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### KNOWLEDGE-BASED EXPERT SYSTEMS IN STRUCTURAL DESIGN

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#### Abstract

A large number of problems encountered by structural designers are ill structured and are either not amenable to an algorithmic solution or the algorithms are too cumbersome and restrictive. Knowledge-based expert systems (KBES) provide a means to assist in the solution of these ill-structured problems that demand considerable expertise. KBES also provide a flexible methodology for developing engineering software, as well as a mechanism for formalizing thought processes about design. In this paper applications of KBES to the preliminary design, analysis, and detailed design phases of structural design are discussed. A conceptual view of an integrated structural design system in the light of recent advances in KBES development is also presented.

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