

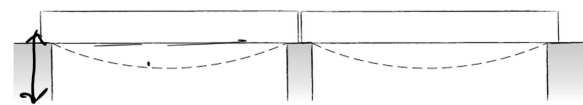
## Gerber Beams

- Continuity in Beams
- Gerber Beams
- Optimization

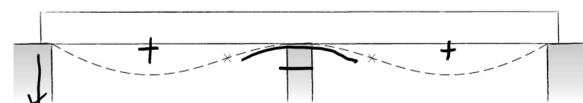


## Continuous Beams

- Continuous over one or more supports
  - Most common in monolithic concrete
  - Steel: continuous or with moment connections
  - Wood: as continuous beams, e.g. long Glulam spans
- Statically indeterminate
  - Cannot be solved by the three equations of statics alone
  - Internal forces (shear & moment) as well as reactions are affected by movement or settlement of the supports



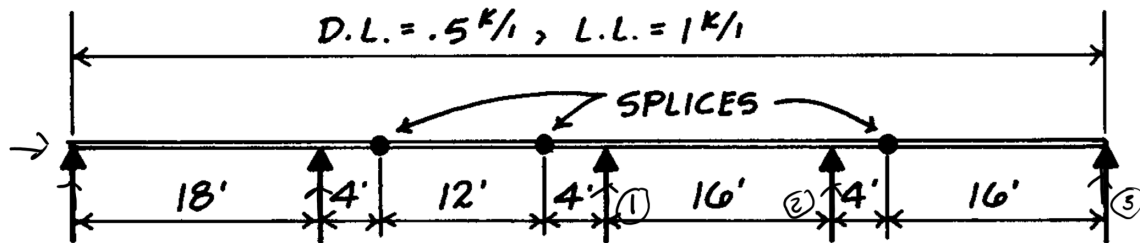
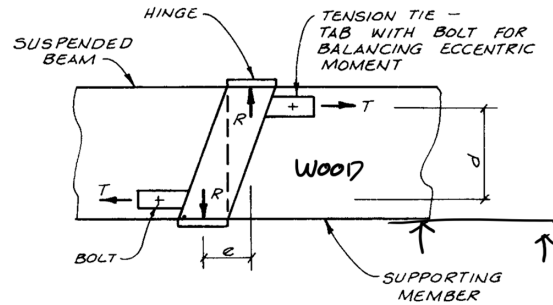
two spans - simply supported



two spans - continuous

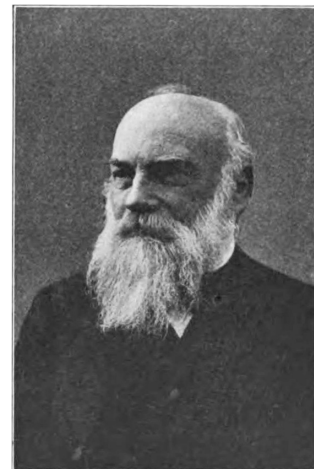
## Splice or Hinge

- Can add one hinge for each redundant reaction
- Reduces length for transport
- Moment = 0 at hinge
- Can be used to balance – and + moments for optimization

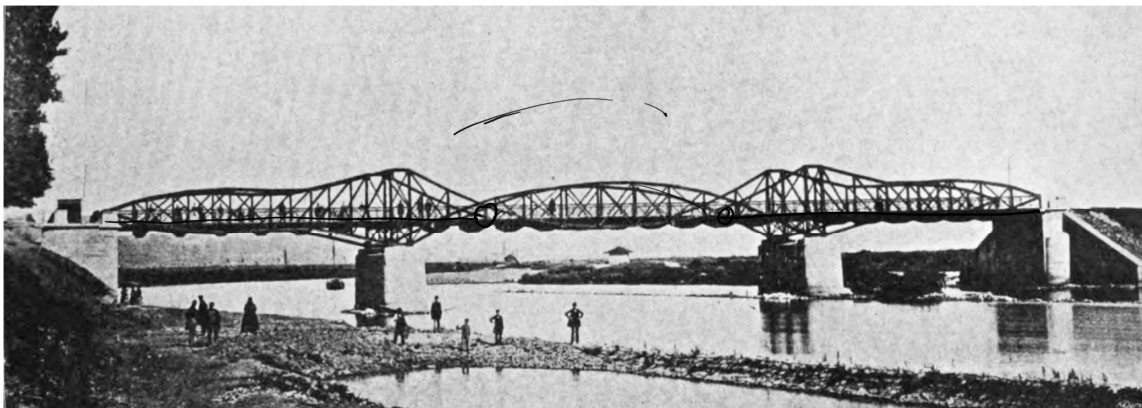


## Gottfried Heinrich Gerber (1832-1912)

Developed a cantilever bridge spanning system used in many bridges worldwide. The system became known as the "Gerber Beam" and uses cantilever segments to support a simple span.



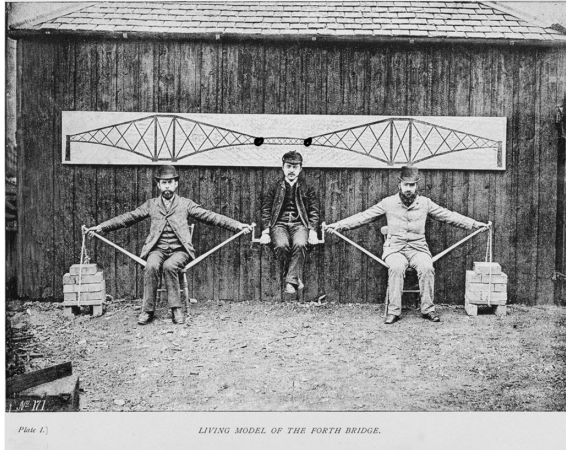
Haßfurter Brücke, 1864. Span of 38 m over the Main River.



## Examples of the Gerber system

Firth of Forth Bridge, 1890

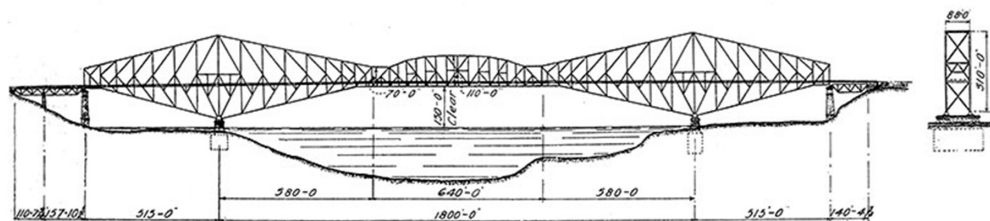
- total length 8094 ft.
- central span 1700 ft.
- Design Fowler & Baker
- Construction 1882 - 1889



Static modeling of the Firth of Forth Bridge  
by Fowler & Baker



## Quebec Bridge Final Completion 1917



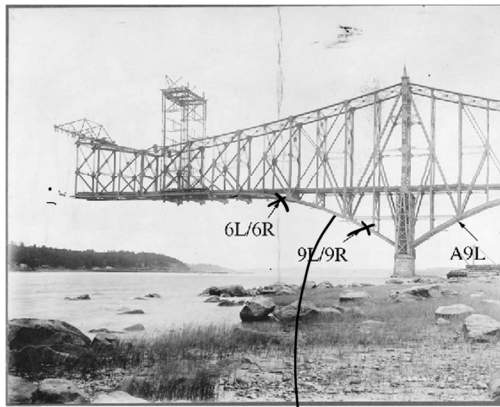
ST. LAWRENCE BRIDGE COMPANY DESIGN AS FINALLY APPROVED AND BUILT



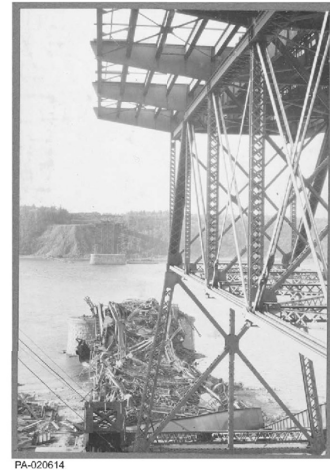
Final successful completion 1917

## Quebec Bridge failure – 1907 and 1916

Compression members that failed in 1907

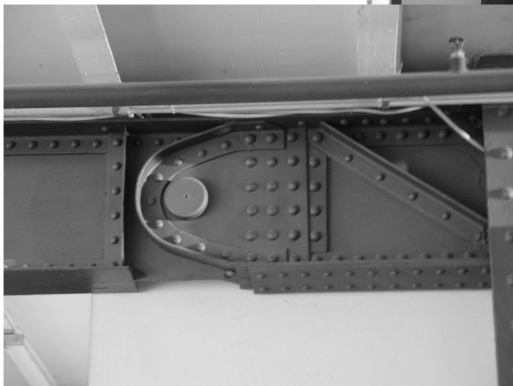


1916 hoisting failure



1907 failure due to miscalculation of the steel strength and dead load.

## Gerber system in building frames



Speicherstadt Hamburg Kaffeerösterei  
1888



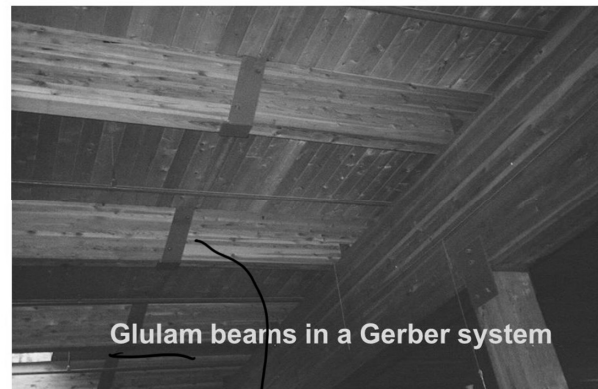
# Gerber Beams in Detroit



## Example Gerber Beams



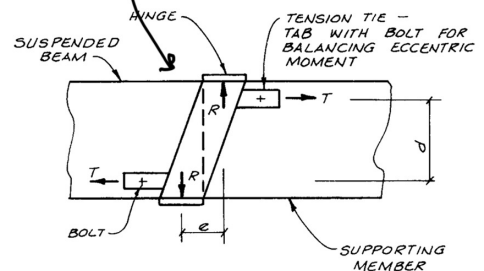
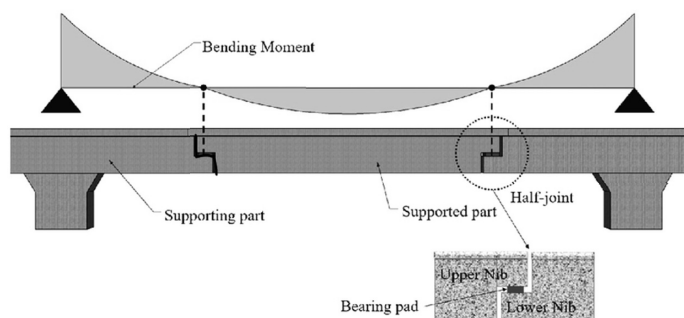
Steel



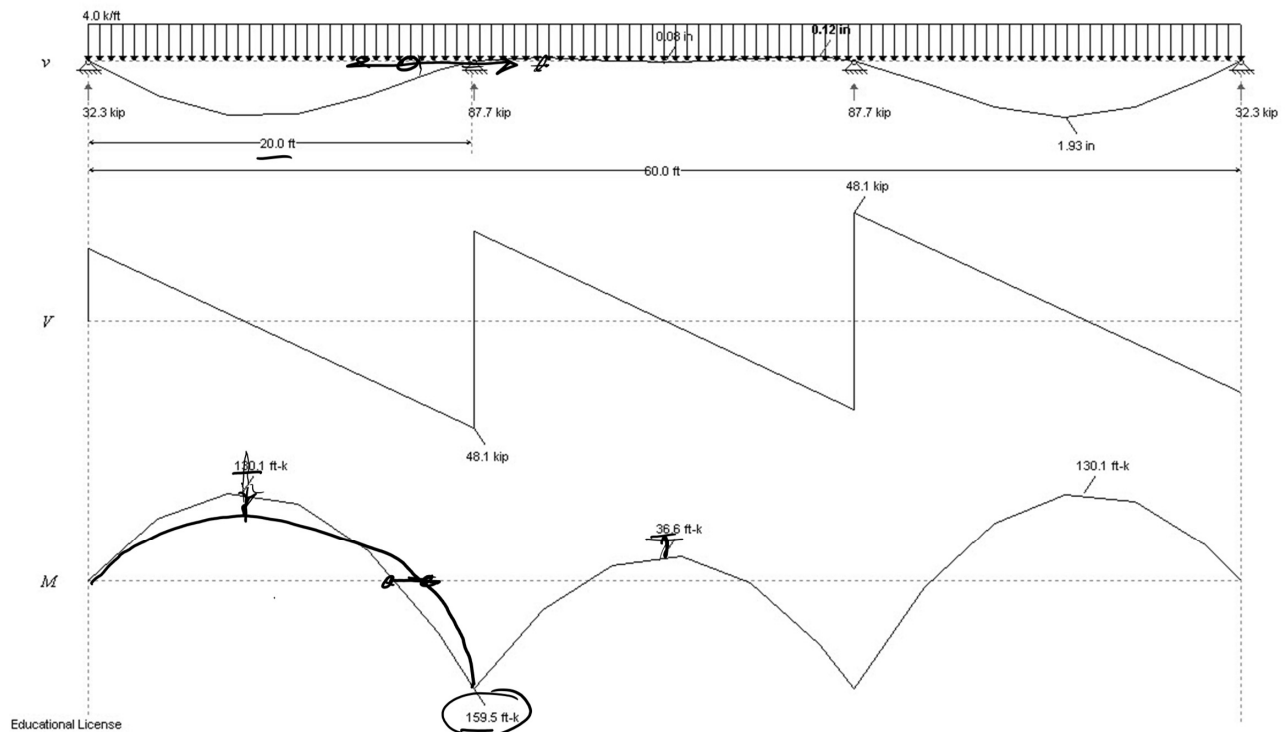
Glulam beams in a Gerber system

Wood

Concrete

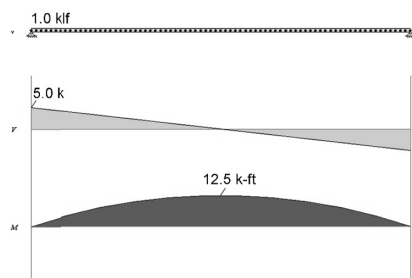


# Moment control in beams

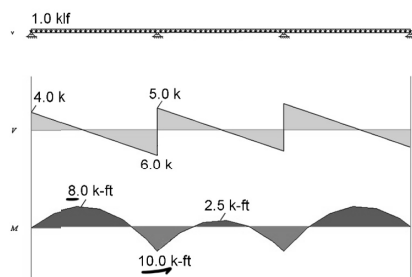


## Moment control in beams

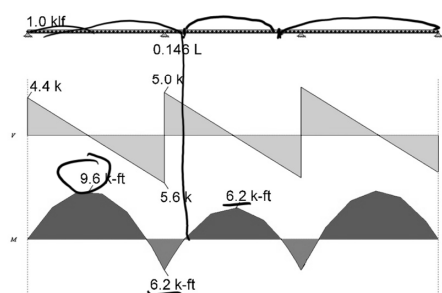
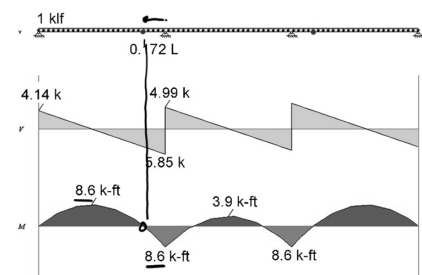
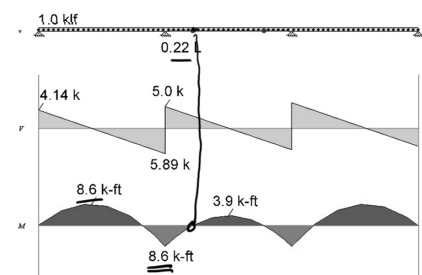
Spans = 10 ft



simple span



three spans – without hinges



three spans – with hinges

## Example Problem

Given:

Span and loading

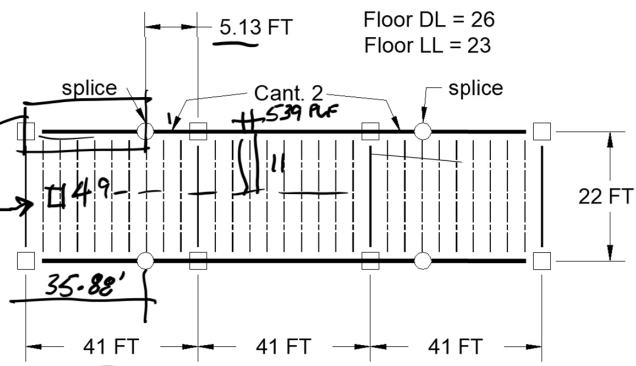
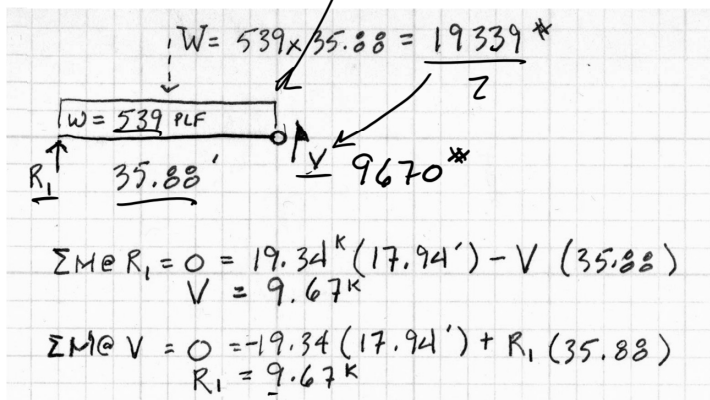
- $D + L = 49 \text{ psf}$
- $49 \text{ psf} \times 11 \text{ ft} = 539 \text{ plf}$

Find:

shear and moment  
beam section

FBD 1

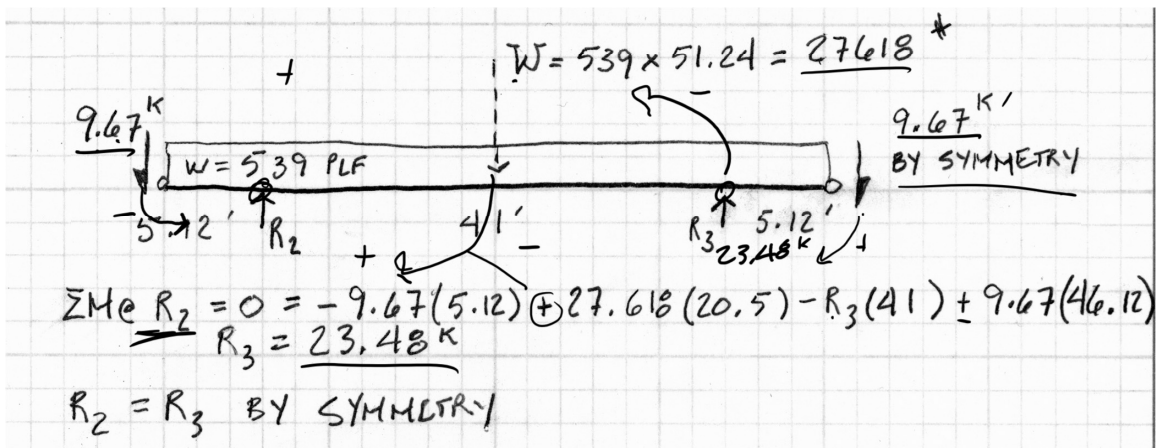
Reactions



## Example Problem cont.

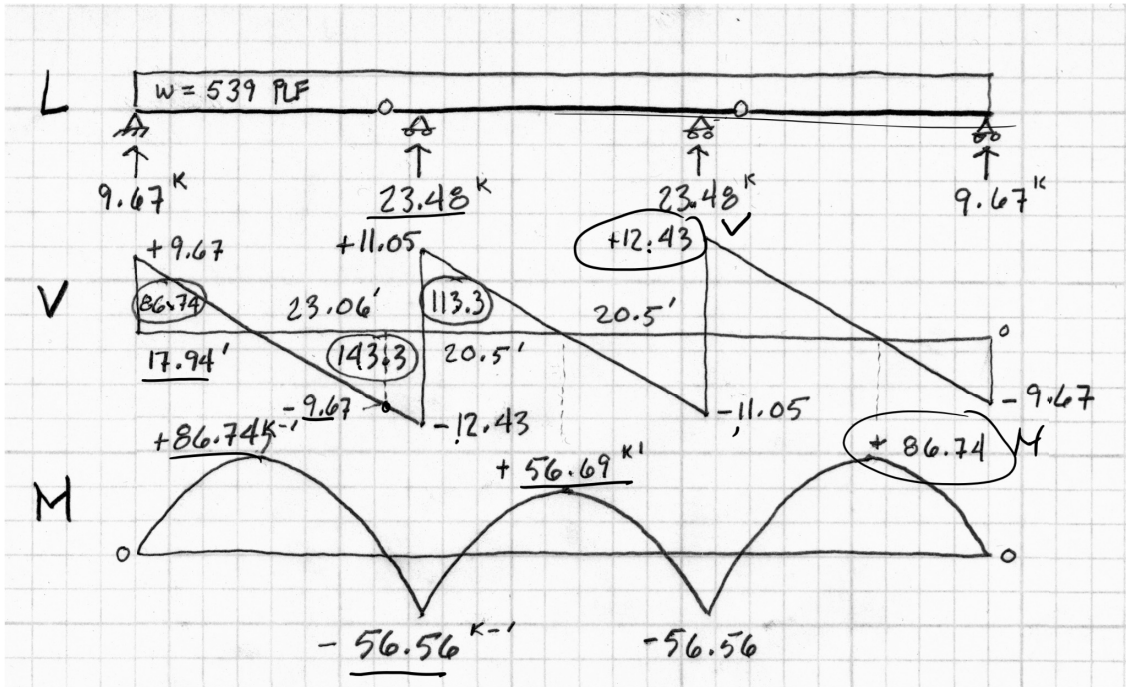
FBD 2

Reactions



## Example Problem cont.

### Force Diagrams



## Example Problem cont.

STEEL BEAM DESIGN

$$M_u = 86.74 \text{ K-FT} \quad V_u = 12.43 \text{ K}$$

$$M_u = \phi M_n$$

$$M_n = \frac{M_u}{\phi} = \frac{86.74}{0.9} = 96.38 \text{ K-FT}$$

$$M_n = F_y Z_x$$

$$Z_x = \frac{M_n}{F_y} = \frac{96.38(12)}{50 \text{ ksi}} = 23.13 \text{ in}^3$$

CHECK SHEAR

$$h/t_w = 46.2 < 59 \quad \checkmark$$

$$A_w = t_w d = 0.235(12.5) = 2.87 \text{ in}^2 \quad \checkmark$$

$$\phi V_n = (1.0) 0.6 F_y A_w = 0.6(50)(2.87)$$

$$\phi V_n = 86.01 > 12.43 = V_u \quad \checkmark \text{ OK}$$

W12x19 →

The diagram illustrates the standard dimensions of a W-shape cross-section. The total depth is denoted by  $d$ . The flange thickness is  $t_f$ , and the web thickness is  $t_w$ . The flange width is  $b_f$ . The distance from the outer face of the flange to the centerline of the web is  $k$ . The section is labeled with 'X' at the top and bottom flanges and 'Y' at the web.

Table 1-1 (continued)  
**W-Shapes**  
Dimensions

Shape	Area, A	Depth, d	Web			Flange			Distance						Workable Gage	
			Thickness, $t_w$	$\frac{t_w}{2}$	$\frac{t_w}{2}$	Width, $b_f$	Thickness, $t_f$	$\frac{t_f}{2}$	k		$k_1$	T	in.	in.		
									$k_{des}$	$k_{det}$						
		in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	
W12x58	17.0	12.2	12 1/4	0.360	3/8	3/16	10.0	10	0.640	5/8	1.24	1 1/2	15 1/16	9 1/4	5 1/2	
x53	15.6	12.1	12	0.345	3/8	3/16	10.0	10	0.575	9/16	1.18	1 3/8	15 1/16	9 1/4	5 1/2	
W12x50	14.6	12.2	12 1/4	0.370	3/8	3/16	8.08	8 1/8	0.640	5/8	1.14	1 1/2	15 1/16	9 1/4	5 1/2	
x45	13.1	12.1	12	0.335	3/8	3/16	8.05	8	0.575	9/16	1.08	1 3/8	15 1/16	9 1/4	5 1/2	
x40	11.7	11.9	12	0.295	3/8	3/16	8.01	8	0.515	1/2	1.02	1 3/8	7/8	9 1/4	5 1/2	
W12x35	10.3	12.5	12 1/4	0.300	3/8	3/16	6.56	6 1/2	0.520	1/2	0.820	1 3/8	3/4	10 1/8	3 1/2	
x30	8.79	12.3	12 3/8	0.260	1/4	1/8	6.52	6 1/2	0.440	7/16	0.740	1 1/8	3/4	9 1/4	3 1/2	
x26	7.65	12.2	12 1/4	0.230	1/4	1/8	6.49	6 1/2	0.380	3/8	0.680	1 1/8	3/4	9 1/4	3 1/2	
W12x22	6.48	12.3	12 1/4	0.260	1/4	1/8	4.03	4	0.425	7/16	0.725	1 1/8	3/4	10 1/8	2 1/4	
x19	5.68	12.2	12 1/4	0.235	1/4	1/8	4.01	4	0.350	3/8	0.650	7/8	3/4	9 1/4	2 1/4	
x16	4.71	12.0	12	0.220	1/4	1/8	3.99	4	0.285	1/4	0.565	3/4	9 1/4	9 1/4	2 1/4	
x14 <sup>CV</sup>	4.16	11.9	11 7/8	0.200	3/16	1/8	3.97	4	0.225	1/4	0.525	3/4	9 1/4	9 1/4	2 1/4	

Table 1-1 (continued)  
**W-Shapes**  
Properties

Nominal Wt. lb/ft	Compact Section Criteria		Axis X-X				Axis Y-Y				r_s	h_o	Torsional Properties	
	b_f/2t_f	h/t_w	I	S	r	Z	I	S	r	Z			J	C_w
58	7.82	27.0	475	78.0	5.28	86.4	107	21.4	2.51	32.5	2.81	11.6	2.10	3570
53	8.69	28.1	425	70.6	5.23	77.9	95.8	19.2	2.48	29.1	2.79	11.5	1.58	3160
50	6.31	26.8	391	64.2	5.18	71.9	56.3	13.9	1.96	21.3	2.25	11.6	1.71	1880
45	7.00	29.6	348	57.7	5.15	64.2	50.0	12.4	1.95	19.0	2.23	11.5	1.26	1650
40	7.77	33.6	307	51.5	5.13	57.0	44.1	11.0	1.94	16.8	2.21	11.4	0.906	1440
35	6.31	36.2	285	45.6	5.25	51.2	24.5	7.47	1.54	11.5	1.79	12.0	0.741	879
30	7.41	41.8	238	38.6	5.21	43.1	20.3	6.24	1.52	9.56	1.77	11.9	0.457	720
26	8.54	47.2	204	33.4	5.17	37.2	17.3	5.34	1.51	8.17	1.75	11.8	0.300	607
22	4.74	41.8	156	25.4	4.91	29.3	4.66	2.31	0.848	3.66	1.04	11.9	0.293	164
19	5.77	46.2	130	21.3	4.82	24.2	3.76	1.88	0.822	2.98	1.02	11.9	0.180	131
16	7.53	49.4	103	17.1	4.67	20.7	2.82	1.41	0.773	2.26	0.983	11.7	0.103	96.9
14	8.82	54.3	88.6	14.9	4.62	17.4	2.36	1.19	0.753	1.90	0.961	11.7	0.0704	80.4

## Example Problem cont.

LOOK UP SECTION IN  $Z_x$  TABLE  
 CHOOSE W12x19  
 $Z_x = 24.7 > 23.13$  ✓  
 $\phi M_n = 92.6 > 86.74$  ✓

$F_y = 50$  ksi

**Table 3-2 (continued)**

**W-Shapes**

**Selection by  $Z_x$**

**$Z_x$**

Shape	$Z_x$ in. <sup>3</sup>	$M_{px}/\Omega_b$		$\phi_b M_{px}$		$M_{rx}/\Omega_b$		$\phi_b M_{rx}$		$BF/\Omega_b$		$\phi_b BF$		$L_p$ ft	$L_r$ ft	$I_x$ in. <sup>4</sup>	$V_{nx}/\Omega_v$		$\phi_v V_{nx}$	
		ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD	ASD	LRFD							
W14x26	40.2	100	151	61.7	92.7	5.33	8.11	3.81	11.0	245	70.9	106								
W8x40	39.8	99.3	149	62.0	93.2	1.64	2.46	7.21	29.9	146	59.4	89.1								
W10x33	38.8	96.8	146	61.1	91.9	2.39	3.62	6.85	21.8	171	56.4	84.7								
W12x26	37.2	92.8	140	58.3	87.7	3.61	5.46	5.33	14.9	204	56.1	84.2								
W10x30	36.6	91.3	137	56.6	85.1	3.08	4.61	4.84	16.1	170	63.0	94.5								
W8x35	34.7	86.6	130	54.5	81.9	1.62	2.43	7.17	27.0	127	50.3	75.5								
W14x22	33.2	82.8	125	50.6	76.1	4.78	7.27	3.67	10.4	199	63.0	94.5								
W10x26	31.3	78.1	117	48.7	73.2	2.91	4.34	4.80	14.9	144	53.6	80.3								
W8x31	30.4	75.8	114	48.0	72.2	1.58	2.37	7.18	24.8	110	45.6	68.4								
W12x22	29.3	73.1	110	44.4	66.7	4.68	7.06	3.00	9.13	156	64.0	95.9								
W8x28	27.2	67.9	102	42.4	63.8	1.67	2.50	5.72	21.0	98.0	45.9	68.9								
W10x22	26.0	64.9	97.5	40.5	60.9	2.68	4.02	4.70	13.8	118	49.0	73.4								
W12x19	24.7	61.6	92.6	37.2	55.9	4.27	6.43	2.90	8.61	130	57.3	86.0								
W8x24	23.1	57.6	86.5	36.5	54.9	1.60	2.40	5.69	18.9	82.7	38.9	58.3								
W10x19	21.6	53.9	81.0	32.8	49.4	3.18	4.76	3.09	9.73	96.3	51.0	76.5								
W8x21	20.4	50.9	76.5	31.8	47.8	1.85	2.77	4.45	14.8	75.3	41.4	62.1								
W12x16	20.1	50.1	75.4	29.9	44.9	3.80	5.73	2.73	8.05	103	52.8	79.2								
W10x17	18.7	46.7	70.1	28.3	42.5	2.98	4.47	2.98	9.16	81.9	48.5	72.7								
W12x14	17.4	43.4	65.3	26.0	39.1	3.43	5.17	2.66	7.73	88.6	42.8	64.3								
W8x18	17.0	42.4	63.8	26.5	39.9	1.74	2.61	4.34	13.5	61.9	37.4	56.2								
W10x15	16.0	39.9	60.0	24.1	36.2	2.75	4.14	2.86	8.61	68.9	46.0	68.9								
W8x15	13.6	33.9	51.0	20.6	31.0	1.90	2.85	3.09	10.1	48.0	39.7	59.6								
W10x12	12.6	31.2	46.9	19.0	28.6	2.36	3.53	2.87	8.05	53.8	37.5	56.3								
W8x13	11.4	28.4	42.8	17.3	26.0	1.76	2.67	2.98	9.27	39.6	36.8	55.1								
W8x10	8.87	21.9	32.9	13.6	20.5	1.54	2.30	3.14	8.52	30.8	26.8	40.2								

**ASD**      **LRFD**

<sup>1</sup> Shape exceeds compact limit for flexure with  $F_y = 50$  ksi; tabulated values have been adjusted accordingly.

<sup>2</sup> Shape does not meet the  $h/t_w$  limit for shear in AISC Specification Section G2.1(a) with  $F_y = 50$  ksi; therefore,  $\phi_v = 0.90$  and  $\Omega_v = 1.67$ .

$\Omega_b = 1.67$        $\phi_b = 0.90$   
 $\Omega_b = 1.50$        $\phi_b = 1.00$

## Structural Optimization

Optimization procedure: Find the “best” solution for a given problem.

- Describe the goal – objectives (single vs. multiple)
- Determine limitations – constraints
- Describe the parameters – variables

Optimization type: What to optimize

- Material ✓
- Member (section)
- Geometry SHAPE
- Topology ✓



Truss: 1 weight = 25484 lb  
16 joints 35 members



Truss: 2 weight = 25050 lb  
16 joints 35 members



Truss: 3 weight = 24529 lb  
16 joints 35 members

## Optimization

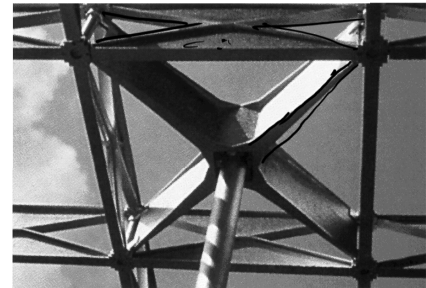
- Material
  - Composites —
  - Steel vs. Aluminum
- Member and Geometry
  - Variable Depth or Width
  - Holes and Cut-outs



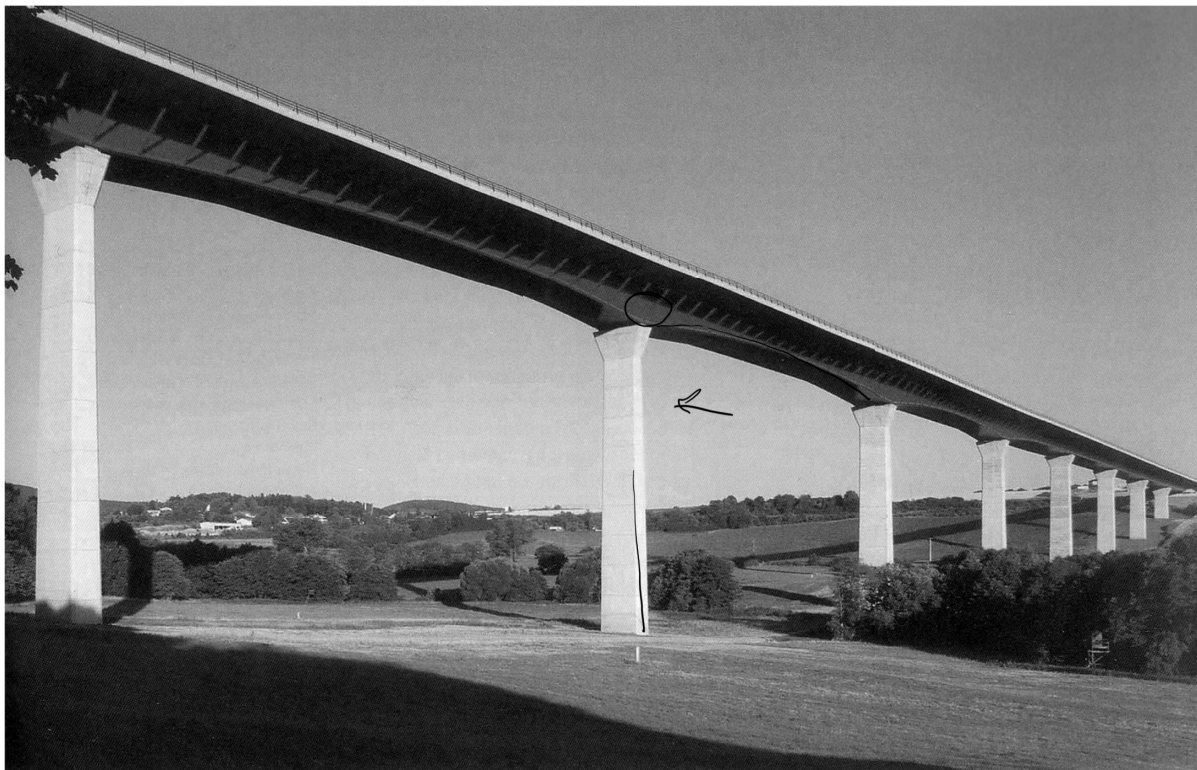
Biesenbach Viaduct, Blumberg Wutachtal Railroad, 1890  
Eng. von Würthenau, Kräuter, Gebhard & Gernet



German Pavilion at Expo 1967, Montreal  
Eng. Frei Otto Arch. Rolf Gutbrot



## Section Optimization

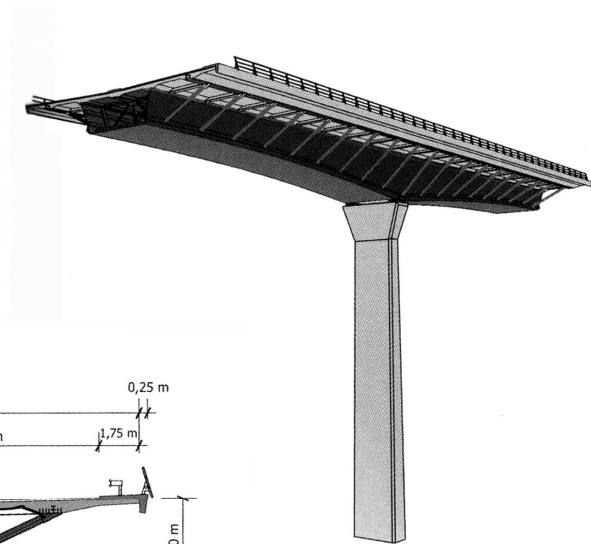
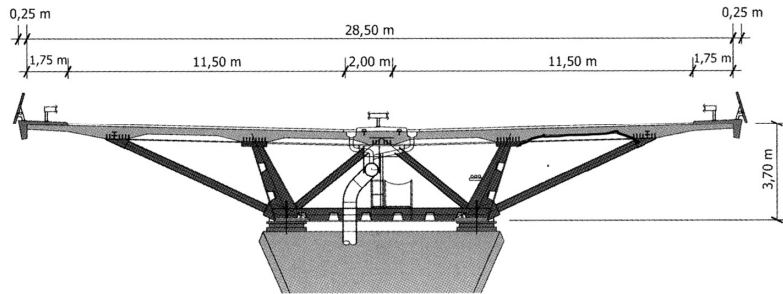


Reichenbach Valley Bridge, 2003  
Eng. Büro Peter + Lochner

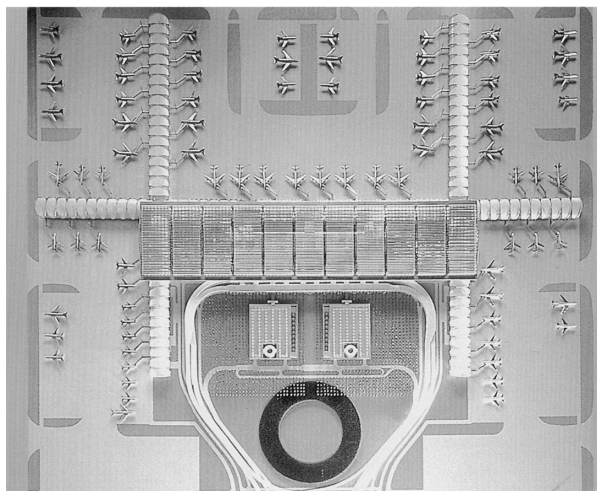


## Section Optimization

Reichenbach Valley Bridge, 2003  
Eng. Büro Peter + Lochner



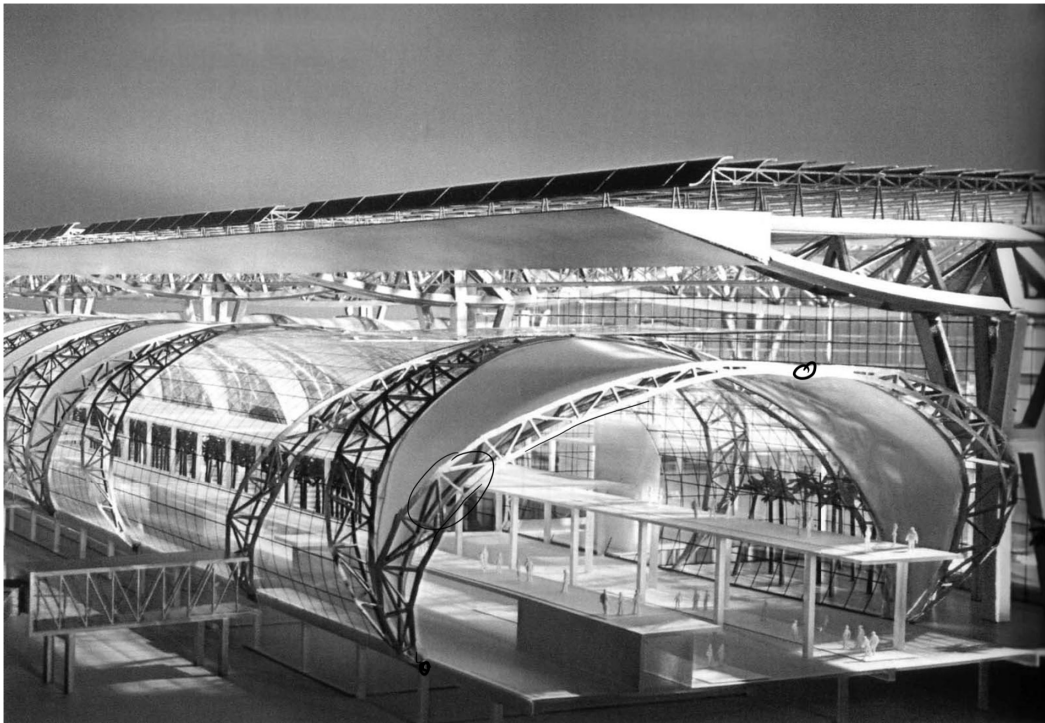
## Geometry Optimization



New Bangkok International Airport, 2003  
Eng. Werner Sobek Arch. Murphy Jahn

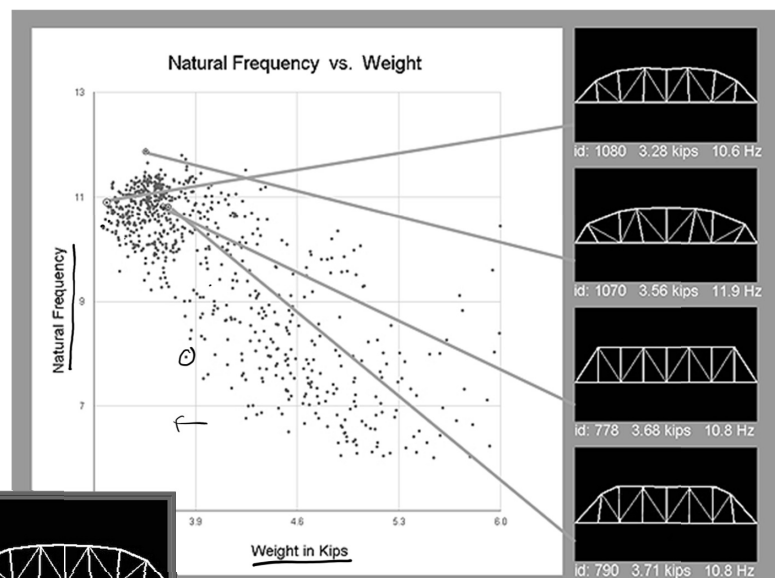
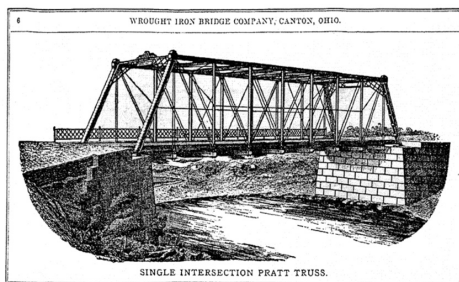


# Geometry Optimization

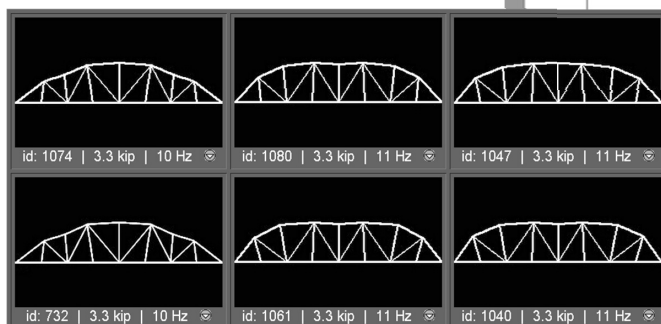


New Bangkok International Airport, 2003  
Eng. Werner Sobek Arch. Murphy Jahn

## Geometry Optimization - Bridges

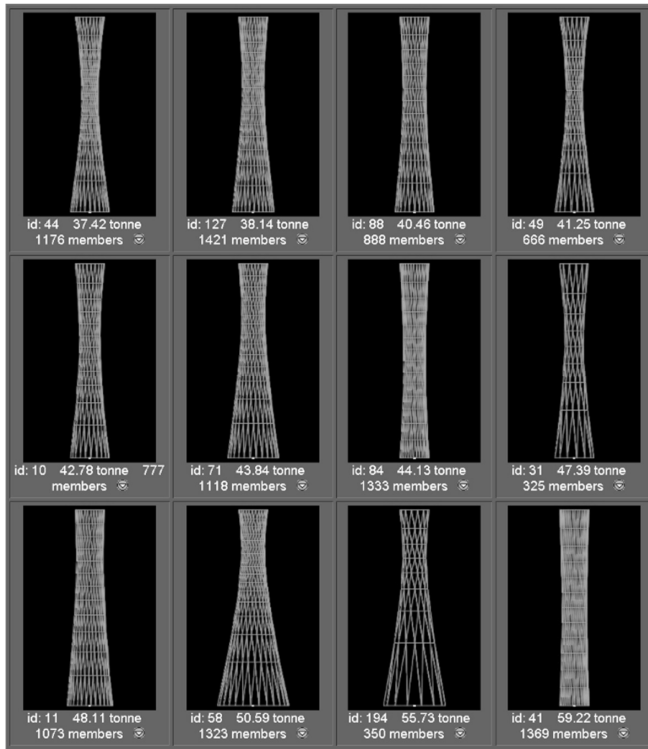


plot of weight vs natural frequency



lightest solutions

# Topology Optimization - Shukhov towers



Nizhny Novgorod, 1896

