

# Introduction of Bridge

- A bridge is a structure which is built over some physical obstacle such as a body of water, valley, or road, and its purpose is to provide crossing over that obstacle. It is built to be strong enough to safely support its own weight as well as the weight of anything that should pass over it.
- A bridge is a structure which **maintains the communication** over a physical **obstacle**, e.g.
  - A channel/river,
  - A road,
  - A railway line or
  - A valley.

# Bridge Designations

- If it carries road traffic or railway traffic or a pipe line over a **channel or a valley**: **Bridge**
- If it carries the traffic or pipe over a communication system like **roads or railways**: **Fly-over/Over-Bridge**
- Bridge (**several small spans**) constructed over a **busy locality, a valley, dry or wetland, or forming a flyover** to carry the vehicular traffic: **Viaduct**

# History

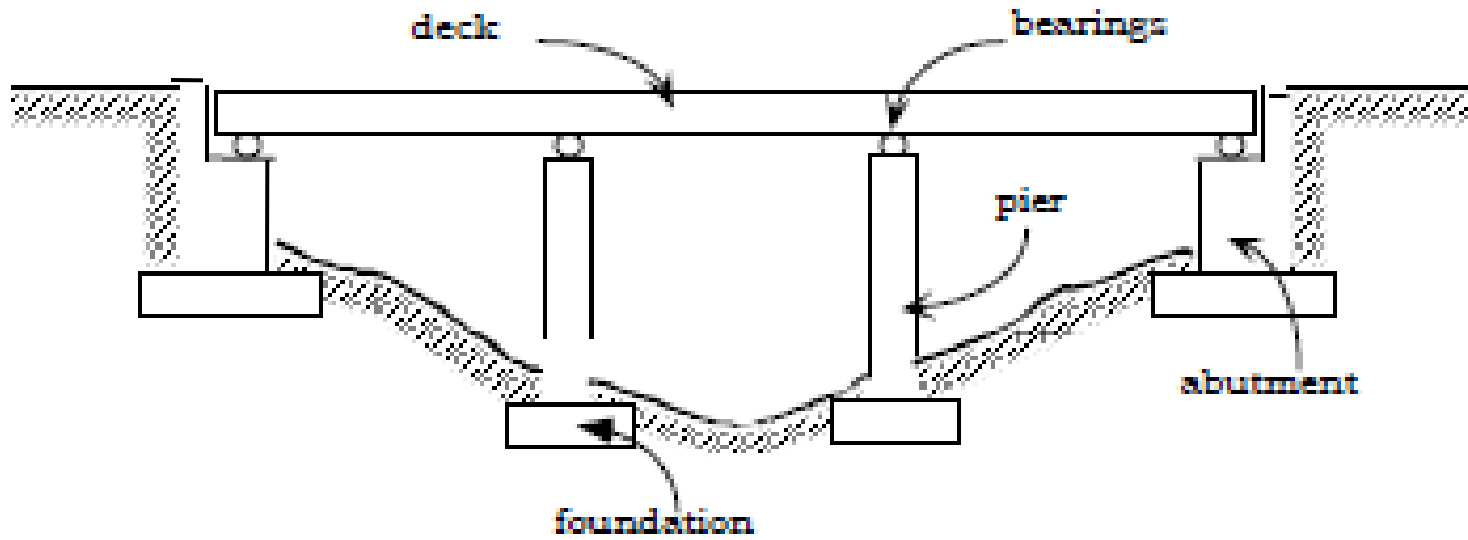
- History of bridges begins with a tree log accidentally fallen across water courses.
- Natural rock arches formed due to erosion beneath. (Arch Bridge)
- Climbers suspended above a deep gorge. Hanging creepers from one tree (Banyan trees) to other, by tying a bunch of long creepers with the trees situated on either side of water course.



# Components of Bridge

- Super-structure: Deck, Truss, Girders etc.

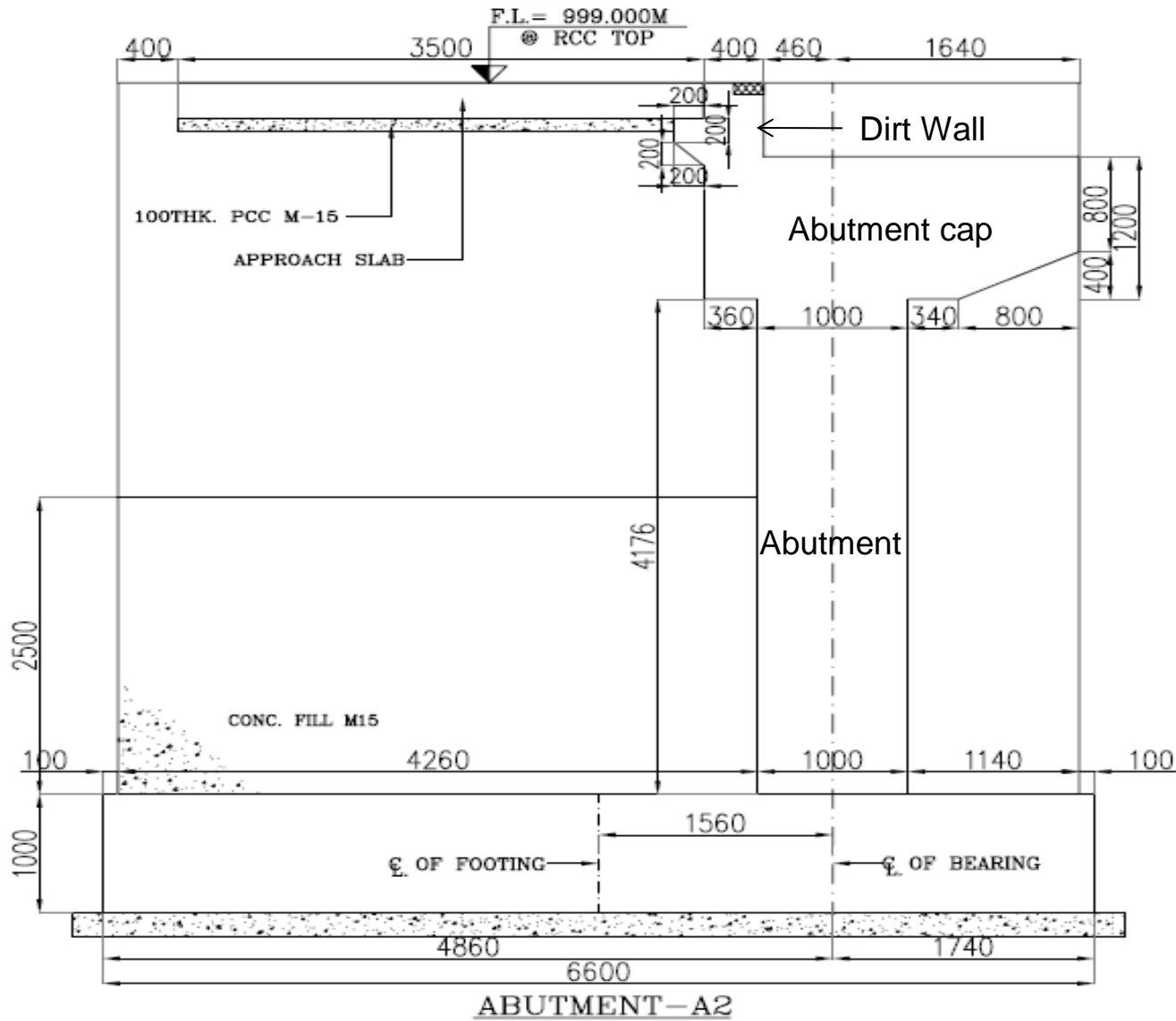
- Sub-structure: Piers/Abutments, Bearing and foundation.





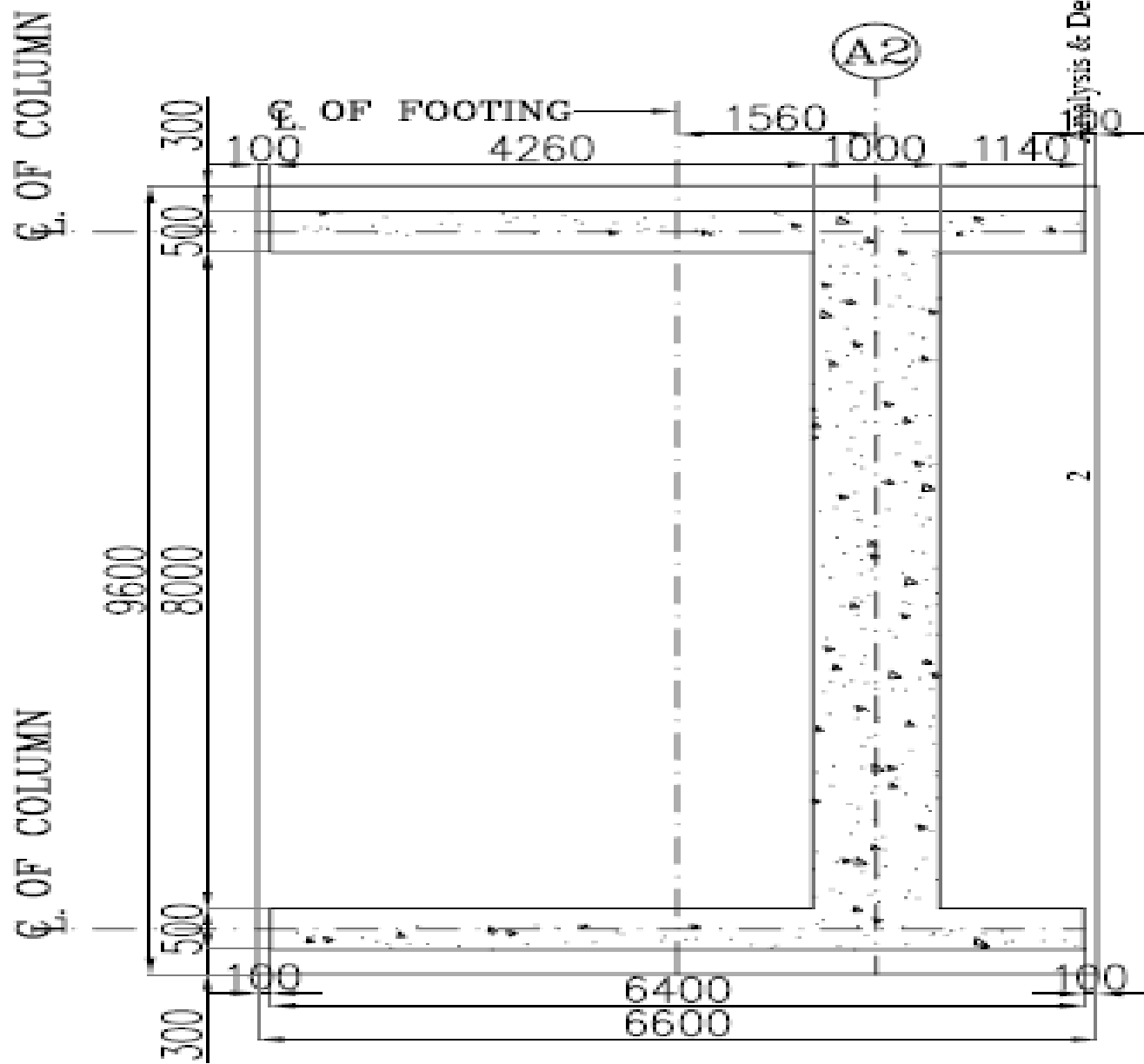
Components of Bridge





Typical details of Abutment





PLAN AT ABUTMENT  
FOOTING TOP

Analysis & Design

2

# Classification of Bridges

- Bridges are mainly classified according to:
  - A. Materials used in their construction.
  - B. Various structural forms.
  - C. Construction and function.

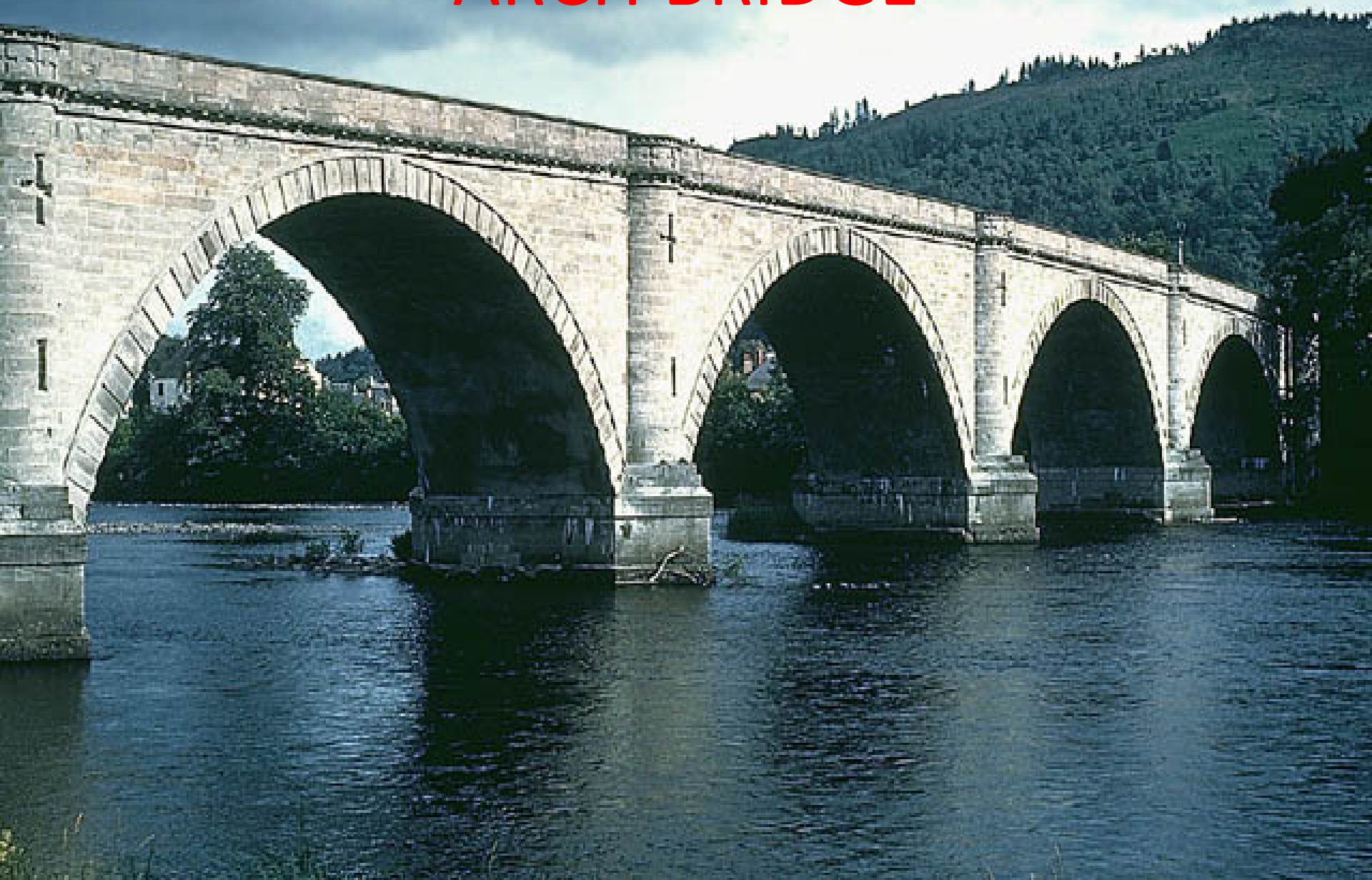
## A: Classification According to Material

- TIMBER
- MASONARY
- CONCRETE (R.C.C or Pre-stressed)
- STEEL

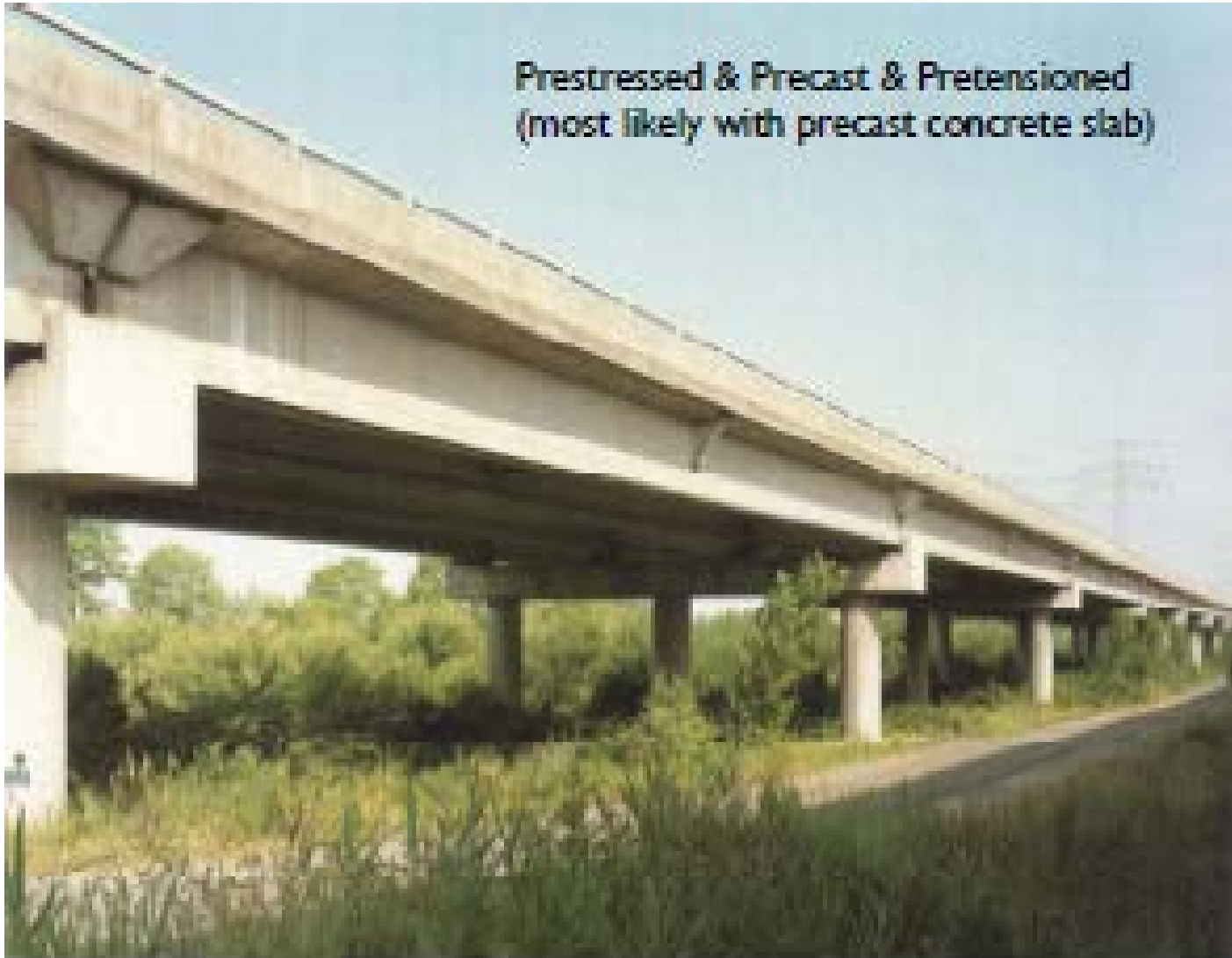


Wooden bridge - Swedish Wood

# ARCH BRIDGE



Prestressed & Precast & Pretensioned  
(most likely with precast concrete slab)



**STEEL BRIDGE**



## B: According to various structural forms

- SLAB (0-12m)
- BEAM (10-30m)
- CANTILEVER/Balanced Cantilever (30-500m)
- Box-Girder (18-30m; 60-70m  
with Pre- stressing)  
(Cellular/Multi-celled Bridges)

(contd.....)



# Contd.

- TRUSS 35- 300m
- ARCH 20-500m
- CABLE STAYED 90-350m
- SUSPENSION 300-2000m

# Distinctive Features of Slab Bridges

- Usually used for Short spans
- Carry loads in Shear and Flexural bending
- Have sufficient torsional stiffness
- Bearings are not required
- Simple Shuttering/formwork is required
- Becomes heavy (increase in D.L) for large spans.  
Hollow slabs are sometimes provided for medium spans.

# Distinctive Features of Beam/Girder Bridges.

- Oldest and most common bridge type known
- Usually used for Short and Medium spans
- Carry loads in Shear and Flexural bending
- In modern girder bridges, steel I-Beams replace Concrete Beams
- Low torsional stiffness

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



Upper: Steel Plate Girder Bridge  
Lower: Prestressed Concrete I-Girder Bridge

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



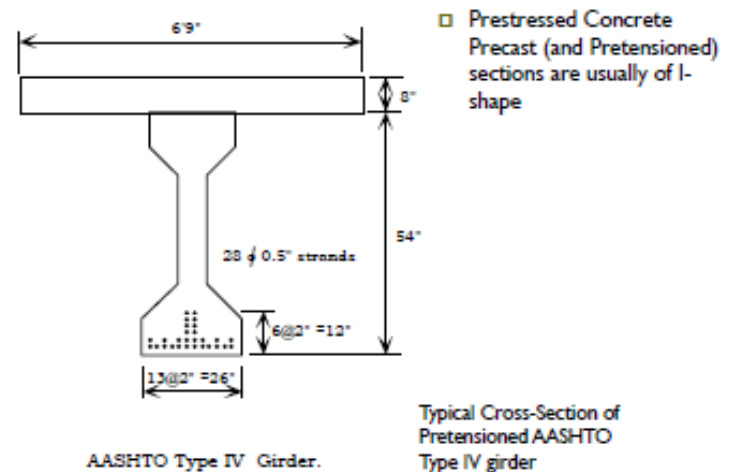
Steel Plate Girder

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



Steel Plate Girder  
(Continuous)

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



# Distinctive Features of Box Girder Bridges

- In addition to flexural stiffness and shear resistance, these bridges have sufficient torsional stiffness
- Most suitable for curved plan and longer span bridges

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



- Post-Tensioned Prestressed Concrete are often found in the form of segmentally precast members



## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges

- Segmental construction may be constructed in 2 ways
  - Cantilever Construction – construct from the pier equally on both sides
  - Span-by-Span Construction – finish one span at a time



Span-by-Span



Cantilever



Steel Box  
Girder  
Bridge

# Distinctive Features of Truss Bridge

- The primary member forces are axial loads
- The open web system permits the use of a greater overall depth than for an equivalent solid web girder, hence reduced deflections and rigid structure
- Both these factors lead to economy in material and a reduced dead weight. The increased depth also leads to reduced deflections, that is, a more rigid structure.
- High maintenance and fabrication costs.
- Aesthetic appearance is debatable mainly because of complexity of elevation.
- Used economically in the span range of upto 300m.



## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges

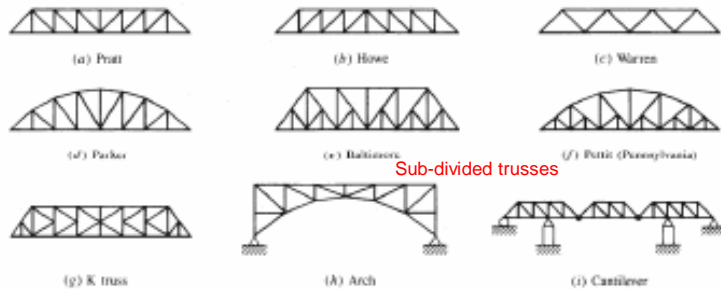


- Some types of truss bridges can also be considered as a "beam bridge" when looked globally

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges

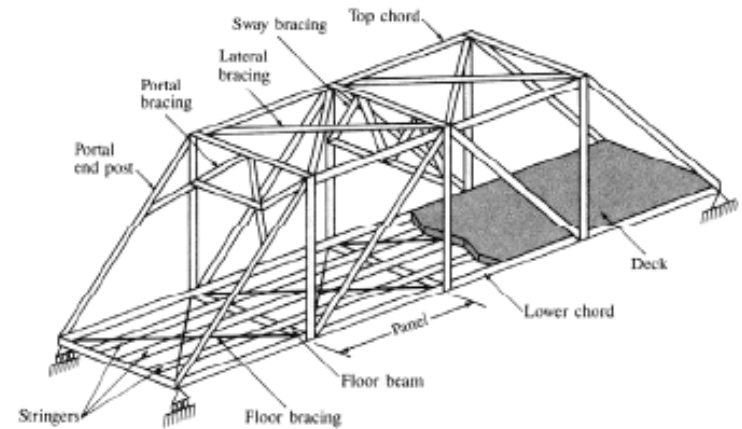


## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



Steel Truss can be of beam type, arch type, or cantilever type depending on the primary mechanisms

## Types: Beam/Girder Bridges



Components of Truss



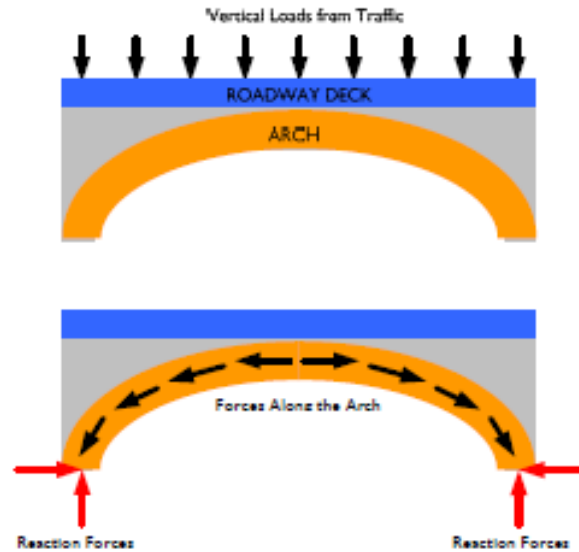
## Distinctive Features of Cantilever Bridge

- Cantilever bridges can be of steel or concrete
- In a cantilever bridge, the roadway is constructed out from the pier in two directions at the same time so that the weight on both sides counterbalance each other
- Notice the larger section at the support to resist negative moments

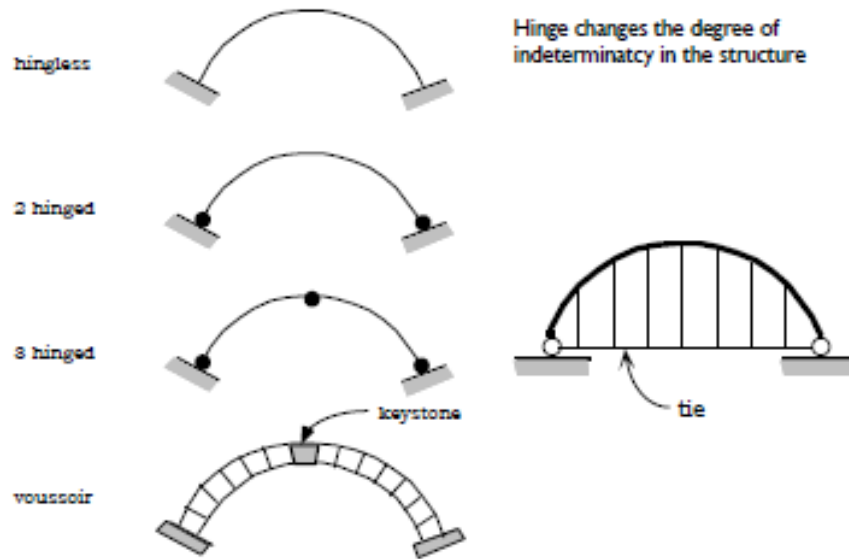
## Distinctive Features of Arch Bridge

- Arch action reduces bending moments
- Economical as compared to equivalent straight simply supported Girder or Truss bridge
- Suitable; when site is a deep gorge with steep rocky banks.
- Conventional curved arch rib has high Fabrication and Erection costs.
- Unlike girders, can be built from stones
- Considered the most beautiful of bridge types
- Used in the span range of upto 250m.

## Types: Arch Bridge



## Types: Arch Bridge



## Types: Concrete Arch Bridge



Enz Bridge (1961)  
Mülacker, Germany  
46 m span  
Concrete arch

## Types: Prestressed Concrete Arch



Natchez Trace Parkway Bridge (1994)  
Tennessee, USA  
502 m span

## Types: Steel Arch Bridge

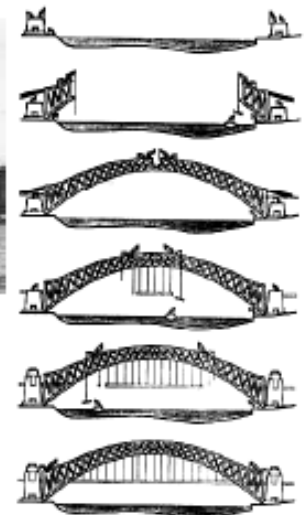


Sydney Harbor Bridge (1938)  
Sydney, Australia  
parabolic arch  
503 m span

## Types: Steel Arch Bridge

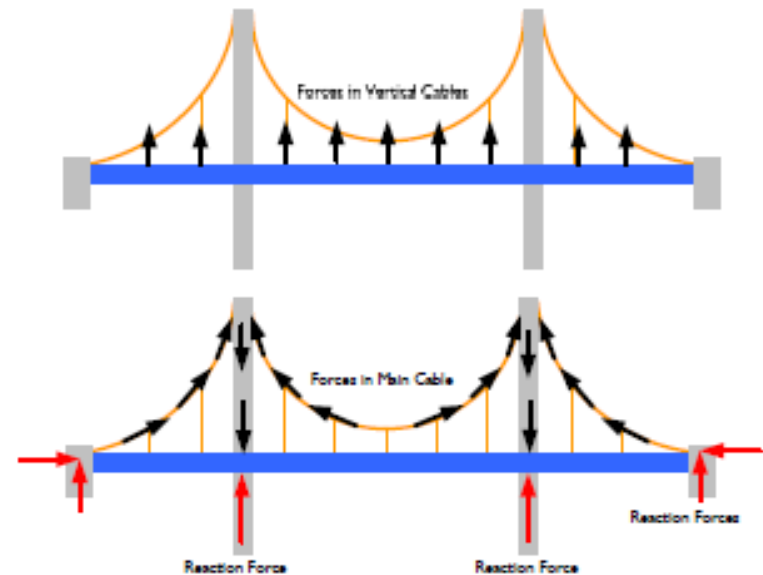


Construction of Sydney Harbor Bridge



# Distinctive Features of Suspension Bridge

- The deck is hung from the cable by Hangers constructed of high strength ropes in tension
- Cables are anchored at the abutment, hence abutment has to be massive
- The main cable is stiffened either by a pair of stiffening trusses or by a system of girders at the deck level.
- This stiffening system serves to control the aerodynamic movements.



## ...contd.

- Suspension bridge needs to have very strong main cables
- The complete structure can be erected without intermediate staging from the ground
- It is the only alternative for spans over 600m, and it is generally regarded as competitive for spans down to 3000m.
- The height of the main towers can be a disadvantage in some areas; for example, within the approach road for an airport

## Types: Suspension Bridge



Anchor of a suspension bridge

## Types: Suspension Bridge



London Tower Bridge (1894)  
London, UK

- 3-Hinged Suspension Bridge
- Tension member is a truss

## Types: Suspension Bridge

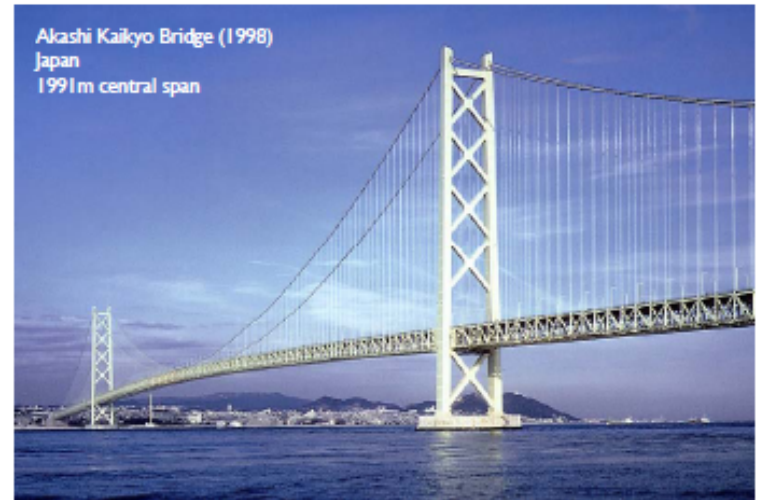


Mackinac Bridge (1957)  
Michigan, USA  
1158 m span

Tacoma Narrows Bridge (1940)  
Washington, USA  
2800 ft span



## Types: Suspension Bridge

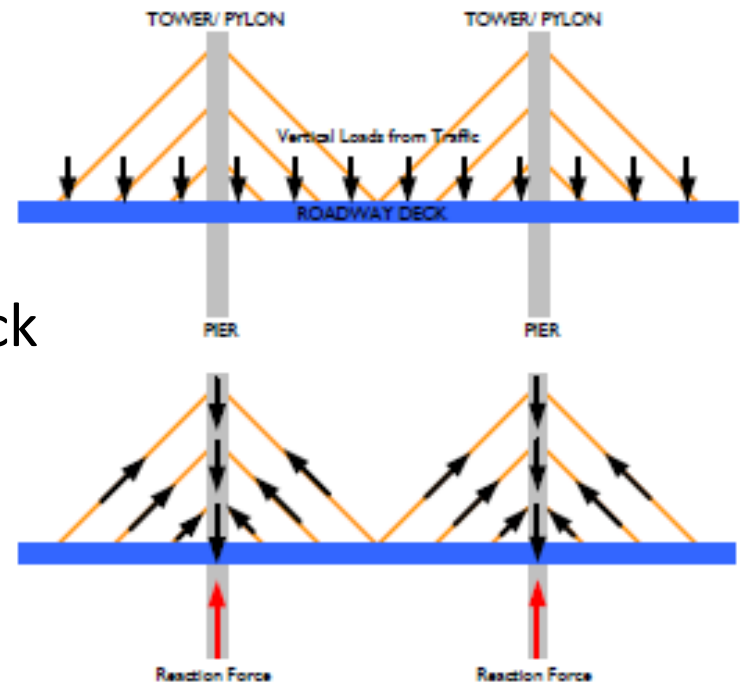


Akashi Kaikyo Bridge (1998)  
Japan  
1991 m central span



# Distinctive Features of Cable-Stayed Bridge

- Cable-stayed bridge uses the pre-stressing principles but the pre-stressing tendons are exposed/outside of the beam
- All the forces are transferred from the deck through the cables to the tower/pylon
- Roadway deck can be:
  - (Prestressed) Concrete Box Deck
  - Steel Box Deck
  - Steel Truss Deck

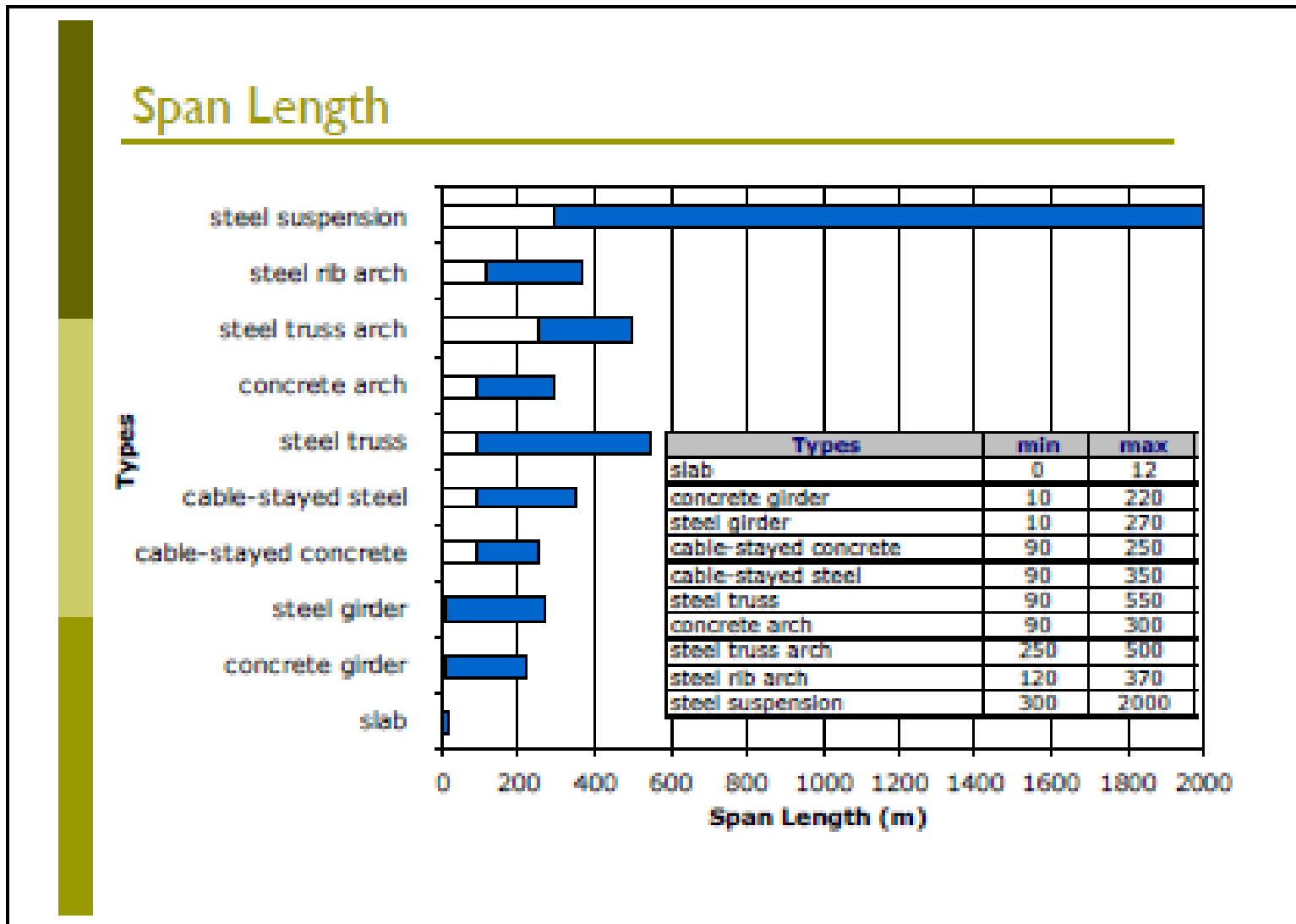




## Contd.

- As compared with the stiffened suspension bridge, the cables are straight rather than curved. As a result, the stiffness is greater
- The cables are anchored to the deck and cause compressive forces in the deck.
- All individual cables are shorter than full length of the superstructure. They are normally constructed of individual wire ropes, supplied complete with end fittings, pre-stretched and not spun.
- Aerodynamic stability has not been found to be a problem in structures to date.
- It is economical over 200-500m.

# Suitability on the basis of span



## C. Construction and other function

### C-1): According to inter-span relations

- **Simple:** Independent spans; large B.M and S.F
- **Continuous:** Design moments are reduced; foundation supported on good rock or differential settlement of supports is eliminated
- **Cantilever/Balanced bridges:** Slight differential settlements under the pier or abutment are not detrimental

## C-2): According to position of bridge floor.

- Deck
- Through
- Half/Semi Through and
- Suspended Bridge.

# Truss Bridge (Partly Deck type and partly Through type)



## C-3): Method of connections.

- Pin jointed
- Riveted or
- Welded

## C-4): According to road level

- High level or
- Submersible.

## C-5): According to the method of clearance for navigation

- High level
- Movable-bascule
- Movable swing or transporter bridge.

## C-6): According to duration of use and service

- Permanent/temporary
- Military (Bailey)

## C-7): According to function

- Aqueduct
- Viaduct
- Pedestrian
- Highway
- Railway or pipe bridges



## C-8): According to span length

- Culvert  $\leq 6\text{m}$
- Minor/Short span bridge  $6\text{m}-60\text{m}$
- Major/Medium span bridge  $>60\text{m}-150\text{m}$
- Long span bridge  $>150\text{m}$

## C-9): According to degree of redundancy

- Determinate or
- Indeterminate

# SOME FAMOUS BRIDGES



# Bridge Design

- Hydraulic Data (Hydraulic Design)
  - H.F.L, Scour Depth, Clear waterway etc.
- For details Refer IRC:5 2015) and Essentials of Bridge Engineering By Victor Johnson
- Selection of Bridge Type
- Selection of Bridge Site
- Structural Design

# Selection of a Bridge Type

Consider the followings:

- Span length
- Bridge length
- Beam spacing
- Material available
- Site conditions (foundations, height, space constraints) Requirement for shipping channel leads to long span bridge
- Speed of construction
- Constructability
- Technology/Equipment available
- Aesthetics
- Cost
- Access for maintenance

## Contd.

### Cost vs. Span Length

- The span length may be influenced by the cost of superstructure (cost/meter) and substructure (cost/pier)
- If the substructure cost is about 25% of total cost shorter span is more cost-effective
- If the substructure cost is about 50% of total cost longer spans are more economical

# Contd.

## Beam Spacing

Beam spacing determine the number of girders

- Large Spacing → Fewer girder (faster to erect)
  - Deeper and heavier girder (can it be transported?)
  - Reduced redundancy
  - Thicker slab
- Smaller Spacing
  - More girder
  - Smaller girder
  - More redundancy (but more beams to inspect)
  - Thinner slab

# Contd.

## Materials

- Steel
- Concrete
  - Cast-in-place
  - Precast
- Material choice depends on the cost of material at the bridge Site
- Transportation/Shipping cost from fabricators

Contd.

## Speed of construction

- In urban areas, the construction of bridge may disrupt traffic
  - Prefabricated/ Precast member are the only choice
  - Substructure construction may disrupt traffic more than the superstructure
  - Erection may consider longer spans



## Contd.

### Site Requirement

- Is the bridge straight or Curved? If curved
  - Precast I-Girder cannot be Curved
  - Segmental pre-stressed can have slight curve
  - Cast-in-place
  - Box girder is preferable for curved sites (Pre-cast/Cast-in-place)
- Transportation/Shipping of prefabricated pieces to site

## Contd.

### Access for Maintenance

- Total Cost = Initial Cost + Maintenance Cost
- Bridge should be made easy to inspect and maintain
- Maintenance cost may govern the selection of bridge
  - Steel bridge needs a lot of maintenance in coastal regions
  - Concrete bridge usually require the least maintenance

## Contd.

### Aesthetics

- An ugly bridge, **although safe, serviceable, and inexpensive**, is not a good bridge choice
- Long span bridge over a river can be a landmark; thus, aesthetics should be an important factor
- Bridge should blend with the environment
- Avoid unnecessary decorations
- Bridge should have an appearance of adequate strength

## Aesthetics contd.

### Determinant of bridge's appearance (in order of importance)

- Vertical and Horizontal geometry relative to surrounding topography and other structures
- Superstructure type: arch , girder, etc...
- Pier placement
- Abutment placement
- Superstructure shape, parapet and railing
- Pier shape
- Abutment shape
- Color, surface texture, ornamentations
- Signing, Lighting, Landscaping

# Selection of Bridge Site

- Investigation And Planning

Before starting the design process of a bridge the following factors need to be considered

- Need for the bridge and the type of traffic to which it will be subjected to (both present and future)
- Various available alternatives vis-à-vis restrictions and constraints regarding selection of site as well as type of bridge.

## Contd.

- Soil/sub soil conditions of the different alternative sites along with the stream conditions at the site.
- Aesthetics and cost likely to be involved.

## SELECTION OF SITE. (Contd....)

- In addition to the technically required feasibility of site
- Aspects regarding social and political affairs of society need to be given due consideration.
- In urban areas the designer is not provided with many alternatives and most of the times the site is fixed.
- Designed and planned keeping in view the only option available.

## Contd.

- In areas where a number of alternatives are available the site with the following ideal characteristics can be selected.
  - a straight reach of the river
  - a narrow channel with firm banks
  - suitable high level banks for h.f.l on each side
  - rock or other hard in-erodable strata close to the river bed level.
  - economical approaches
  - proximity to the direct alignment of road
  - absence of sharp curves
  - absence of expensive river training works
  - where excessive under water construction can be avoided