
Advanced Structural Analysis Modelling

Course: P-Delta, Dynamic and Plate Element Checks

4 – 8 October 2027
New York





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Ref: 555_29363 Date: 4 – 8 October 2027 Location: New York Fees: 7900 GBP

Programme Summary

Advanced structural analysis modelling is the subject of this one-week training course for senior structural engineers, analysis leads and design managers, ending in an analysis model review pack for one structure. A model can run without error and still misstate stability, sway or plate stresses, because the engineer trusted default settings. The programme moves from model idealisation to second-order effects, buckling, dynamic response and finite element modelling of plates, using the participant's own structure as test material. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on advanced structural analysis modelling to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Advanced analysis results feed decisions on member sizes, bracing and foundations, yet few reviewers can say which assumptions drove them. Leaders who ask for second-order checks, modal evidence and mesh studies, and who reconcile software output with simple benchmarks, can accept or reject an analysis with reasons instead of trust.

- Analysis Risk: Falls as assumptions, boundary conditions and analysis types are recorded and challenged.
- Design Margin: Becomes better understood as stability and dynamic results are checked against independent estimates.
- Review Time: Falls as a standard evidence pack replaces ad hoc questions to modellers.

Principles and Evidence Base

- Second-order analysis: The programme applies P-delta and linear buckling methods to judge sway sensitivity and stability in Session 2.
- Modal and response spectrum analysis: The programme uses mass participation and spectrum input logic to structure the dynamic work in Session 3.
- Eurocode 8: The programme refers to its response spectrum specification to show how spectrum inputs are defined for earthquake analysis in Session 3.
- Finite element modelling: Element choice, meshing and convergence checks govern the plate work in Session 4.



Intended Participants

- Senior structural engineers who approve analysis models and interpret their results.
- Analysis leads who set modelling standards for a design office or project.
- Design managers who review consultant analysis reports before acceptance.
- Owner-side engineers who must challenge stability and dynamic assumptions.
- Technical authority holders who decide when advanced analysis is required.

Typical functions include building and bridge design consultancies, energy and industrial facilities owners, general contractors and infrastructure authorities.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to construct an analysis scope statement and idealisation record for a complex structure.
2. Participants will be able to evaluate second-order and buckling results against sway and stability limits.
3. Participants will be able to diagnose errors in mass, damping and spectrum inputs using modal participation evidence.
4. Participants will be able to design a mesh study that shows when plate stresses have converged.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise review comments on an analysis model by consequence.
6. Participants will be able to justify analysis assumptions and results to clients, checkers and approving bodies.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Advanced Structural Analysis Modelling Scope and Idealisation

What must the model represent, and which analysis type does the question need?

- Analysis Scope Statement
- Model Idealisation Checklist
- Boundary Condition Register
- Load Case Register
- Analysis Type Selection Matrix

Day 2: Second-Order Effects and Buckling

When do P-delta effects and buckling change the answer?

- P-Delta Analysis Set-Up
- Linear Buckling Run
- Buckling Factor Table
- Sway Sensitivity Check
- Second-Order Hand Estimate



Day 3: Dynamic Analysis: Modal and Response Spectrum

How is a dynamic model proved sound before its forces are used?

- Mass Source Definition
- Modal Participation Table
- Response Spectrum Input Sheet
- Modal Combination Review
- Base Shear Reconciliation

Day 4: Plate Element Modelling and Result Interpretation

How are plates and walls meshed, and how are their stresses read?

- Plate Element Type Selection
- Mesh Density Study
- Stress Contour Review
- Section Cut Force Integration
- Mesh Convergence Log

Day 5: Applying the Tools to One Analysis Model Review Pack

Do the scope, stability, dynamic and mesh tools form one working model review?

- Applying the Session 1 Model Idealisation Checklist
- Using the Session 2 Buckling Factor Table
- Testing the Session 3 Base Shear Reconciliation
- Checking the Session 4 Mesh Convergence Log
- Completing the Analysis Model Review Pack

Methodology

The programme uses a peer review method built on anonymised model reports, input listings, mode shape plots and stress contours from buildings, industrial structures and energy facilities. Participants work in small groups on a shared model and receive written facilitator feedback on every exercise set.

- Suggested activity: Finding the input error behind a mode shape that looks implausible.
- Suggested activity: Comparing a buckling factor with a hand estimate for one column.
- Suggested activity: Refining a plate mesh until a stress peak stops moving.



Capstone Output

Each participant completes an analysis model review pack for one structure. It holds an analysis scope statement, a buckling factor table, a modal participation table, a base shear reconciliation and a mesh convergence log. The pack is used at work to brief the design team, challenge a consultant's analysis report and decide which results can be relied on.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is advanced structural analysis modelling suitable for engineers who already run models daily?

Yes. Advanced structural analysis modelling assumes structural training and routine use of analysis software, and adds second-order, dynamic and plate modelling checks step by step.

Which methods does advanced structural analysis modelling rest on?

Advanced structural analysis modelling here rests on second-order and buckling analysis, modal and response spectrum analysis, and finite element modelling, with Eurocode 8 as the spectrum reference.

How is the review pack from advanced structural analysis modelling used at work?

You use the analysis model review pack to brief the design team, challenge consultant reports, agree open points and decide which results can be relied on.

How does advanced structural analysis modelling differ from basic structural design training?

Advanced structural analysis modelling centres on how the model behaves under second-order, dynamic and plate effects. Basic structural design training centres on sizing members from simpler load cases.