

UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

DEVELOPMENT OF A SMOKE PREDICTION MODEL FOR STAIRWAYS IN A MULTI-STOREY BUILDING

NURUD SURIA BINTI SUHAIMI

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Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia, in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

DEVELOPMENT OF A SMOKE PREDICTION MODEL FOR STAIRWAYS IN A MULTI-STOREY BUILDING

By

NURUD SURIA BINTI SUHAIMI

April 2019

Chairman Faculty Professor Nor Mariah Adam, PhDEngineering

Multi-storey building in Malaysia has rapid growth rate especially in urban area with high population. During emergency in building fire, smoke could disturb people's health and vision thus affects the evacuation time. Simple and transparent engineering methods can create opportunities to better understand a complex fire phenomenon and estimate the answer quickly before making decision. Existing methods of calculation can only predict smoke temperature in a single fire compartment and there was a lack of calculation method for multi-storey compartment. The main goal of this study is to develop a new and validated simplified mathematical model to predict the smoke conditions in a multi-storey building specifically in a stairway which used as the only route for rescue and evacuation when fire happens. In this thesis, an experimental setup consisting one fire room adjacent to the vertical shaft fire scenario were simulated using Fire Dynamic Simulator (FDS) version 6.1. Eight (8) independent variable parameters were tested including heat release rate (HRR), enclosure geometry as well as venting opening size to measure the smoke temperature which considered as dependent variable. Three hundred sixty (360) different simulations which study smoke conditions in a room adjacent to a vertical shaft were utilized in statistical analysis to find a constant in mathematical correlation. In order to predict the smoke temperature in a stairway, additional heat loss to the tread boards and landing were also included in developed correlation while calculating. The validity of the mathematical correlation was studied by comparing results from the correlation with numerical simulation and full-scale test data from previous published cases. The predictions with developed correlation were within 32% from the simulation and less than 23% for an experimental full-scale result. Error up to 35% in prediction of smoke temperatures by using developed correlation were accepted and considered good as reported in previous validated work conducted by Nuclear Research Centre (NRC). Sensitivity analysis was conducted to investigate the most affected variables from the correlation model that would impact the smoke temperature in the stairway of multistorey buildings. From the analysis, it was discovered that vent opening is the most



sensitive variables that will affect the smoke temperature in a stairway beside other parameters such as stair and room area, heat release rate and door opening. In conclusion, the derived equation can be used to perform simple calculation for smoke layer temperature in stairway and it is a promising for a faster calculation especially when assessing multiple fire scenarios in a fire safety design. However, further validation studies of the developed model are recommended to be compare with other types of correlation developed from previous researchers.



Abstrak tesis dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

PEMBANGUNAN MODEL RAMALAN ASAP UNTUK TANGGA DI BANGUNAN BERTINGKAT

Oleh

NURUD SURIA BINTI SUHAIMI

April 2019

Pengerusi Fakulti Profesor Nor Mariah Adam, PhDKejuruteraan

Bangunan bertingkat di Malaysia bertumbuh dengan pesat terutamanya di kawasan bandar yang mempunyai kepadatan penduduk tinggi. Ketika kecemasan dalam kebakaran bangunan, asap yang terhasil memberi kesan kepada kesihatan serta penglihatan dan seterusnya menjejaskan masa yang diperlukan ketika proses pengungsian bangunan. Kaedah kejuruteraan yang ringkas dan telus mewujudkan peluang untuk memahami fenomena api yang kompleks dan memberi jawapan secara ramalan dengan cepat sebelum keputusan dibuat. Kaedah pengiraan sedia ada hanya boleh meramalkan suhu asap di dalam ruangan kebakaran tunggal dan masih agak kurang kaedah pengiraan yang digunakan untuk ruangan bertingkat. Matlamat utama kajian ini adalah untuk membangunkan model matematik yang diringkaskan dan kemudian divalidasi bagi meramal keadaan asap di bangunan bertingkat khususnya di bahagian tangga yang digunakan sebagai satu-satunya laluan menyelamat dan pengungsian apabila berlaku kebakaran. Korelasi matematik yang boleh meramalkan suhu dalam arah menegak seperti aci menegak yang digunakan sebagai tangga akan berguna dalam reka bentuk bangunan berasaskan prestasi, sebagai contoh untuk menilai situasi terbaik bagi mangsa dan anggota bomba yang terlibat dalam operasi menyelamat dan memadam kebakaran. Dalam tesis ini, eksperimen yang terdiri daripada satu ruangan terbakar bersebelahan dengan ruangan menegak telah disimulasikan menggunakan versi Fire Dynamic Simulator (FDS) 6.1 yang mana lapan parameter pembolehubah bebas telah diuji termasuklah kadar pembebasan haba, geometri ruangan serta saiz bukaan pengudaraan untuk mengukur suhu asap yang dianggap sebagai pemboleh ubah bersandar. Tiga ratus enam puluh simulasi berbeza yang mengkaji keadaan asap di dalam bilik bersebelahan dengan ruangan menegak digunakan dalam analisis statistik untuk mencari perselingkuhan dalam matematik. Untuk meramalkan suhu asap di tangga, kehilangan haba tambahan kepada anak tangga dan borders juga dimasukkan ke dalam model yang telah dibangunkan semasa proses pengiraan. Kesahihan korelasi matematik yang dibangunkan dikaji dengan membandingkan hasil daripada korelasi dengan simulasi komputer dan ujian



kebakaran skala penuh. Ramalan dengan model yang dibangunkan berada dalam lingkungan kesalahan ramalan sebanyak 32% berbanding simulasi dan kurang dari 23% berbanding hasil eksperimen kebakaran. Kesalahan ramalan suhu asap menggunakan model yang dibangunkan sehingga 35% dianggap baik dan diterima seperti yang telah dilapor dan disahkan dalam kajian lepas oleh Pusat Penyelidikan Nuklear (PPN). Analisis sensitiviti telah dijalankan untuk mangkaji pemboleh ubah yang paling sensitif daripada korelasi matematik yang akan mempengaruhi suhu asap di tangga bangunan bertingkat. Dari analisis, didapati bahawa bukaan lubang udara adalah pembolehubah yang paling sensitif yang akan mempengaruhi suhu asap di tangga di samping parameter lain seperti luas tangga, kadar pelepasan haba dan bukaan pintu. Sebagai kesimpulan, model matematik yang dibangunkan dalam kajian ini boleh digunakan untuk melakukan pengiraan mudah untuk meramal suhu asap di tangga terutama apabila melibatkan penilaian pelbagai senario kebakaran dalam rekabentuk keselamatan kebakaran. Walau bagaimanapun, kajian pengesahan lanjut mengenai model yang telah dibangunkan adalah disyorkan melalui perbandingan di antara korelasi-korelasi yang telah dibangunkan oleh penyelidik lain.

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"Allah knows what is the best for you and when it's best for you to have it"

This thesis was submitted to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia and has been accepted as fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. The members of the Supervisory Committee were as follows:

Nor Mariah binti Adam, PhD

Professor, Ir Faculty of Engineering Universiti Putra Malaysia (Chairman)

Rafee bin Baharudin, PhD

Senior Lecturer Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Universiti Putra Malaysia (Member)

Abdulllah bin Ibrahim, PhD

Professor Faculty of Engineering Technology University Malaysia Pahang (Member)

ROBIAH BINTI YUNUS, PhD

Professor and Dean School of Graduate Studies Universiti Putra Malaysia

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| Signature: Name of Chairman | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| of Supervisory | |
| Committee: | Professor Ir, Dr. Nor Mariah binti Adam |
| Signature: | |
| Name of Member | |
| of Supervisory | |
| Committee | Dr. Dafaa hin Daharudin |
| Committee. | |
| Signature: | |
| Name of Member of Supervisory | |
| Committee: | Professor Dr. Abdulllah bin Ibrahim |
| | |

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C

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | A_0 | Area of the opening, m ² |
|--|--------------------------------|--|
| | A_T | Total surface area, m ² |
| | <i>A</i> _{<i>T</i>,1} | Total enclosure surface area, m ² |
| | c _p | Specific heat, kJ/(kgK) |
| | D_f | Fire diameter |
| | f | Full scale parameters |
| | h_k | Effective heat conduction coefficient |
| | H _D | Hot gas layer interface height, m |
| | H_N | Neutral plane |
| | H ₀ | Height of the opening, m |
| | L | Model size/length |
| | L_m/L_f | Similarity ratio (-) |
| | m | Model scale parameters |
| | \dot{m}_g | Mass flow rate of hot gases, kg/s |
| | m _{g,2-out} | Mass flow rate of hot gases from adjacent room to the outside, kg/s |
| | M _p | Mass flow rate of plume, |
| | Q | Heat release rate (HRR), kW |
| | \dot{Q}_B | Rate of heat stored in the hot gas |
| | \dot{Q}_L | Rate of heat leaving the room with the combustion gases through openings |
| | \dot{Q}_R | Rate of heat loss due to radiation through openings to the outside, |
| | \dot{Q}_w | Rate of heat loss to the interior surfaces of the room |
| | q _{loss} | Rate of heat loss to compartment boundaries |
| | | |

Т Temperature, °C T_a Ambient temperature, K; T_g Smoke layer temperature, K Smoke layer temperature in adjacent room, K $T_{g,2}$ ΔT Temperature gradient V Velocity, m/s Ventilation factor between fire room and adjacent room, $m^{5/2}$ VF_{1-2} Ventilation factor between adjacent room and outside, m^{5/2} VF_{2-out} Ζ Smoke layer height, m

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Fire safety in building is a set of measures designed to reduce the fire risk from its origin and risk of injury for building occupants as well as firefighters. Beside fire code regulations and standards, fire risk management is one of the measures for fire safety in building. In general, if a building design is constructed based on corresponding prescriptive codes, the level of fire risk is considered in acceptable risk range that is tolerable (Chu & Sun, 2008; and Ramachandran & Charters, 2011). Life safety is ultimate in building design and as prescribed by Uniform Building By-Law (1984), life safety can be achieved by minimum fire protection with basic aspects in means of evacuation and means of fire detection and extinguishment. In recent years, urban population and urbanization level have increased rapidly in Malaysia. Thus, with an increasing number of people as well as complex building construction, occurrence of fire could lead to many casualties and property loss. Fire statistics in Malaysia indicate increase from 21,524 fire cases in 2008 to 46,882 fire cases in 2017 with total cost damage of nearly RM1 billion and RM5 billion, respectively (Table 1.1). Nevertheless, in 2015, there were less number of fire cases reported (40,865) than previous year (2014) but with total cost damage of more than RM4.4 billion. This statistic shows the potential of huge increment in property loss that may incur in future due to increasing cost of construction and buildings' furnishing nowadays although fire statistic is lower.

| Year | Fire call | Effect of fire | | Estimated loss |
|-------|-----------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| | | Death | Injured | (MYR) |
| 2005 | 31,138 | 70 | 115 | 794 Mil. |
| 2006 | 18,913 | 71 | 86 | 760 Mil. |
| 2007 | 20,225 | 80 | 67 | 865 Mil. |
| 2008 | 21,524 | 88 | 79 | 1,049 Mil. |
| 2009 | 29,417 | 76 | 71 | 1,057 Mil. |
| 2010 | 29,052 | 89 | 82 | 757 Mil. |
| 2011 | 28,741 | 80 | 81 | 928 Mil. |
| 2012 | 29,848 | 98 | 152 | 1,116 Mil. |
| 2013 | 33,640 | 72 | 165 | 1,990 Mil |
| 2014 | 54,540 | 139 | 389 | 2,787 Mil |
| 2015 | 40,865 | 153 | 589 | 4,400 Mil |
| 2016 | 49,875 | 107 | 477 | 2,866 Mil |
| 2017 | 46,822 | 165 | null | 5,200 Mil |
| TOTAL | 434,600 | 1,105 | 1,805 | 20,646 Mil |

| | Table 1. | 1: | Fire | statistic i | in Ma | lavsia | for | 2005 | - 201' |
|--|----------|----|------|-------------|-------|--------|-----|------|--------|
|--|----------|----|------|-------------|-------|--------|-----|------|--------|

(Source : KPKT, 2017)

Beside property losses, the number of injuries and fatality cases in relation to fire has also been increasing. As reported by the Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia (FRDM), from the total of fire deaths reported since 2005 to 2017, one over third of fatality have been caused by burns while the rest died to inhaling harmful gases of smoke or suffocation (FRDM, 2017). Surprisingly, death caused by smoke in fire event is not a local issue. From fire statistic reported in United Kingdom, 48 percentage of death for fire victims in 2008 caused by gas or smoke while according to statistic in Japan, smoke suffocation can reach to 79 percentage of fire death (Qian-li & Ting-lin, 2011). Overall, there seems to be some evidence to indicate that most of fatality in fire cases have been caused by smoke inhalation than burns. Fire and Rescue Department Malaysia has reported that building fire is the highest type of fire breakouts after plantation fire and the number keep increasing between 2000 to 2016 as shown in Figure 1.1



Figure 1.1 : Buildings fire statistics in Malaysia from 2000 – 2016 (Source : FRDM, 2017)

Multi-storey building in Malaysia has rapid growth rate especially in urban area with high population. Moreover, from January until March 2015, there were 46 cases of fire death and four of it was from shop-houses fire incident (KPKT, 2015). This type of building has rapid growth rate especially in urban area of high consumables with high population. Due to poor fire safety performance and awareness, the likelihood of fire to occur with high severity will be increased. Based on the fire investigation reports by the fire authority, it has been found that most of the fires happened at night and originated from the lowest floor which used for business purposes (FRDM, 2015). Fire occurred during sleep time could increase the likelihood of fatality since carbon monoxide is a silent killer as it could lead to a deep sleep and eventually death. Figure

1.2 shows some of multi-storey buildings fire cases and fatalities occurred in Malaysia recently. With regard to this news, fire in multi-storey building has caused a number of fatality in various occupancies such as commercial building, residential, shops, warehouse, and others in recent years.



Figure 1.2 : Fire cases in multi-storey building in Malaysia (a) Four family members died in shophouse fire while sleeping – 2010 (Metro, 2010), (b) Woman died due to smoke suffocated while trapped with daughter – 2015 (UtusanOnline, 2015), (c) A woman rental a top floor of shophouse trapped in a fire from grocery's shop in ground floor" – 2017 (AstroAwani, 2017)

Returning briefly to the issue of rapid growth of shop-house, fire occurred in this type of building has become a new concern as the owner of this type of building used lower floor for business purpose while the upper floor used for rental or occupied by owners or workers. In addition, this type of building has limited exit route and majority of deaths in fire building resulted from smoke inhalation during evacuation or trapped in the building (Bennetts & Poh, 2006; Tharmarajan, 2007; Cebela, 2012; and Luo, Li, Gao, Tian, & Hu, 2014). A heartfelt incident was reported previously where a couple suffocated to death in stairway of level 31st while escaping from level 38th when their high-rise apartment caught to fire (New York Daily News, 2014). This case is similar with building fire happened previously in 1998 at Upper West Side Apartment Tower, New York city which killed four people due to smoke inhalation in stairway during escape (The New York Times, 1998). The fire originated from the lower floor produced smoke which moved upwards to other level via stairway. During emergency, smoke in a stairway can affect vision and eventually suffocation to smoke thus affects the evacuation time. One major issue of fire research in multi-storey building is smoke propagated along stairway could poses a threat to occupants whom try to evacuate where there are cases of death (suffocate) reported due to victims trapped in the building. Fire management within the building is important to reduce the severity of risk from fire incidents and it generally begins with fire risk assessment. As stairway is the only measure for egress path in multi storey building, it is important to ensure the stairway is free access and is very well protected from smoke thus makes it worthwhile to study the fire and smoke behaviour in this area (LaFalam, Moseley, & Thomann, 2008; Yang, Rao, Zhu, Liu, & Zhan, 2012; Lambert & Merci, 2014; and Ji,



Wan, Li, Li, & Sun, 2015). The findings could assist the determination and installation of effective smoke detection and control system which is technically dependent on the properties of hot gases or smoke. Beside evacuation, a stairway is also important as an entrance route for firefighters for rescue and fire extinguishment purposes.

In general, to reduce the severity of smoke hazards, preventing the fire occurrence and increase the fire safety of the building with the aim to improve the chance of successful fire evacuation, it is essential to conduct appropriate fire risk management. Risk assessment is part of risk management which is used as a basis to measure the risk when it can be managed. The process of risk analysis which quantify the probability and determination of physical process in building fire events is called full quantitative fire risk assessment (QRA). Full QRA is used to quantify level of risk to life safety, business, property, or environment for any individual building either during phase of design or occupancy in terms of:

- i) Demonstrate equivalent life safety according to a building code compliance or satisfaction of fire risk criteria;
- ii) Cost benefit analysis for property protection or business continuity; and
- iii) Environmental impact assessment especially from large fires.

Even though this method requires a high degree of technical input and reliant on fire statistics and appropriate models available, the advantage of full QRA is they have a sound of theoretical basis and provide a numerical prediction of risk (Ramachandran & Charters, 2011). Basically, QRA adopts four main tasks: i) hazard identification, ii) frequency analysis, iii) consequence analysis and, iv) risk evaluation. Fire hazard can be defined as something with the potential to cause harm while risk defined as the combination of the frequency of an unwanted event and its consequences e.g. how often it might occur and how bad the outcome might be (Ramachandran and Charters, 2011). After the risk had been identified and assessed, the risk is evaluated to decide the level of fire risk for the risk treatment. The risk treatment application also known as risk reduction or risk control which based on hierarchy; i) elimination ii) prevention iii) mitigation and iv) control.

Risk assessment of fire and smoke movement in stairway is complicated according to its geometry, slope, opening and others. However, the analysis plays an important role in planning life-safety systems to protect occupants as stairway used as an escape route during evacuation. The severity of risks e.g. smoke layer height and temperature as an outcome of fire events are quantified in consequences analysis to assist the fire-safety engineer to explore different method in reducing the exposure of risks above. There are a number of ways which are reasonable to assess event consequences (Ramachandran and Charters, 2011) as follows;

- i) historical data;
- ii) disasters and near misses;
- iii) experiments and fire tests; and
- iv) modelling.

Consequences analysis based on historical and near misses data is not recommended due to lacks of information. To date there are several fire experiments were conducted to study smoke conditions in the single compartment of fire origin as well as in multi-compartment as event consequences. The room of fire origin usually referred as a fire in a single room and for the past of 50-years a number of researchers have produced various related findings and conclusion (Heselden, 1961; Mccaffrey, Quintiere, & Harkleroad, 1981; Kerber, 2012; Seo, Kim, Kim, & Kwon, 2013; De Sanctis, Fischer, Kohler, Faber, & Fontana, 2014).

Yang, Tan, & Xin, (2011) conducted a full-scale experiment in a multi-compartment storehouse to study the ignition manner, the fire spread and the combustion characteristics. Nevertheless, there are more examples of experimental studies conducted for multi-compartments (Wang, 2008; Olsthoorn, 2012, and Yi, Gao, Niu, & Yang, 2013). Moreover, apart from the study of smoke behaviour in a room, a multi-compartment configuration was also used to study the heat and smoke spread through the doors opening, ventilation ducts as well as leakage in nuclear industry (Audouin, Rigollet, Prétrel, Le Saux, & Röwekamp, 2013). Full-scale fire test is the best risk assessment method to obtain valuable information for the purpose of fire prevention and safety protection installation accordingly. However, fire experiments method is more expensive, unrepeatable and difficult to control. Modelling is an approach for predicting the various consequences of fires in buildings and there are three main approaches used which are simple calculation, zone, and field models.

Development of computer technology and tendency to replace prescriptive fire and building codes with performance-based codes has promoted the development of computer fire models to simulate fire and smoke movement such as FLUENT, FDS and PHOHENICS. Anyway, these models are complex and the user needs to have a fundamental understanding about the underlying fire dynamics calculation process to run the simulation. Furthermore, setting-up and running the computer simulation can be very time-consuming as it can take several days or weeks to obtain a result. Simple and transparent engineering methods can create opportunities to better understand a complex fire phenomenon and estimate the answer quickly before making decision (Xu, Xing, Jiang, & Li, 2019).

Simple and transparent engineering methods can create possibilities to better understand a complex fire phenomenon and estimate the answer quickly. In addition, simple calculations using mathematical models are good complement to the advanced computer models even though it has lower accuracy but offer simplified procedure (Johansson, 2015). It is useful to determine whether more detailed analysis is needed especially for different set of fire scenarios. The use of simple mathematical model also supported by another reason where it gives a possibility for engineers to make estimated calculations for a design related to fire safety. A mathematical model referred as McCaffrey, Quintiere and Harkleroad (MQH) correlation is one of the most well-known and widely used model to predict temperatures and smoke layer height for a single compartment. This correlation based on simple expression of energy balance where convective and conductive losses to enclosure are equivalent to the heat release rate (HRR) from the fire. Previous researchers had also developed a new mathematical method to predict smoke temperature and smoke layer height in a multicompartment building. As described by Harada (2007), a method was used to calculate temperatures in fully developed multi-compartment fire also based on an energy balance. However, this method requires sub-models for smoke transport and conduction which make it complicated to be used in hand-calculation.

Another example was presented by Kim & Lilley (2000) which based on assumptions that the fire spread to the next room when flashover occurs. It has been discovered that both models reported on fully developed fire and there is less study on pre-flashover condition that used hand-calculation method. Thus, Johansson, (2015) had developed a new and simple expression for the relationship between the mass flow and the hotgas-layer height in a pre-flashover fire in a multi-room with the help of existing plume models. With the help of qualitative best-fit analysis, two approximate expressions for the mass flow were established. Based on the result of those studies, it could create possibilities to propose a recommendation or guideline regarding compartment or building design for the reduction of fire consequences as well as severity. However, there is still lack of simple engineering methods which can be used to describe the smoke conditions in multi-storey building which become an interest because of many deaths reported while trapped mainly in the stairway due to suffocation during evacuation.

1.1 Problem statement

Fire safety engineering had address three objectives of fire system or strategy which are life safety, property loss prevention/business continuity and environmental protection. At the initial stage of fire growth, as a result of rising temperature and harmful gases emission, the main concern scientifically is life safety. After flashover, during fully developed fire, the concern shift from life safety to structural integrity, safety of fire fighters and soot generation release to environment. These circumstances need a quantitative fire risk assessment to select design fire scenario for deterministic analysis and/or quantify level of fire risk since the building fire could affect life safety, property loss/business continuity and environment. The most fundamental of fire safety goals in a building design is to ensure the life safety of occupants. The application of scientific and engineering principles to the fire protection in fire safety engineering to support building regulations (UBBL 1984) as the fire fighting guidance in "Guide to Fire Protection in Malaysia" may not adequately address the information on fire scenarios regarding to huge fire load in multi-storey building (Mustapha, 2018)(Ghani & Aripin, 2018). As was mentioned earlier, in the investigation of fire incident, smoke has been identified as a major cause of fatality in building fire. Locally in Malaysia, most of entertainment centre used multi-storey buildings as their premise

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and this place consist high intensity of people especially youth and tourist who are not aware and lacking of information on surroundings. It might create a problem when emergency happened at night as they do not know how to ask for help as happened in Ipoh recently. Six people died including two Vietnamese after an entertainment centre on the fourth floor caught on fire early morning where the cause of death was smoke inhalation (Kaur, 2019). Considering the stairway is the only route for evacuation and rescue when this type of building is on fire, with high intensity of people while evacuate it is important to ensure the stairway is free from smoke logging by installing fire protection measures. Essentially, the activation and effectiveness of smoke detection and control system is heavily dependent on hot gases or smoke, thus it is important to study the smoke conditions for the purpose of life safety and devices performance. By conducting a real experiment of fire, beside expensive it is hard to control and due to high humidity (>80%) of climate weather in this country, it might increase the corrosively of some equipment. Modelling with computer simulation (zone and field zone) can be used to predict some of the important factors such as smoke height layer and temperature for fire safety in new or existing building. However, a major problem with this kind of application is the complexity and the users need to have fundamental understanding on the underlying fire dynamics calculation process to run the simulation (Johansson, Svensson, & Hees, 2015). Furthermore, coding and running the computer simulation can be very time-consuming as it can take several days or weeks to obtain a result.

This study was conducted to develop a simple mathematical model used for smoke temperature prediction in stairway. Smoke spread from fire source to the stairway or upper level driven by buoyancy force that is the temperature difference which induced the air flow as demonstrated by previous field studies and experiment (Zohrabian, Mokhtarzadeh-Dehghan, Reynolds & Marriott, 1989; Feustel et al., 1985). Even though the calculation method might have lower accuracy than the computer simulation models, this method can provide an estimated value which is satisfactorily for the issues being studied. The gross estimation can also be used to decide whether a more detailed calculation using computer simulation is needed. Moreover, a simple mathematical model can be executed quickly while computer model may require hours or days to complete the simulation and provide the result (Kodur, Yu, & Dwaikat, 2013). This is very helpful when need to conduct a fire risk analysis for a multiple fire scenario cases. Finally, simple mathematical model can be used in parametric studies to improve knowledge of the factors that influence the conditions in compartment fire. Despite there are many consequences analysis methods available to predict smoke conditions which vary from point source models to highly complicated computational fluid dynamic models, only a few which have been validated for the use in s stairway of multi-storeys buildings (Chen et al., 2016)(Xia, 2014). The main goal of this study is to develop a new and validate simplified mathematical model to predict the smoke conditions in a multi-storey building specifically in a stairway which used as the only route for rescue and evacuation when fire happens. The findings could assist the determination of design related to fire safety and installation of effective smoke detection as well as control system in stairway which is technically dependent on the properties of hot gases or smoke.

1.2 Research Objective

The aim of this research is to develop a mathematical model to predict smoke temperature in a stairway of multi-storey building. From a problem statement explain above, three (3) objectives were created for this research:

- i) To investigate the risk parameters in the stairway of multi-storey building according to life safety when fire occur;
- ii) To develop a simplified mathematical model for stairway in multi-storey building where a sensitivity analysis also been conducted to determine how independent variables (stairway enclosure) will impact the smoke temperature as dependent variable.
- iii) To determine the degree of verification of developed mathematical model by comparing with numerical simulation and previous experimental full-scale result

The developed model is used to investigate the smoke behaviour for smoke control design and rescue operation plan involving multiple fire scenarios in multi-storey building in Malaysia. Moreover, when evacuating through fire environment the presence of smoke not only affected the physiological of occupants but may also lead the occupants to adapt their evacuation strategy by adopting another exit. Thus, a proper evacuation strategy with alternative exit is required.

1.3 Scop<mark>e and limitation</mark>

The scope of this research mainly focused on the smoke temperature in stairway of multi-storey building. The scope of this study is limited to:

- i) Smoke movement analysis only considered in vertical shaft of the building as an escape route;
- ii) The study is focused on a multi-storey building with a maximum of 3-storeys or 18 meters height, used for business purpose on the lowest floor and for occupancy on the upper floors;
- iii) This study works on the well ventilated pre-flashover fire paradigm which focuses on the smoke layer temperature as this parameter is important criteria in life safety as well as for property protection analysis. The derived model is developed for constant heat release rate, so temporary conditions are not considered in the methods.

1.4 Significance of study

This study will provide several significant contributions for fire safety practitioners as well as researchers in the field of fire science that are considered valuable. The major contributions from this study are listed below:

- i) A discussion of both complex and simple methods used to calculate the condition in spaces adjacent to fire originated room for fire risk analysis which have been valuable in fire science for several decades;
- ii) The new model development was extended from existing smoke prediction model that is MQH correlation which previously widely applied in single- or multi-compartments;
- iii) From this study, a new mathematical model is developed to predict smoke movement in vertical shaft adjacent to a fire originated compartment which is valuable contribution to fire engineers. It could be considered as a toolbox for quick estimated calculation in fire protection design evaluation as well as for fire risk analysis without specific training on the usage; and
- iv) Based on experimental works done previously by other scholar, additional heat loss to the tread boards and landing were also included in developed mathematical correlation while calculating which influenced the smoke temperature.

Previous correlation developed based on numerical and experimental result are applied for single and multi-room purpose. Thus for this study, the correlation developed using numerical simulation for a stairway of multi-storey building is the novelty of this research.

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BIODATA OF STUDENT

Nurud Suria binti Suhaimi is an academic staff in University Malaysia Pahang (UMP), Gambang branch. She got her first degree in Environmental Technology from University Malaysia Terengganu which is formerly known as Kolej Universiti Sains and Teknologi Malaysia (KUSTEM) in 2004. In addition, her master in Environmental Engineering also been awarded by the same university in 2009. She started her career in 2008 as a lecturer in private paramedic college before continued her career in UMP a year later. Her area of research is more on safety and environment and she has been involved with a number of research encountered those areas previously. She is now pursuing her study in Doctoral of Philosophy majoring in safety, health and environment focusing on fire safety.



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

- Suhaimi, N.S. and Mustapha, S. A review of fire risk assessment tools in compartment. ARPN Journal of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Vol. 11, No.11, June 2016. ISSN 1819-6608.
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- Nurud, M, Saari, M, Abdullah, I, Nor, M.A. and Mohd, R.B. Influence of natural smoke vent opening in stairway of multi-storey building. Journal of Mechanical and Engineering Science (JMEAS) (Submitted on Feb 2018; under review by reviewer)
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