

# Field Observations Following the 2023 Turkiye-Syria Earthquakes

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# The Earthquakes

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- February 6, 2023
  - Pazarcik:  $M_w = 7.8$
  - Elbistan:  $M_w = 7.5$
- Impacts:
  - Nearly 60,000 deaths
  - 3 million displaced
  - Economic losses  $> 1/10$  of GDP

Sources:

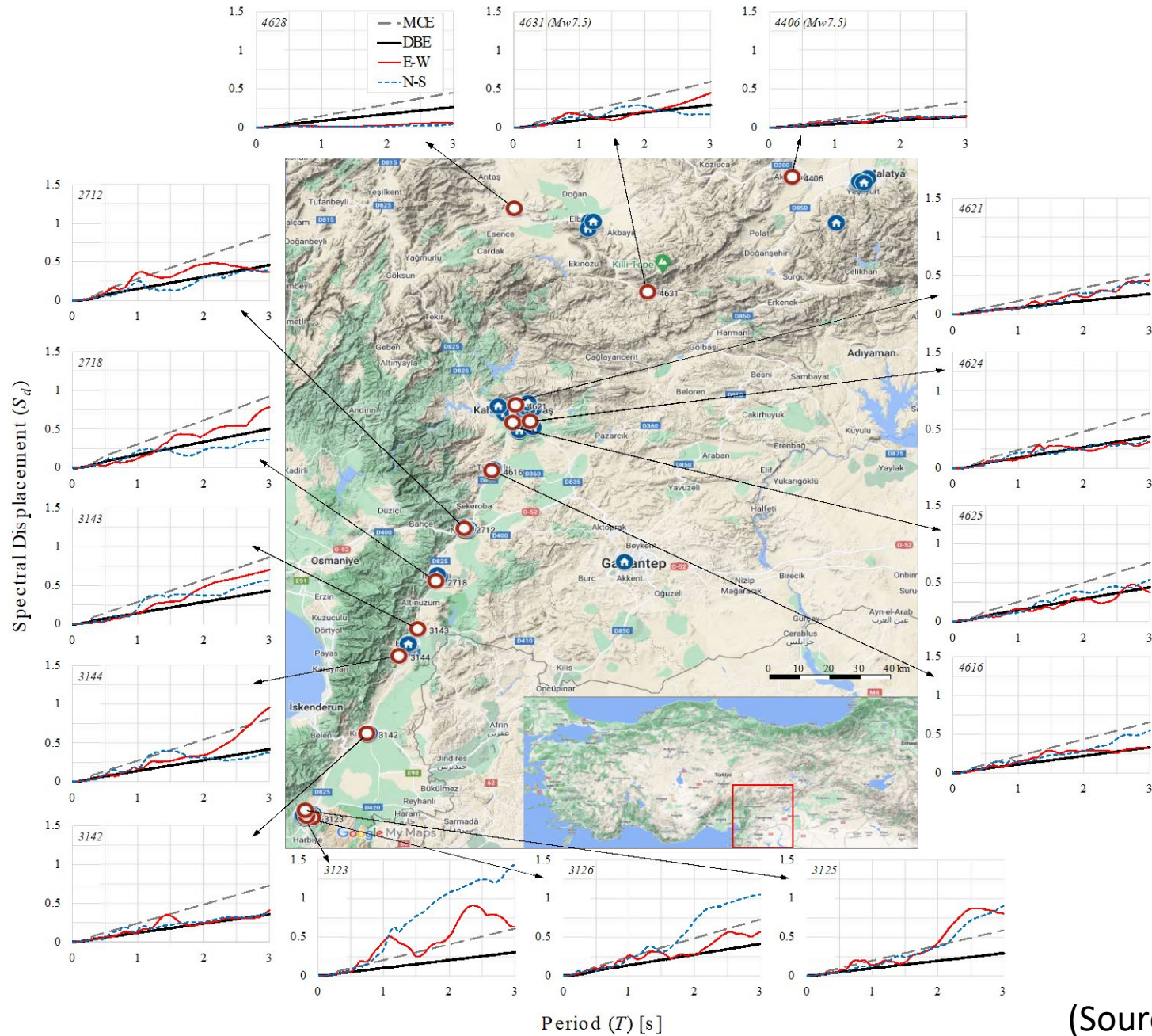
<https://earthquake.usgs.gov/storymap/index-turkey2023.html>

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/stories/disasters-and-emergencies/world/turkey-syria-earthquake>

<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/30/1191264192/turkey-earthquake-rebuild-displaced-people-adiyaman>

<https://www.barrons.com/news/donor-conference-seeks-to-rally-quake-aid-for-turkey-syria-bce11409>





(Source: Egemen Sonmez, AFAD)

# The ACI 133 Survey

# The Survey

American Concrete Institute (ACI)

Dicle University

Eskisehir Osmangazi University

Hacettepe University

Harran University

Izmir Institute of Technology

Izmir University of Economics

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

Purdue University

University of Canterbury

University of Kansas

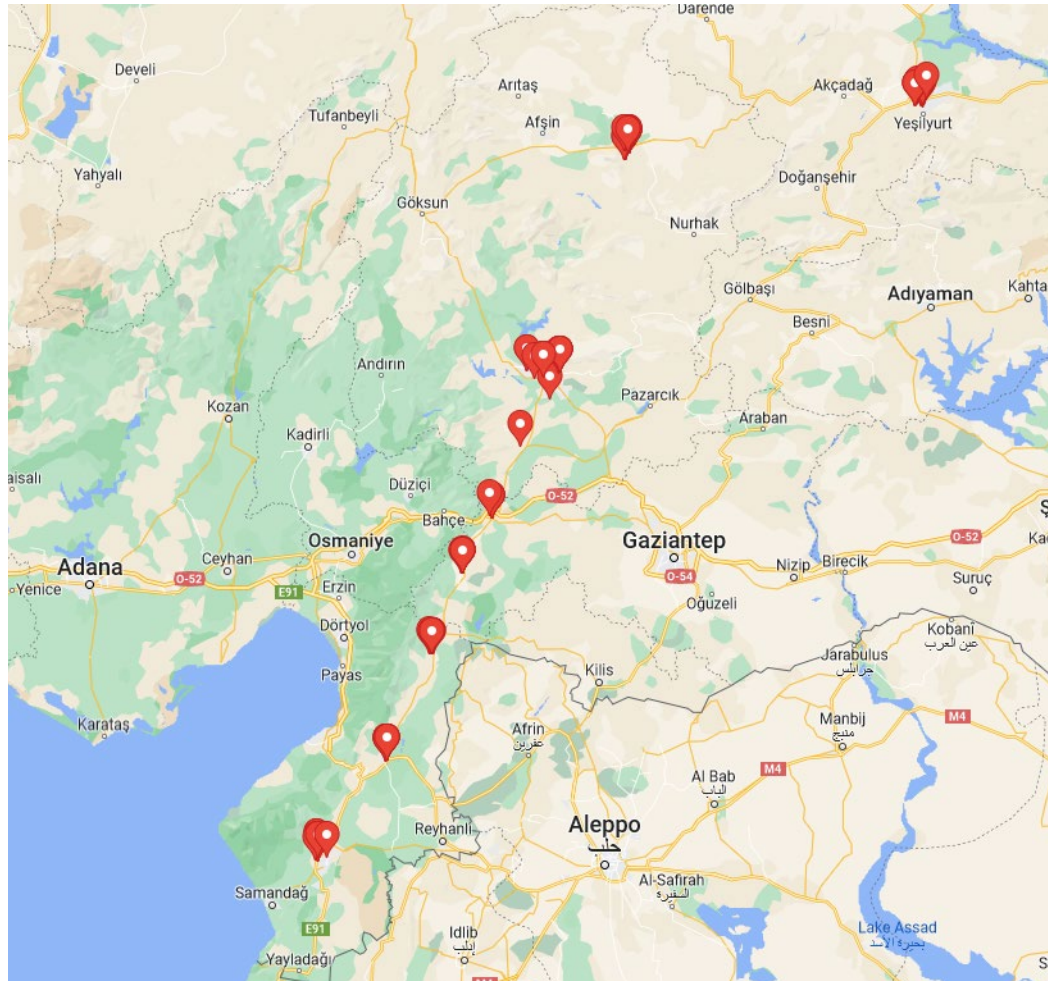
University of Nebraska

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates (WJE)





# The ACI 133 Survey



March 25 to April 6, 2023

10 Cities

Surveyed 322 buildings;  
complete records obtained  
for 242 buildings

# The ACI 133 Survey

For each building, groups of three to four engineers:

- 1) Documented damage
- 2) Measured span lengths and column/wall dimensions

GUIDANCE DOCUMENT: ACI 133 Reconnaissance Activities



Observed Damage:  
Problematic Reinforcement Details

# Problematic Details



Concrete cover or longitudinal bar spacing smaller than required

Lack of crossties

# Problematic Details



Lack of 135-degree hooks

Widely spaced transverse reinforcement around small-diameter longitudinal bars

# Problematic Details



Widely spaced transverse reinforcement at cold joints

# Problematic Details



Offset-bent longitudinal bars (so-called “dog-Leg” detail) at the base of columns/walls

# Problematic Details



Lap splices at column and wall bases



# Problematic Details



Bar terminations in beams

# Problematic Details



Detailing of short “non-participating” beams

# Code Compliant (?) Problematic Details



Lack of confinement for column and wall longitudinal bars inside foundation

ACI 318 prohibits in SDC D, E, F;  
Consider extending to IMF?

# Code Compliant (?) Problematic Details



Unconfined beam bars in beam-column joints

ACI 318 prohibits in SMF;  
Consider extending to “non-participating”, IMF, and OMF

# Nonstructural Damage

# Nonstructural Damage



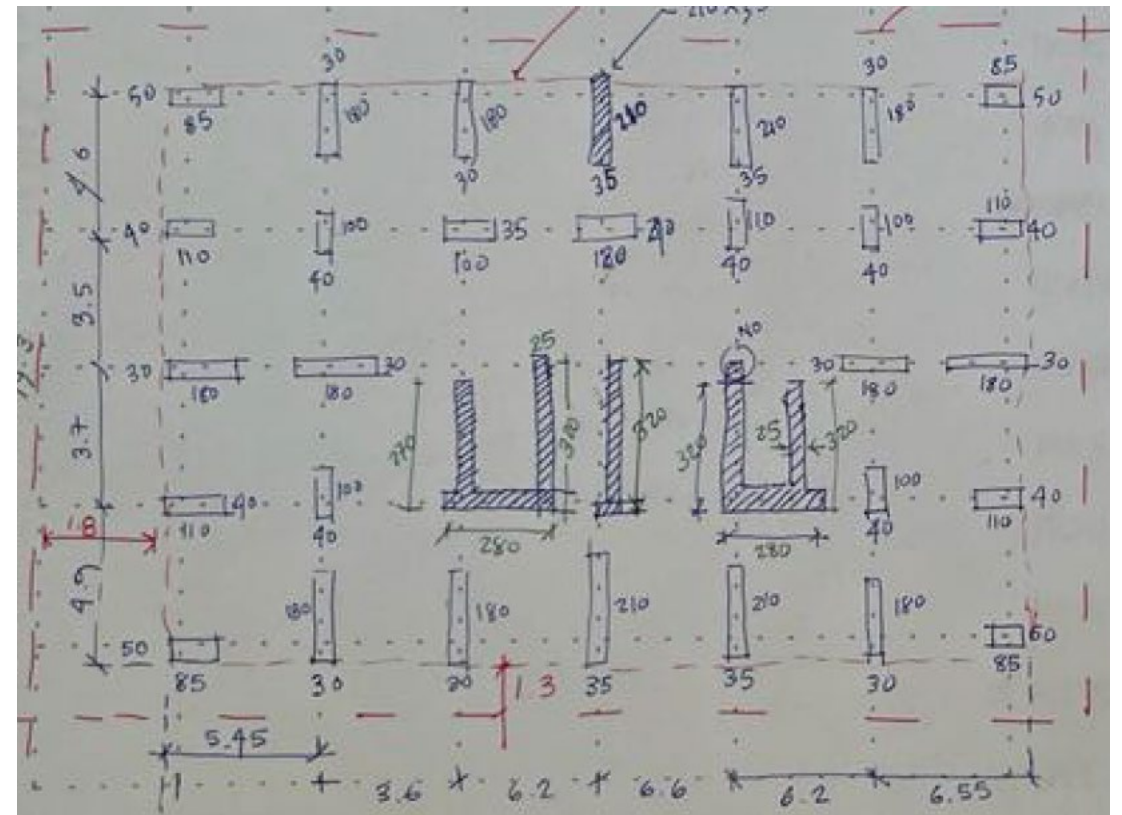
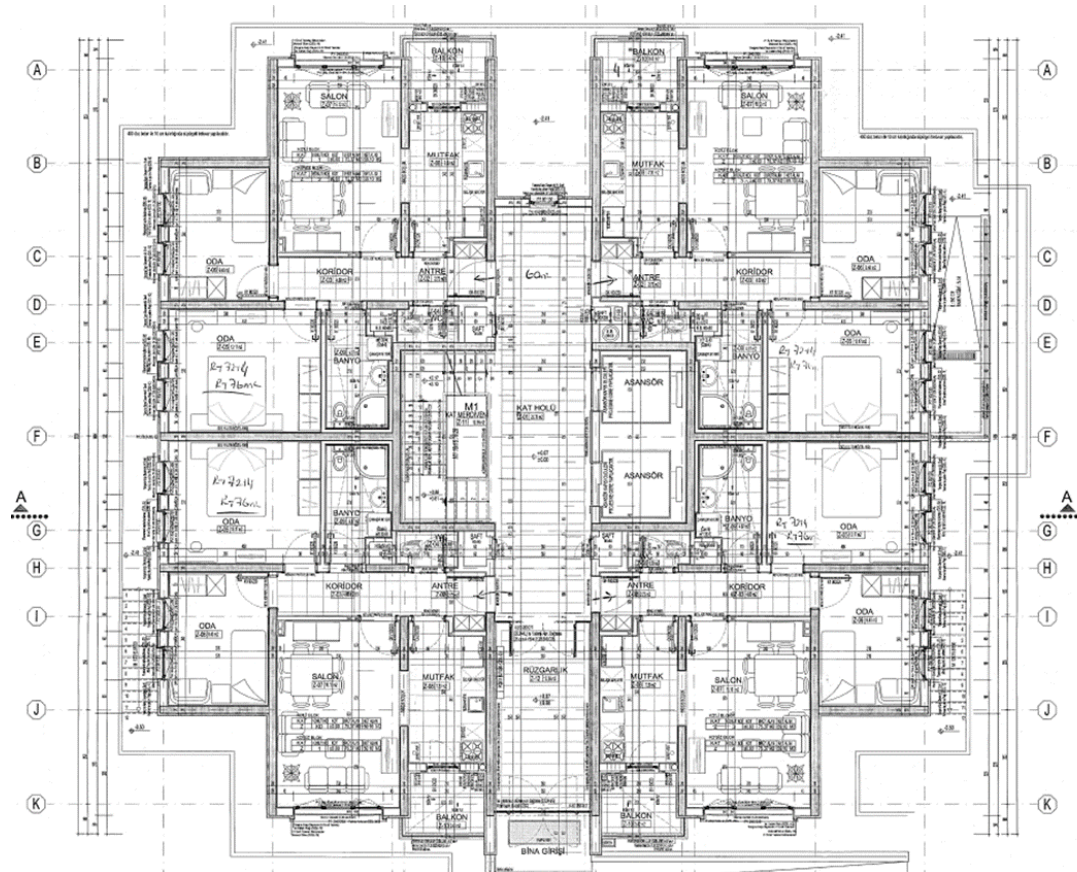
# Nonstructural Damage



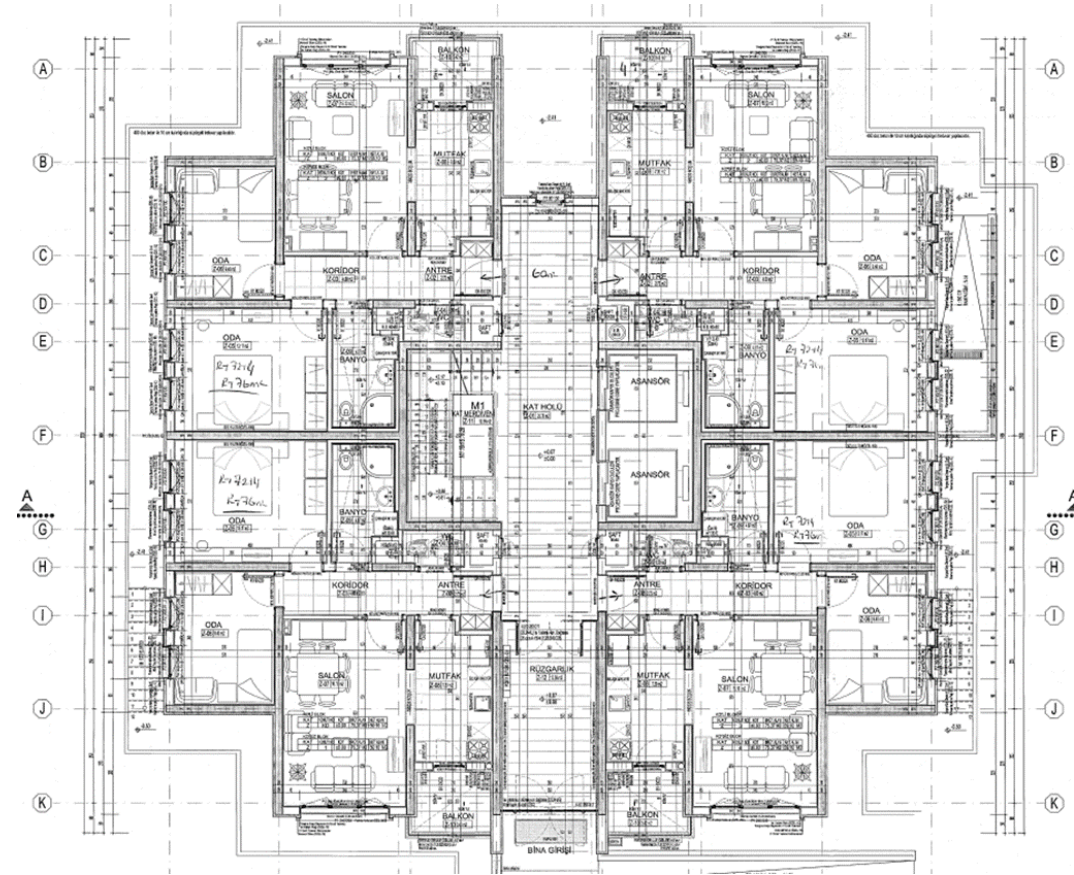
# Damage and Robustness



# Damage and Robustness



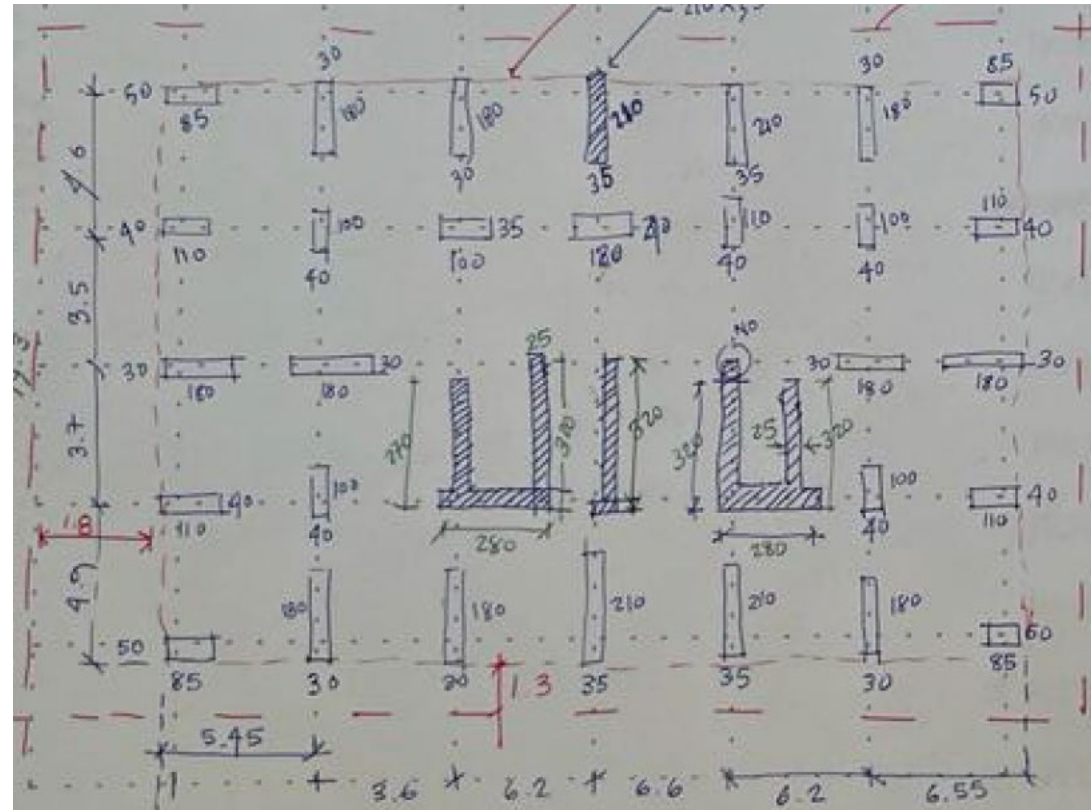
# Damage and Robustness



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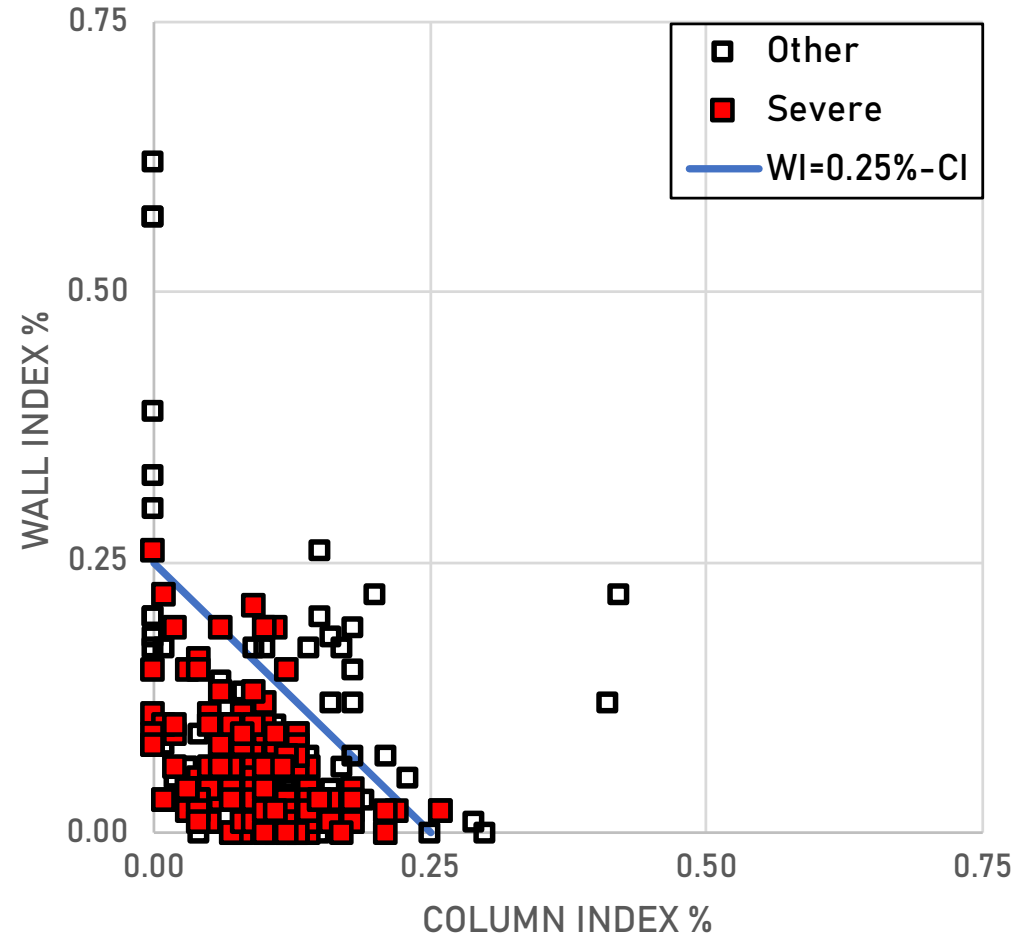
- Hassan and Sozen (1997):

$$\text{Wall Index: } WI = \frac{\text{Area}(RC \text{ Walls}) + \text{Area}(Masonry \text{ Walls}) / 10}{\text{Total Floor Area Above Critical}}$$

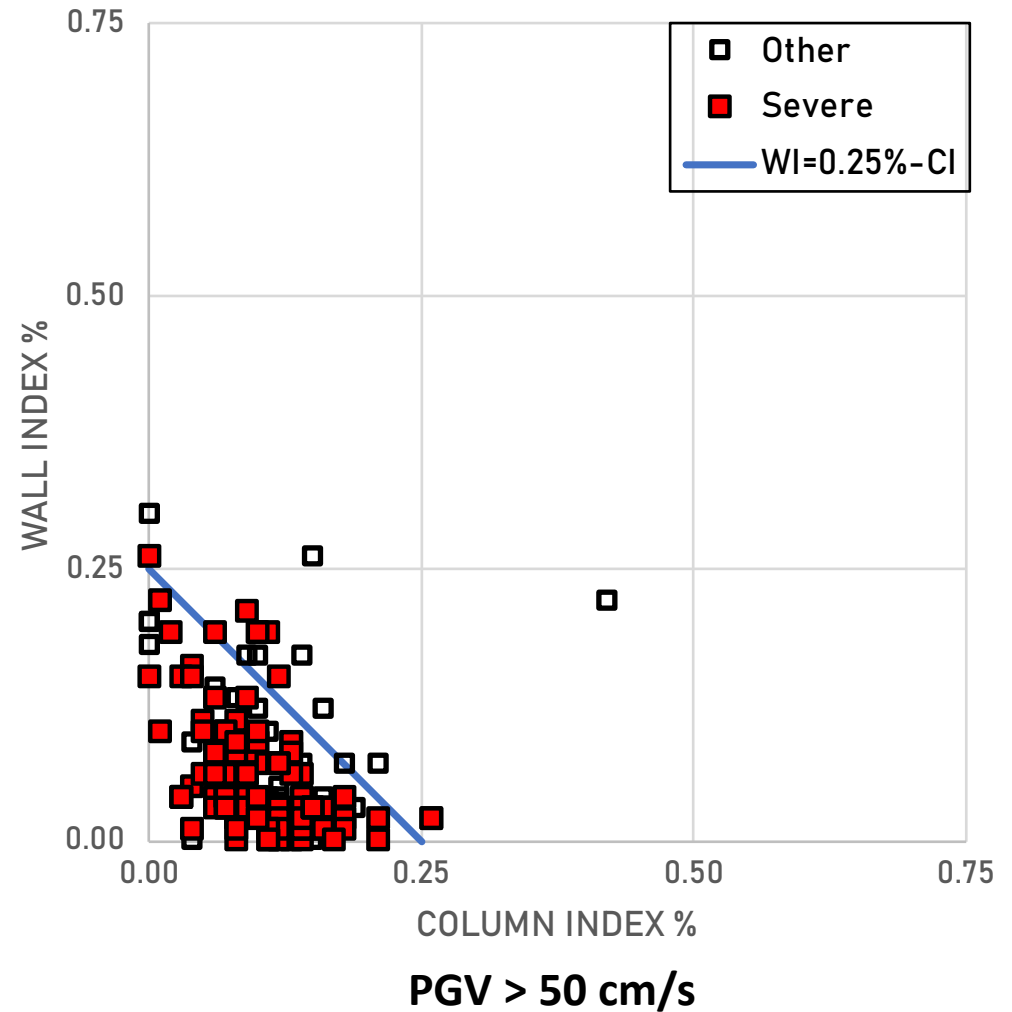
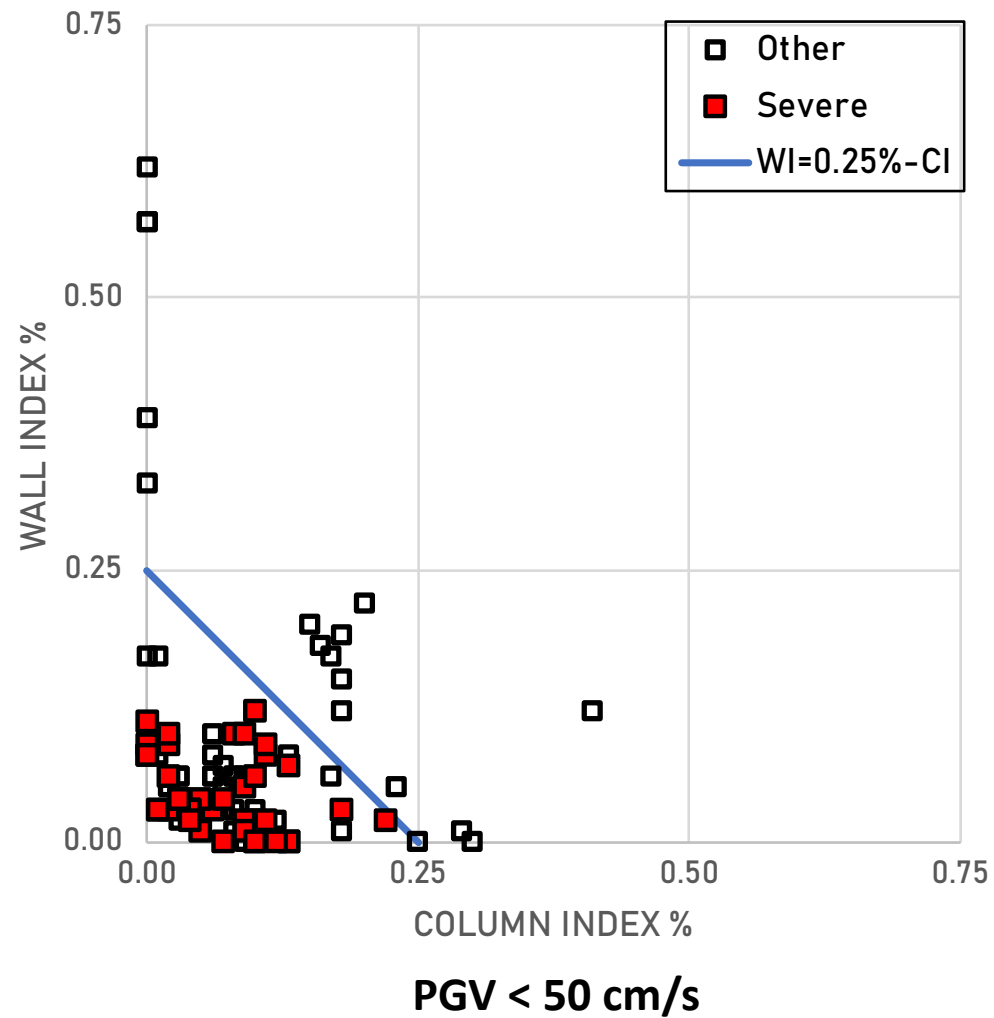
$$\text{Column Index: } CI = \frac{\text{Area}(Columns) / 2}{\text{Total Floor Area Above Critical}}$$



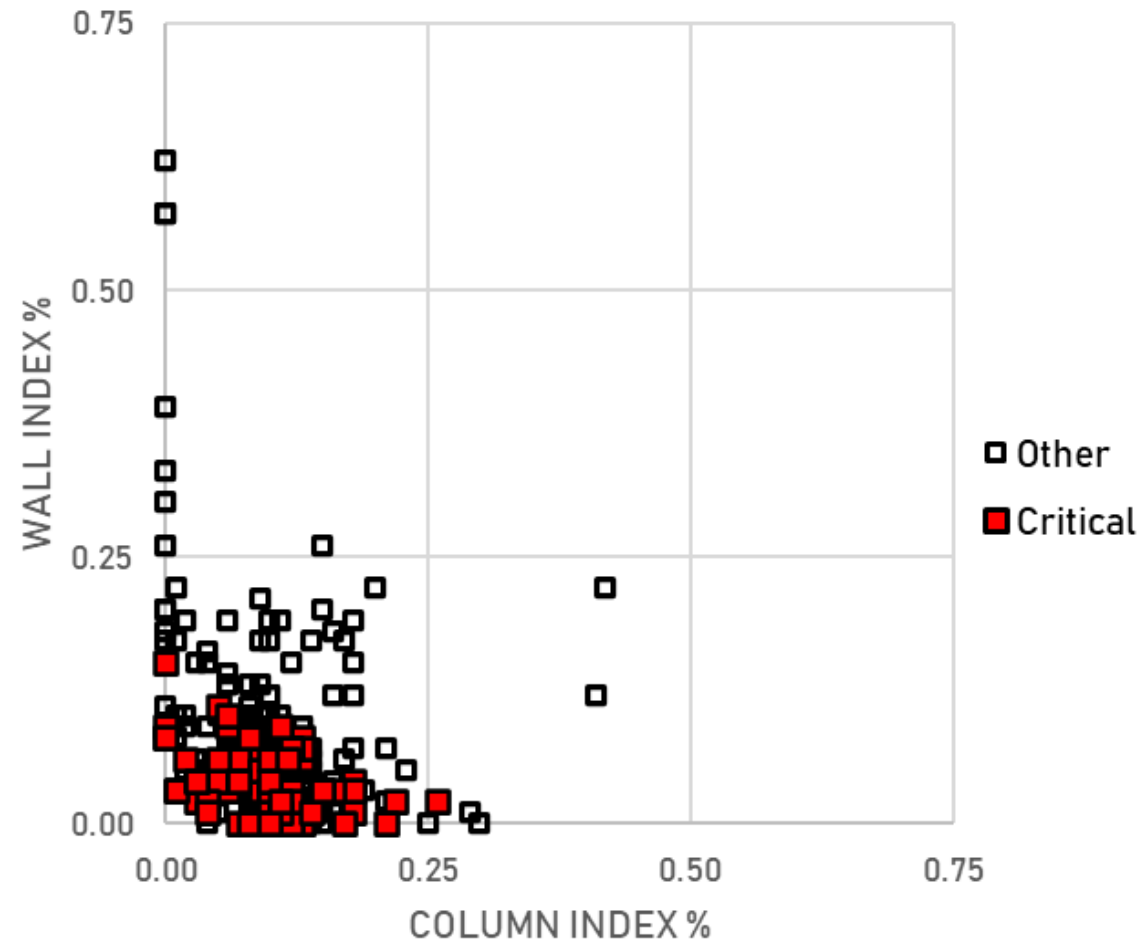
# Damage and Robustness



# Damage and Robustness



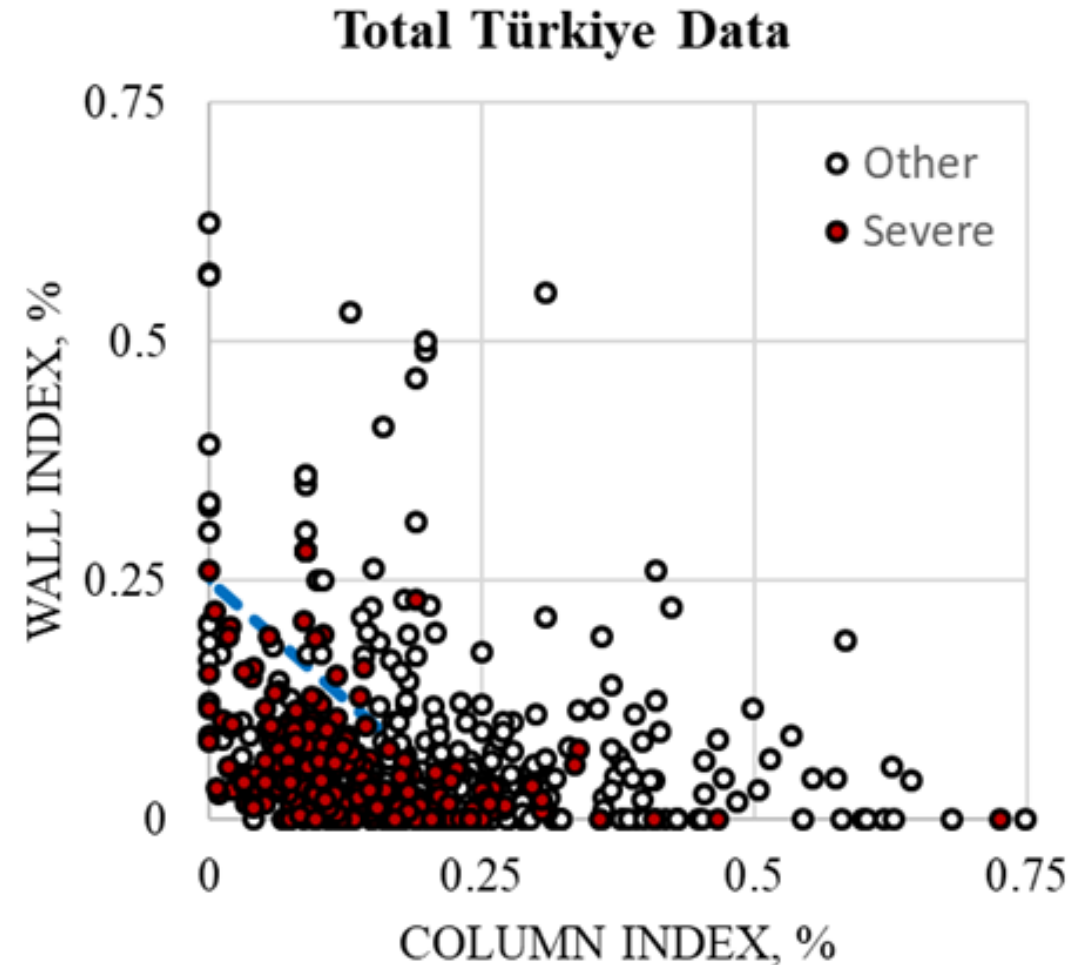
# Damage and Robustness



# Damage and Robustness

- 1992 Erzincan
- 1999 Bolüzce
- 2023 Pazarcik

Source: Donmez et al., (2023) "Lessons from the 2023 Southeast Türkiye Earthquakes: A Study on Damaged RC Buildings Considering the Hassan Index," *18<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering*.



# Summary of Contributing Factors

- Ground motion intensity was substantially greater than expected
- Large drifts revealed problematic reinforcement details, many of which were not code compliant
- Damage to non-structural elements made well-designed buildings dangerous and unusable
- Buildings with more walls did better

# Recommendations

- Drift control should be prioritized; recommend  $WI > 0.25\%$
- Reducing damage to nonstructural elements is essential for reducing population dislocation
- Proper reinforcement detailing is essential for limiting damage
- Engineers should bear in mind that design ground motions may be substantially exceeded



Containers in Besni in 2024, Source: Aljazeera



Tents in Antakya in 2024, Source: Washington Post



Thank you