

VISUAL PROGRAMMING ALGORITHMS AS AN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING



1- Introduction

2- Visual Programming Application

3- Results

4- Conclusions



Introduction: Key challenges to understand abstract concepts

1. Heavy reliance on mathematical formulations and equations.

$R_A = \frac{1}{2} wL$
 $R_B = \frac{1}{2} wL$
 $x=0, y=0 \quad A$
 $x=L, y=0 \quad B$

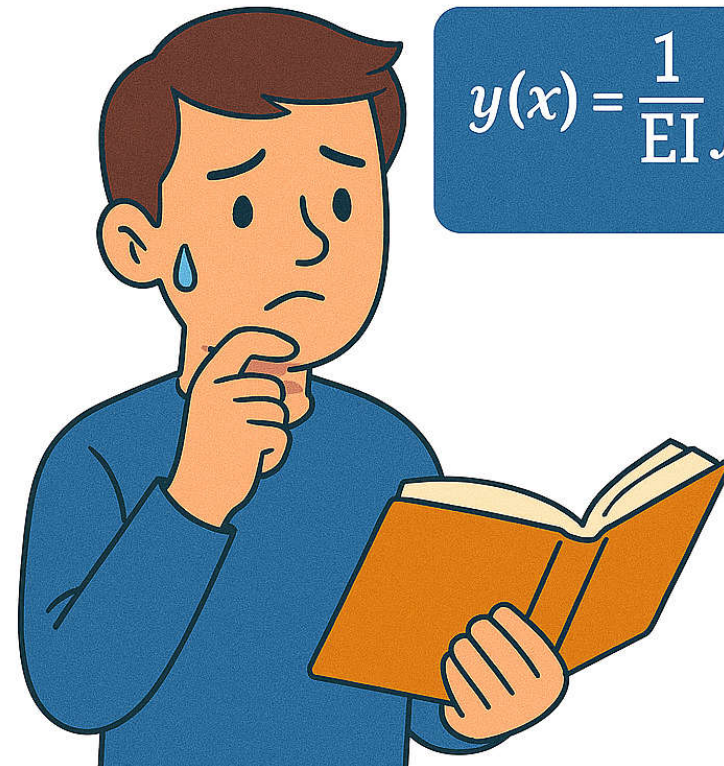
$EI \frac{d^2 y}{dx^2} = \frac{1}{2} wLx - \frac{1}{2} wx^2$
 $EI \frac{dy}{dx} = \frac{1}{4} wLx^2 - \frac{1}{6} wx^3 + C_1$
 $EI \theta = \frac{1}{4} wLx^2 - \frac{1}{6} wx^3 + C_1$
 $EI y = \frac{1}{12} wLx^3 - \frac{1}{24} wx^4 + C_1 x + C_2$

$\Sigma F_y = \frac{1}{2} wL = wx + V$
 $V = \frac{1}{2} wL - wx$

$\Sigma M_A: M = Vx + \frac{1}{2} wx^2$
 $M = \frac{1}{2} wLx - wx^2 + \frac{1}{2} wx^2$
 $M = \frac{1}{2} wLx - \frac{1}{2} wx^2$

$A \quad EI \theta = 0 = 0 - 0 - 0 + C_1$
 $C_1 = 0$

$B \quad EI \theta = \frac{1}{2} wL^2 - \frac{1}{24} wL^4 + C_1 L + 0$
 $C_1 L = -\frac{1}{24} wL^4$
 $C_1 = -\frac{1}{24} wL^3$



$$y(x) = \frac{1}{EI} \int_0^x \int_0^\xi w(\xi) (x - \xi) d\xi$$

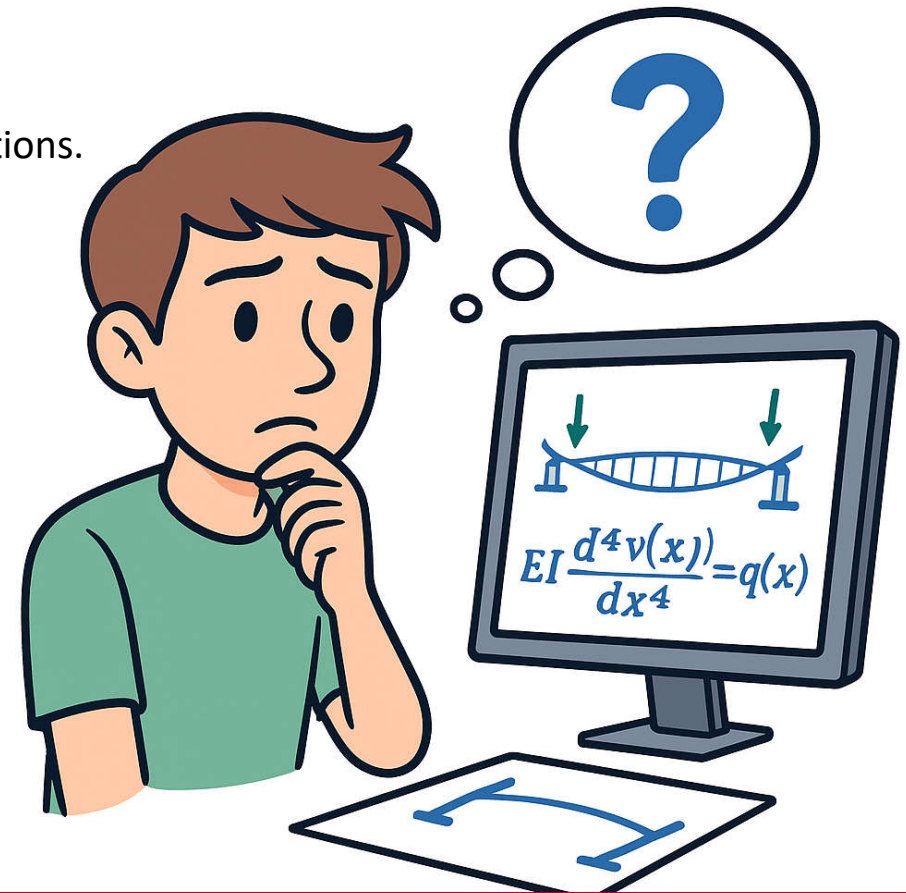
Introduction: Key challenges to understand abstract concepts

2. Apparent lack of connection between theoretical models and real-world applications.



Introduction: Key challenges to understand abstract concepts

3. Difficulty visualizing physical behavior from abstract representations.



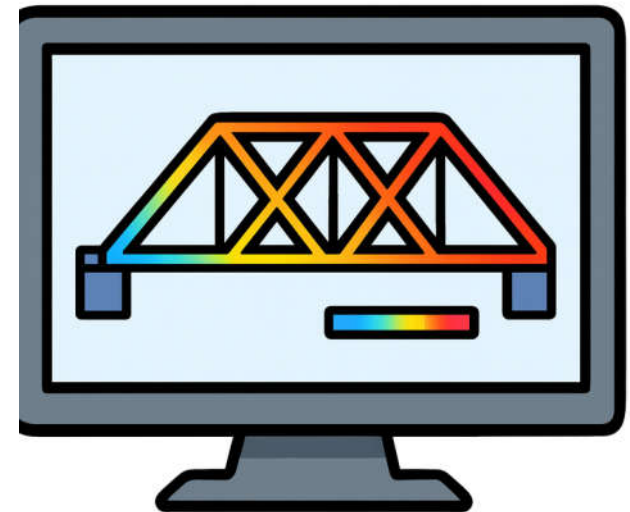
Introduction: Key challenges to understand abstract concepts

4. Limited exposure to interactive or experimental learning tools.



Introduction: Tools to enhance understanding

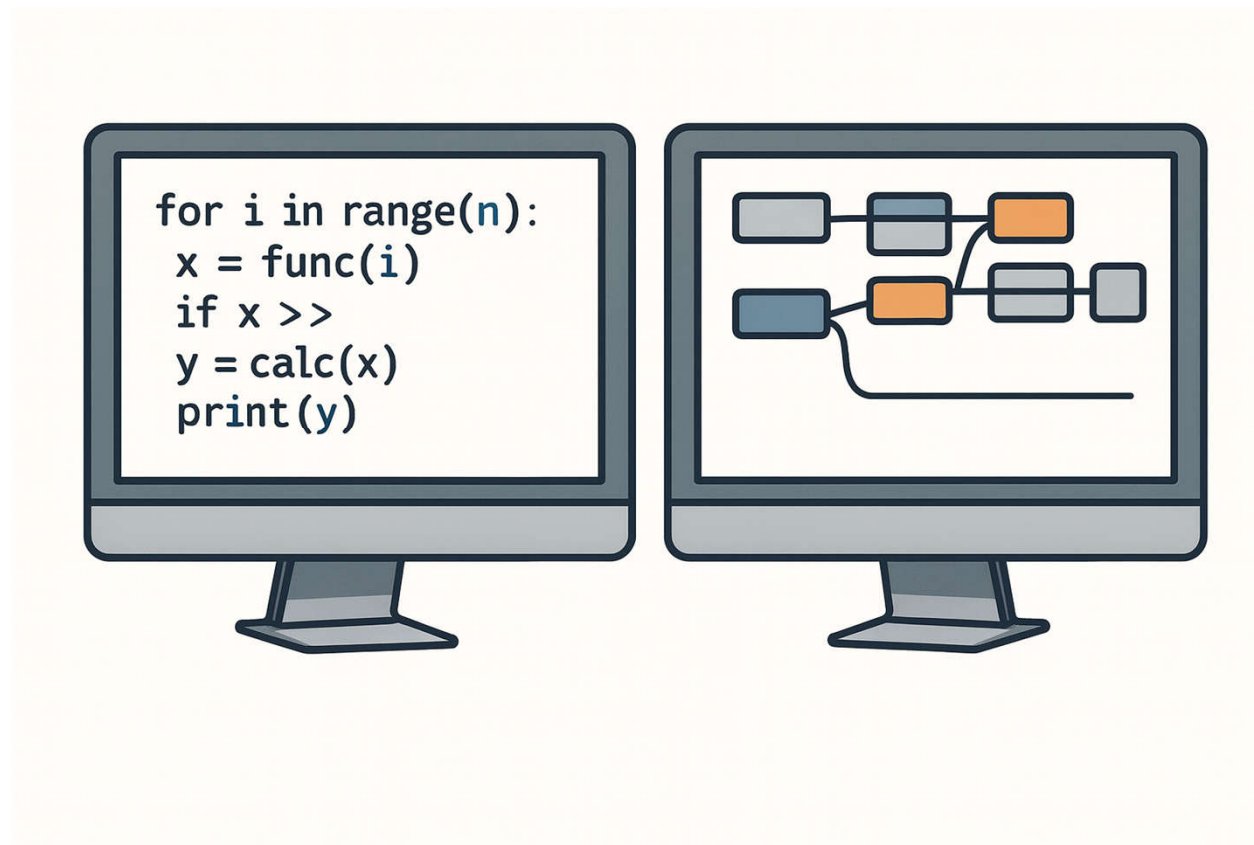
- Small scale models
- Sensor monitoring
- Computer simulations
- Digital twins (BIM)



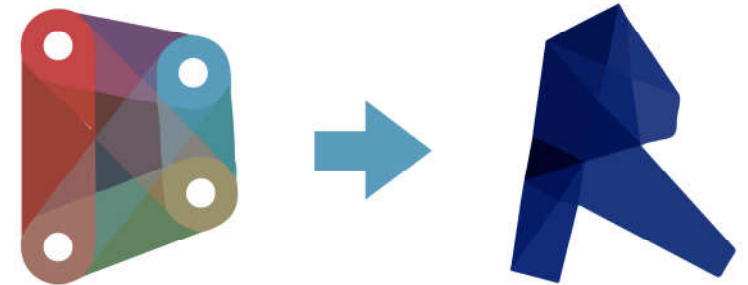
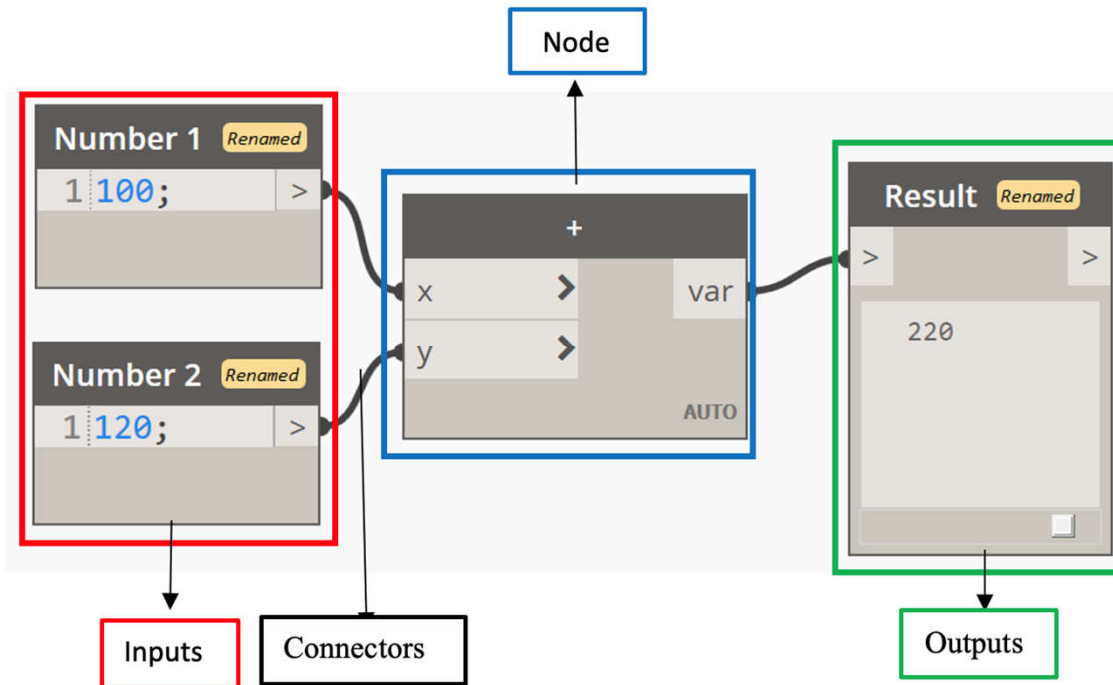
Introduction: Building information modelling (BIM)



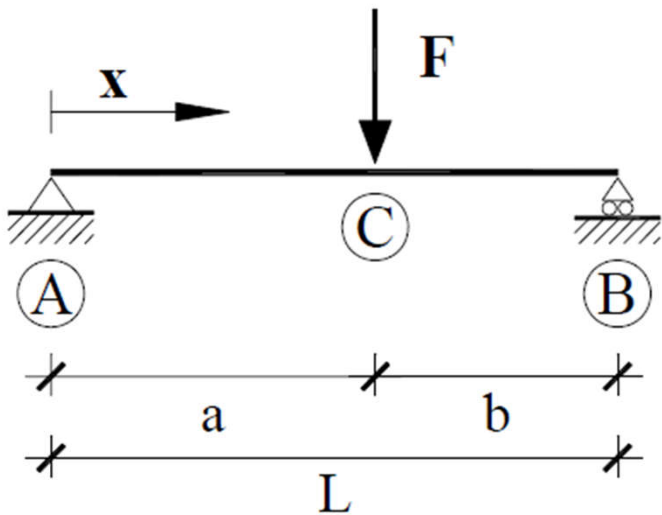
Introduction: Visual programming tools



Visual programming tool: Dynamo



Beam structural response: Equations

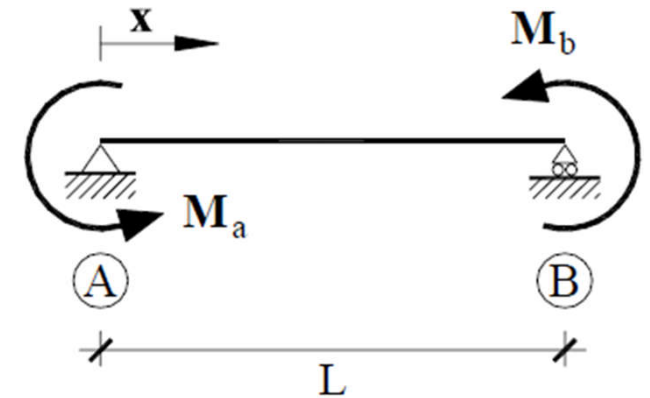
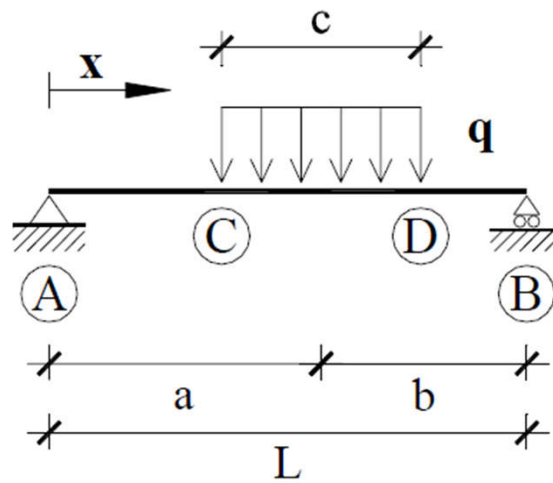
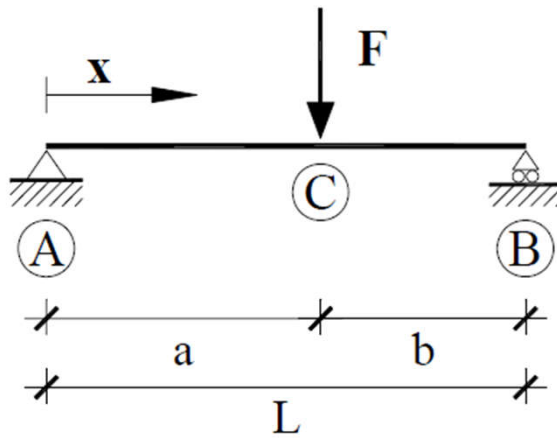


$$Y_{ac} = \frac{F \cdot L \cdot b \cdot x}{6EI} \left(1 - \frac{b^2}{L^2} - \frac{x^2}{L^2} \right), \quad Y_{cb} = \frac{F \cdot L \cdot a \cdot (L - x)}{6EI} \left(1 - \frac{a^2}{L^2} - \frac{(L - x)^2}{L^2} \right)$$

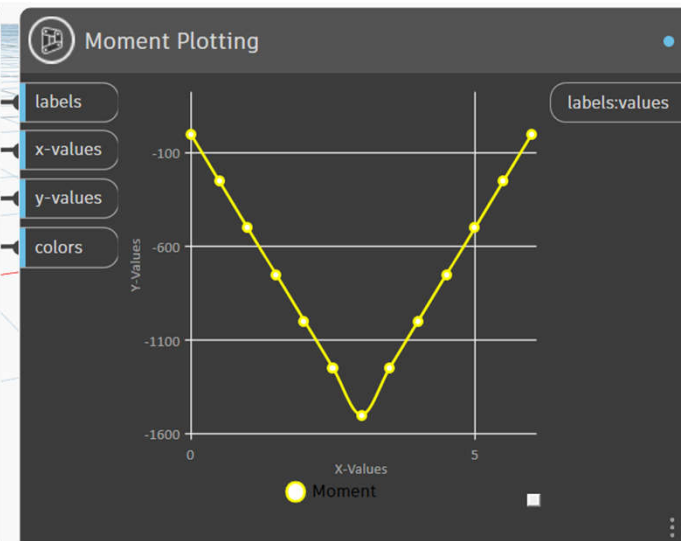
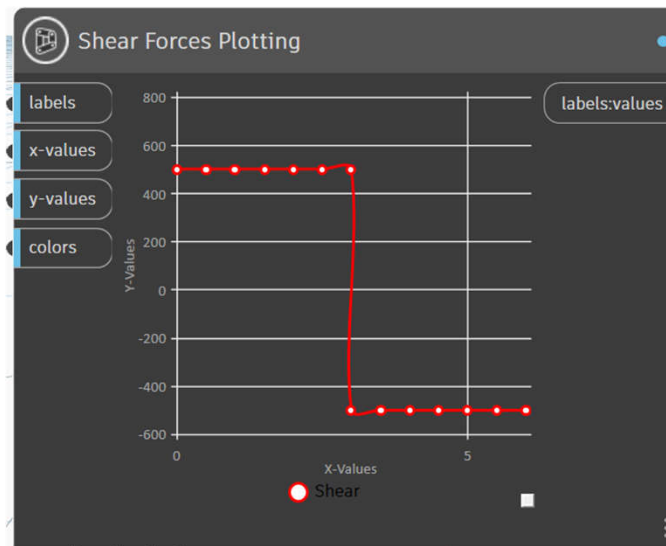
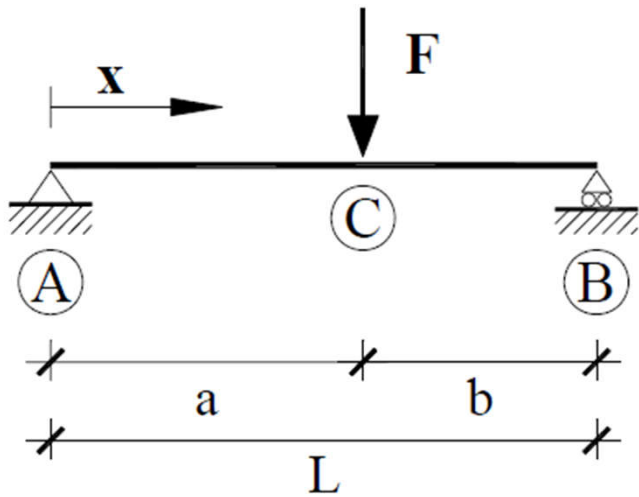
$$V_{ac} = \frac{F \cdot b}{L}, \quad V_{cb} = -\frac{F \cdot a}{L}$$

$$M_{ac} = \frac{F \cdot b}{L} \cdot x, \quad M_{cb} = \frac{F \cdot a}{L} \cdot (L - x)$$

Beam structural response: Loading cases

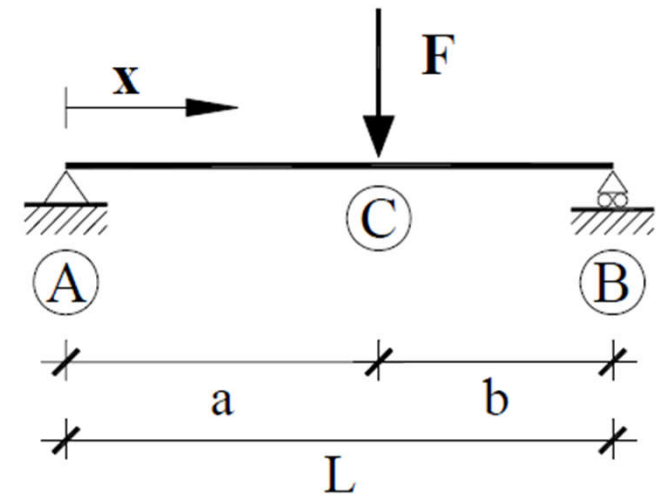


Beam structural response: Results in Dynamo



Results: Course

- Construction Engineering Degree
- “Structural Engineering” Course
- 25 students



Results: Seminar organization

Block	Name	Description	Time [min]
1	Introduction	The concepts and main elements of visual programming in BIM projects are presented.	20
2	Virtual Model application	Explanation of the virtual model proposed in section 2: inputs, operations and outputs are presented and explained.	35
3	Case analysis	Load cases are developed and analyzed.	25
4	Conclusions	The main ideas of the experience are delivered and the public answers the perception survey.	10

Results: Survey

- TOPICS:
 - Understanding of structural concepts
 - Visualization
 - Problem solving
 - çStructural engineering education



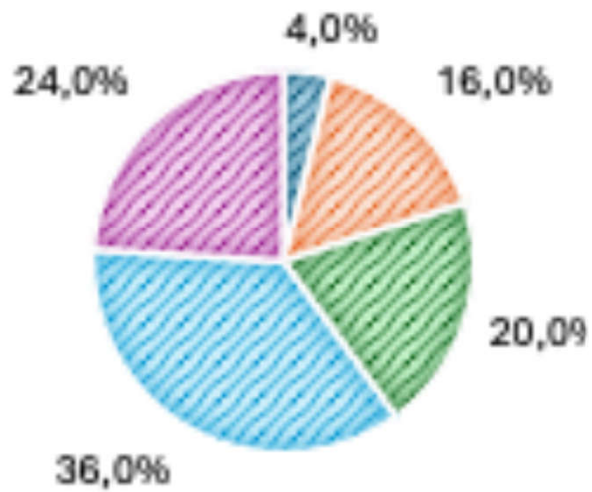
Results: Survey

- ANSWERS:
 - (1) no improvement
 - (2) slight improvement
 - (3) moderate improvement
 - (4) significant improvement
 - (5) excellent improvement

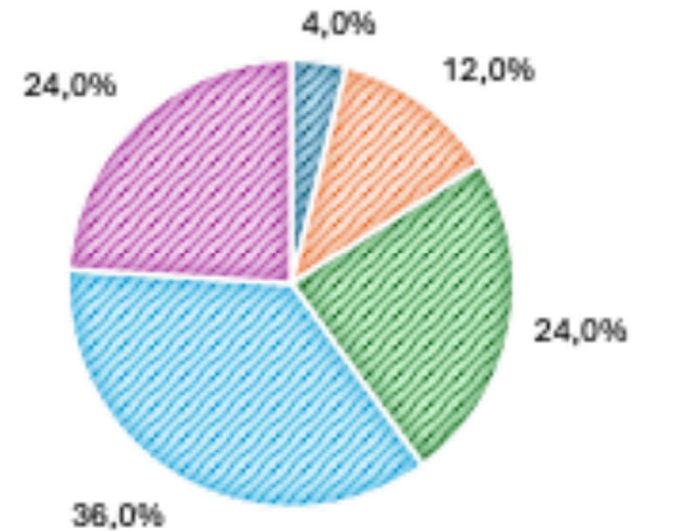


Results: Survey

Understanding structural concepts



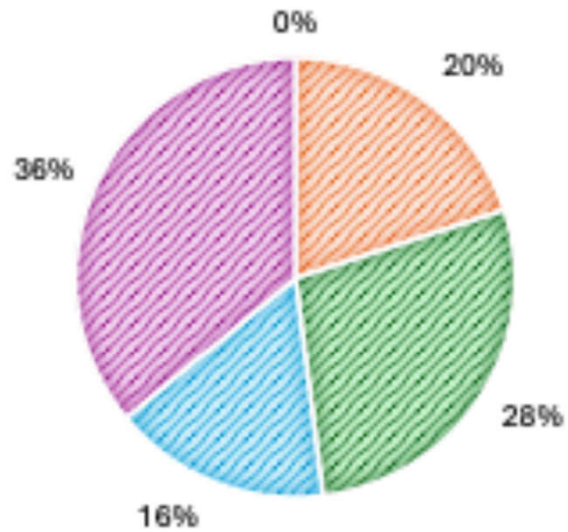
Visualization



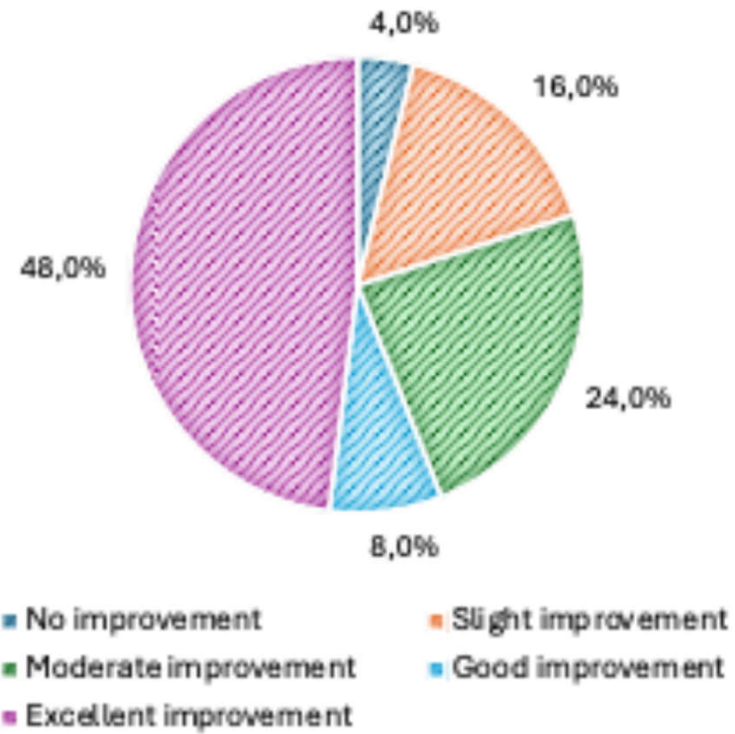
- No improvement
- Slight improvement
- Moderate improvement
- Good improvement
- Excellent improvement

Results: Survey

Problem solving

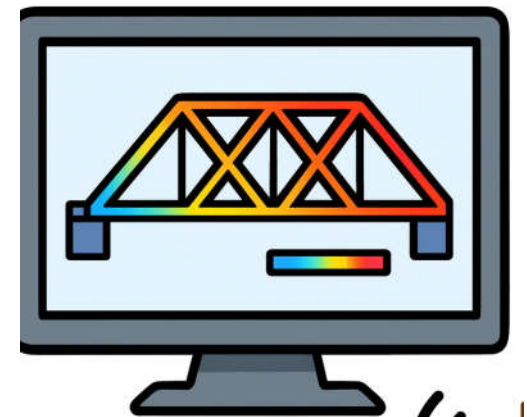
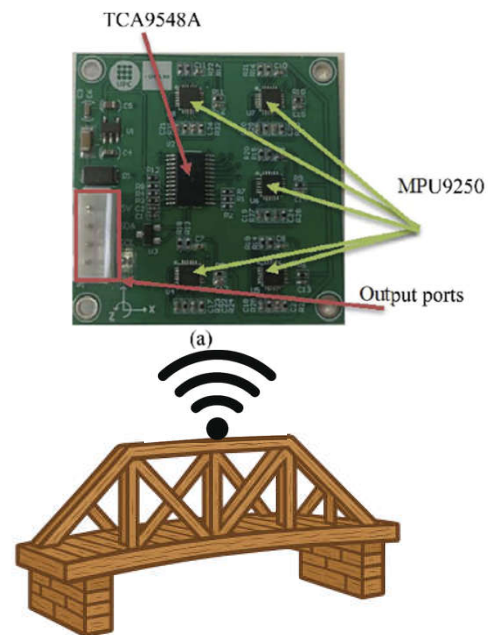


Structural Engineering education



Conclusions

- V-P tools
- Visualization of beam response
- Possitive Students perception
- Future: Digital twin connecting with sensos





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