

# Enhancing Internal Vertical Logistics Flows in High-Rise Construction: An Exploratory Study

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## AGENDA

- Introduction
- Research Methods
- Results
- Discussion
- Limitations
- Conclusion





# INTRODUCTION

- Optimized vertical transportation is crucial in high rise buildings (HRB) construction to minimize wastes
- We have developed a proof of concept agent-based model that could be used in high rise projects to study, pre-plan and determine the performance of hypothetical strategies for vertical transportation systems.





### **RESEARCH METHOD**

Design science research methodology involve getting feedbacks from researchers and practitioners seeded this methodology



Model



Elevator



Wagon







Breakroom



Storage



# **RESEARCH METHOD - Takt plan**

A simple takt plan to illustrate the progress of HRB production was used. The takt plan contains information on the simplified structural, exterior, and interior phases of a 40-floor HRB (see Figure 1).



Figure 1. Hypothetical simple takt plan





# **RESEARCH METHOD - Metrics**

A new metric called **system latency** is suggested in this study. We define it as the average time required by the transportation system, including elevators and staircases, to fulfil workers' intentions The **utilization rate** index is used to assess the average percentage of time workers' spent in their working location.





# **RESEARCH METHOD – Agents Properties (Examples)**

Parameters	Explanation
Number and type of lifts	The number of installed elevators at a given time.
Elevators range	Which floors are served with each elevator?
Elevator's usage	Materials/logistics or people
Material lifting strategies.	As part of the structural works cycle in weekends
Break room's locations	On every 5th and 10th floor breakrooms in site
Elevators ordering options.	One button for each elevator or other methods
Waste production	Consideration for waste flow
Probability of using the elevator	i.e., faster elevators or elevators with more range
Location of material storage	One floor or many
Location of waste disposable	One floor or many
Height: 10, 30 and 50 floors	By changing the time wagons move up.
	ParametersNumber and type of liftsElevators rangeElevator's usageMaterial lifting strategies.Break room's locationsElevators ordering options.Waste productionProbability of using the elevatorLocation of material storageLocation of waste disposableHeight: 10, 30 and 50 floors



**Table 1.** Agents properties used to construct scenarios/strategies

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# RESULTS





In total, 54 simulation runs in two iterations were conducted in this pilot study. The generated data were analysed and visualized. KPIs were calculated after simulating one week per scenario. The investigated 27 scenarios are formed from the combinations of the following parameters three parameters: the number of elevators, breakroom(i.e. coffee, lunch) location, and starting day



The numbers of elevators: two, four, and six.



break rooms' locations: only ground floor, every fifth floor, and every 10th floor



Simulation starting days are 200, 400 and 600



#### **RESULTS – Day 400**





Utilization - All Scenarios - 40th Floo

System latency - All Scenarios - Scenarios- 40th floor





#### Discussion

- significant correlation between system variables and the overall performance of the vertical transportation system.
- It was possible to increase the utilization rate ca 18% by changing the system's variables.
- The simulation model helped to quantify the impact of these changes on system performance.
- The increase in the utilization rate was not linear.
- In some cases, adding more break rooms resulted in better performance than adding elevators





#### **Some Limitation**

- No distinction between external elevator with operator and internal elevators without operator was made.
- the speed of elevators in this research is considered all equal and slow for construction elevators.
- System performance at peak times should be considered
- Validation is required in pre-planning phase and during construction phase.





#### **ON GOING RESEARCH AND CONCLUSIONS**

simple simulation model that can predict some performance metrics for vertical construction logistics systems was developed The proof of concept showed the significance different parameters have on the performance of vertical transportation systems.

The model is piloted by two major companies and • planners to update their current planning methods and produce better plans.





Space Planning in an Artificial Construction Site Asout Plantes Per Second Current Step: 356 290.0 days passed 356.0 steps passed today 1175.Ototal days SR floor 29 coffe break start 1280 colle break duration 96 42800.0week steps 

meterials\_demand

start, day

scenaria\_sheet

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# **THANK YOU!** alaa.albarazi@aalto.fi

