covered with a cast-iron lid.

Three bench marks were placed in different locations at least 275 ft from the outer wall of the monument. Every time settlement readings are taken, the elevatious of these bench marks are checked and rechecked, and to date there has been no movement. At the time the footing was

poured, small cans filled with paper were placed in the surface of the concrete. Later the paper was removed and the cans were filled with mortar. Roundheaded bolts were set in the mortar to serve as observation points. There were also a number of pipes going through the concrete footing which were used to support

the mixer boom during the pouring. Steel rods were set in mortar at the bottom of these pipes in order that we might have some observation points at the bottom of the slab. The plan of the base, Fig. 4, shows the location of the observation points. In all, 50 were set, but 6 were destroyed during construction.

Construction forms and equipment prevented the taking of initial settlement readings until almost two weeks after the base was poured. Settlement during this period was approximately equal to the rebound caused by the removal of the soil.

The settlement observations are made by precise levels reading the target to 0.001 ft. A line from the three beach marks, using double turning points, is run into the basement and the elevations of the observation points are taken. The line is then carried back to the bench marks for a final check.

#### RESULTS OF OBSERVATIONS TO DATE

Figure 5(a) shows the maximum, minimum, and average settlements as well as the unit load on the soil. Usually the first question asked is how the actual settlement compares with that predicted. It will be recalled that from the laboratory tests we predicted a settlement of 2.57 in. in one year, and this curve gives an average actual settlement of 1.9 in. in the first year. But the load on the laboratory sample was applied instantaneously while that on the soil was being applied gradually over a period of approximately one year. If it is assumed that all the load on the structure was applied at the halfway point of the construction period, the first year of settlement would be completed about May 1, 1938. On this date the average settlement was 2.35 in. By placing observation points in both the top and hottom of the footing, we expected to learn whether or not the shrinkage of the concrete would affect the results. To date no difference in settlement between the top and bottom of the slab has been noted.

A part of the difference between the maximum and minimum settlements shown in Fig. 5(a) is accounted for by the greater settlement near the center of the slab This variation in settlement between different parts of the slab is more clearly indicated in Fig. 5(b), in which are plotted the results of averaging separately the settlements of the bolts near the interior wall, of those near the outer wall, and those midway between the walls.

The last four readings show a definite tendency for the smallest amount of settlement to he at the outer edge and the greatest at the center. There may be a question whether or not such a heavily reinforced slab will deform sufficiently to permit greater settlement at the center. It is true that the top of the slab will shrink because of drying, while the bottom will be kept moist by the soll-and this of itself will cause the slab to curl upward somewhat at the edge. However, most of the "curling" is probably caused by an actually greater settlement at the center of the footing. The Bureau of Engineering Re-

search of the University of Texas expects to continue the settlement observations on the monnment for many years and hopes

to obtain sufficient data to be of real value. Much of the credit for this research goes to the architect, engineer, and contractor on the monument, all of whom actively cooperated with the bureau hy supplying materials, help, and information whenever called upon.

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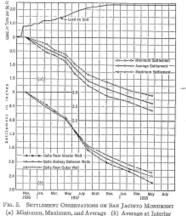
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FIG. 4. LOCATION OF OBSERVATION POINTS

Special mention should be made of Alfred C. Finn and Alfred C. Finn, Jr., architects; Robert J. Cummins, M. Am. Soc. C.E., engineer; and C. A. Bullen, Assoc. M. Am. Soc. C.E., superintendent for the W. S. Bellows Construction Company. In order to advance professional knowledge, they personally sacrificed time for the project when other dutics were pressing, and without their help this study would not have been possible.

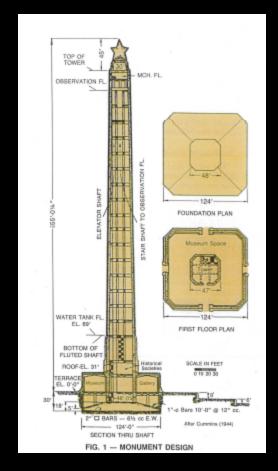


Wall, Outer Wall, and Points Midway Between Walls

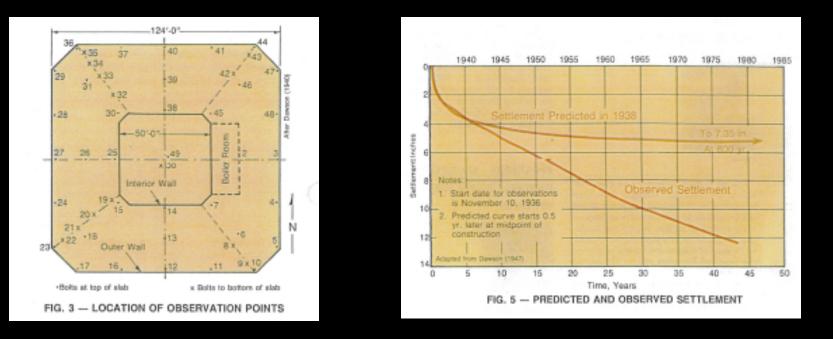
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McClelland Engineers Soundings Winter 1984



McClelland Engineers Soundings Winter 1984 Objectives of Structural Health Monitoring: Farrar and Worden (2007)

- 1. Modifications to an existing structure,
- 2. Monitoring of structures affected by external factors,
- 3. Monitoring during demolition,
- 4. Structures subject to long-term movement or degradation of materials,
- 5. Feedback loop to improve future design based on experience,

### **Objectives of Structural Health Monitoring**

- 6. Fatigue assessment,
- 7. Novel systems of construction,
- 8. Assessment of post-earthquake structural integrity, and
- 9. Growth in maintenance needs.

#### Instrumentation used for SHM

- 1. Strain gages,
- 2. Inclinometers,
- 3. Displacement transducers,
- 4. Accelerometers,
- 5. Temperature gages,
- 6. Pressure transducers,
- 7. Acoustic sensors,
- 8. Piezometers, and
- 9. Laser optical devices



#### Instrumentation used for SHM

- Most of these sensors can be wirelessly connected.
- Technology using solar energy is very common in instrumentation.
- Latest technology even has self powered systems, i.e. no external power required.

## Some Recent Work...

## Case History 1





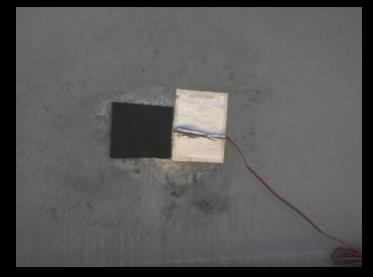
- Segmented Erection.
- Monitor strains and stresses at various stages of erection.
- Verification of predicted behavior was needed

#### **Key Challenges**

- Non-interference with the construction schedule.
- No wires were allowed to run from one segment to the other.
- No main power supply.
- No drilling or welding on to the frame.
- Each segment needed to be prepared and instrumented in a narrow 2 day interval.
- No lift access after erection.

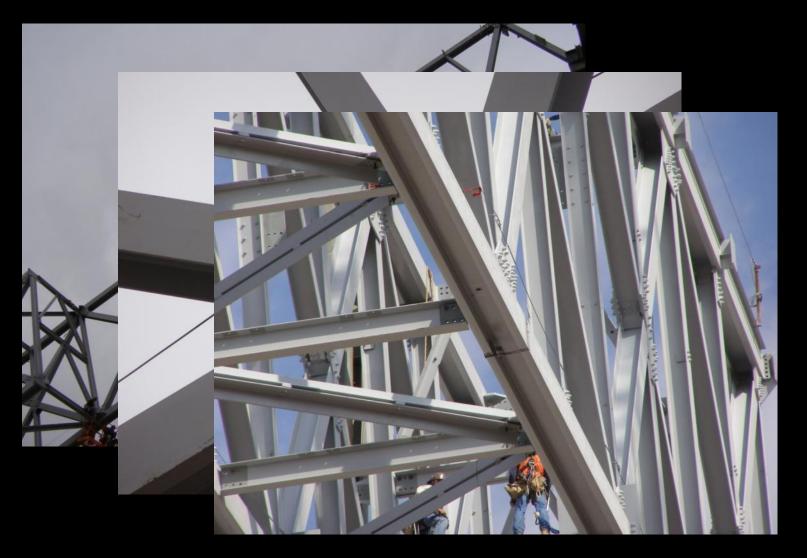
#### Instruments

- MicroStrain V-Link
  - 4 Strain gauges could be attached to the device.
  - Fully ruggedized for exterior applications.
  - One laptop with data querying software was sufficient to access all boxes.
  - Low duty cycle can give up to 1 year of battery life.

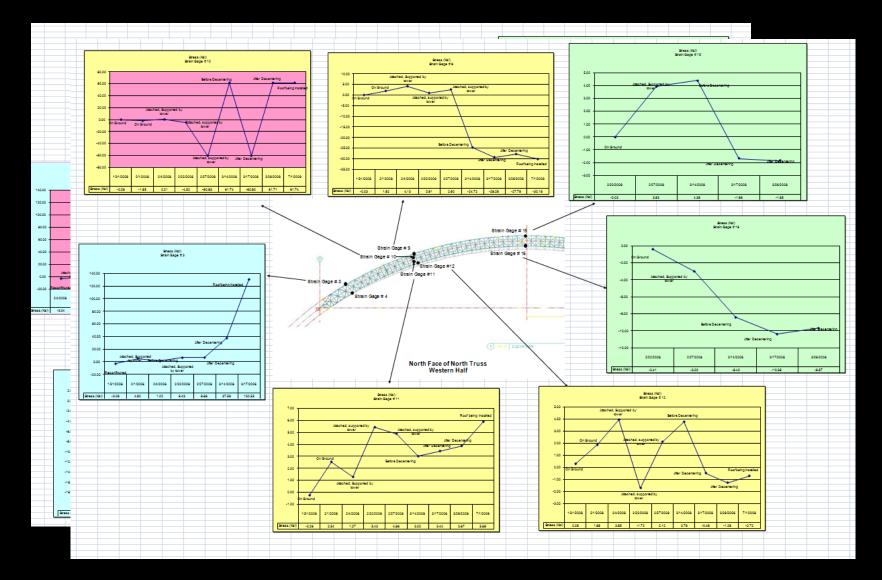




#### Health Monitoring of a Stadium Truss During Erection Over 9 Months



#### Health Monitoring of a Stadium Truss During Erection Over 9 Months



## Case History 2

### Health Monitoring of a Data Center





- Reinforced concrete high-rise building.
- Raised access floors.

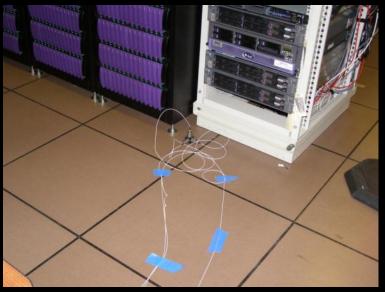
Owner wanted to build a fitness center next to the data center.

### **Key Challenges**

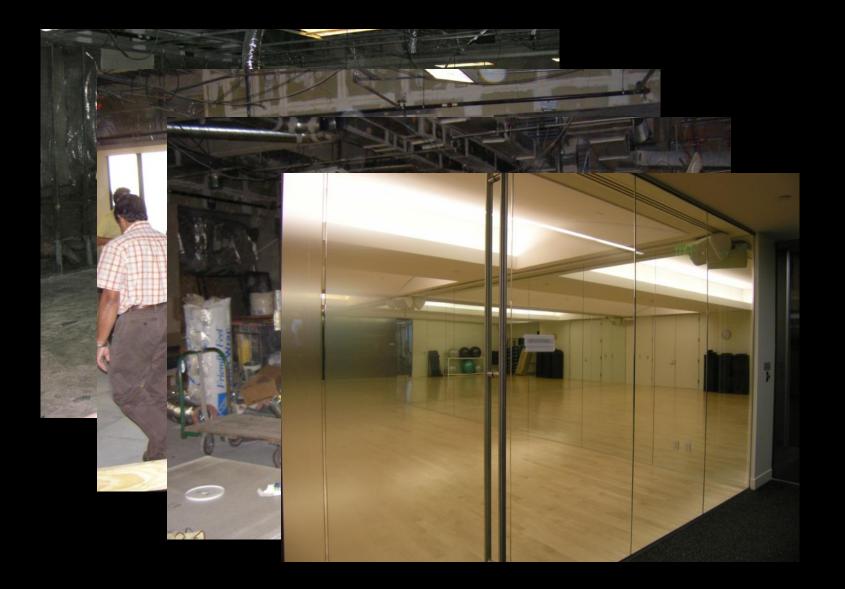
- Needed to prevent undesirable vibrations in the data center.
- Quantify sensitivities of many high-performance computing systems.
- Needed to inform the contractor immediately upon discovery of an issue.
- Alarm system to alert Walter P Moore and the contractor.

#### Instruments

- Pre-construction Testing.
  - National Instruments dynamic data acquisition system.
  - PCB μG scale accelerometers.
- Construction and Operations Time Monitoring
  - -Instantel Blastmate device.







Vibrations Measured in the Computer Room

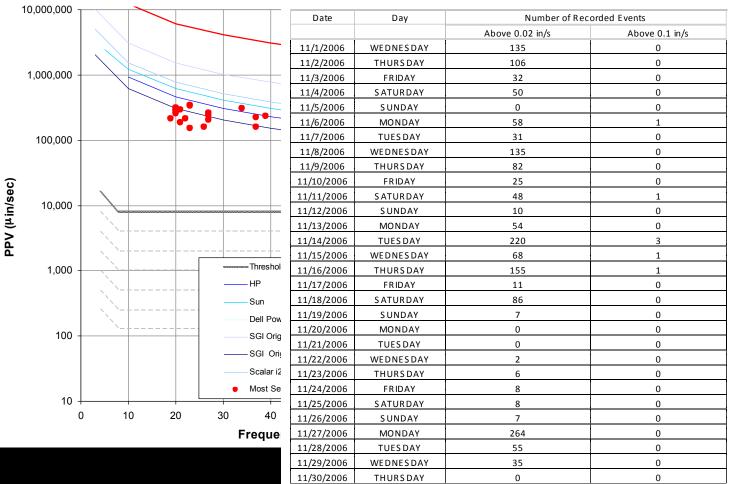


Table 1. Marathon Oil Tower Vibration Testing Summary For November -2006

## Case History 3



Precast Concrete parking garage with precast façade. Had a history of structural retrofits. Noticed signs of structural tilt (1999). Owner wanted assurance that there is no foundation settlement occurring.

### **Key Challenges**

- Selection of monitoring location.
- Selection of types of measurements.
- Need to operate during power outages.
- Sensor installation.
- Data logger installation.
- Remote communication setup.
- Alarm system to alert engineer and the client.

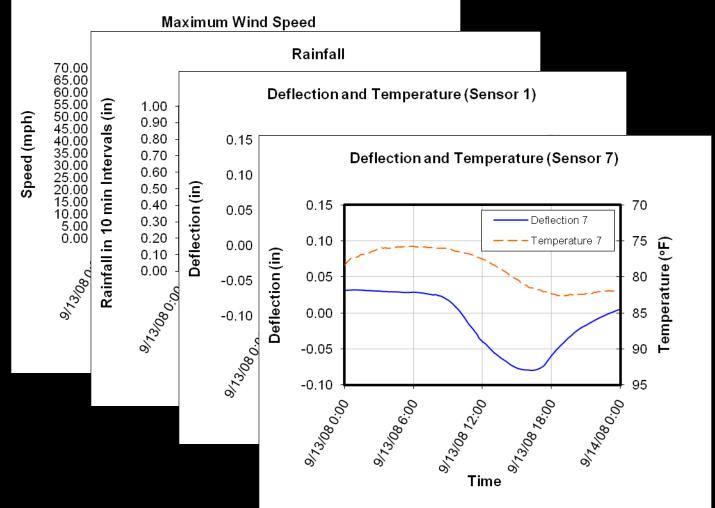
### Instruments

- Campbell Scientific CR10X logger with DC backup.
- Inclinometers with temperature sensors.
- Anemometer.
- Rain gauge.





### Health Monitoring in Progress During Hurricane Ike



## Case History 4



Precast concrete bridge. Business operations will be halted if bridge fails. No information was available to rate the capacity. No analytical work could be done without exhaustive NDE Owner wanted to transport heavy construction material and equipment over the bridge for next 3 years..... SHM was suggested to monitor the bridge during the heaviest loading phase for 1 year.

Key Challenges

- Installation of inclinometers under girders.
- Access was difficult.
- Night time installation was preferred.
- Installation has to be stopped when a train passed by under the bridge.
- The whole system needed to be run with solar power.
- Remote communication setup.
- Alarm system to alert the engineer and the client.

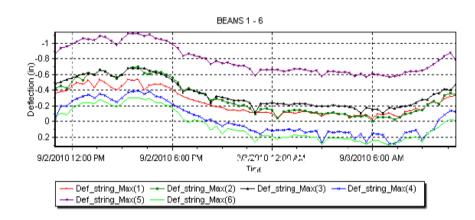
### Instruments

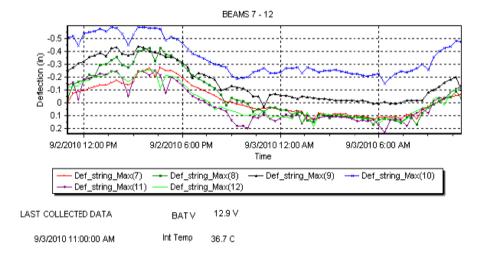
- Campbell Scientific CR1000 logger with solar power.
- Tilt beams with temperature sensors.
- Cellular TCP/IP modem facilitates accessing data over the internet





### Health Monitoring in Progress





## Summary of SHM Process

### Evaluate need

- Discuss the motivation in implementing SHM with the client and the benefits to be accrued
- -Discuss the period of time for monitoring
- Have a clarity on how the damage or distress is to be defined and measured
- Select the appropriate instrumentation and data acquisition system
  - -Environmental conditions
- Extract meaningful data
  - Presentation to client in a meaningful and understandable format

## What is Ahead?

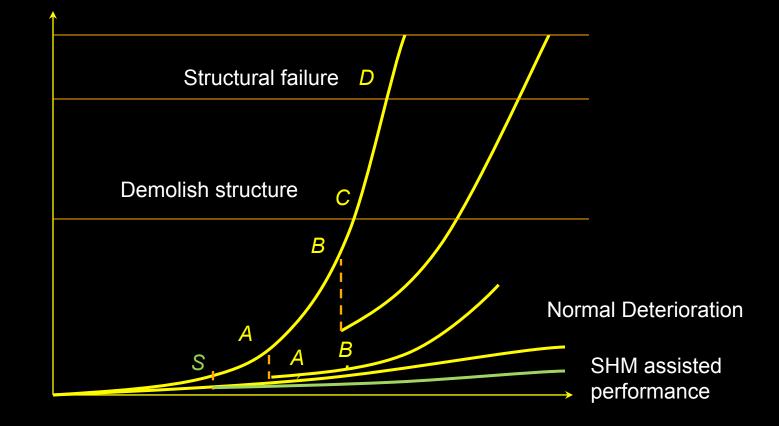
- Reduce the implementation cost.
  - -Improved hardware.
  - -Extensive usage by the industry.
- Implement wireless and self powered technology.
  - -Facilitates usage even in remote areas.
  - -Simplifies installation.
  - -Insensitive to local power outages.
- Estimate potential savings of using SHM.
  - -Develop models to show potential savings in using SHM vs. periodic physical inspections.

## Deferred Maintenance and SHM Structural Deterioration Model

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Repair Co

**Restoration** 



Time (Years)

After Chrest et al. (2001)

Modified by Prasad and Gosain

Monitoring Building Tilt, Bridge Dynamic Deflections, and Floor Vibrations during Construction Activities for Structural Performance and Client Satisfaction

## **Questions?**

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### WALTER P MOORE