

Future Infrastructure Forum 2  
EPSRC Network for Resilient & Sustainable Infrastructure

# CFRP Tendons: Quo vadis?

Urs Meier

EMPA, Swiss Federal Laboratories for  
Materials Science and Technology

**today: ETH Zurich Campus downtown**





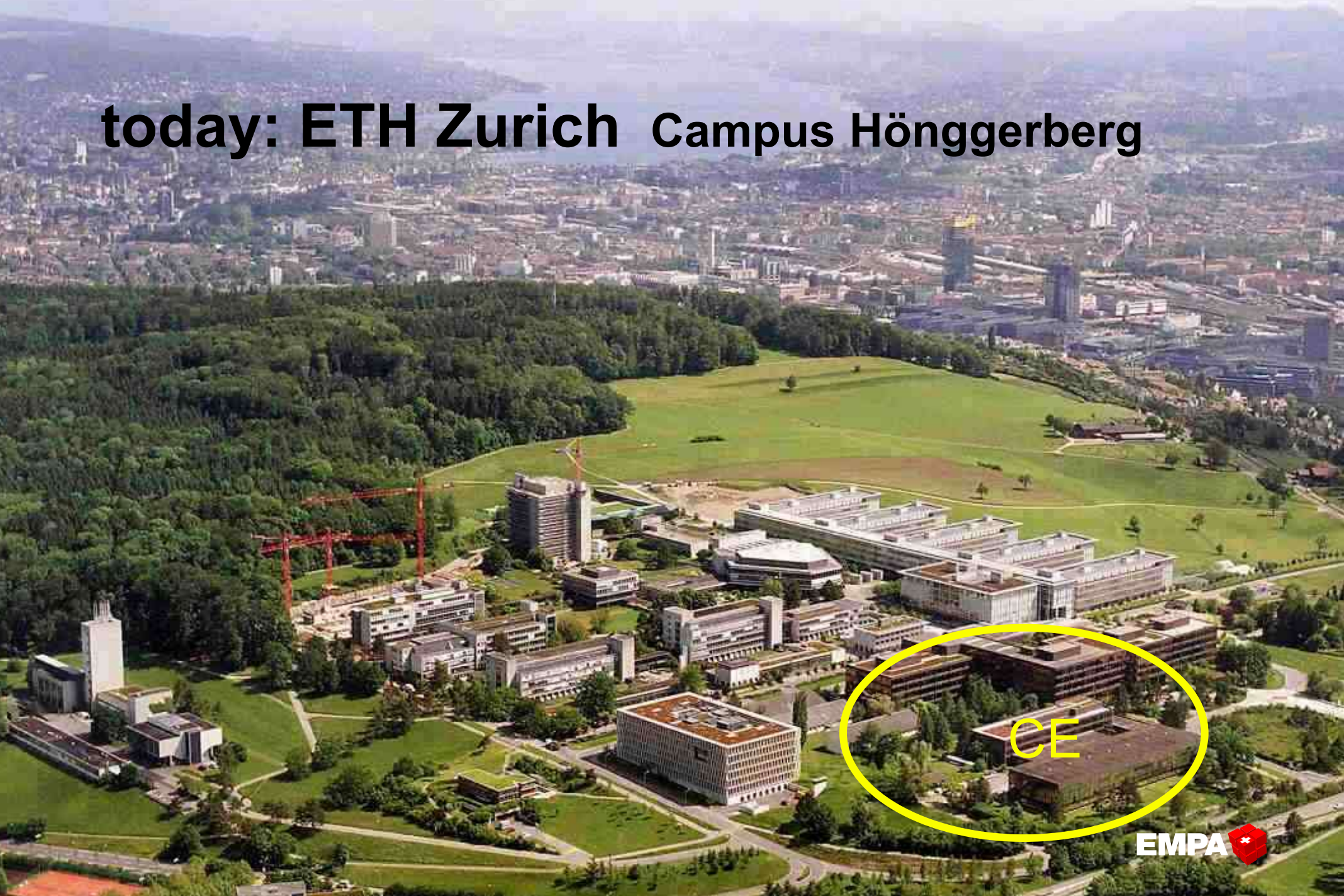
today: ETH Zurich Campus downtown

Ranking according to Shanghai Jiao Tong University:

on European Continent # 1  
worldwide # 23



today: ETH Zurich Campus Hönggerberg





**EMPA today**

**132th anniversary**

**3 Sites**

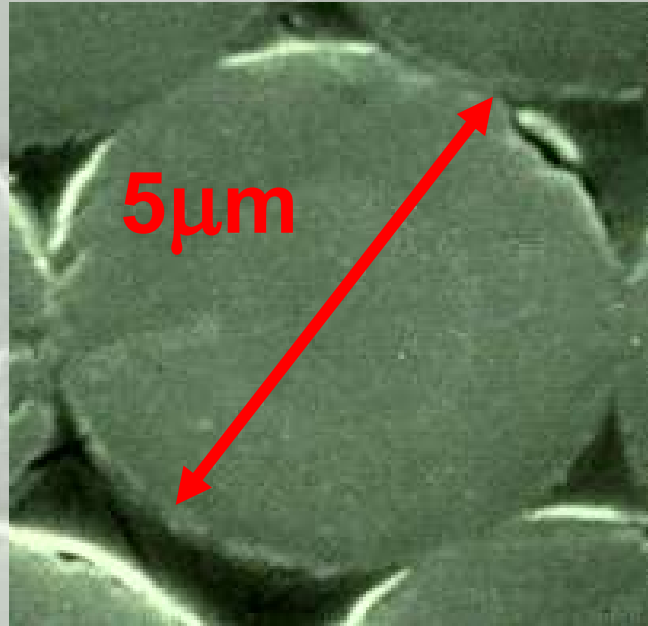
**810 Employees**

**360 University graduates**

**10 Professors**

**120 PhD candidates**





Scanning electron microscope cross section of wire made of **C**arbon **F**ibre **R**einforced **P**olymers

Fibre volume content: 72%



# 1972 Kurt Schuhmacher Bridge crossing river Rhine in Mannheim

No sloppy work !!!

Stay cables:

- prone to corrosion
- prone to fatigue

Worlds first cable stayed bridge with parallel steel wire bundles

Designers: Prof. Dr.-Ing. Dr. h.c. F. Leonhardt & Dr. Ing. W. Andrä

# 1972 Kurt Schuhmacher Bridge

After only 15 years severe corrosion  
and many broken wires!

This example was for EMPA the driving force to initiate in 1980 together with the Swiss Company BBR Ltd the development of CFRP parallel wire bundles.



# CFRP wire

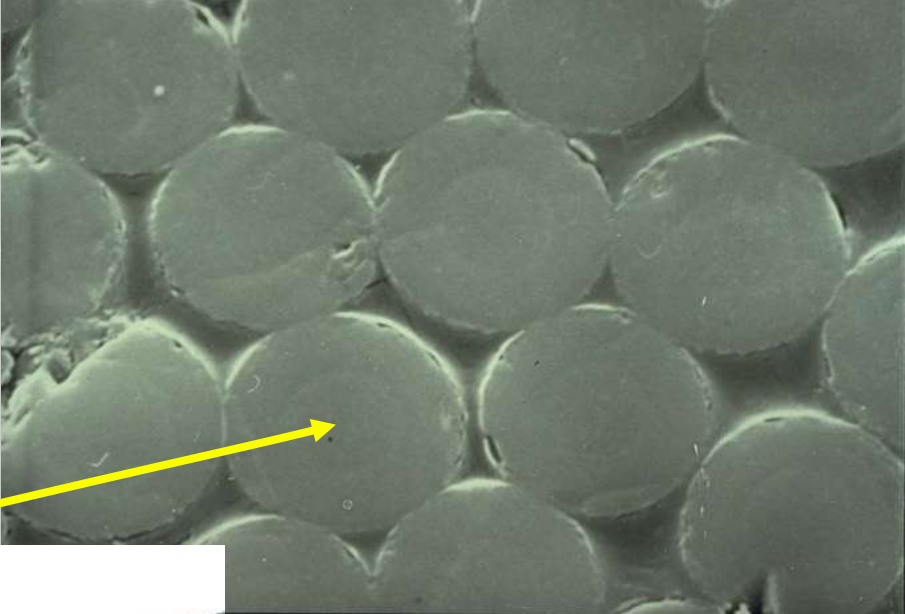
- very high strength, 3'300 MPa
- high modulus, 150 ... 400 GPa

5 mm diameter

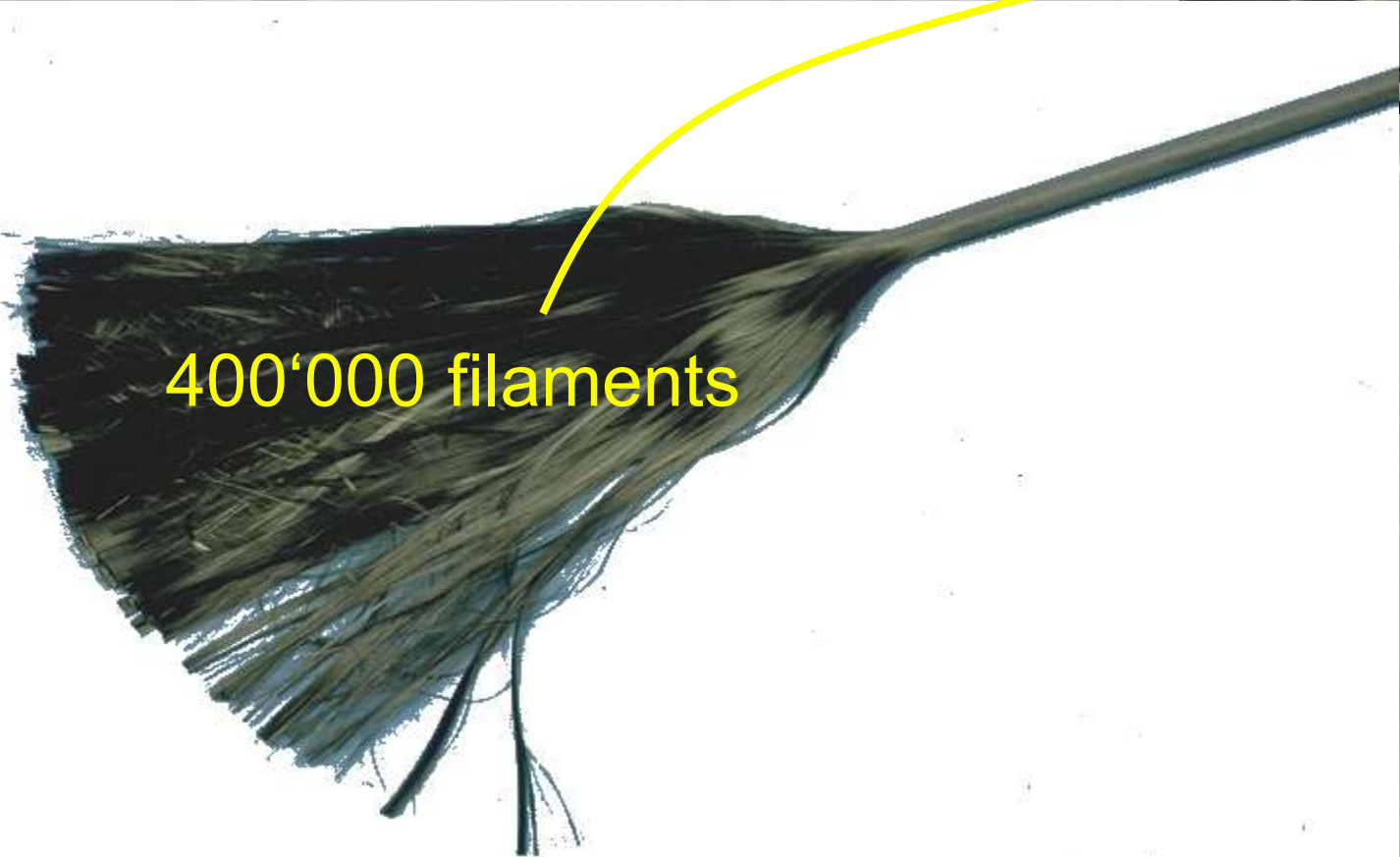
- lightweight, 1.5 t/m<sup>3</sup>
- no corrosion
- no stress corrosion
- outstanding fatigue



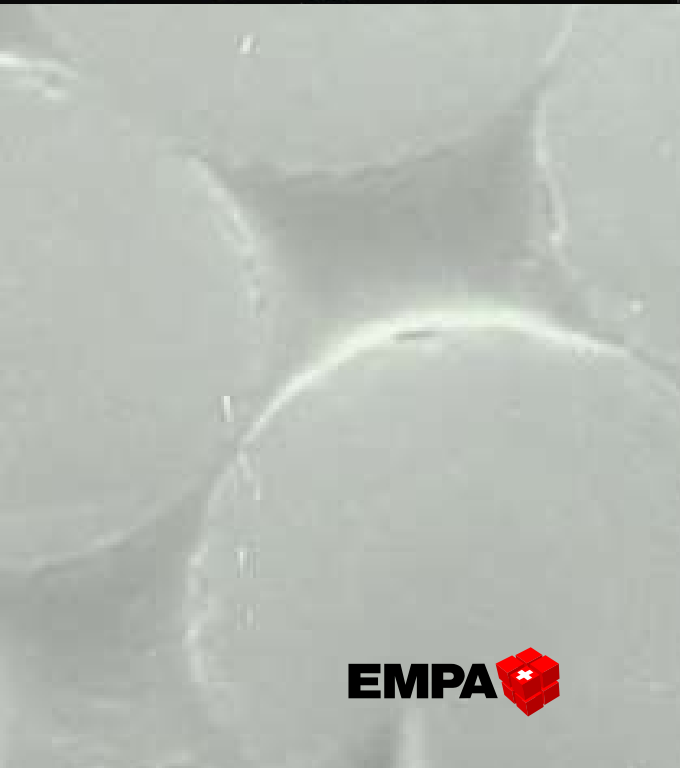
**CFRP wire**



20KV 00 006 S

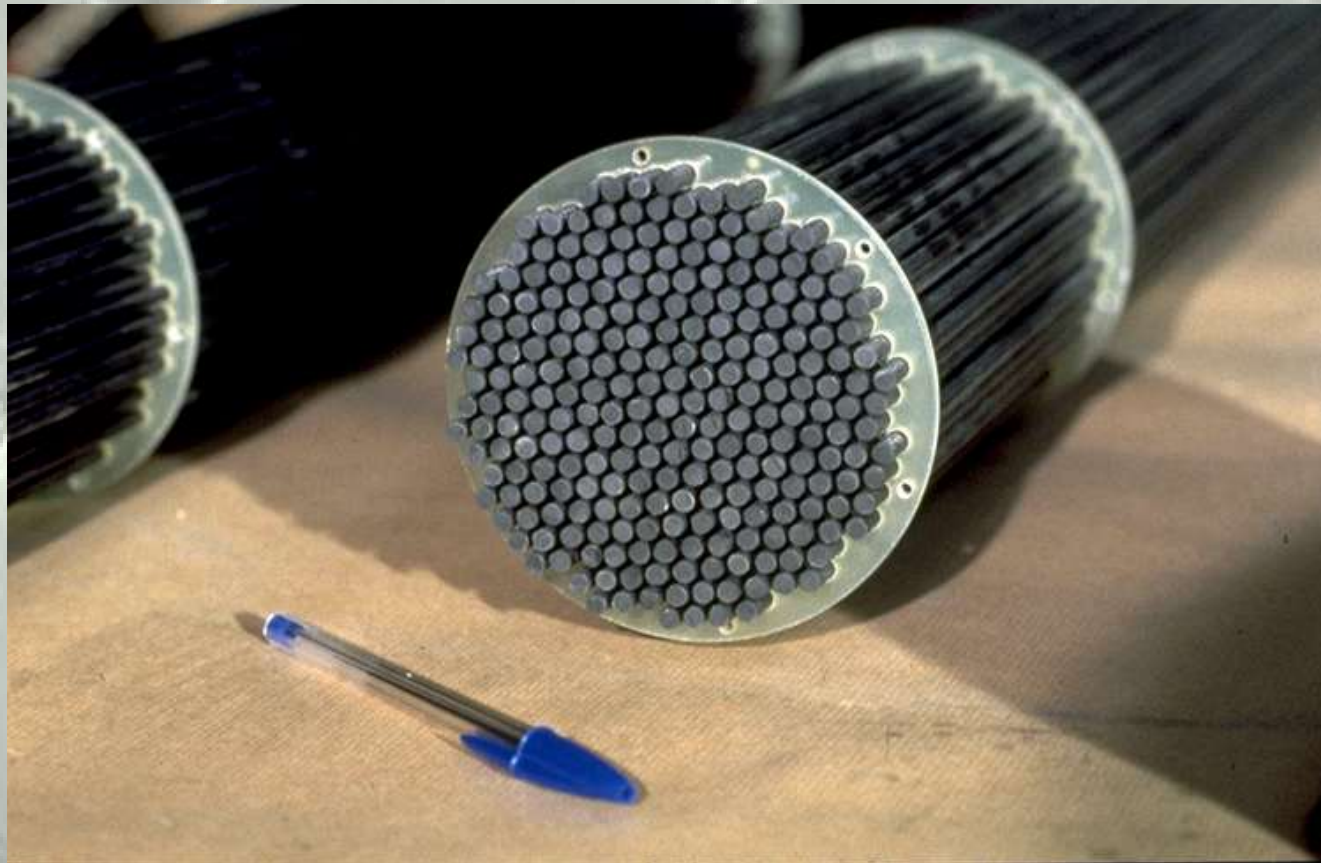


**400'000 filaments**





# Development of anchorage system



**First half  
of 80ties:  
“Blood,  
sweat and  
tears”,  
flops and  
failures**



**However first success with CFRP post-strengthening**

**very easy application like  
„Structural Wallpaper“**



# 1991 World's first CFRP strip application Ibach bridge

by accident ...

# Ibach bridge 1991

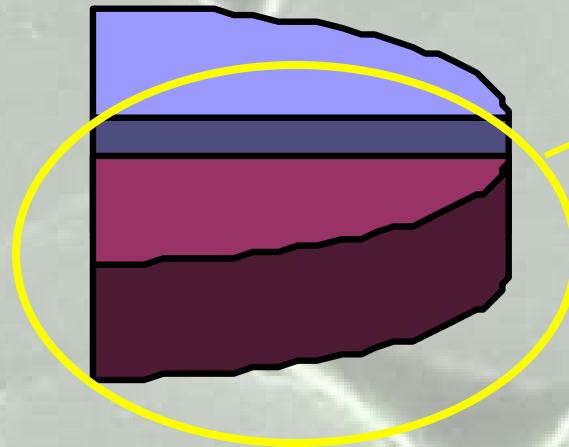
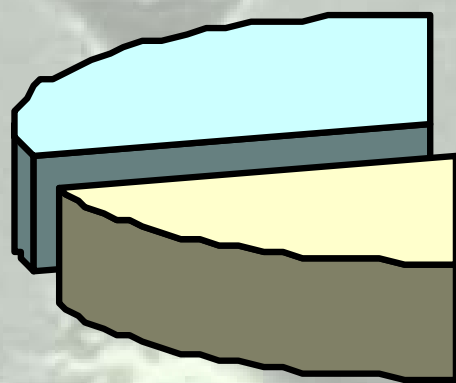
CFRP strips are going to be prepared



only 6 working hours!



## From JEC 2009 in Paris



■ Air- & Spacecraft Industry

■ Construction Industry

■ Sport

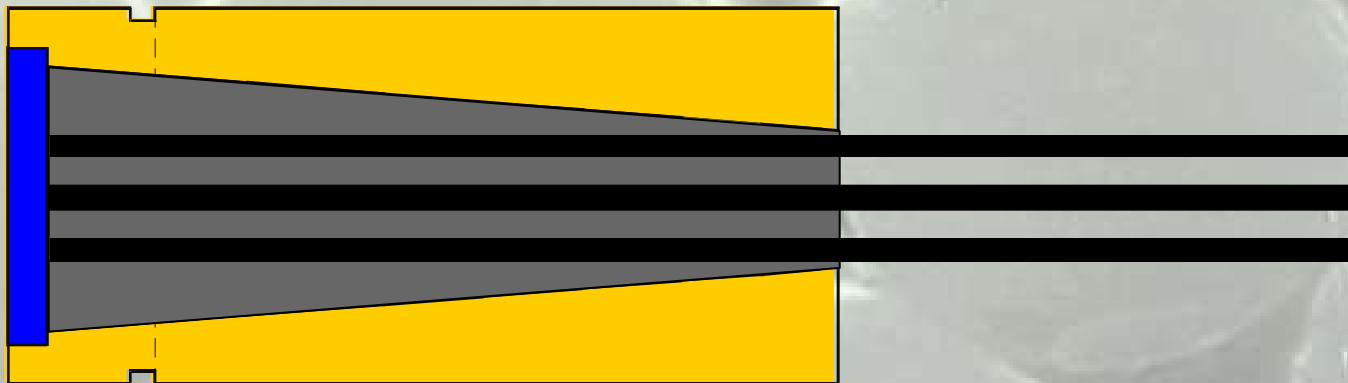
■ Industry

**Worldwide annual carbon fiber production in 2008:**  
**35'000 t**

Source Dr. Christophe Lanoud, R&D GE

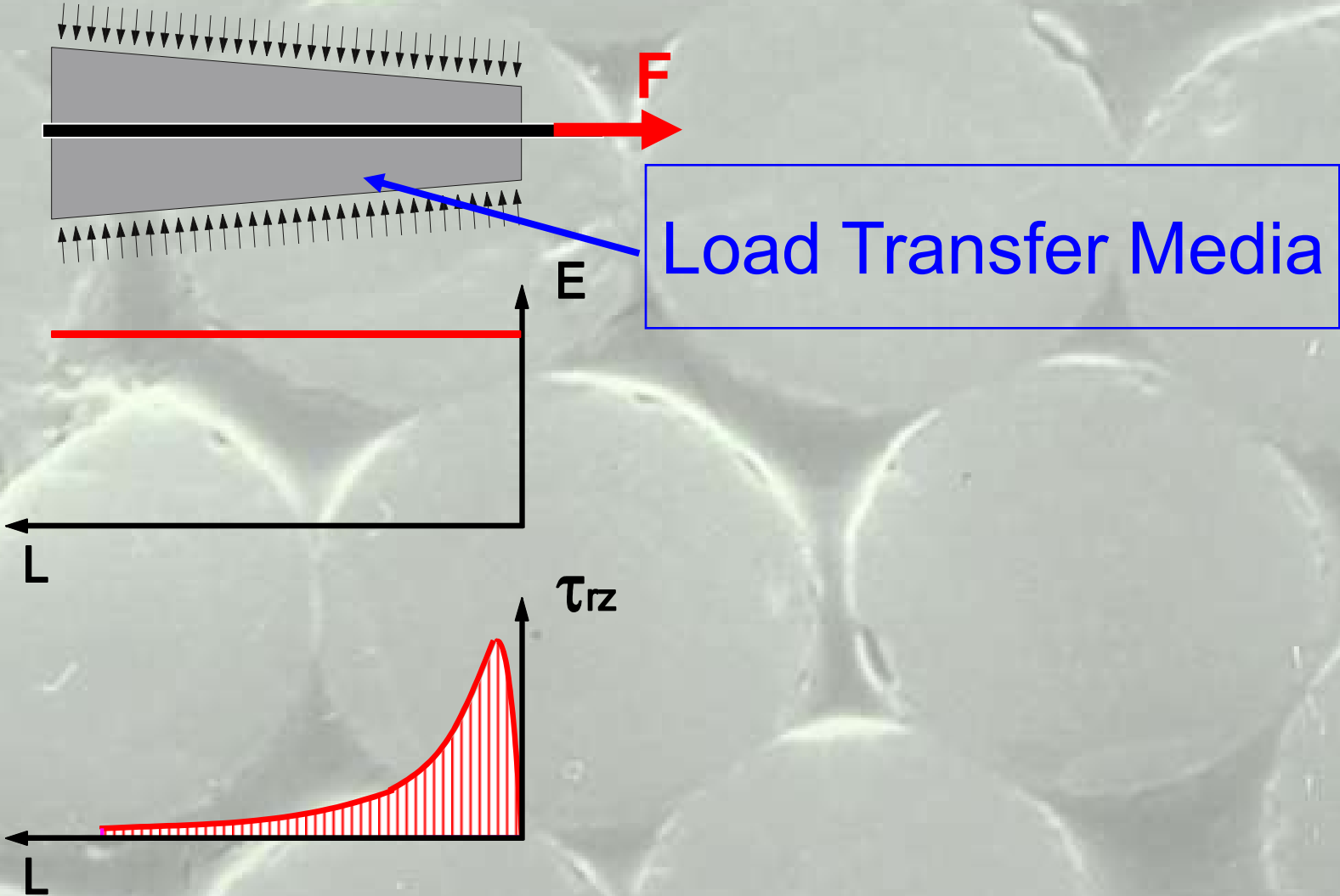
# How do we grip the CFRP wires?

We developed a cone anchorage system similar to the BBR High-Am System

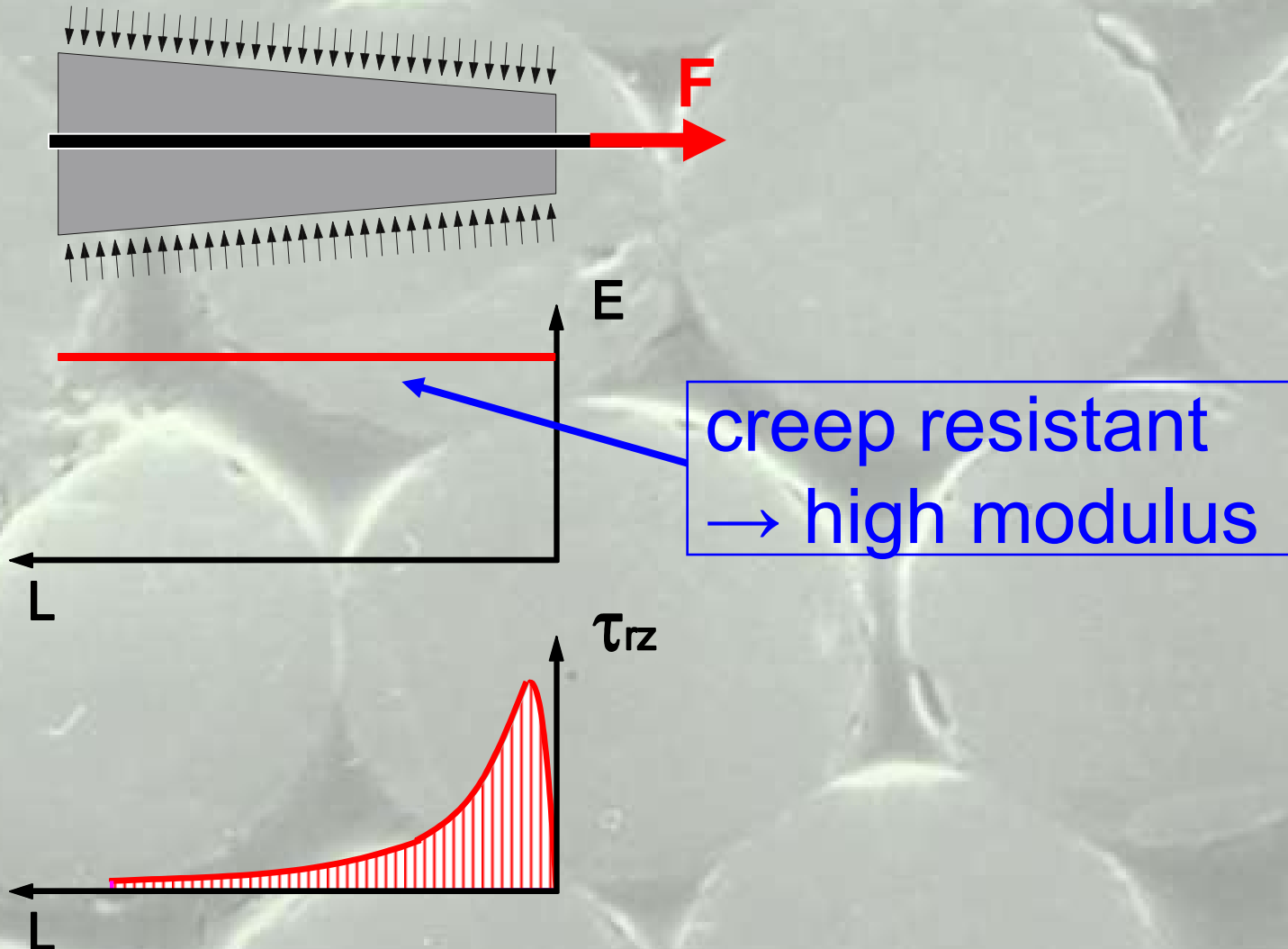




# Which load transfer media (LTM)?

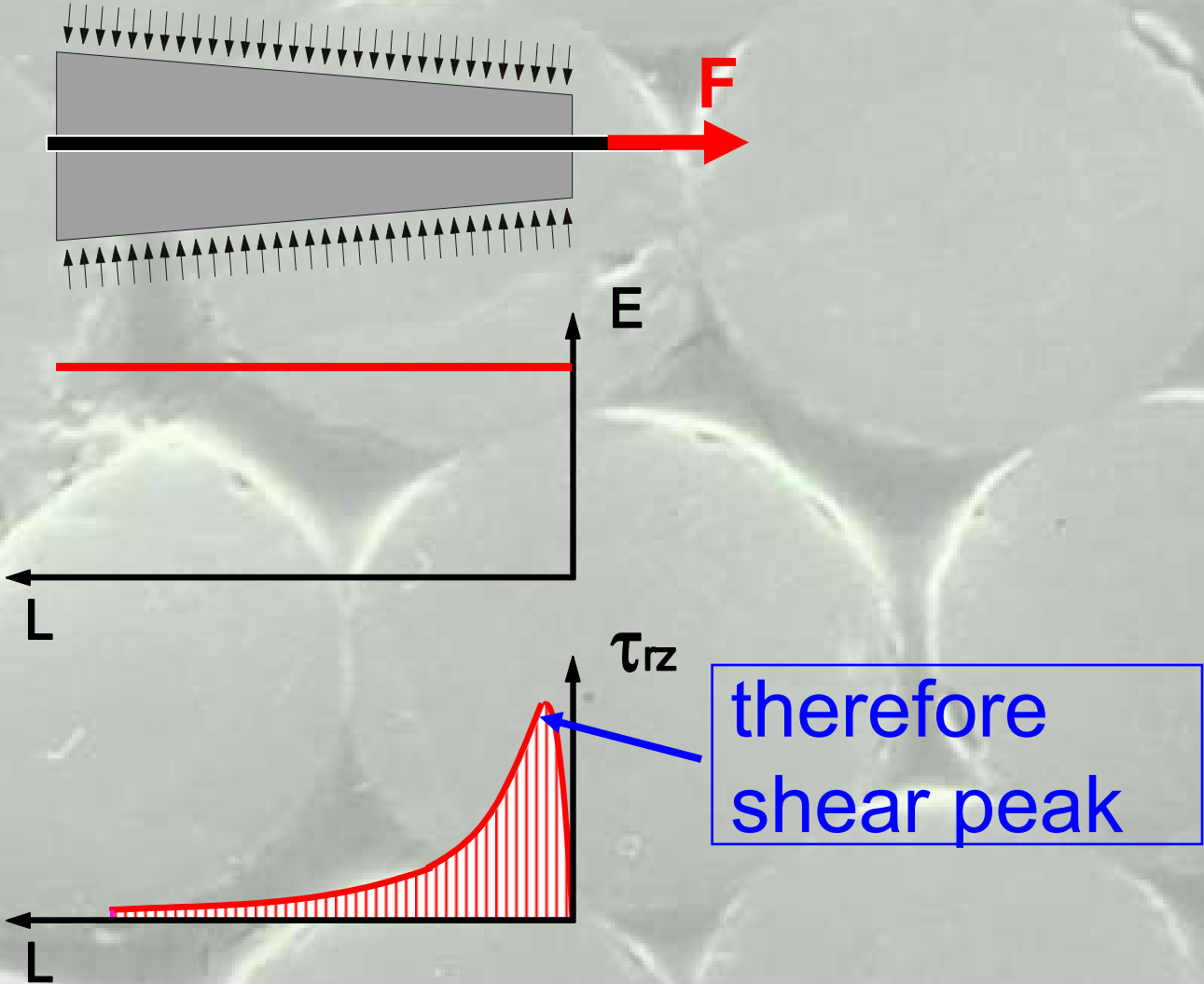


# Which load transfer media (LTM)?

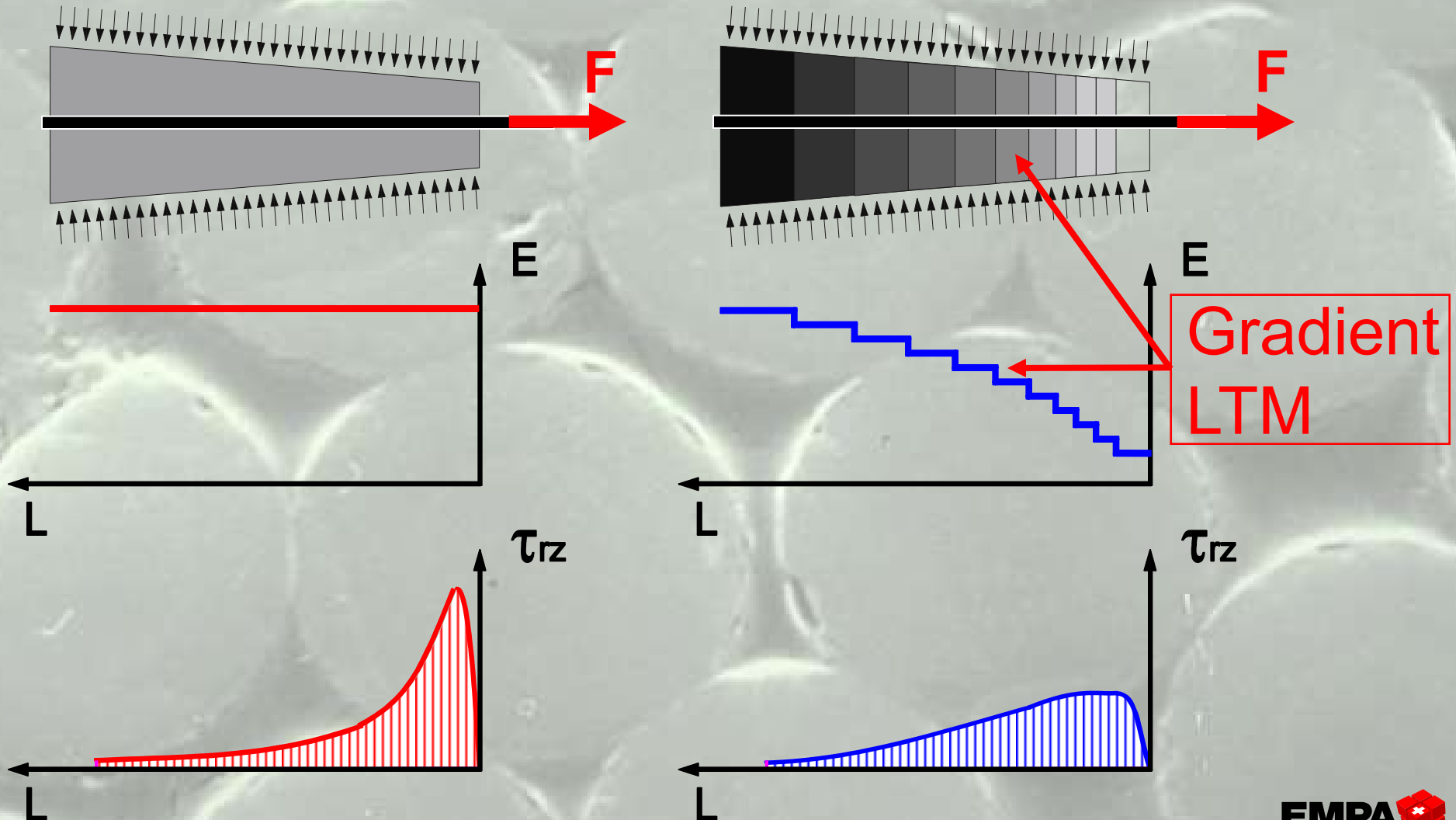




# Which load transfer media (LTM)?

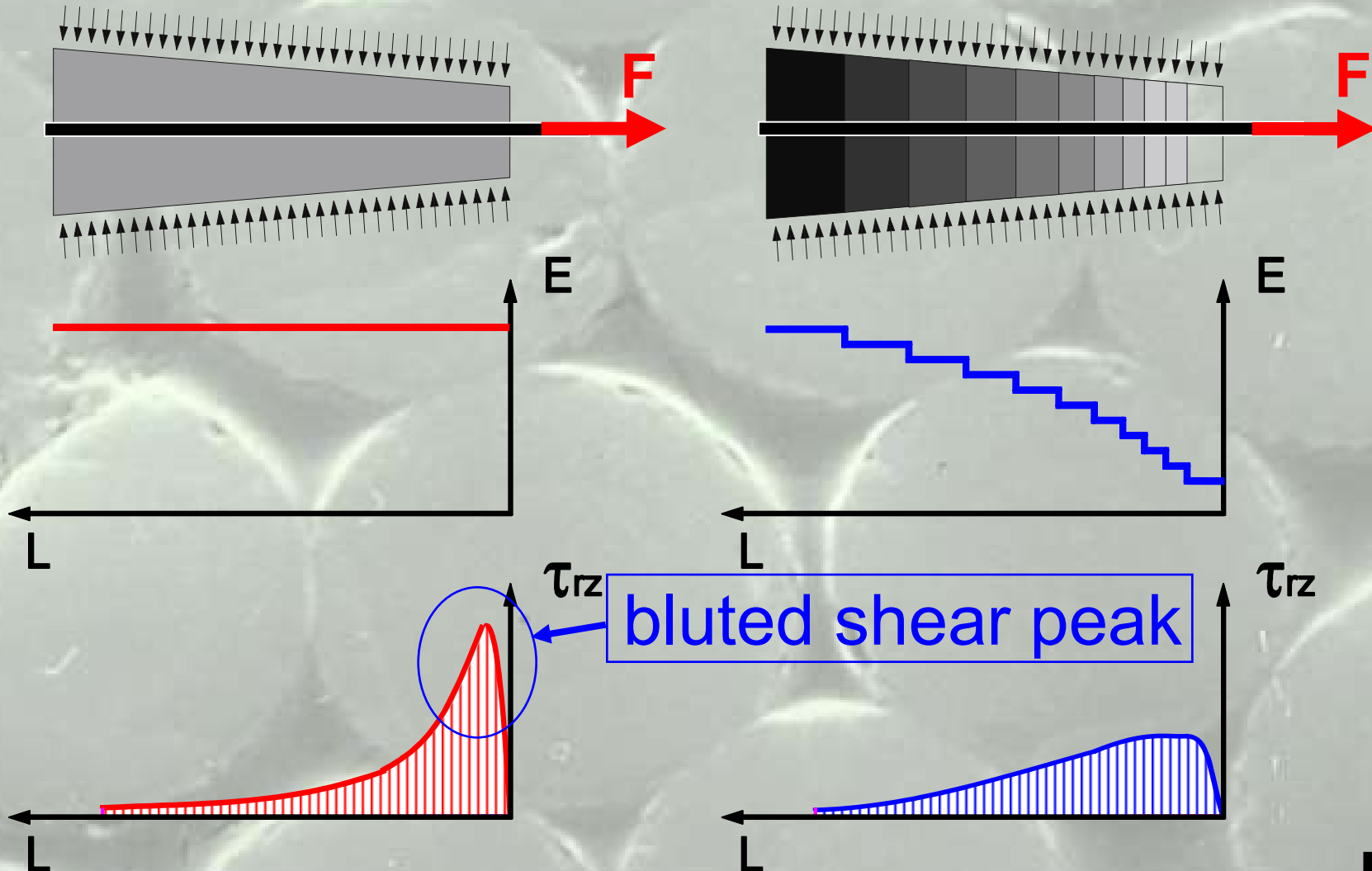


# Which load transfer media (LTM)?

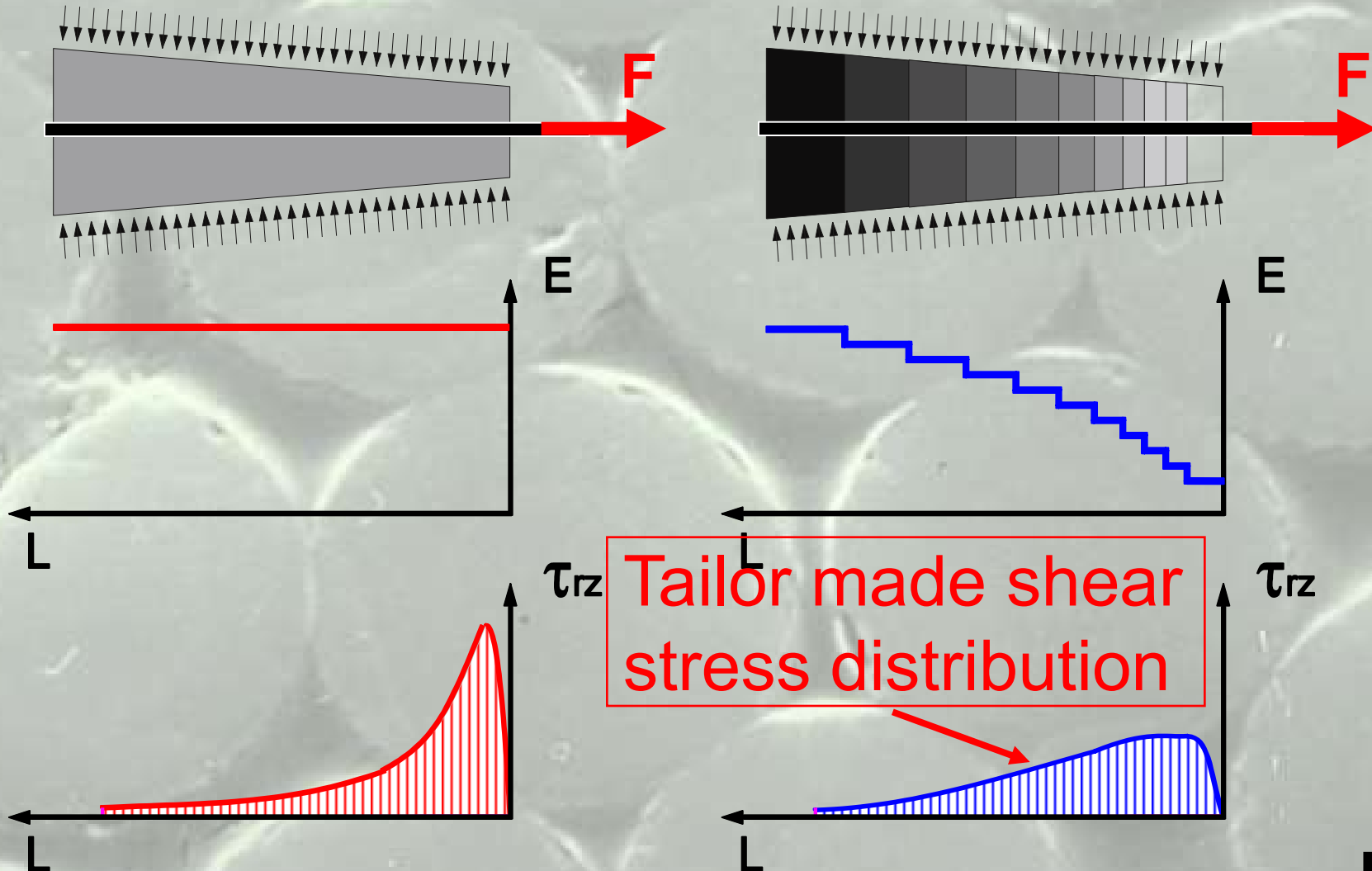




# Which load transfer media (LTM)?



# Which load transfer media (LTM)?

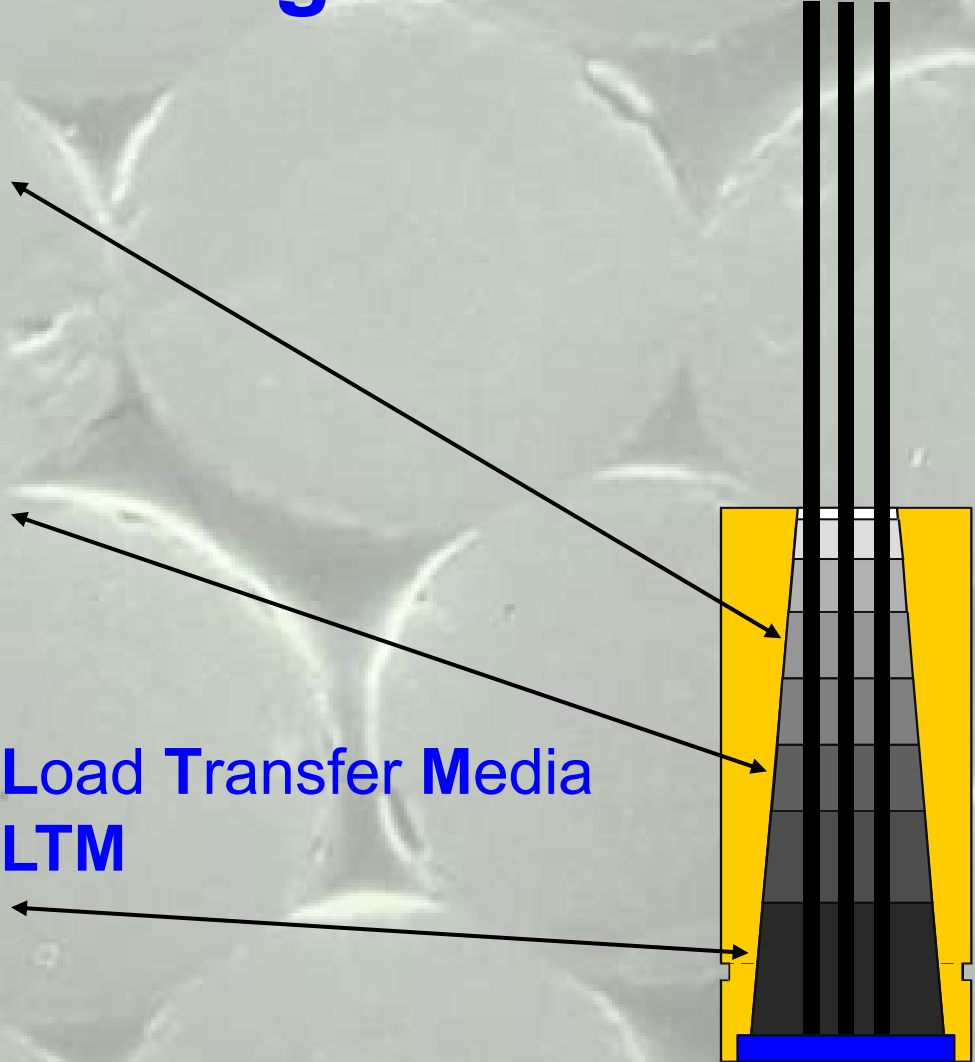




**241 CFRP wires each 5 mm diameter, 12 MN**



# Concept of anchorage socket

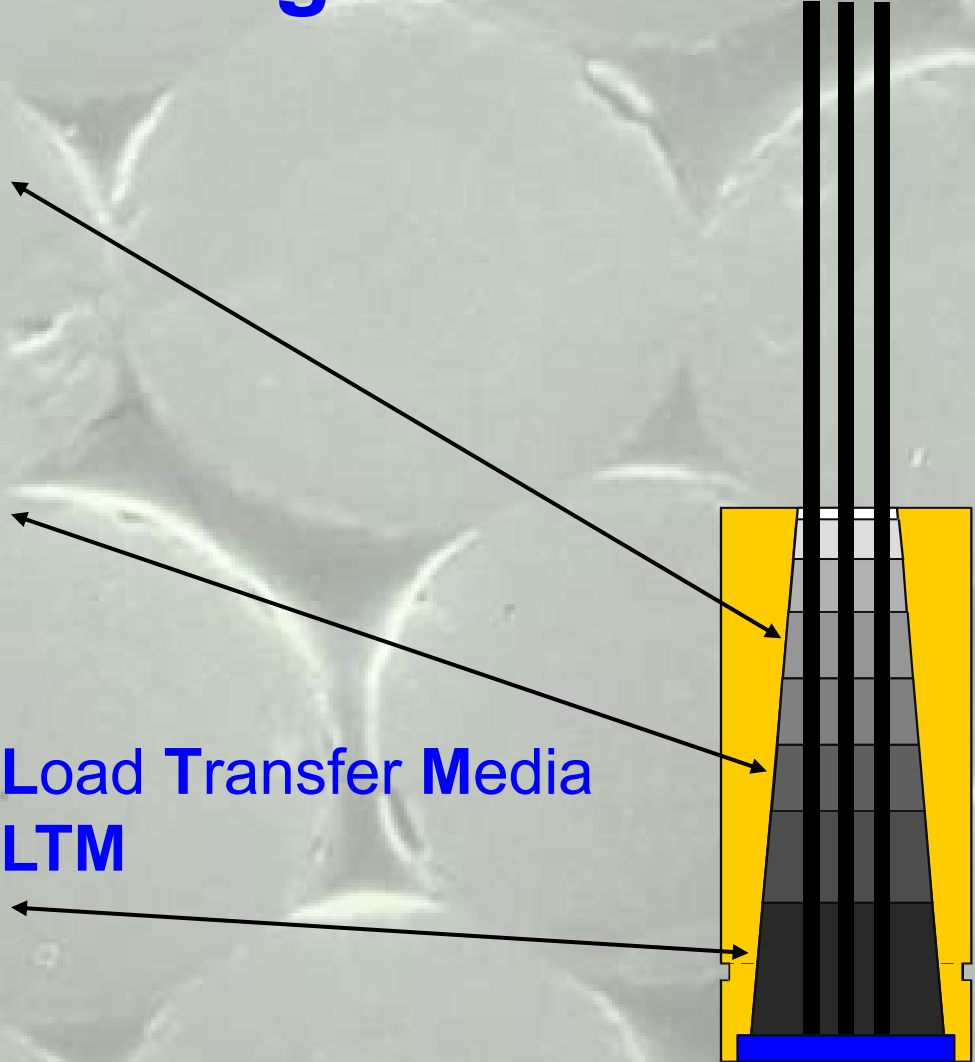


Load Transfer Media  
LTM





# Concept of anchorage socket



Load Transfer Media  
LTM





Soil Analysis Data Sheet

Sample No.	Soil Type	Moisture (%)	pH	EC (dS/m)	Organic Matter (%)	N (%)	P (%)	K (%)
1	Clay	25	7.5	0.5	1.5	0.1	0.05	0.2
2	Silt	30	8.0	0.8	2.0	0.15	0.08	0.3
3	Sand	15	6.5	1.2	0.5	0.05	0.02	0.1
4	Loam	20	7.0	0.6	1.0	0.12	0.06	0.25
5	Clay	28	7.8	0.7	1.8	0.13	0.07	0.28
6	Silt	32	8.2	0.9	2.2	0.16	0.09	0.35
7	Sand	18	6.8	1.1	0.6	0.06	0.03	0.15
8	Loam	22	7.2	0.7	1.2	0.14	0.07	0.3
9	Clay	26	7.6	0.8	1.6	0.12	0.06	0.25
10	Silt	31	8.1	0.9	2.1	0.15	0.08	0.32





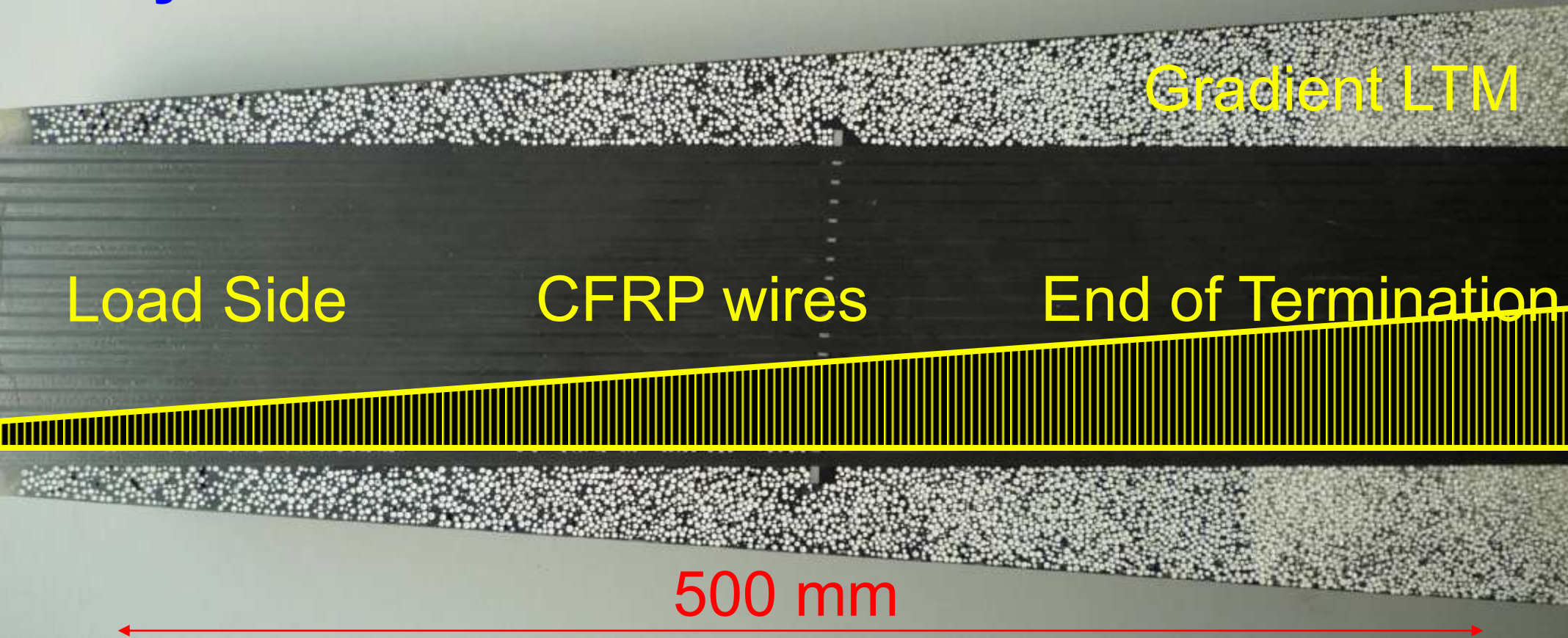






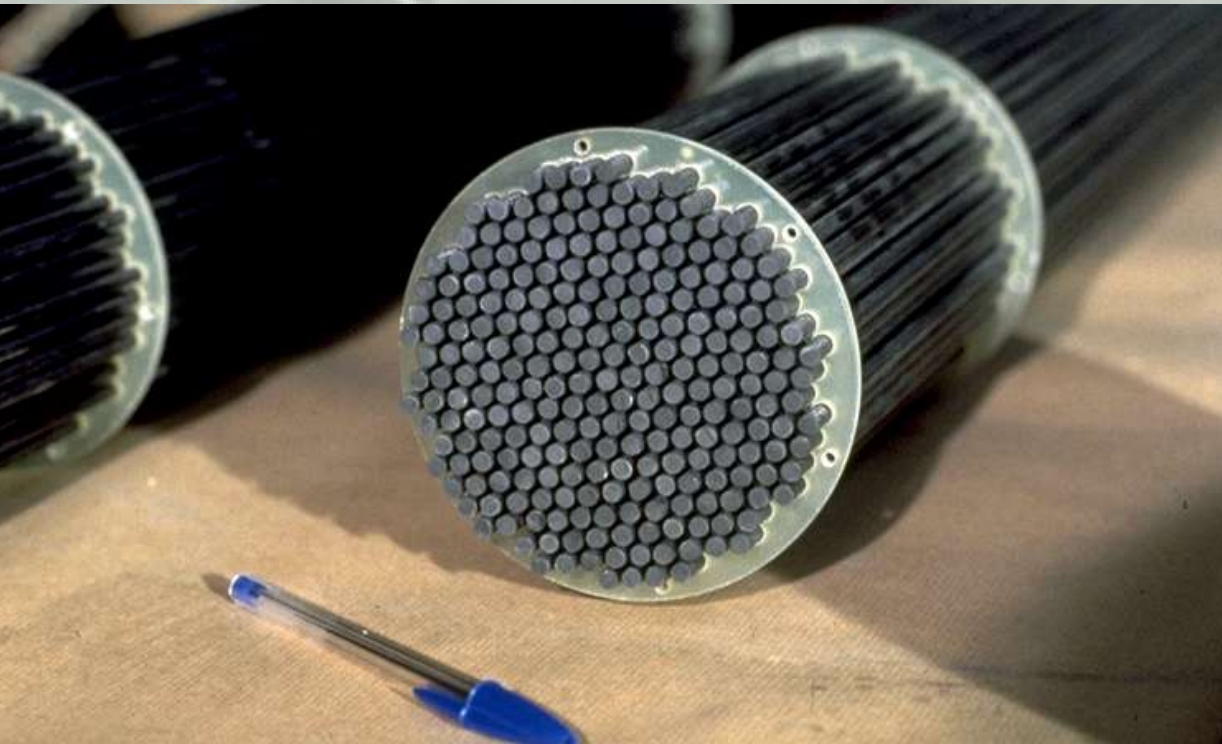


# Longitudinal section of anchorage system with 241 wires





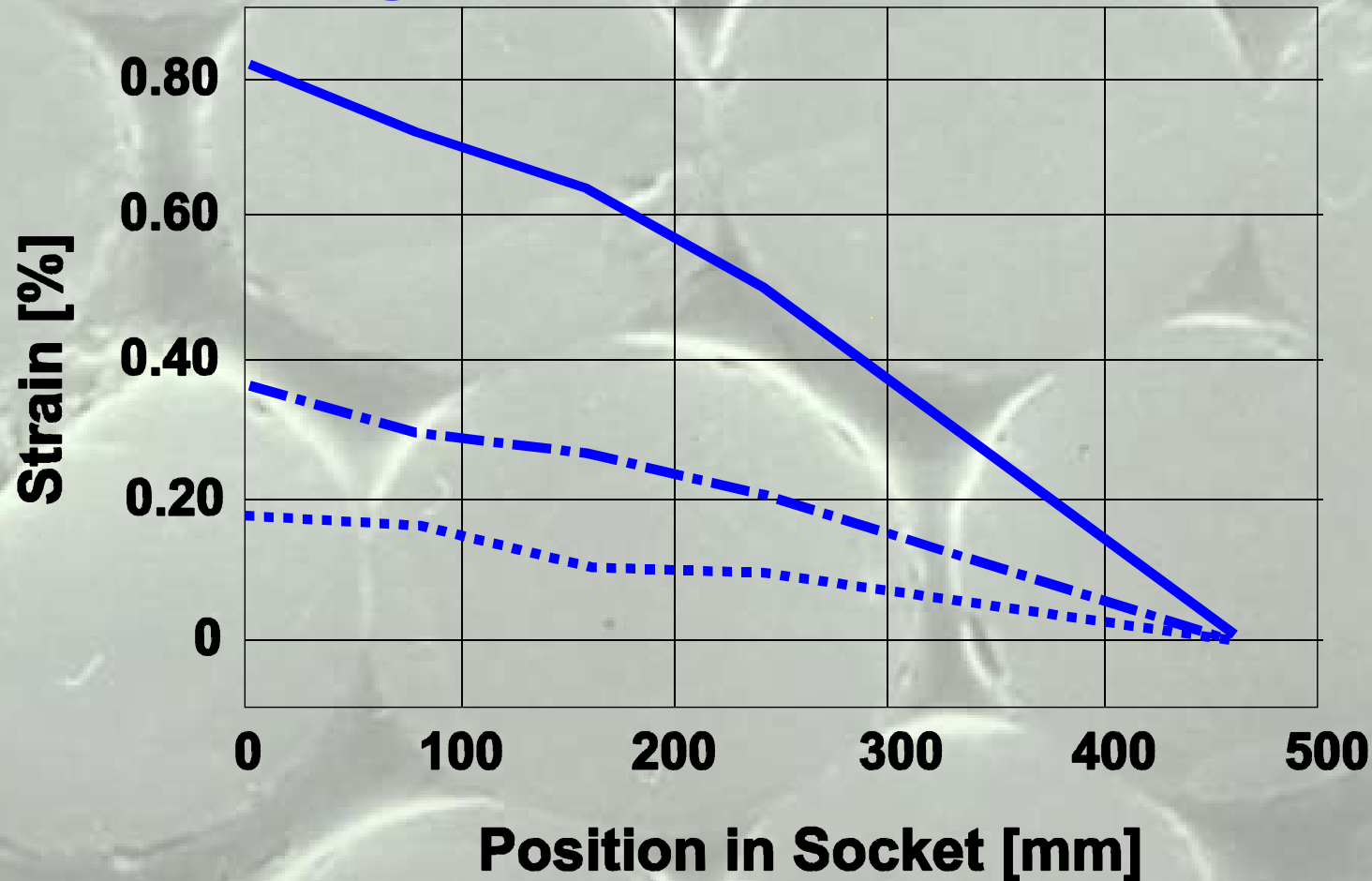
# Parallel wire bundles



241 wires  
(each 5 mm)  
ultimate load: 12 MN



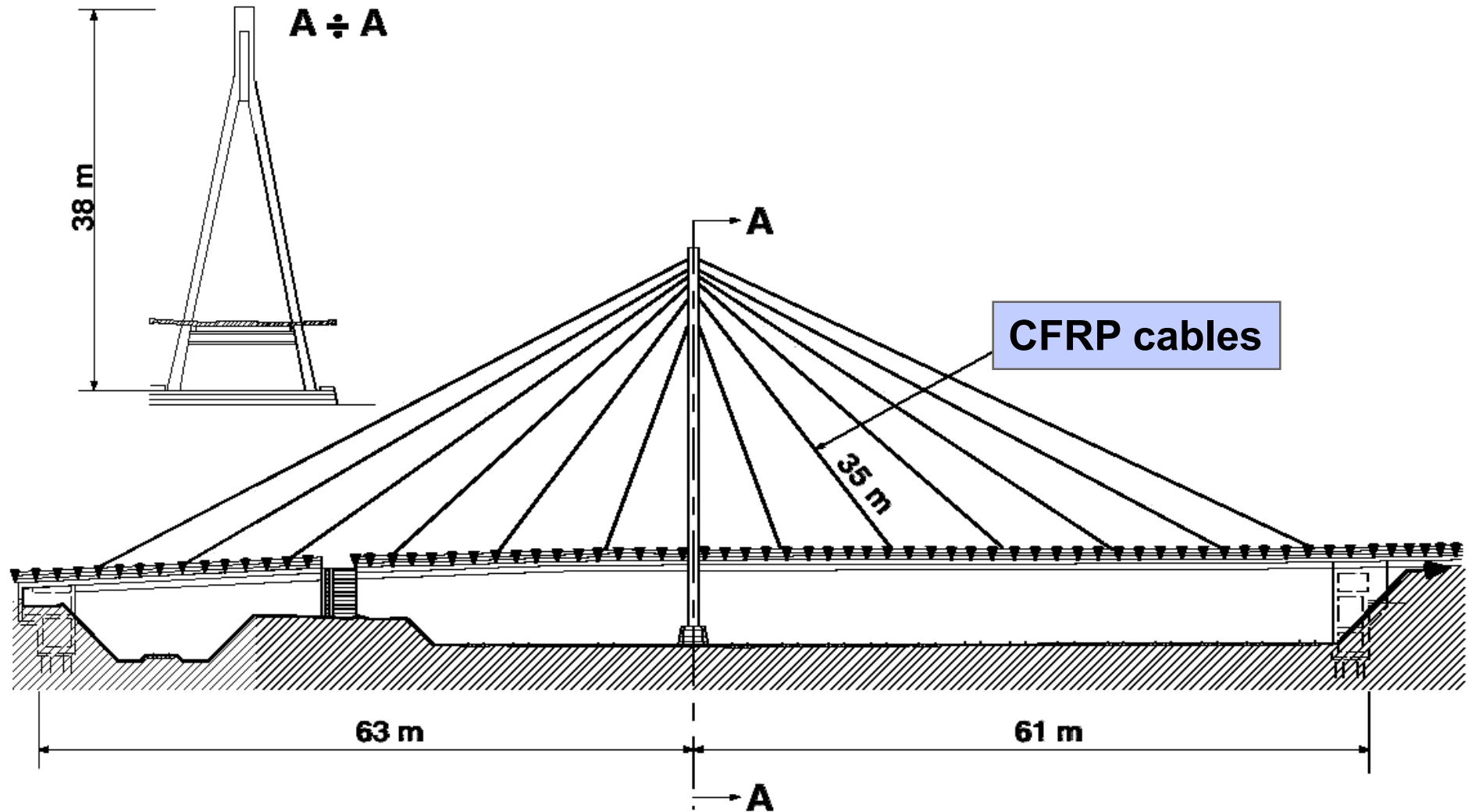
# Longitudinal strain in a wire inside of anchorage



# Loading of fatigue test rig with CFRP cable

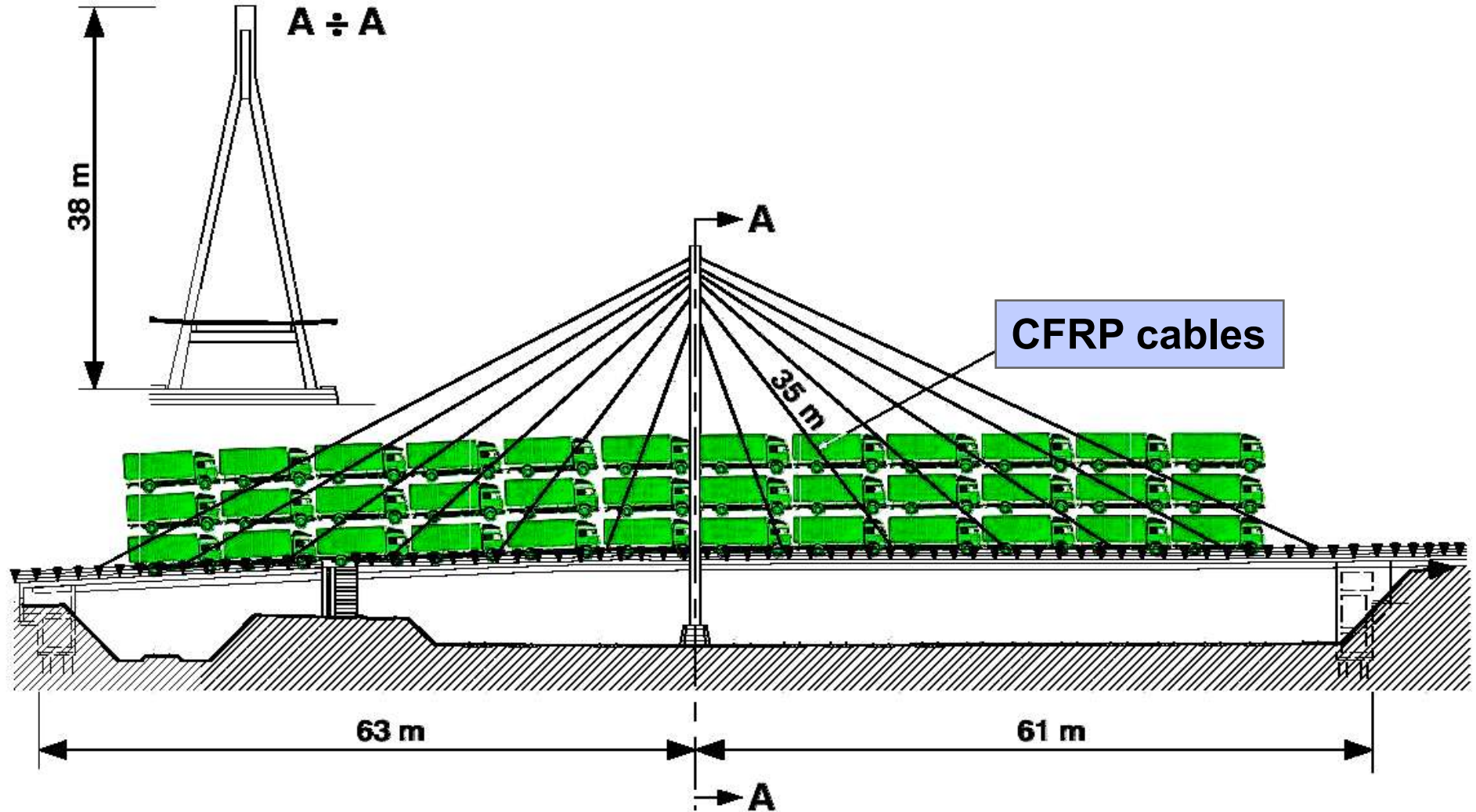


# Fatigue loading

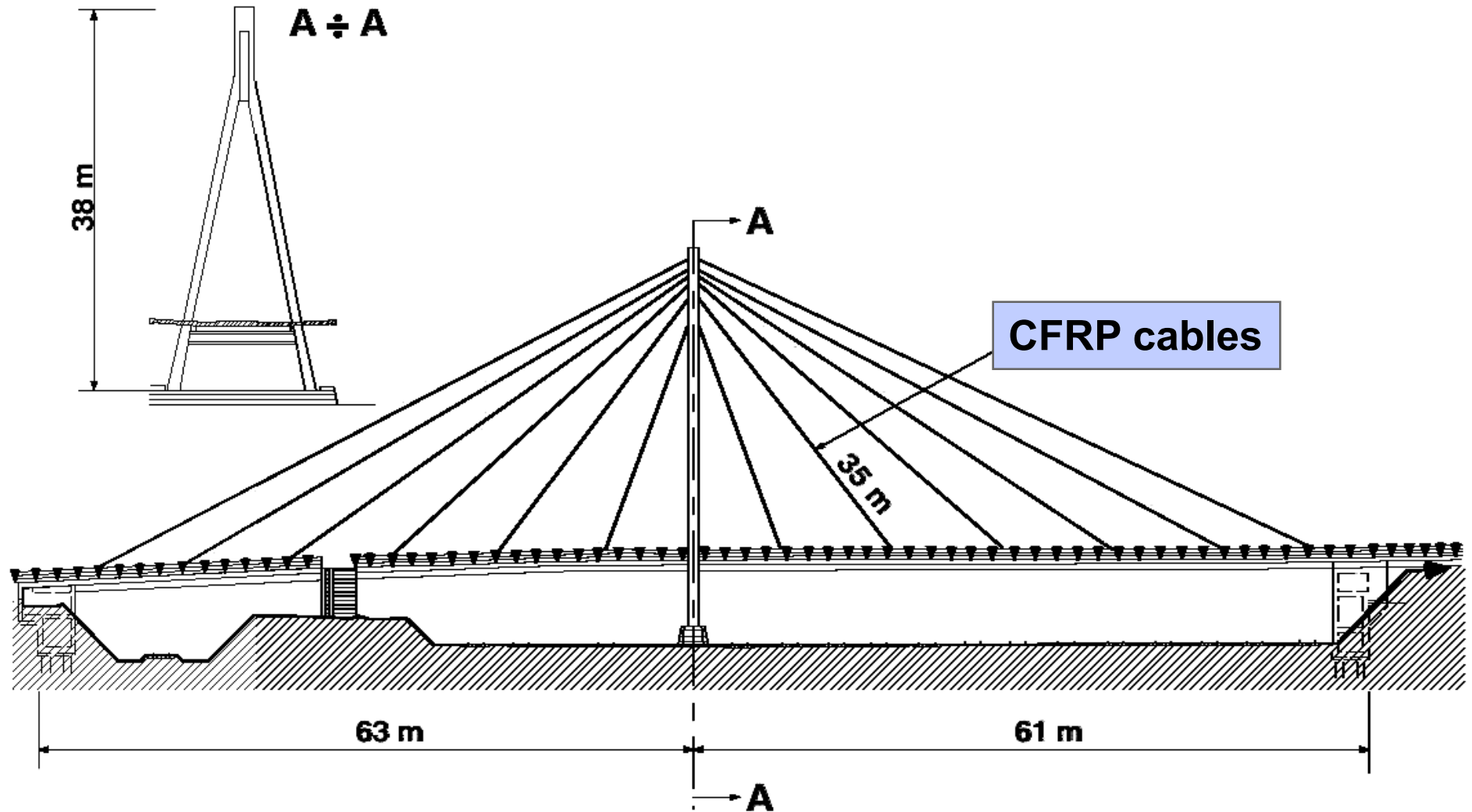




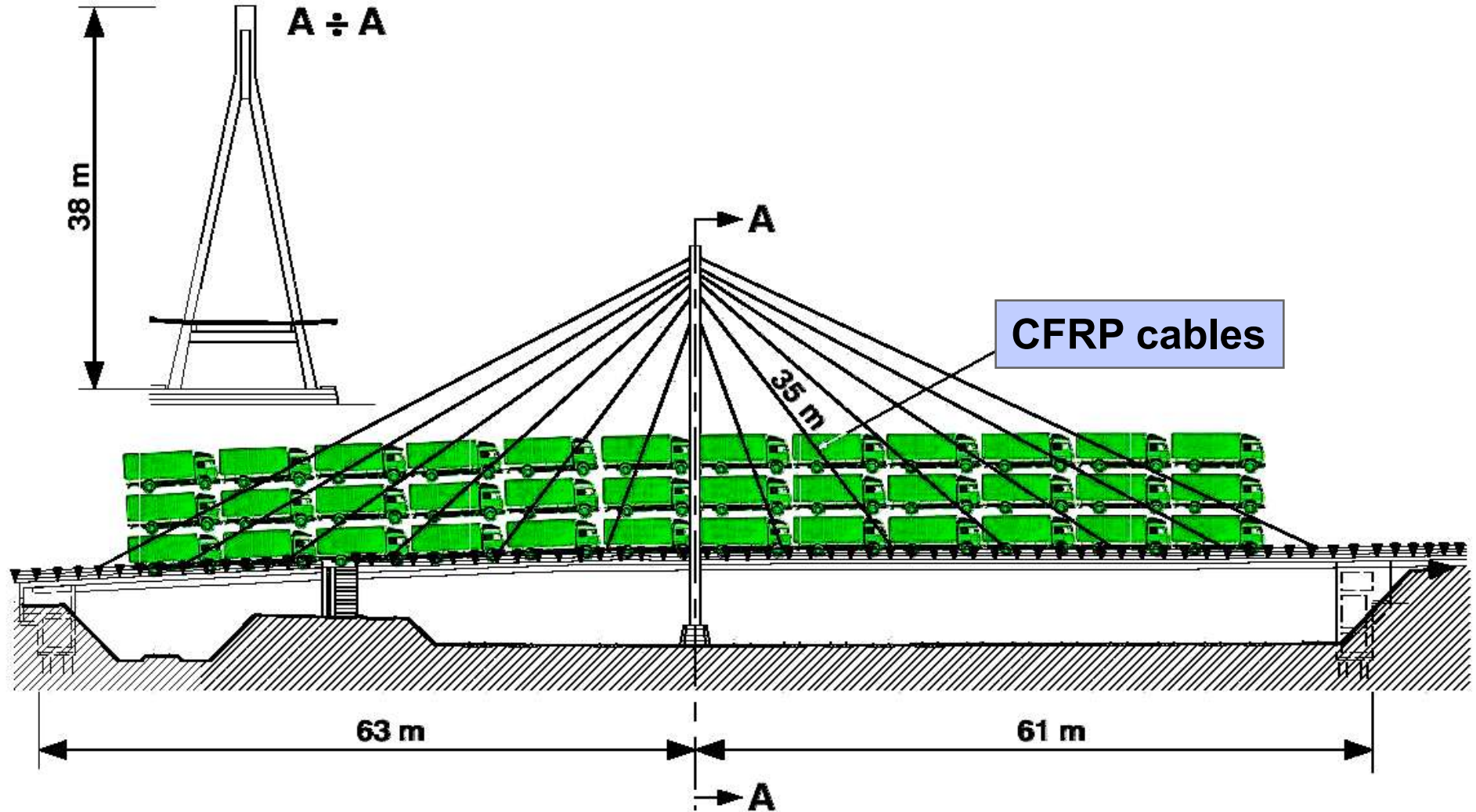
# Fatigue loading



# Fatigue loading

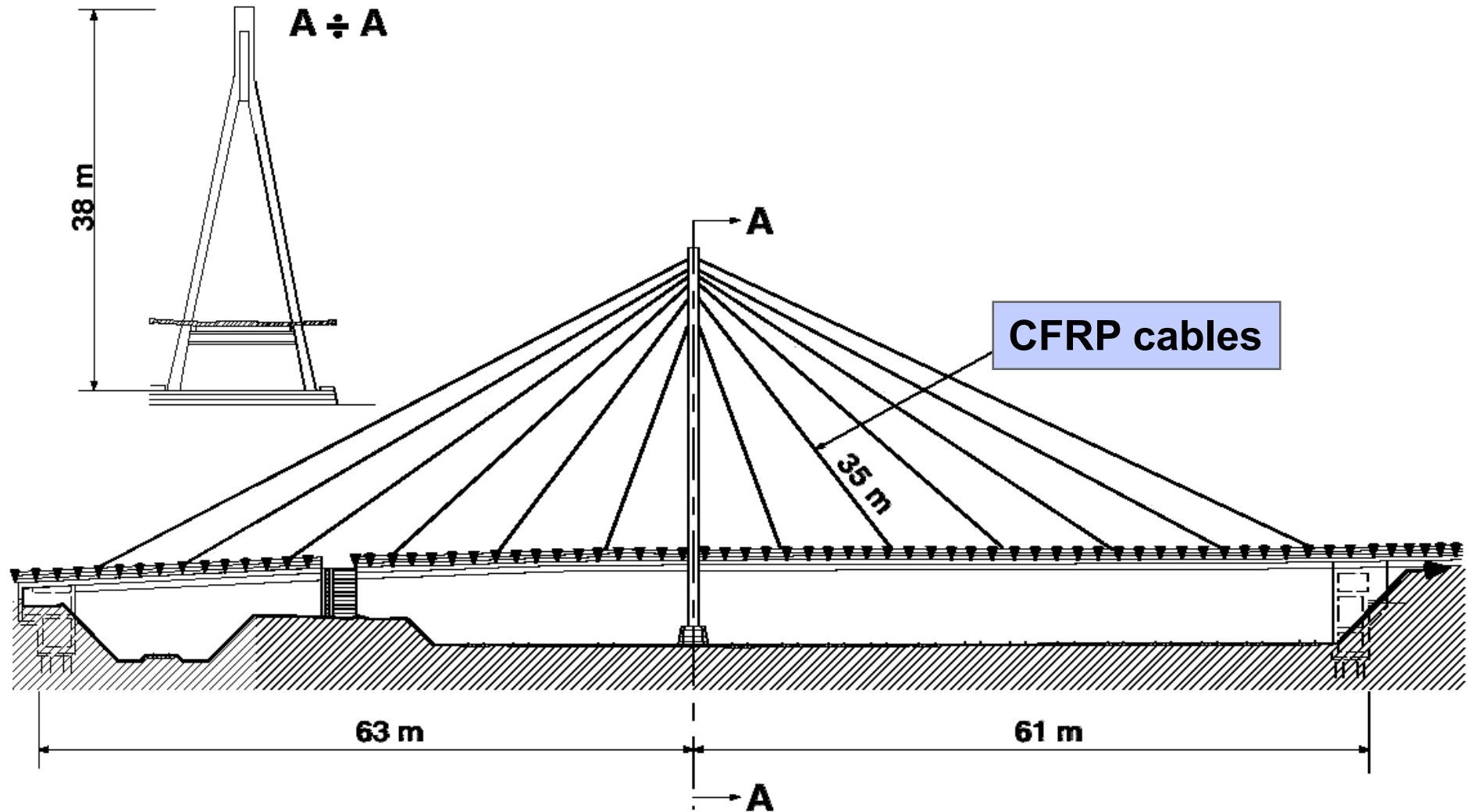


# Fatigue loading

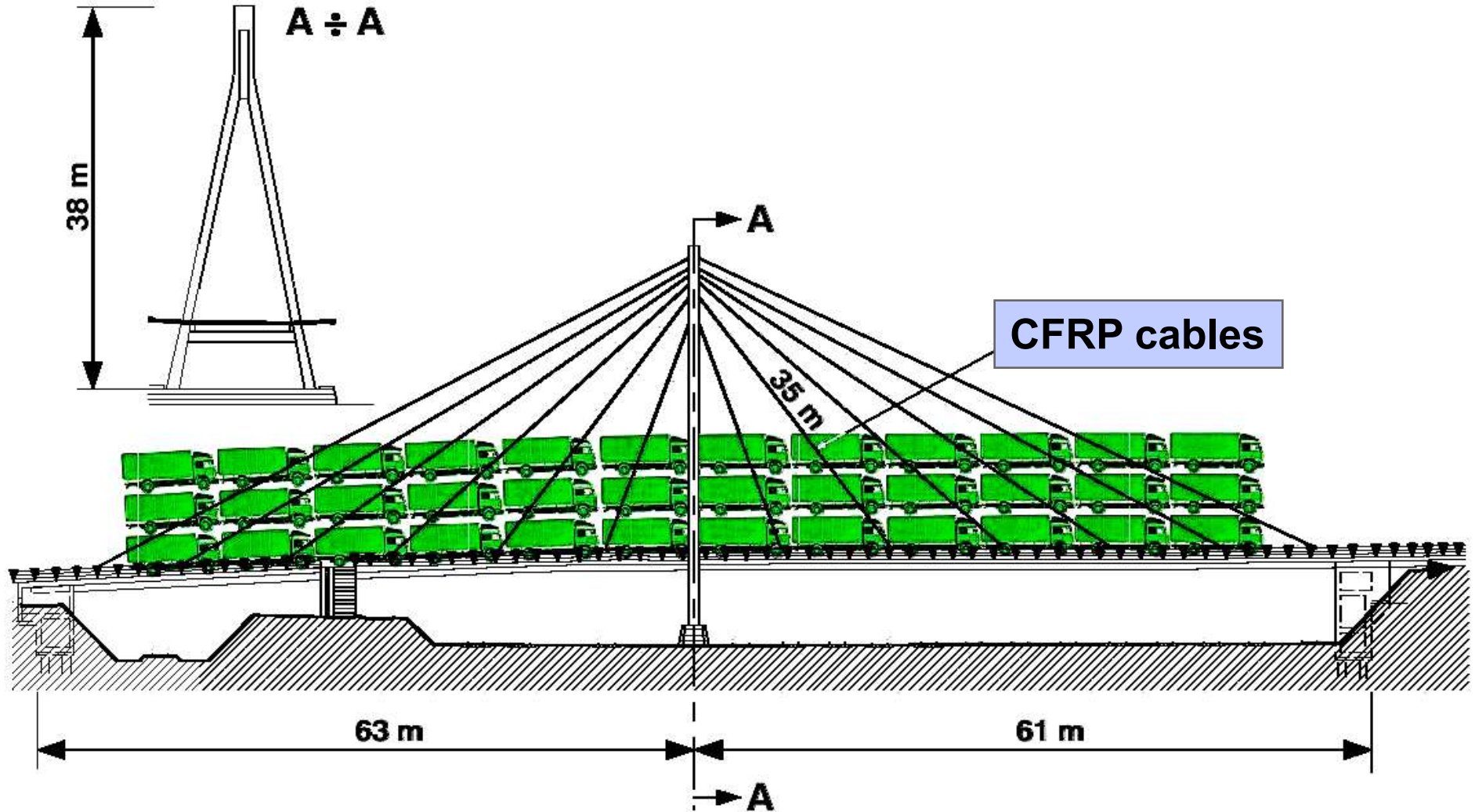




# Fatigue loading

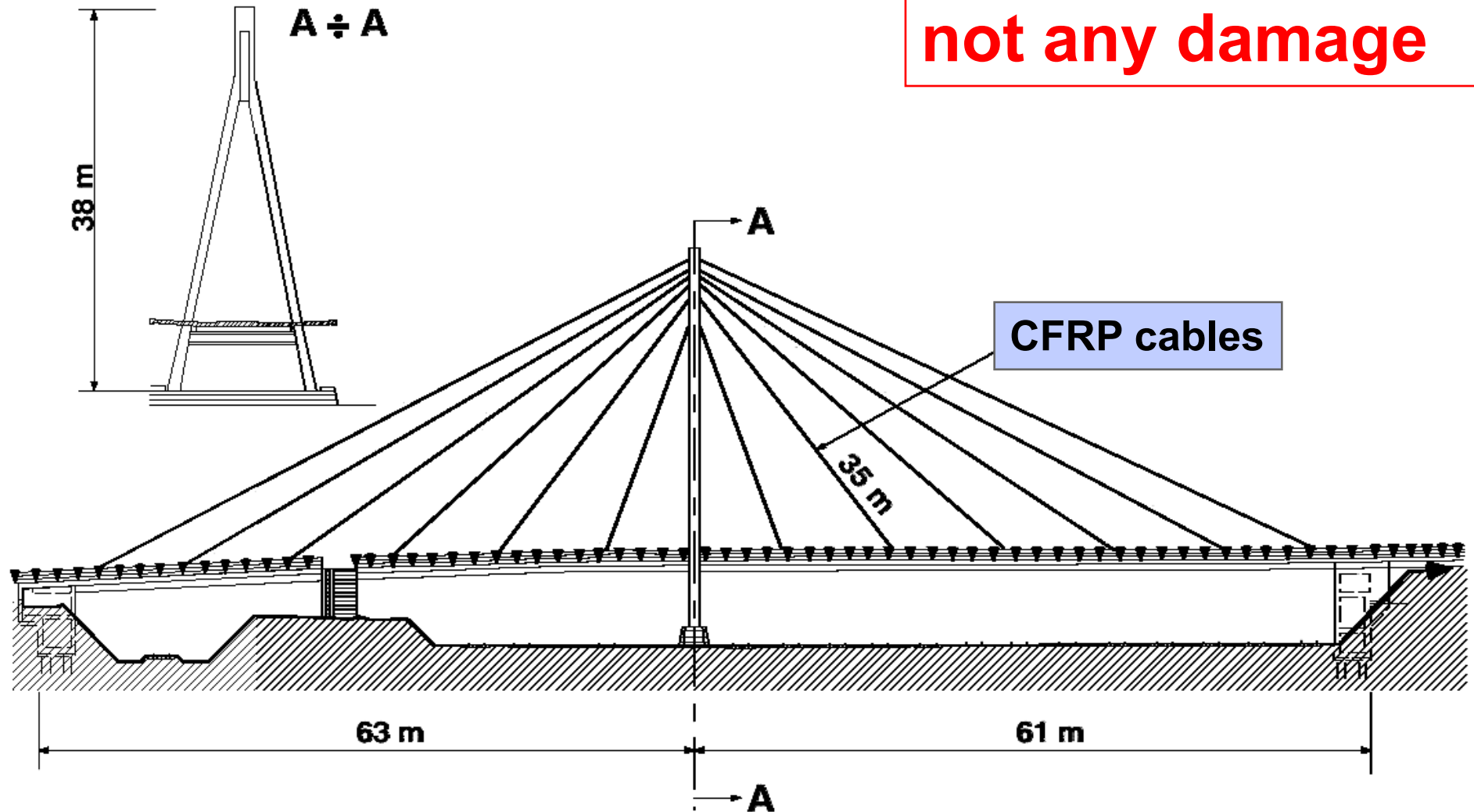


# Fatigue loading



# Fatigue loading

**10 million cycles:  
not any damage**



















Ziltener AG

Ziltener AG

Ziltener AG

SCANIA

Ziltener AG

Ziltener AG

MAN

112

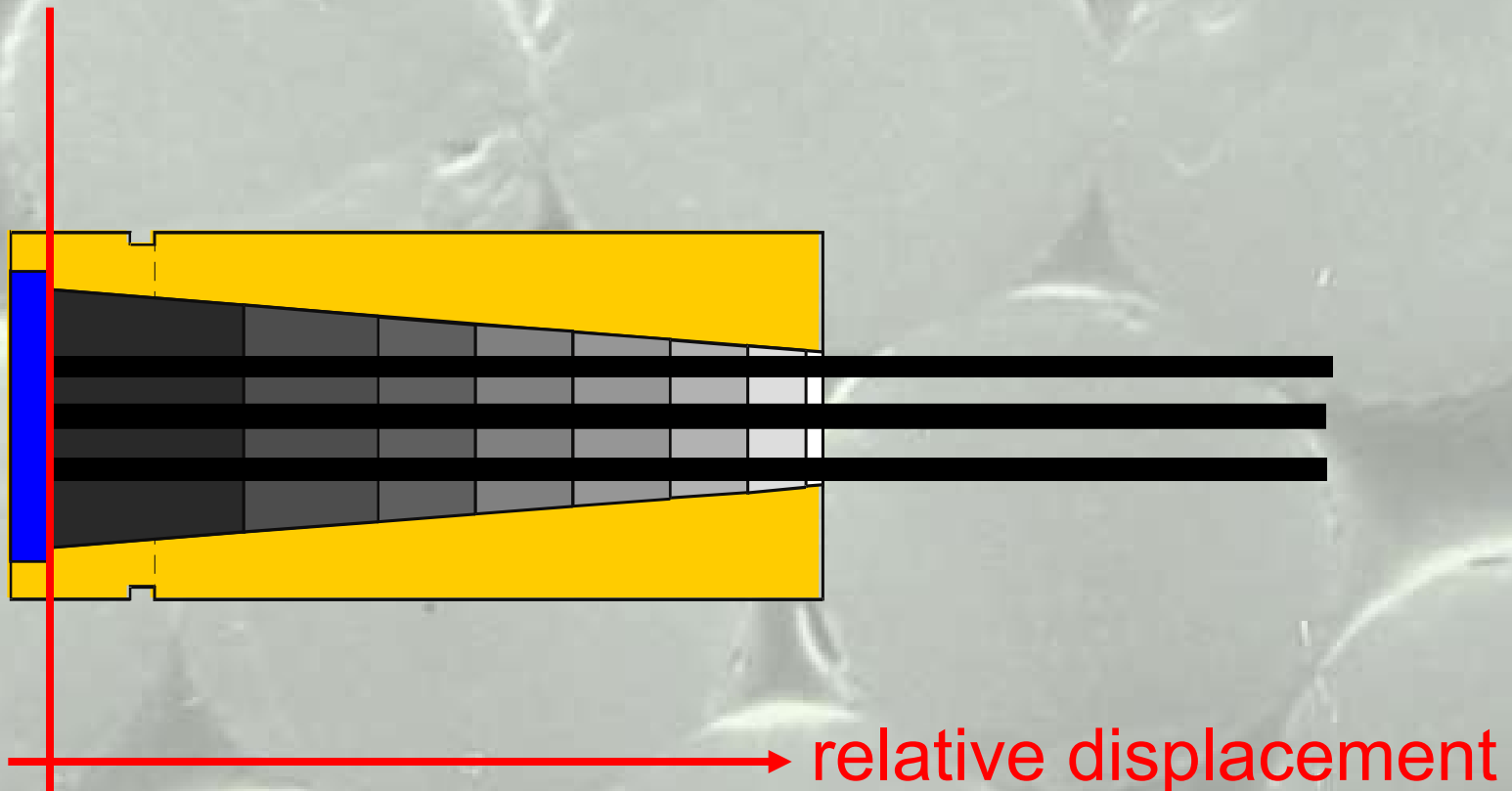
112

# Stork bridge 1996 (124 m span, 2 lanes)

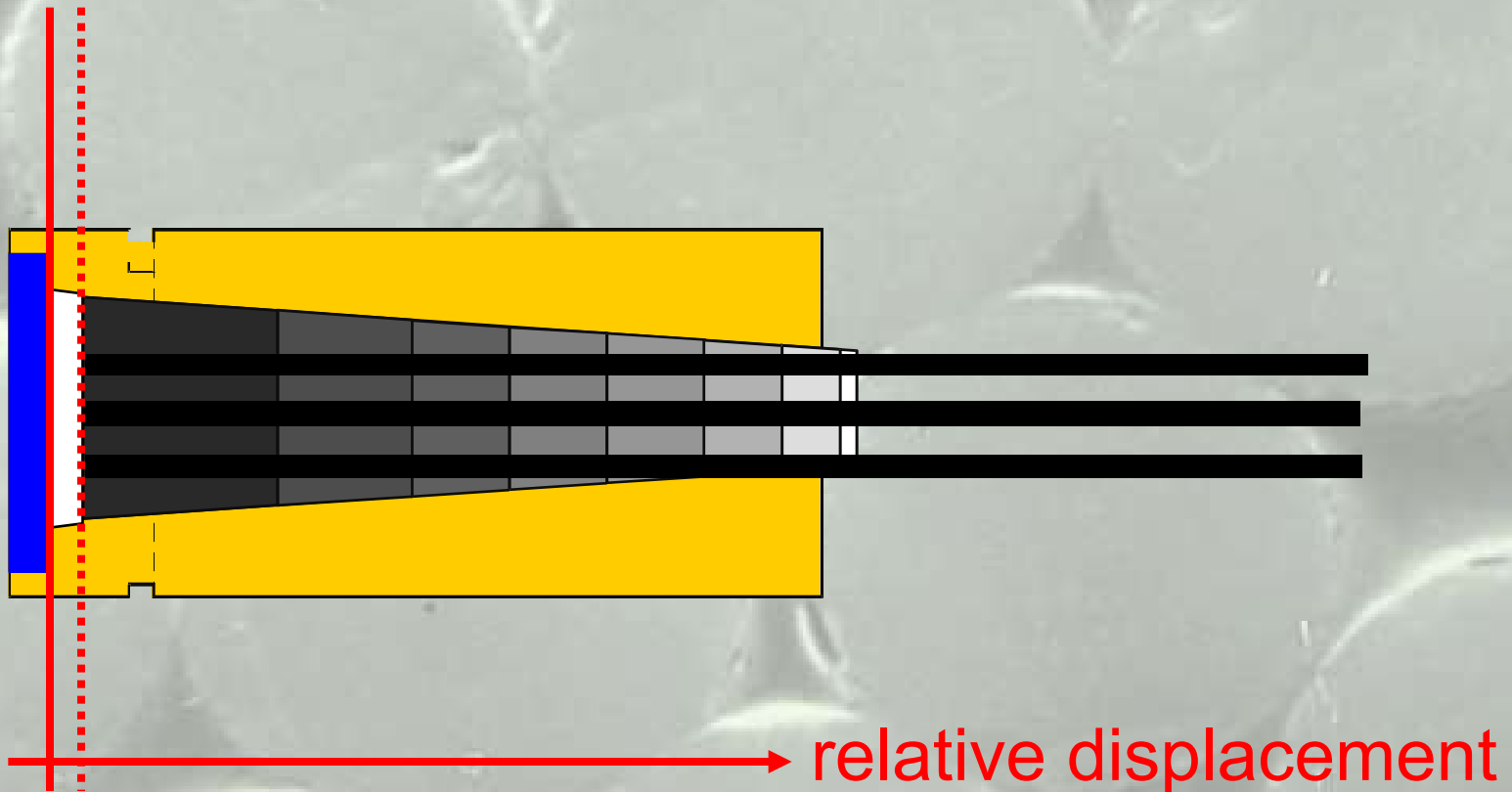




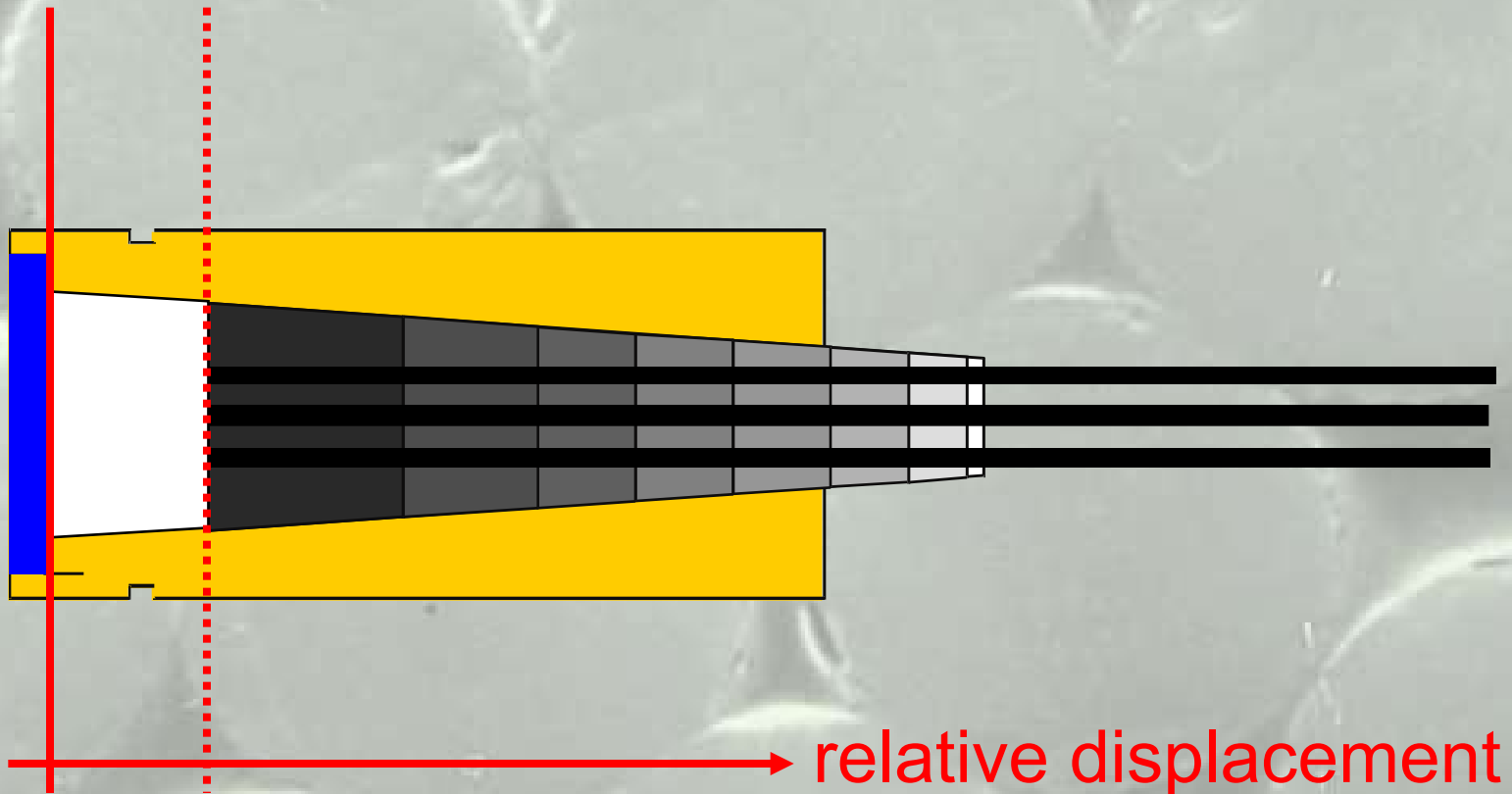
# Desired radial pressure



# Desired radial pressure



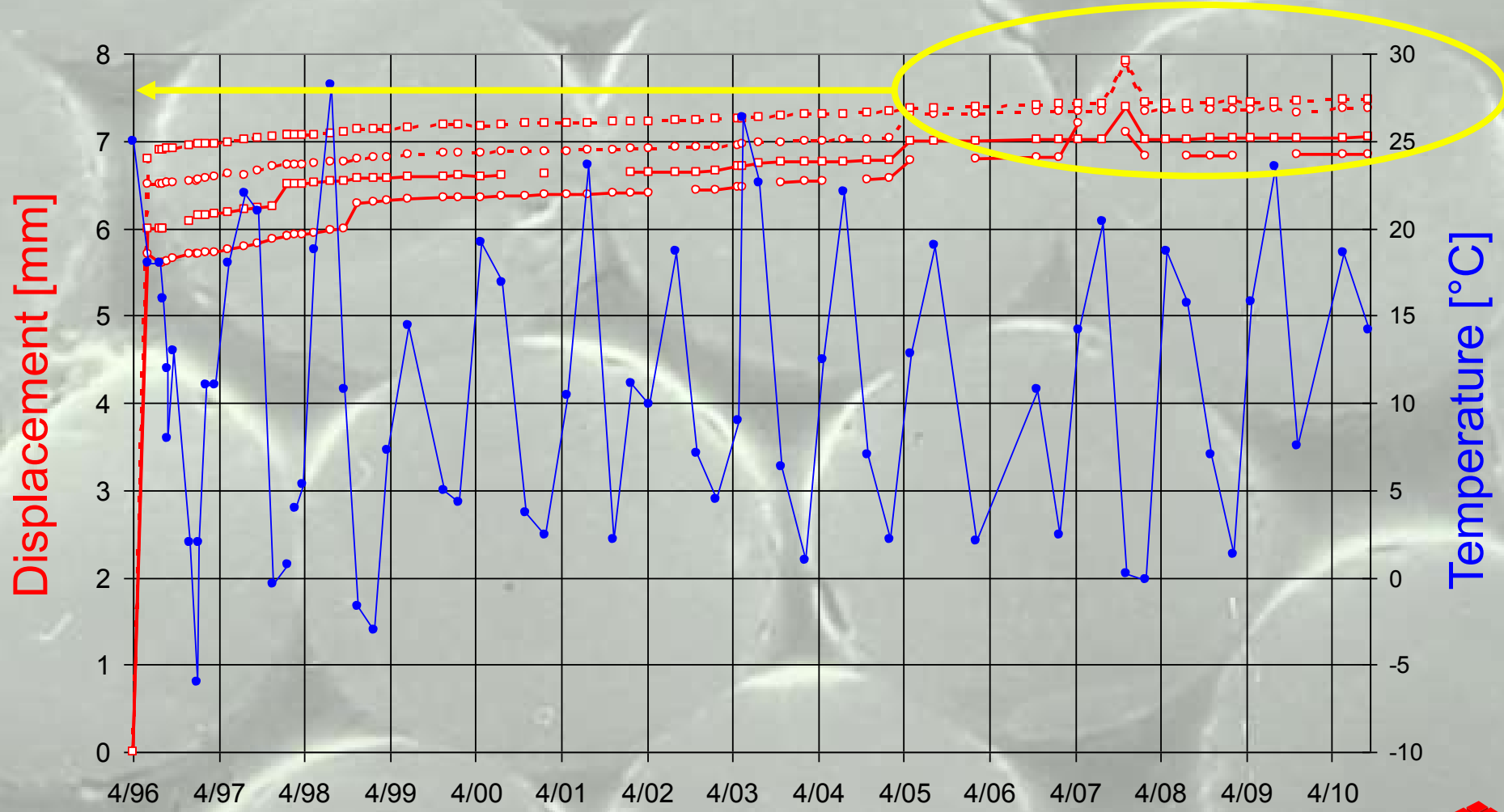
# Danger of creep failure (pull-out)







# Stork Bridge, Winterthur

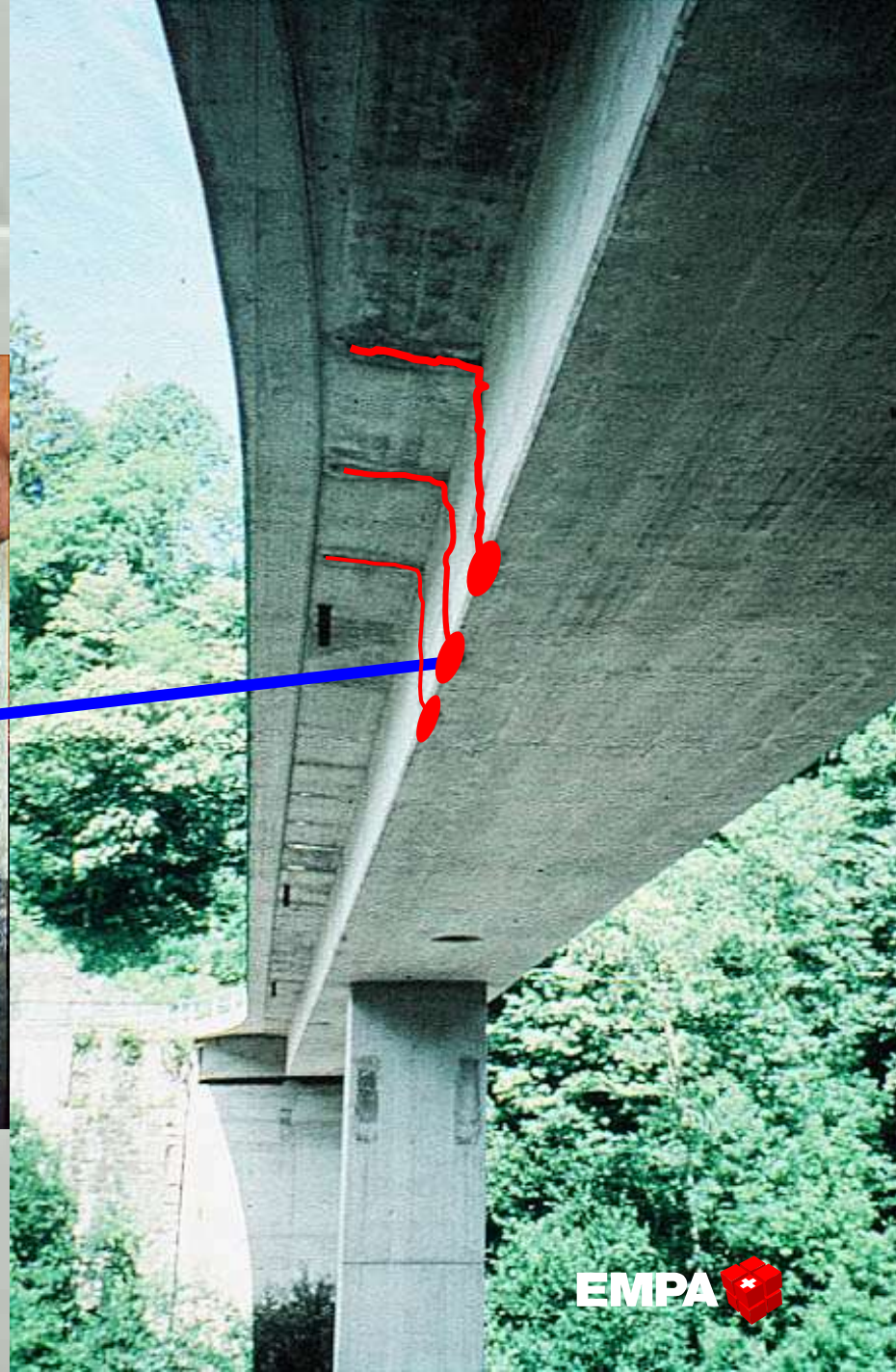
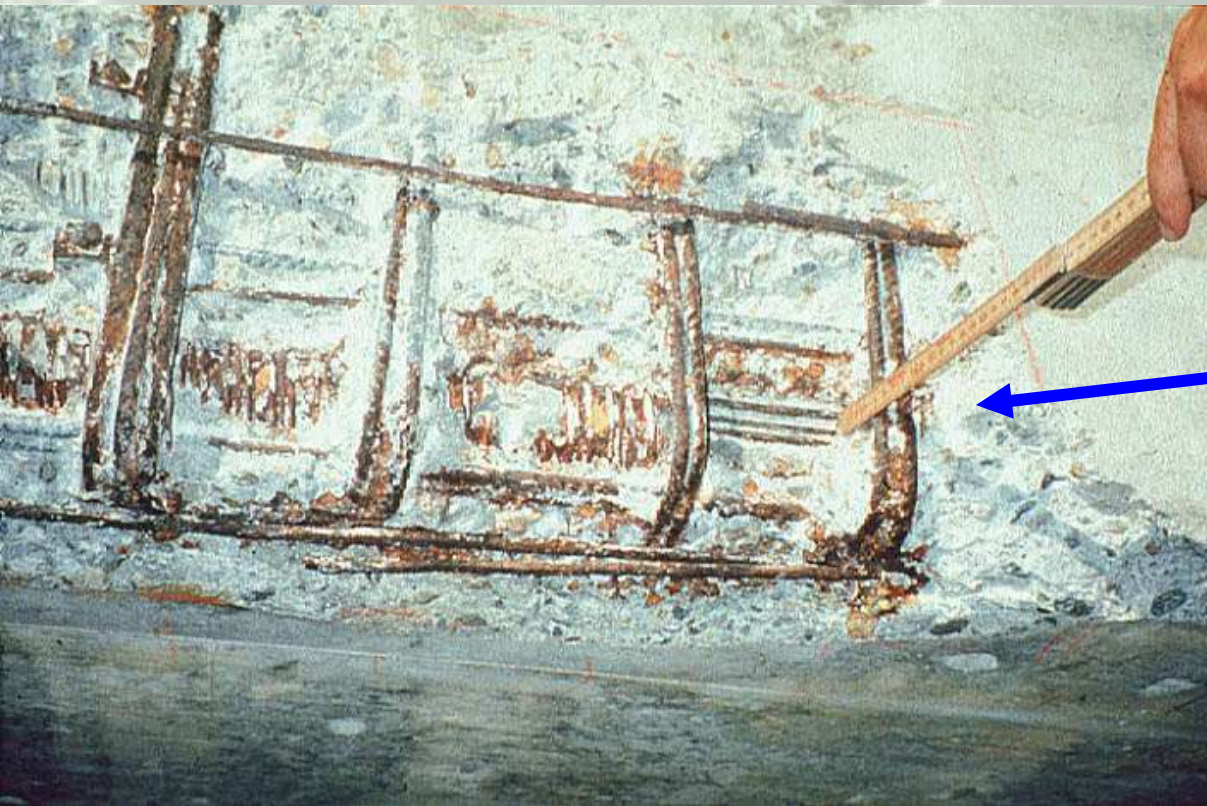


# Verdasio Bridge: External post-tensioning 1998

post-tensioned RC



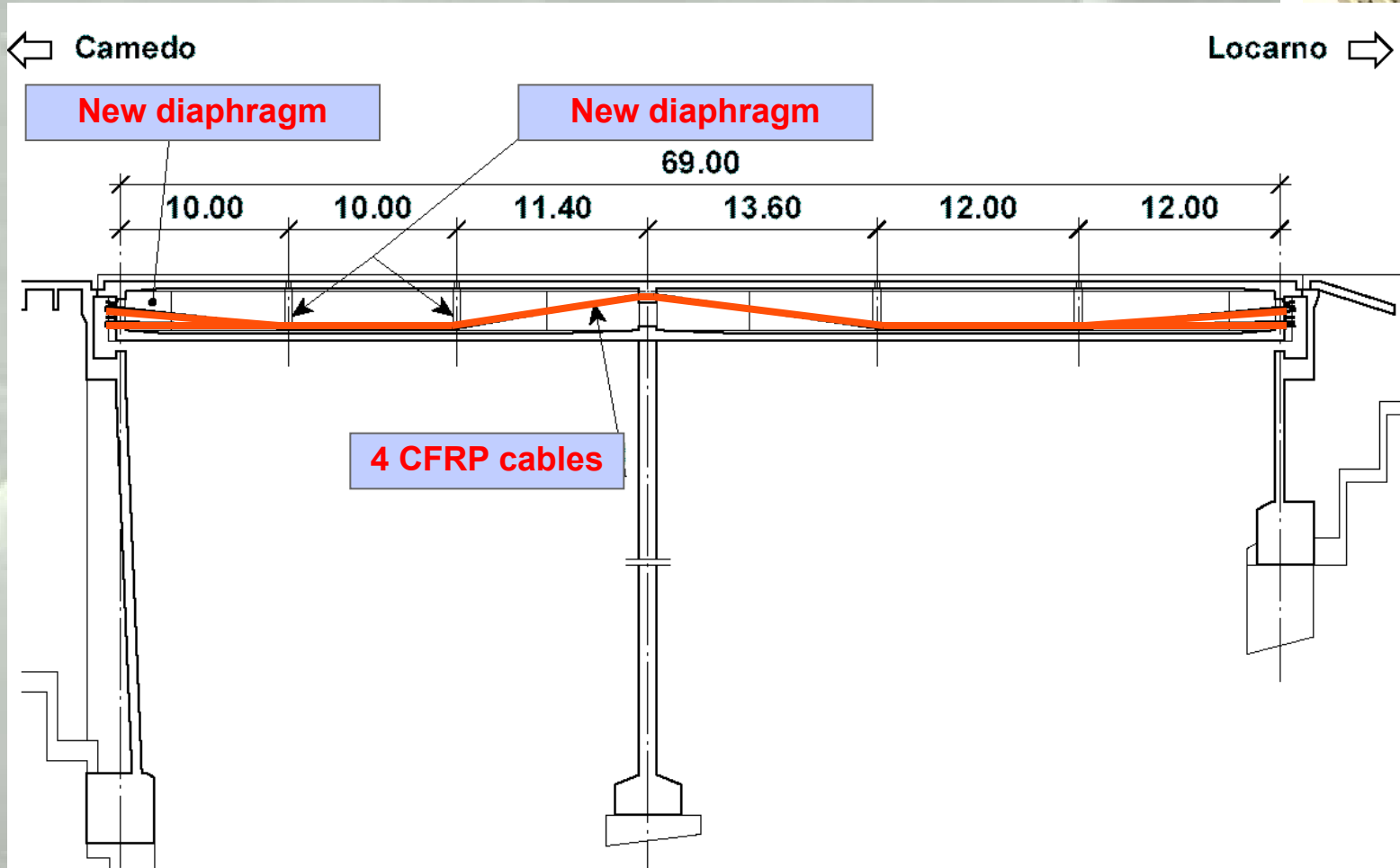
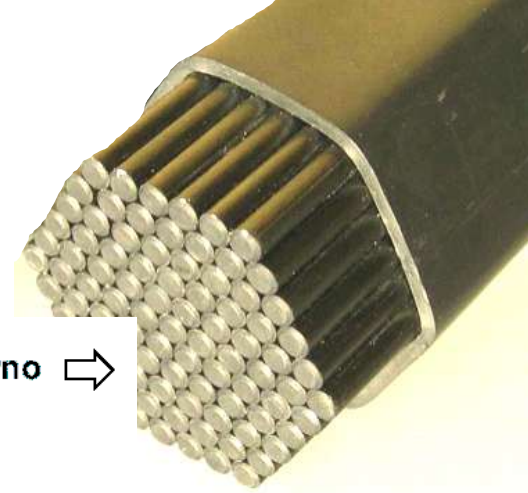
# Verdasio Bridge



BBR Ltd, Zurich



# Continuous 2-span girder



0 MPa

# Verdasio Bridge, inside Box Girder



**BBR Ltd, Zurich**



# Verdasio Bridge

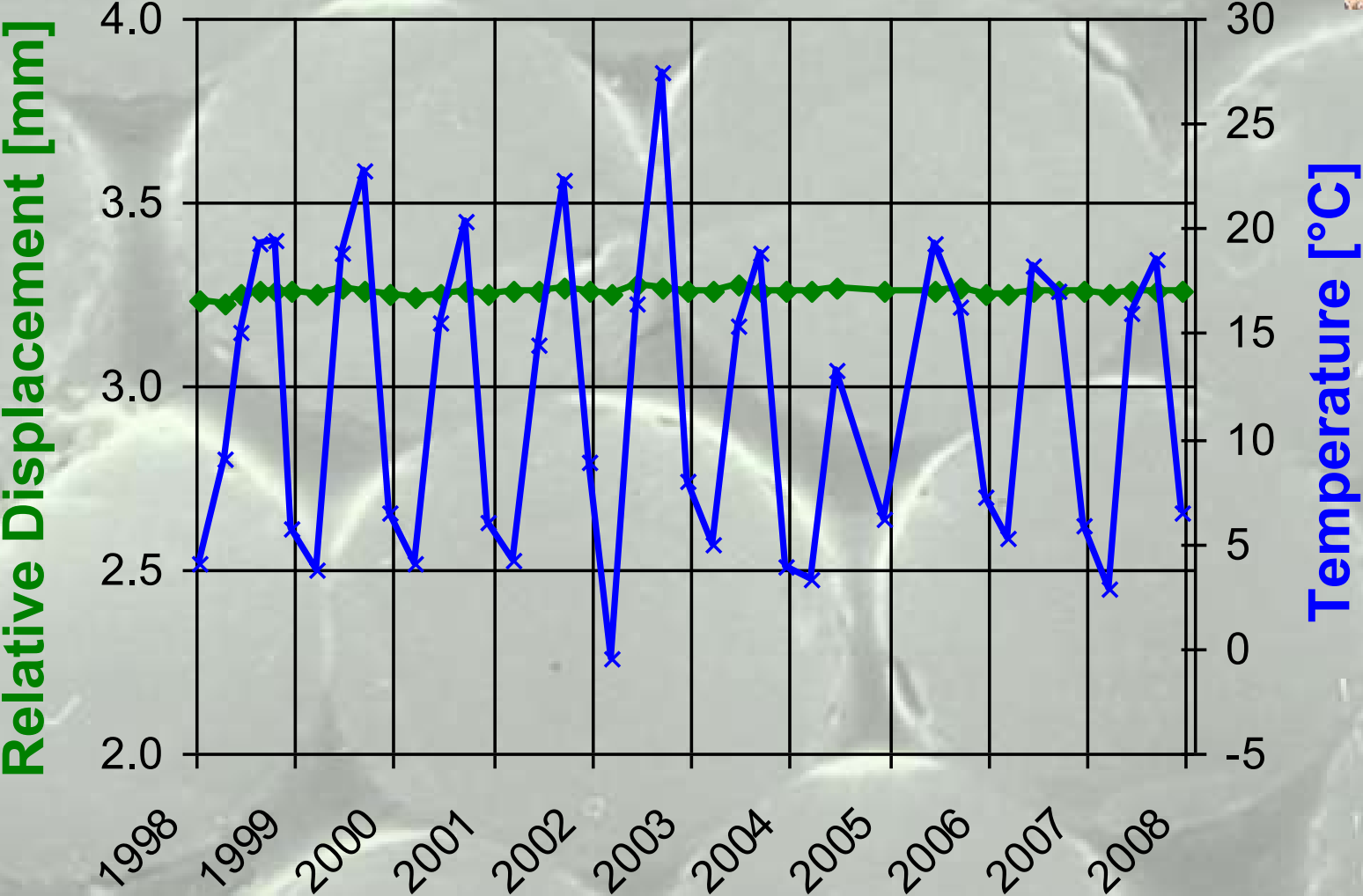


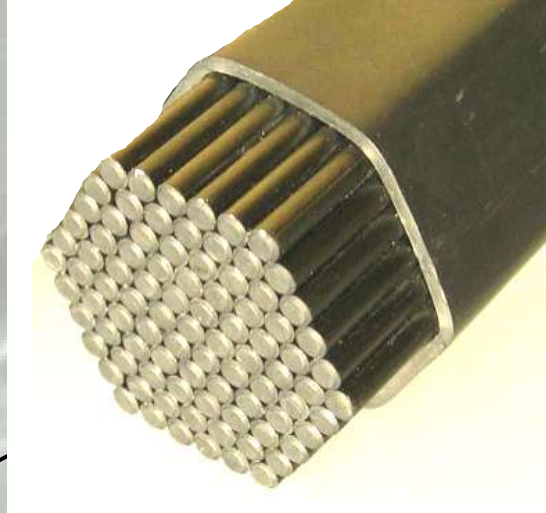
**Not any stress relaxation**





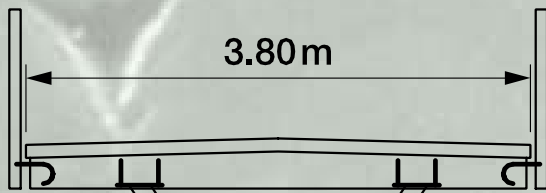
# Verdasio Bridge





# Bridge over the "Kleine Emme" 1998

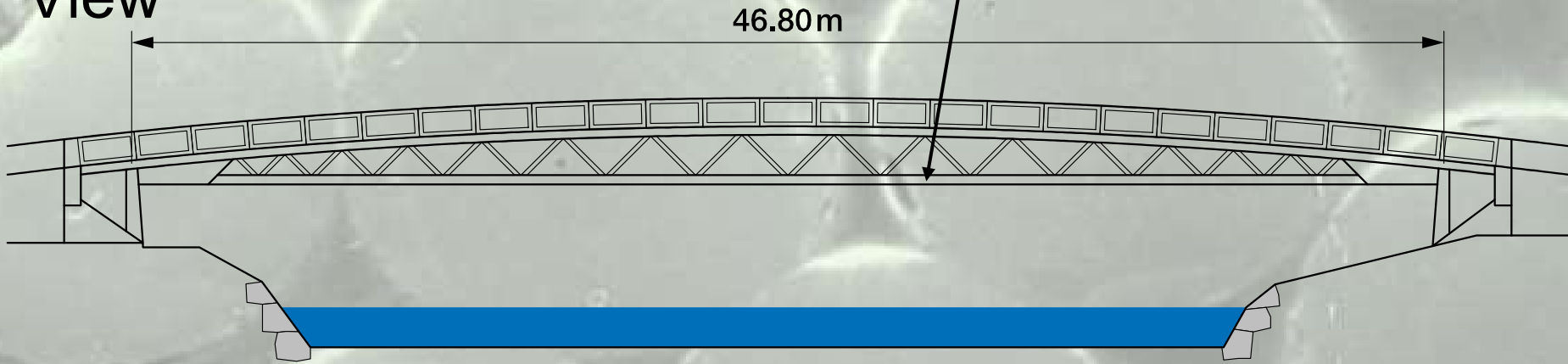
Cross section



total post-tensioning force = 4.8 MN

2 CFRP cables each of 91 wires of 5 mm diameter

View





# Bridge over the Kleine Emme

Sustained stress 1350 MPa



2 CFRP cables in bottom chord  
each 91 wires



# Dintelhavenverkeersbrug 1999



Dutch Ministry of Transport and Public Works  
Spanstahl BV, BBR, TNO, CUR R-Committee 97A

# Dintelhavenverkeersbrug 1999

Western Bridge



4 CFRP cables each 91 wires  $\varnothing$  5 mm, length 75 m

Sustained stress 1480 MPa

## Western Bridge

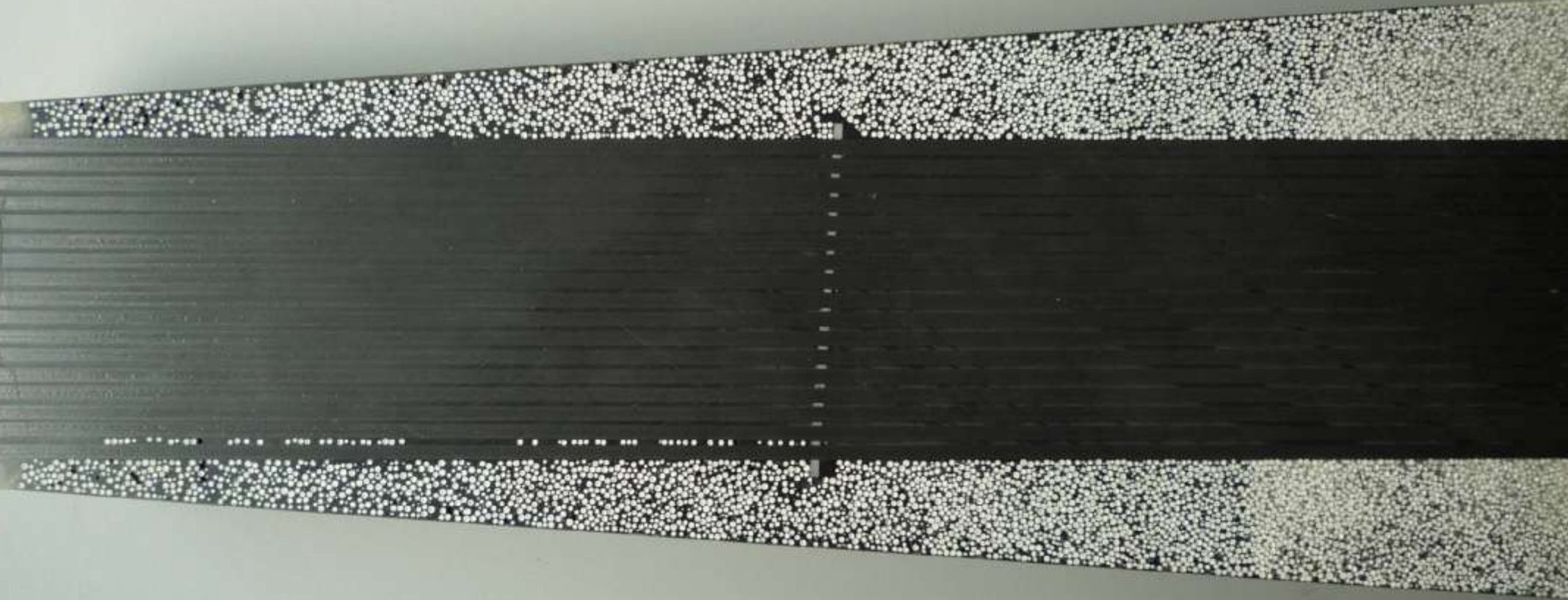


4 CFRP cables each 91 wires  $\varnothing$  5 mm, length 75 m

Sustained stress 1480 MPa



**Too expensive anchorage system for tendons below 1 MN load capacity!**

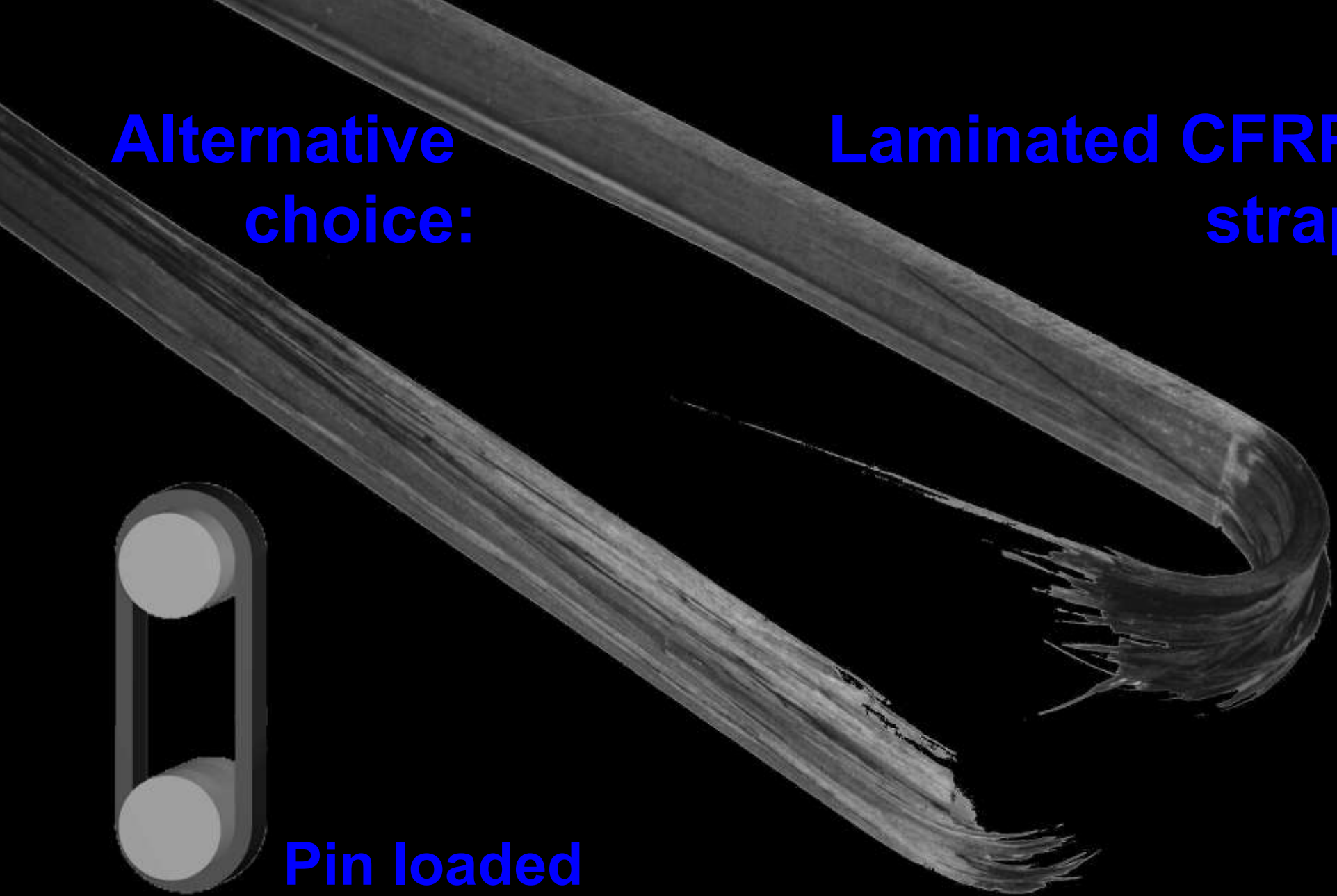


**Alternative  
choice:**

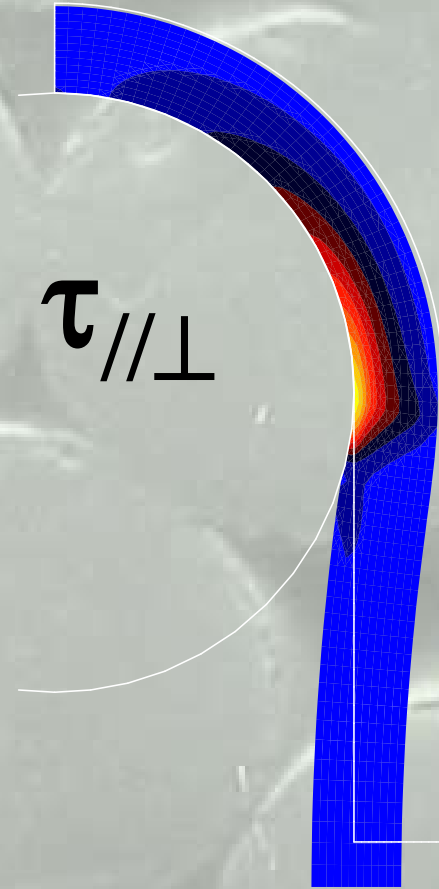
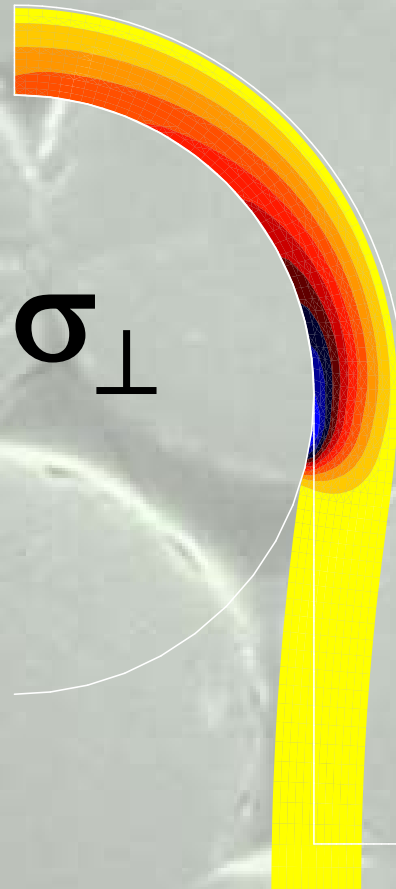
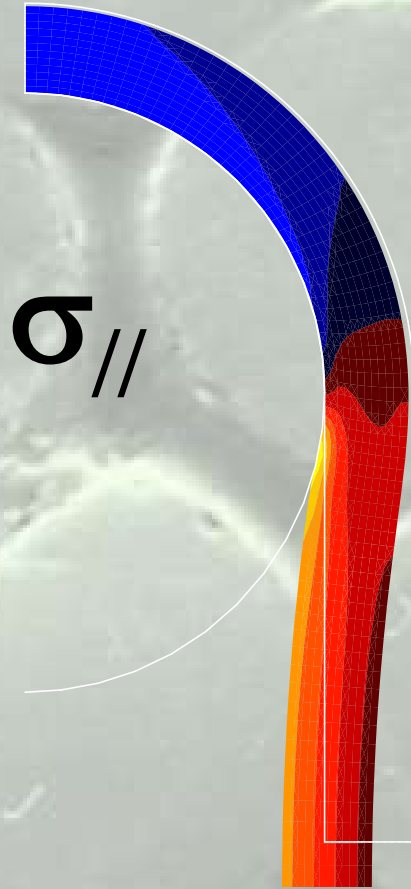
**Laminated CFRP  
strap**



**Pin loaded**



# Pin Loaded, laminated CFRP Strap

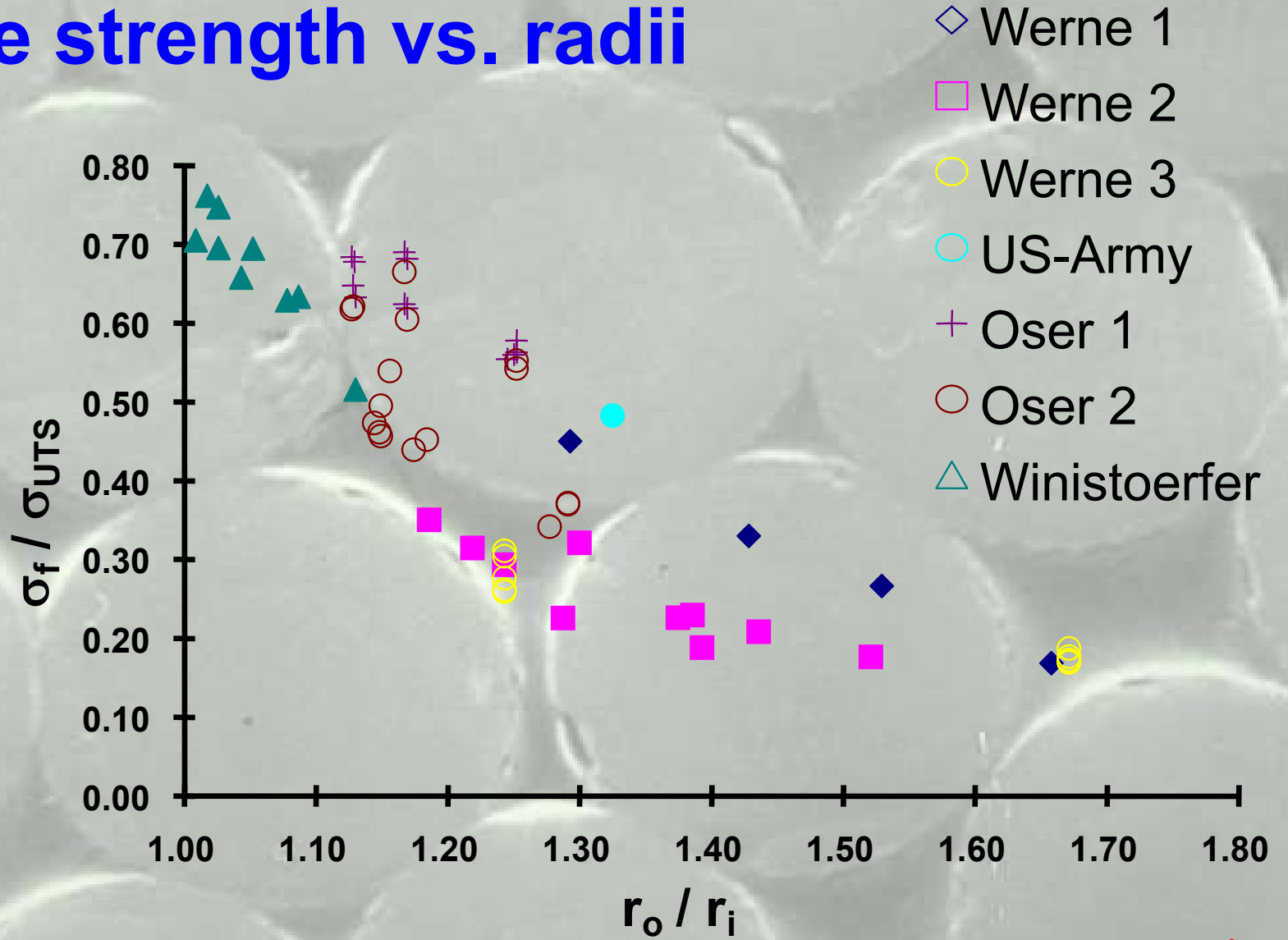
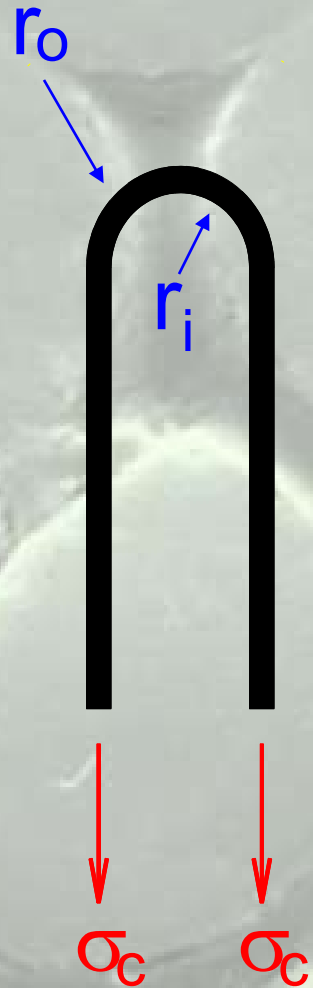


Dr. A. Winistörfer





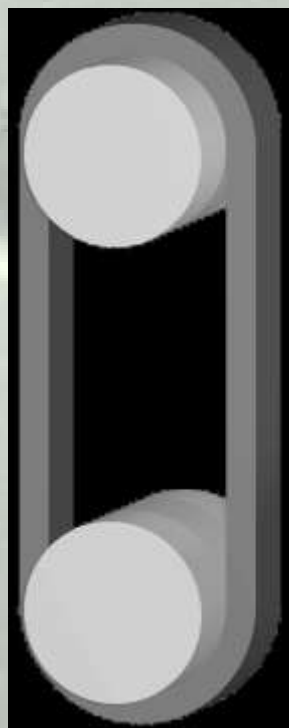
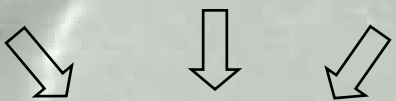
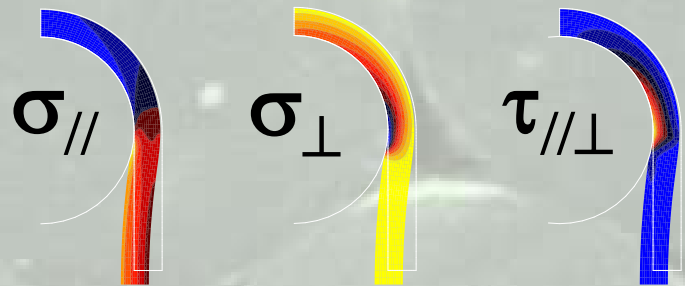
# Relative strength vs. radii



**Answer: very thin laminate (0.12 mm)**





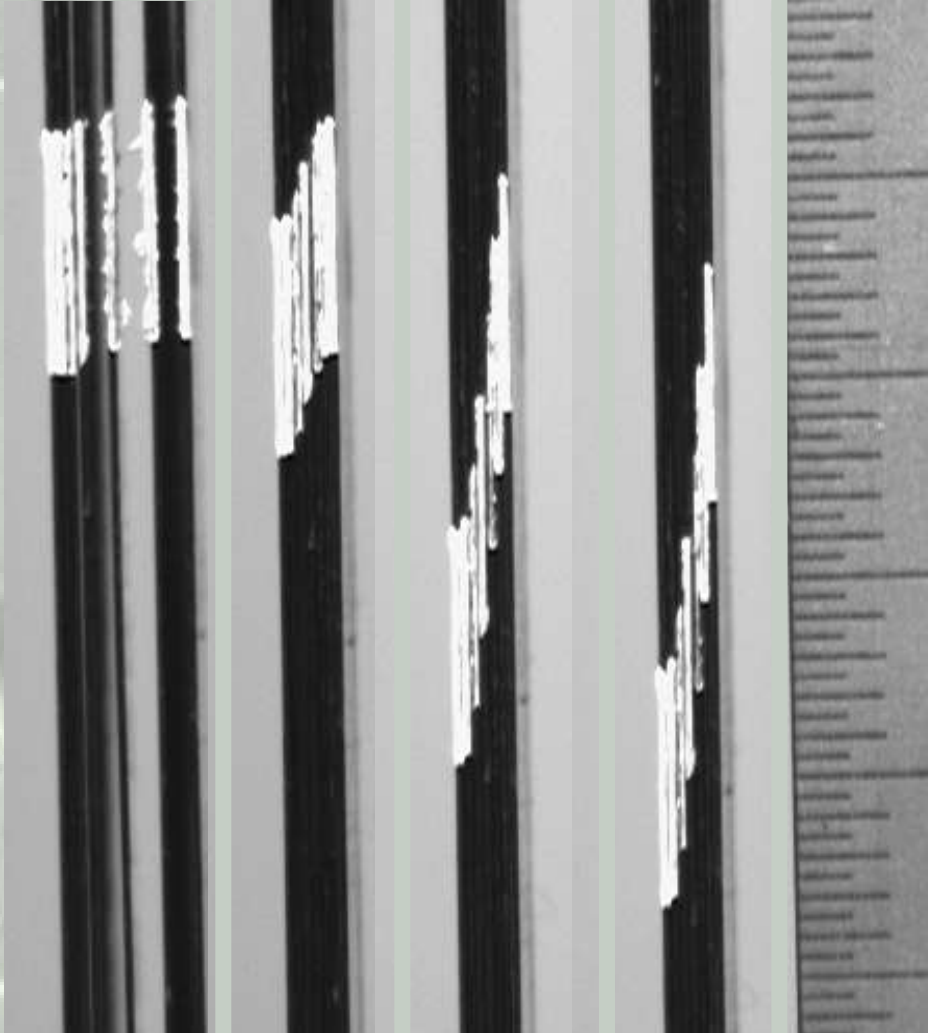
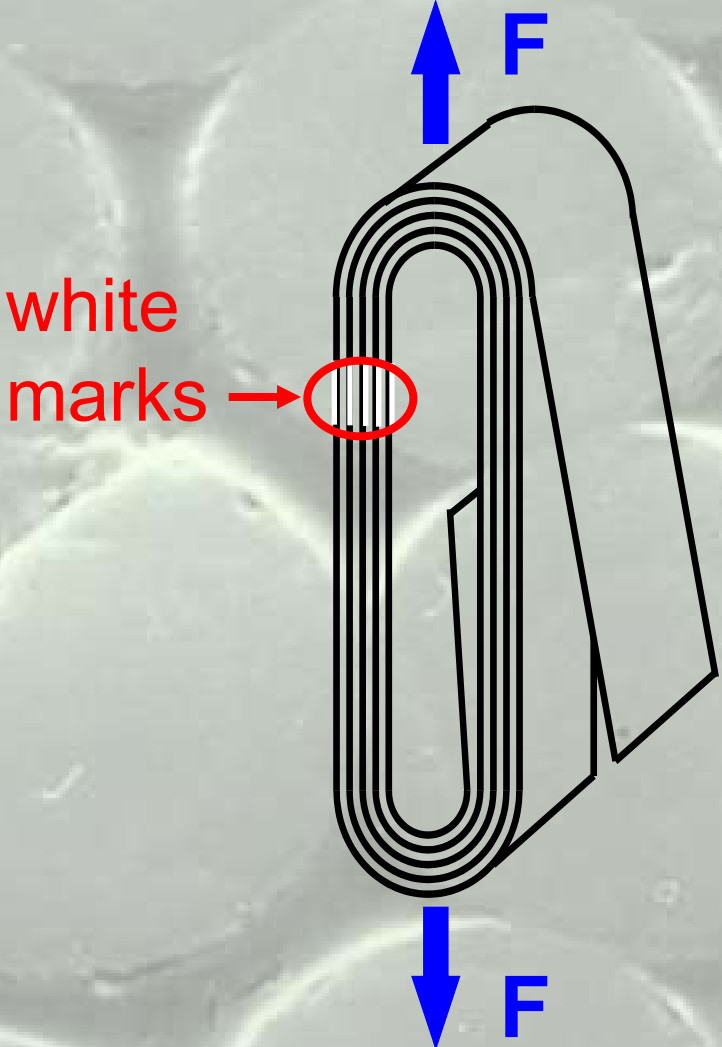


laminated



non-laminated

# Verification



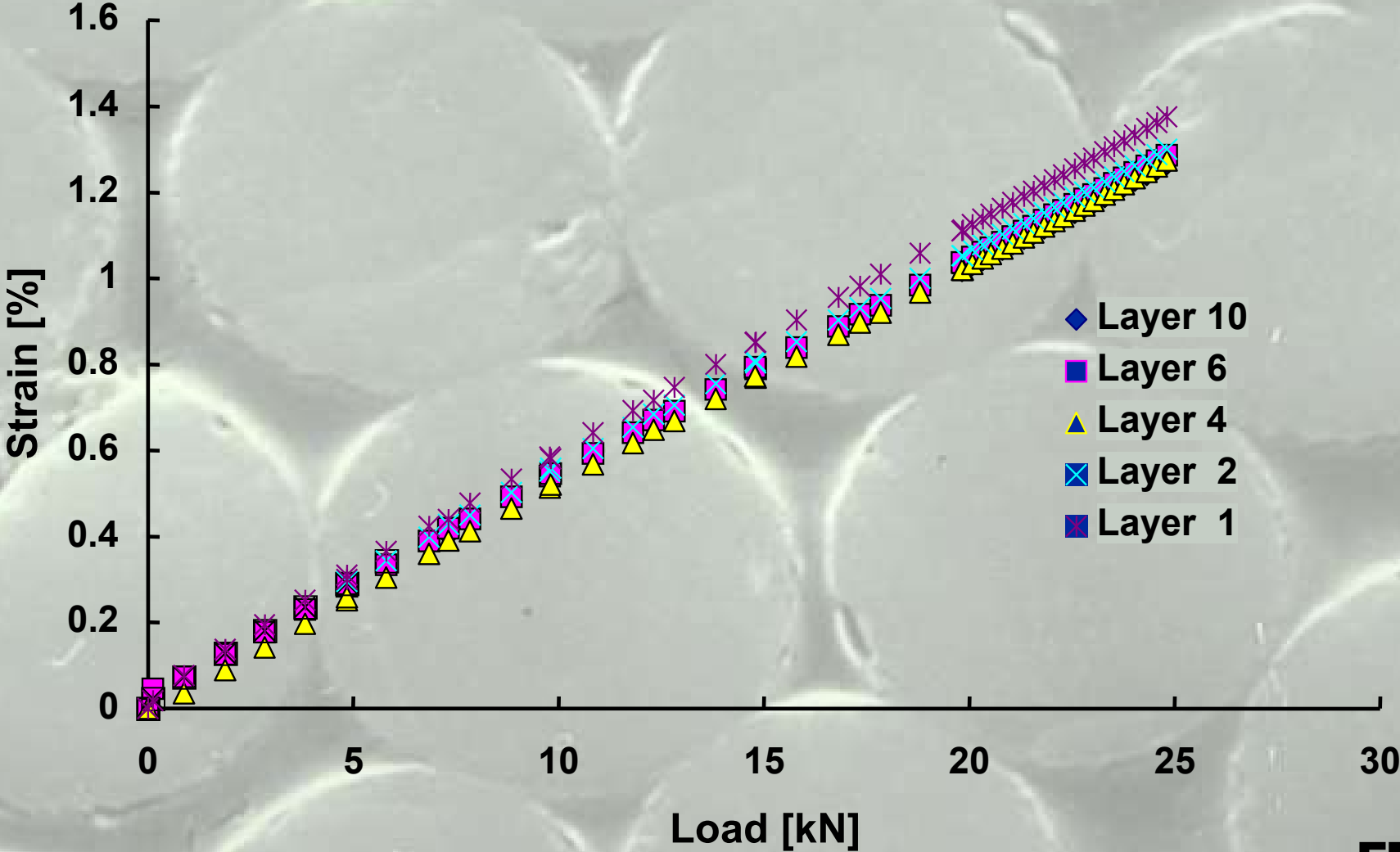
1kN

4kN

6kN

15kN

# Verification





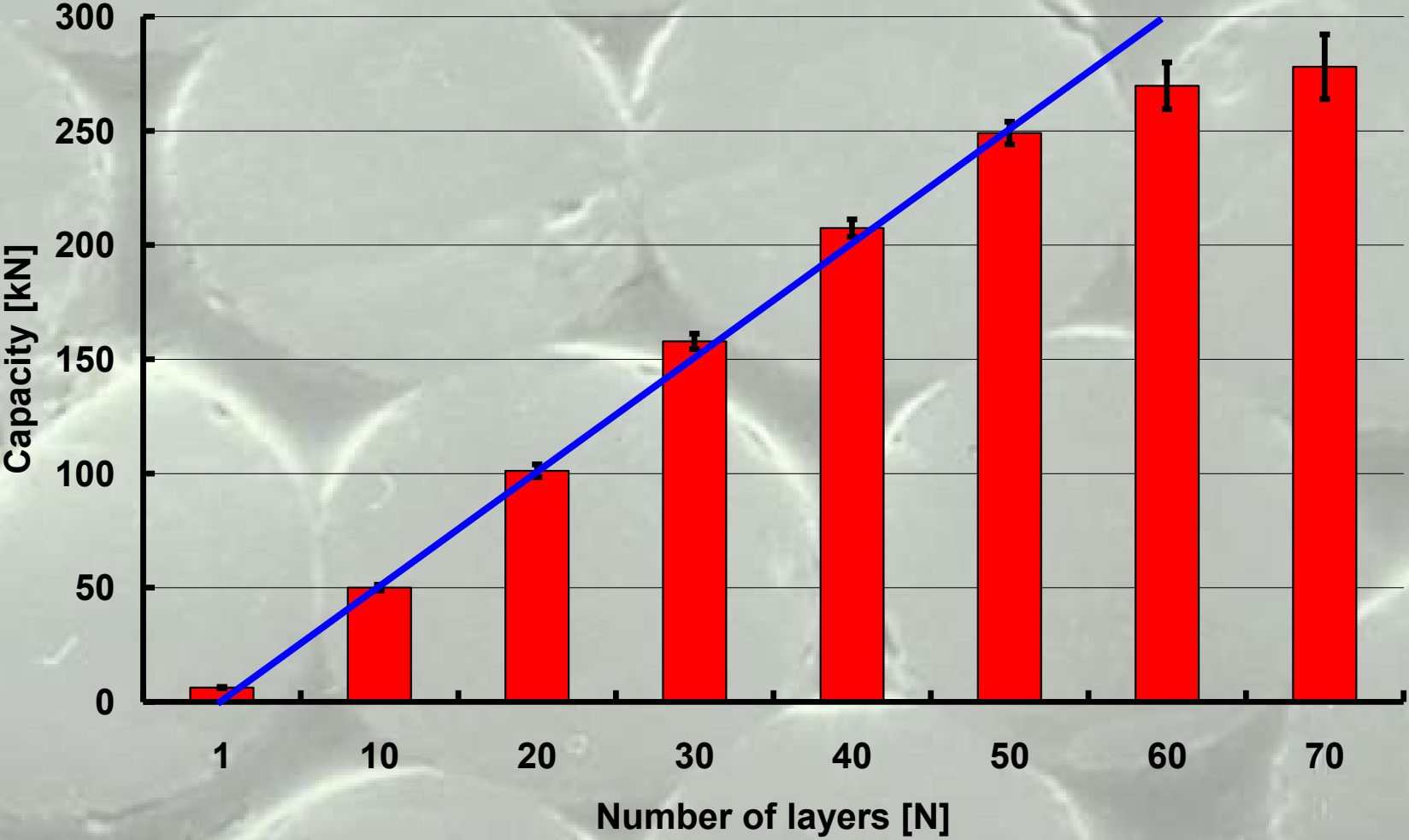
3 MN Unit



A. Winistörfer



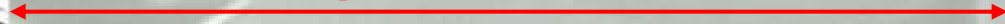
# Efficiency



# Production by tape laying machine



up to 48 m





# Creep experiments



# Creep experiments

- **92 % of UTS since 7 years**

**After a first “consolidation” scarcely **no more creep****



# First applications







# Cable dredger





BT  **infonet**

America's Cup Winner 2007 in Valencia Alinghi  
with Pin Loaded CFRP-Stays

 **UBS**

  
ATOYOT

**Carbo**  
**-Link**







**Carbo**  
**-Link**

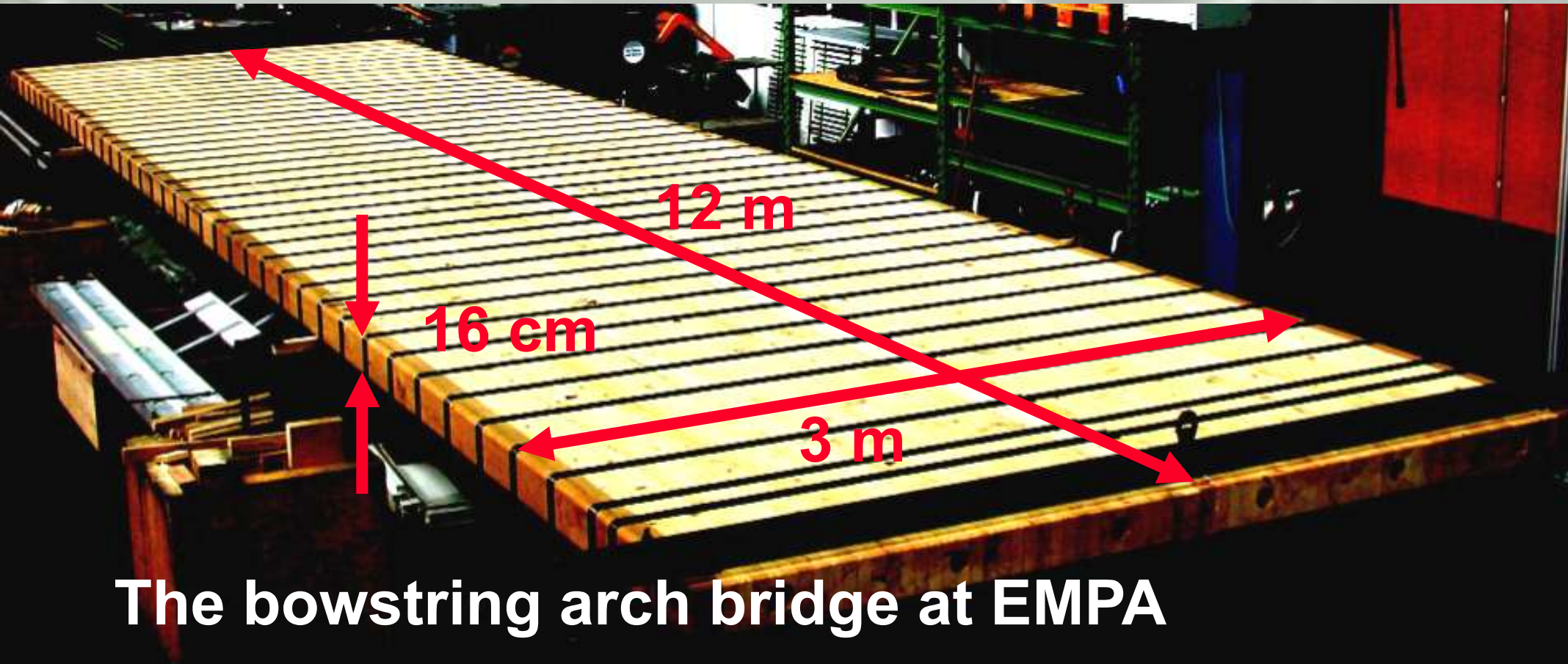


Dr. Adreas Winistörfer





# Pin loaded CFRP tendons



**Wooden spacers between Glulam and GFRP**





# Pin loaded CFRP tendons



# Pin loaded CFRP tendons



# Pin loaded CFRP tendons





CFRP strap



CFRP pin →





**Carbo**  
**-Link**

**EMPA** 



# Pin loaded CFRP tendons



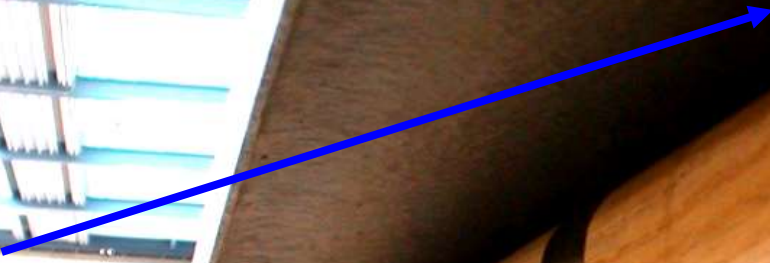
**Now there is an umbrella needed!**



**GFRP Deck**

**8 mm thick**

**Space**





# Pin loaded CFRP tendons









**GFRP deck leaks**

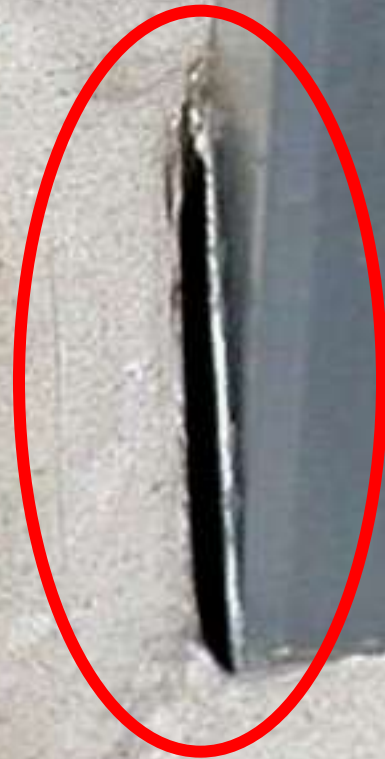




**Silicone sealant leaks**

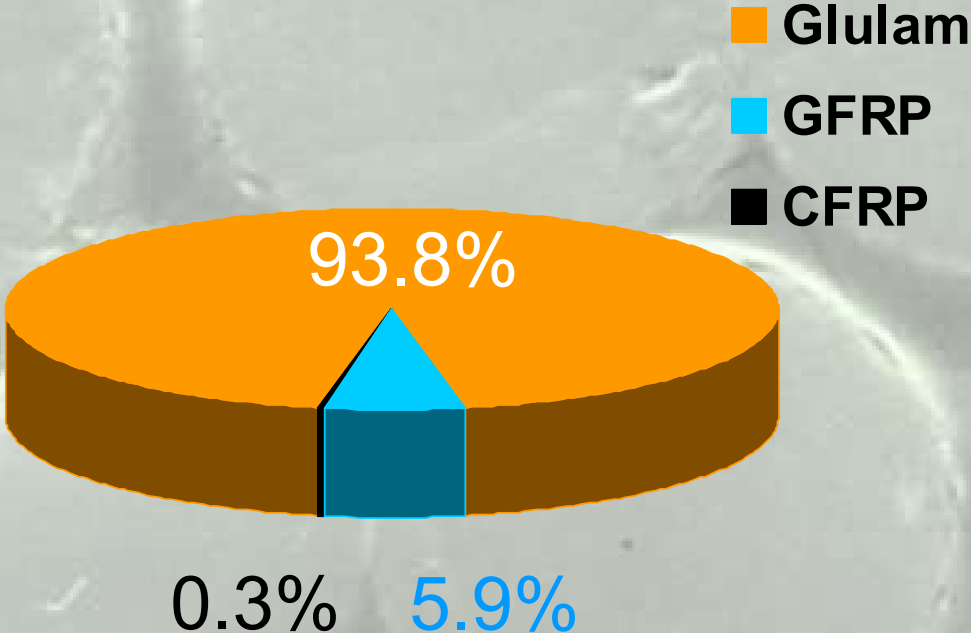
**GFRP deck**

**GFRP  
post**

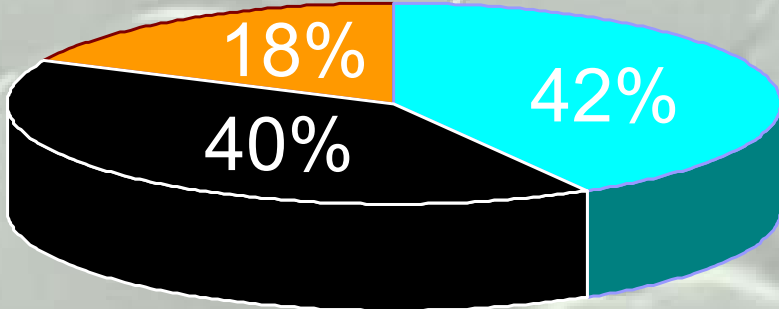


# Volume versus Cost

## Volume



## Cost

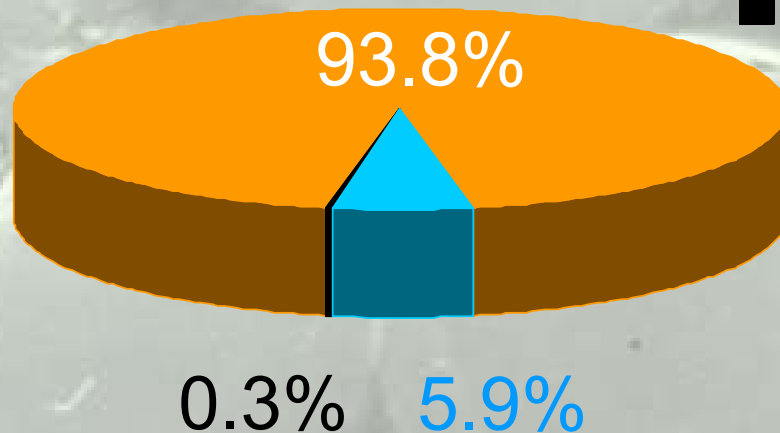


CFRP	GBP	17'000
GFRP	GBP	18'000
Glulam	GBP	7'800

# CO<sub>2</sub>-Footprint

## Volume

- Glulam **negative!**
- GFRP **unknown, less considerable**
- CFRP **unknown, however considerable**





# 20 Years of Field experience proof that

- CFRP is a **very reliable** material in construction.
- In rehabilitation CFRP is in many cases the technically **best suited** and **most economical** solution.
- New construction: as long as not the whole lifecycle of a bridge is considered it is **not economical**.

# State-of-the-art?

- **stay cables**
- **suspender (hanger) cables**

**What if we get to-morrow a contract for CFRP cables for this kind of bridge?**





**Yes we can immediately!**



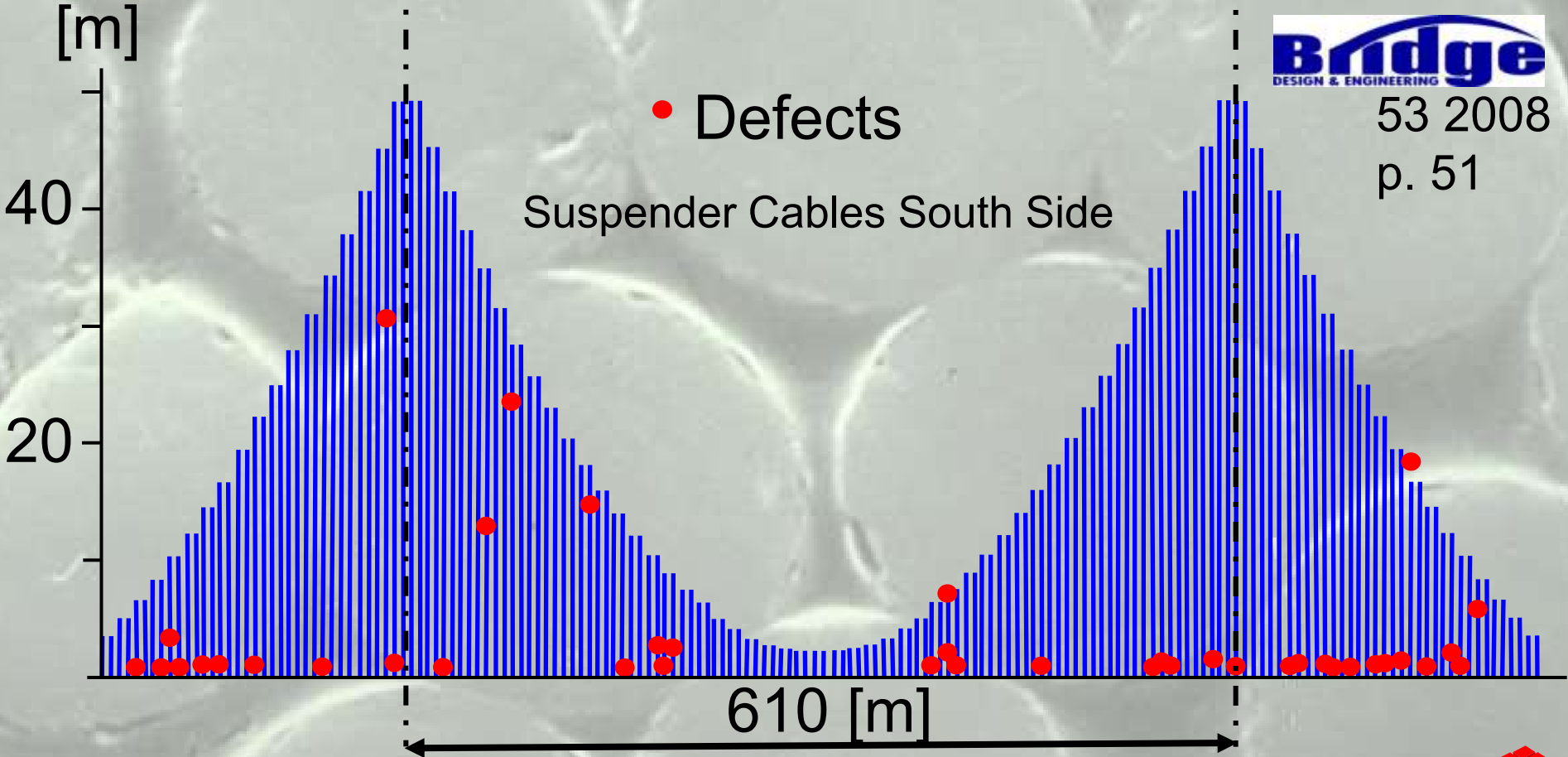
# What if we get to-morrow a contract for CFRP suspenders for this bridge?

Walt Whitman Suspension Bridge



7 lanes, Delaware River, Philadelphia, Main span 610 m

# What if we get to-morrow a contract for CFRP suspenders for this bridge?





**Yes we can immediately!**

Walt Whitman Suspension Bridge

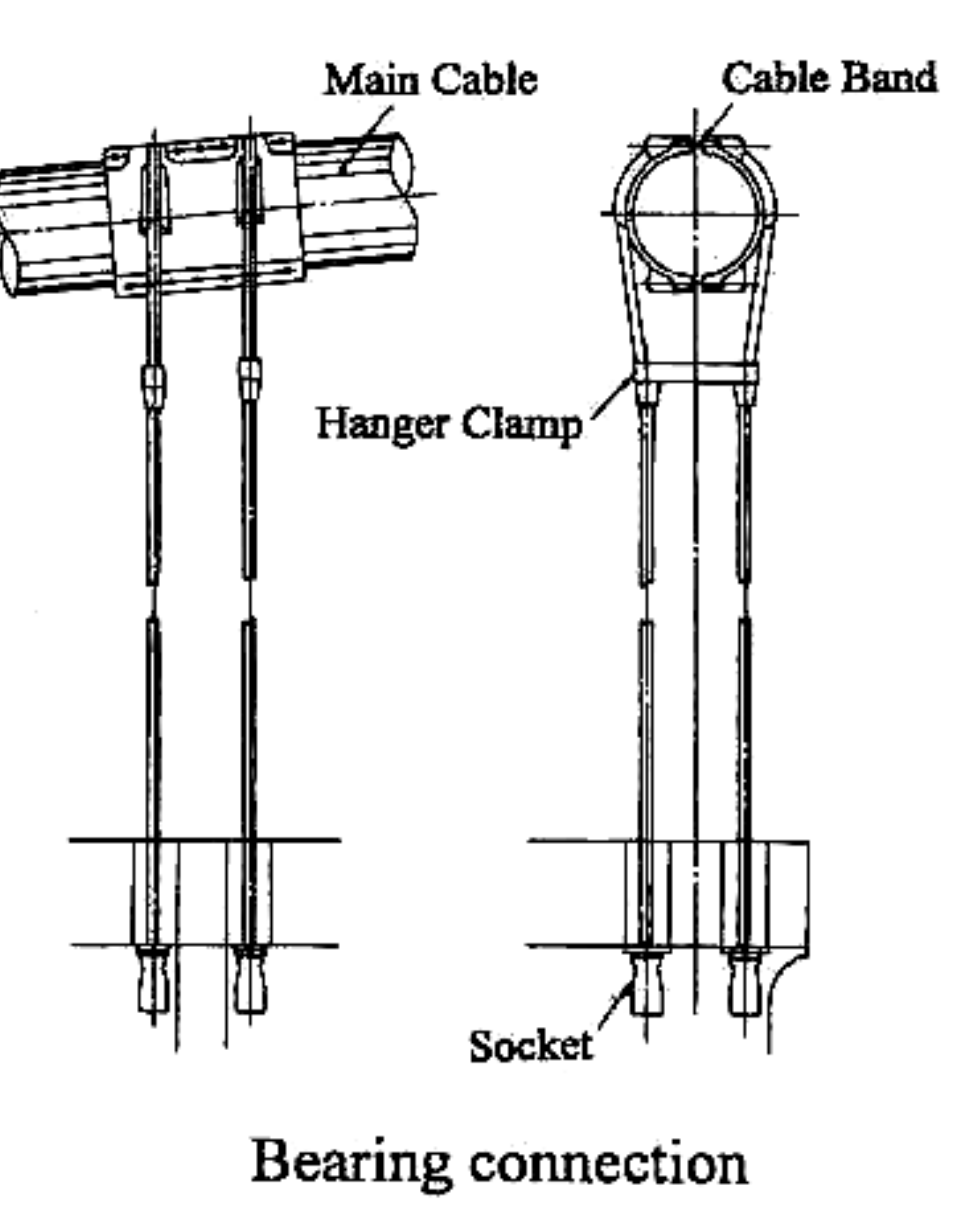


7 lanes, Delaware River, Philadelphia, Main span 610 m

**Hanger**

**Bearing connection**

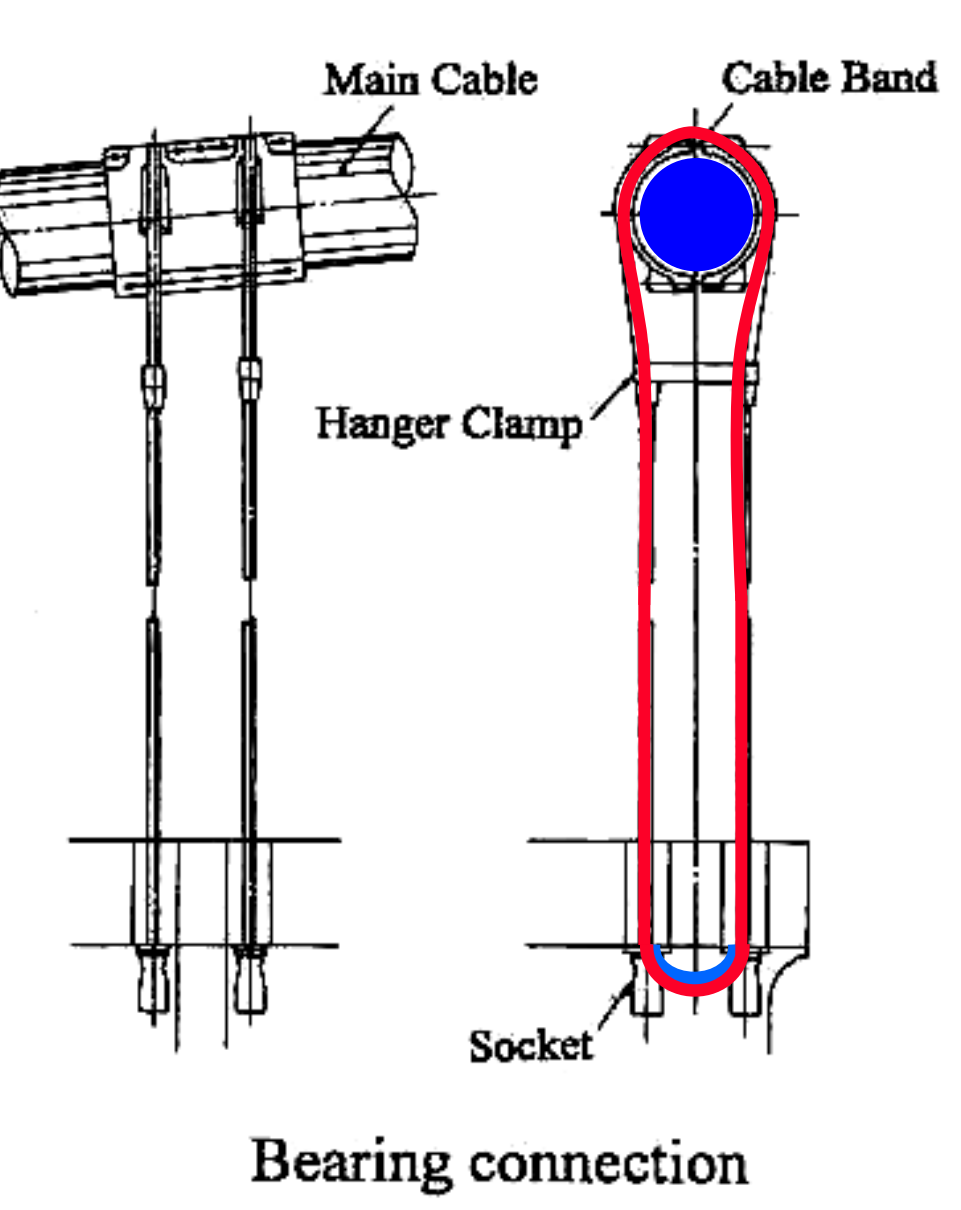




**Bearing connection**

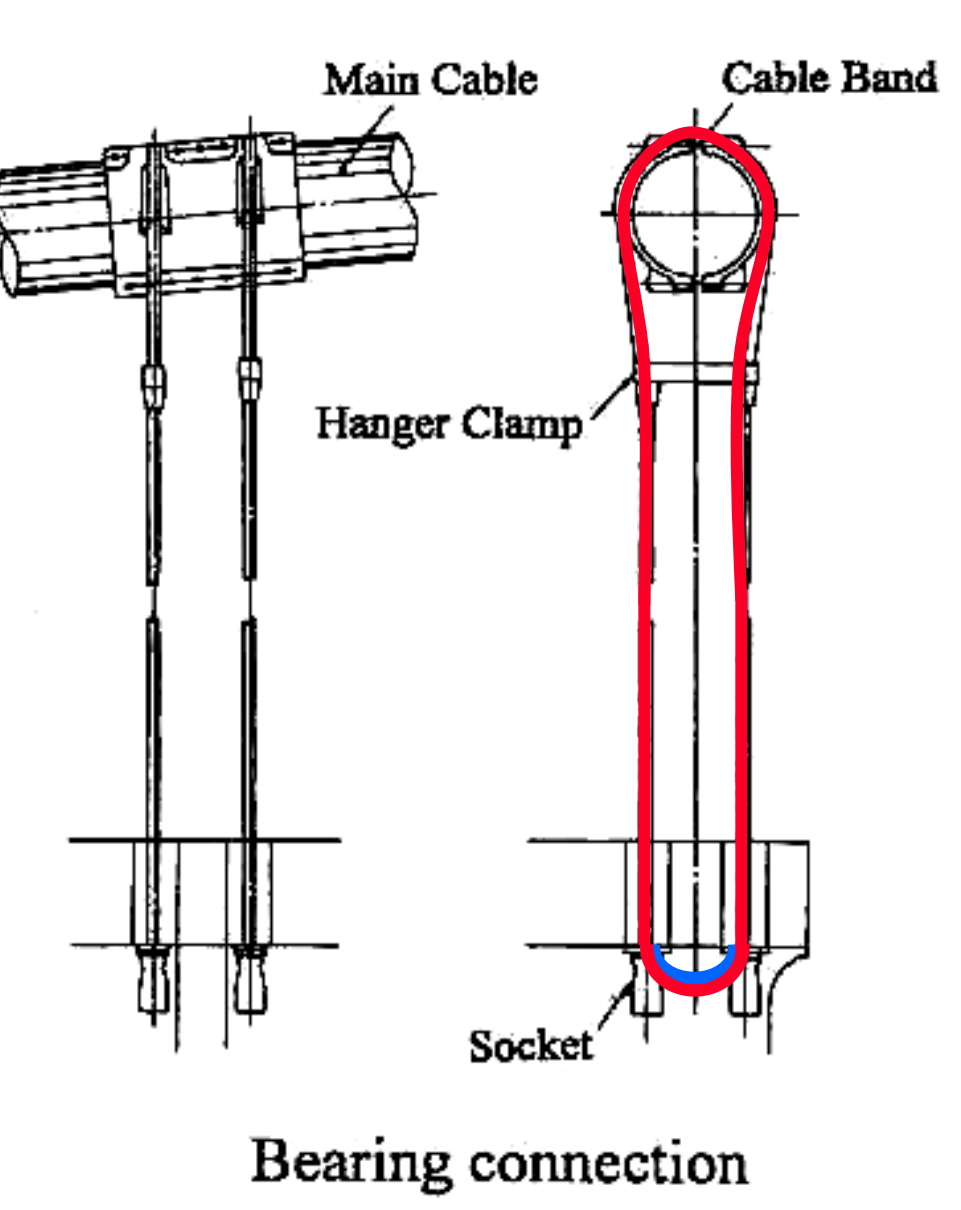






**Bearing connection**





# On site fabrication of bearing connection



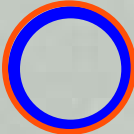
main cable



saddle



# On site fabrication of bearing connection

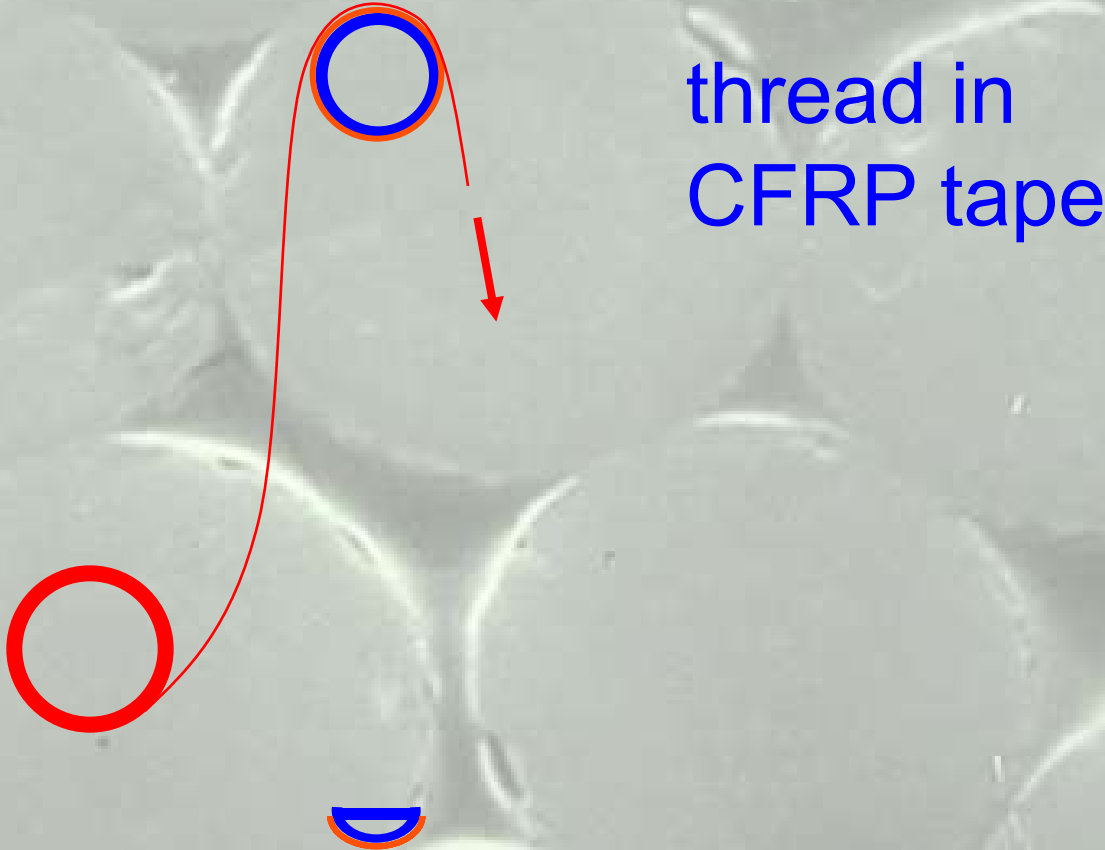


wrap PTFE foil

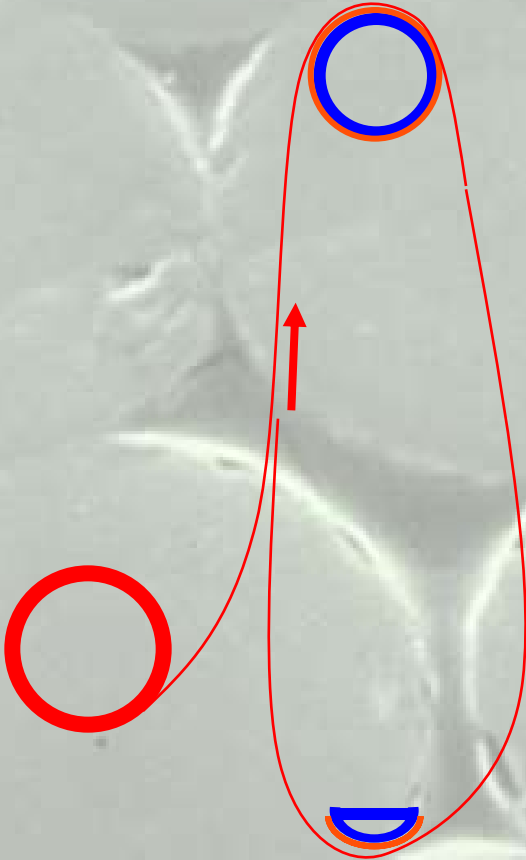


wrap PTFE foil

# On site fabrication of bearing connection



# On site fabrication of bearing connection

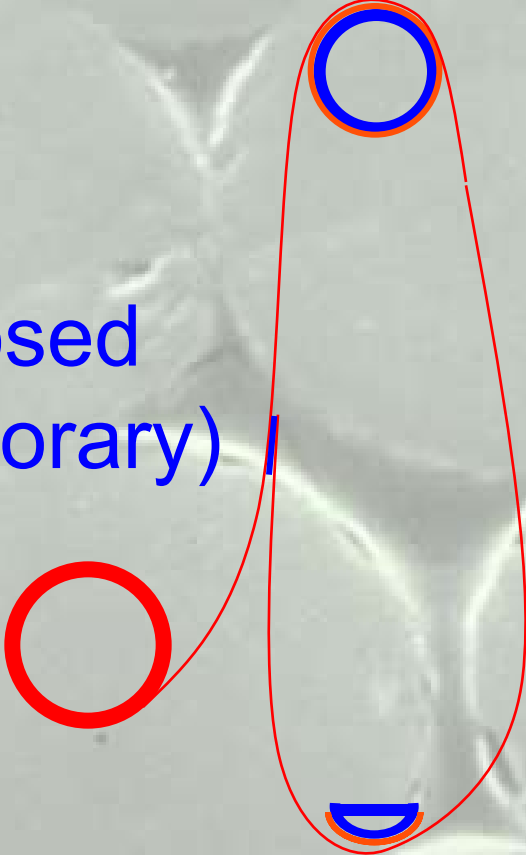


thread in  
CFRP tape



# On site fabrication of bearing connection

Adhere closed loop (temporary)



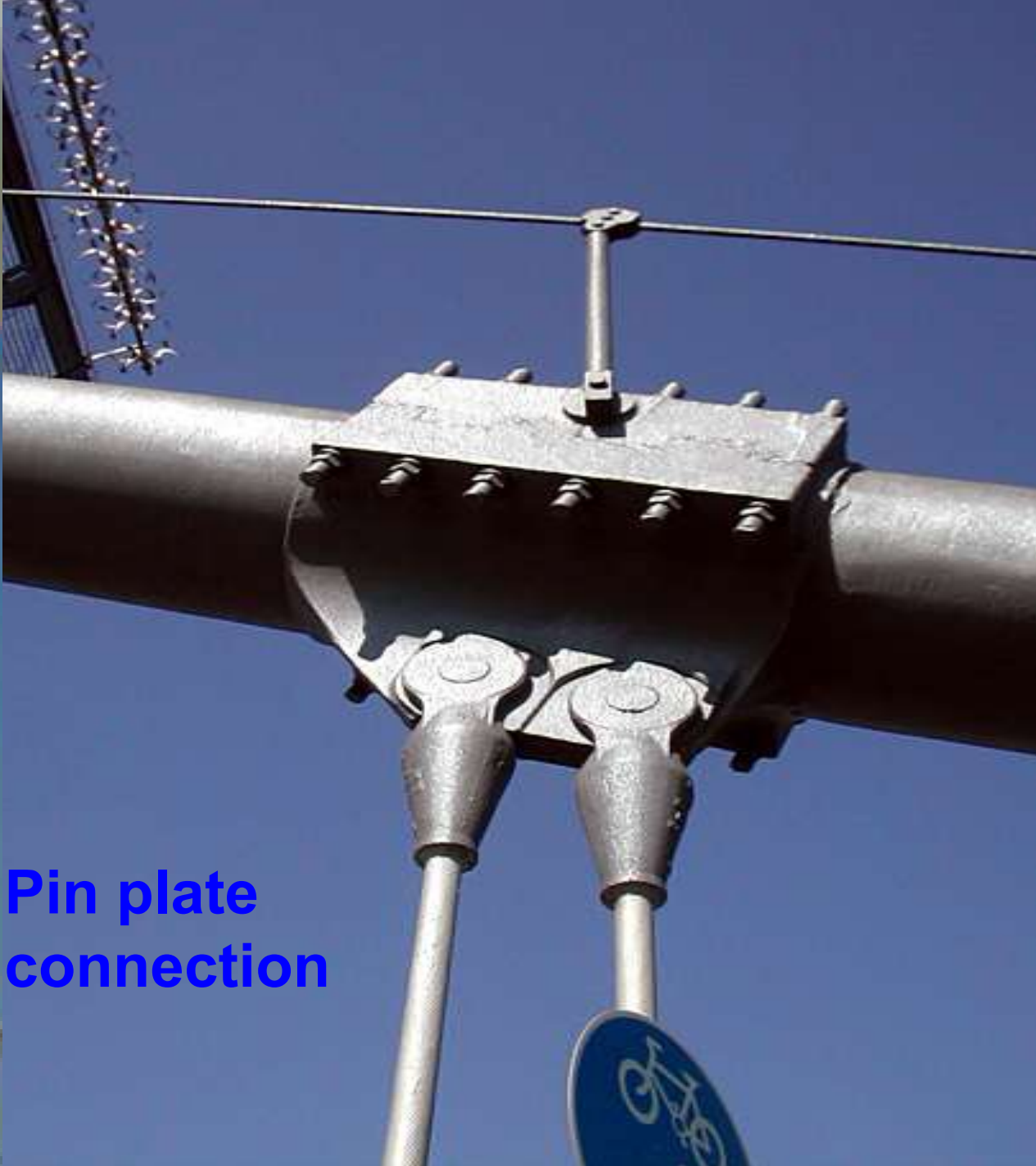
# On site fabrication of bearing connection



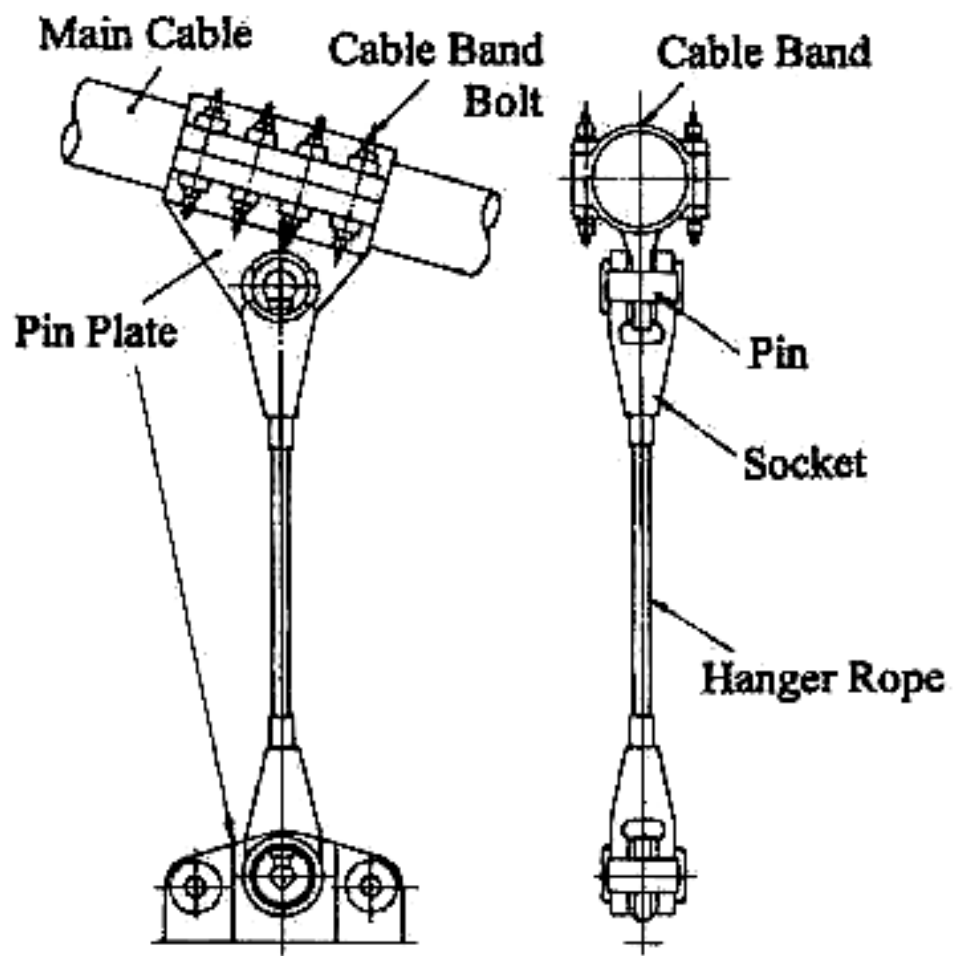
# On site fabrication of bearing connection



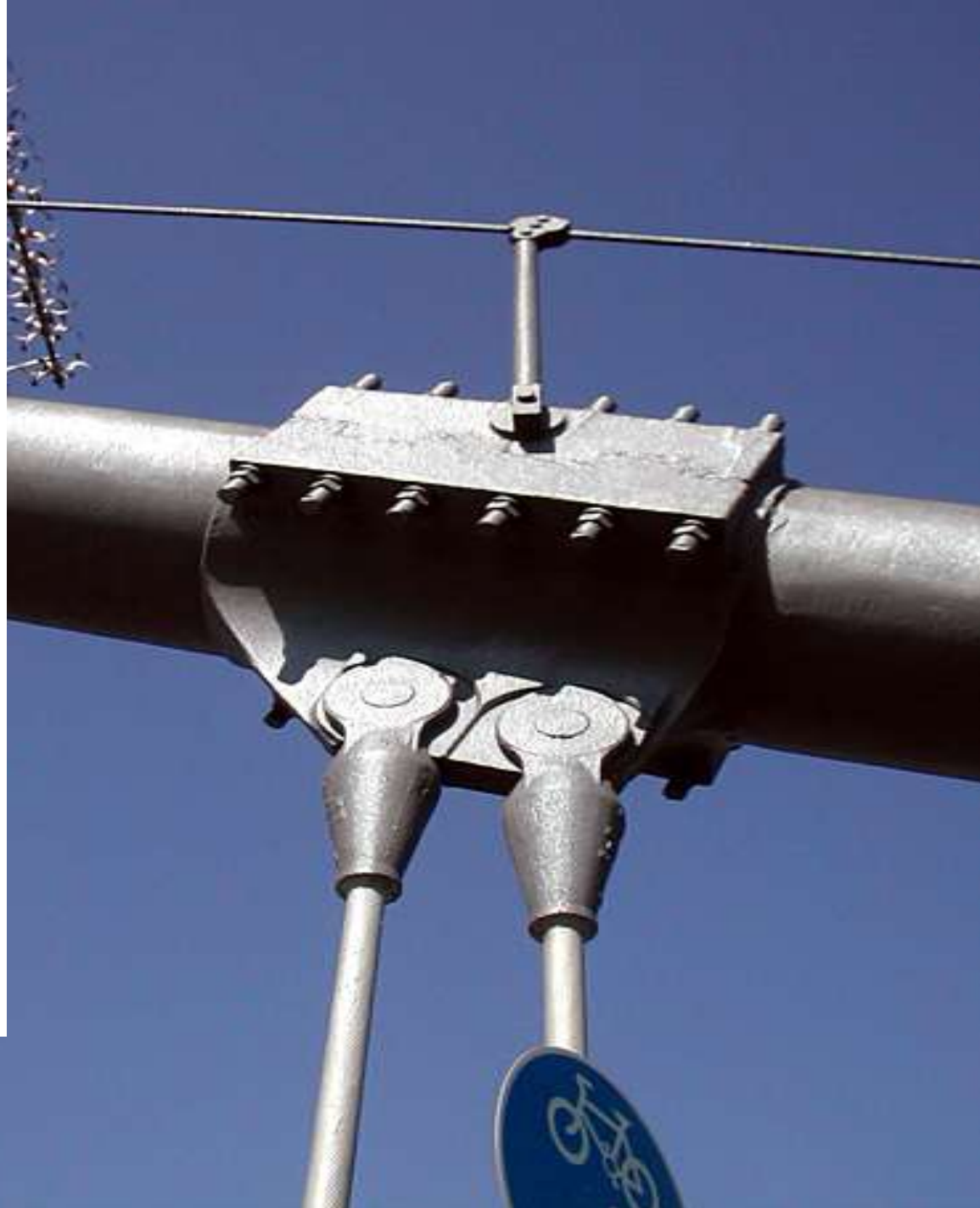




**Pin plate  
connection**



**Pin plate connection**







**Carbo**  
**-Link**



Dr. Adreas Winistörfer





# Loss of a high percentage of cross section of main cables due to corrosion



Forth Road



Bronx Whitestone

**and many others!**

# What if we get to-morrow a contract for CFRP main cables for such a bridge?



Forth Road



Bronx Whitestone

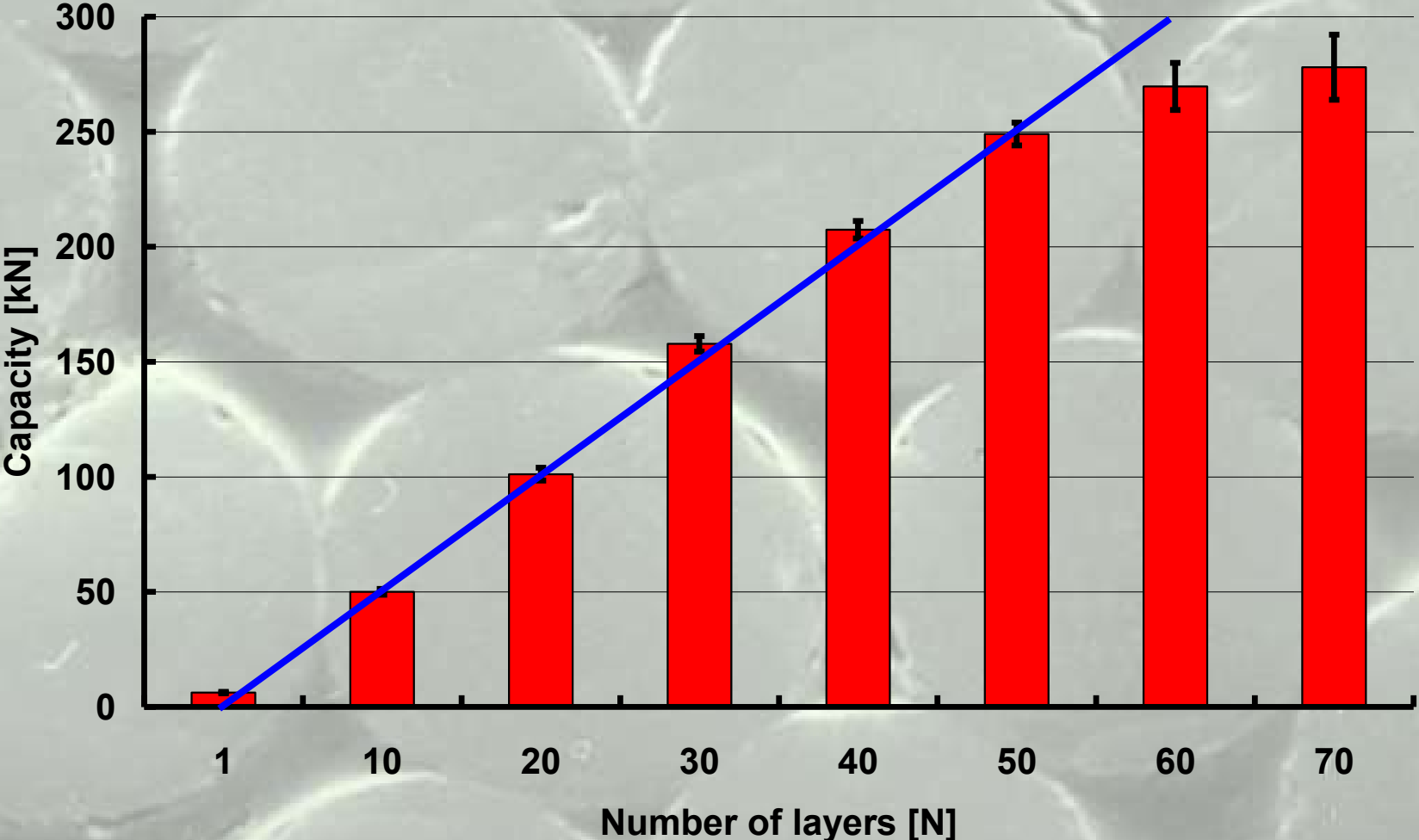
**We cannot! We need more R&D**



**Problem:  
lateral  
stresses  
over the  
saddle**



# Remember: efficiency



# Future Needs

- **R&D:**
  - **solution for saddles for main cables**
  - **solution for saddles for stay cables**
  - **development of CFRP anchorage socket**
- **Applications to build up confidence:**
  - **suspender cables**
  - **stay cables**

# Visions for the Strait of Taiwan



Acad. Lin Yan Pei  
Presentation at  
Bridge Tech 2010 in  
Shanghai



# A Vision for a Suspension Bridge across the Strait of Taiwan with a Main Span of 3500 m

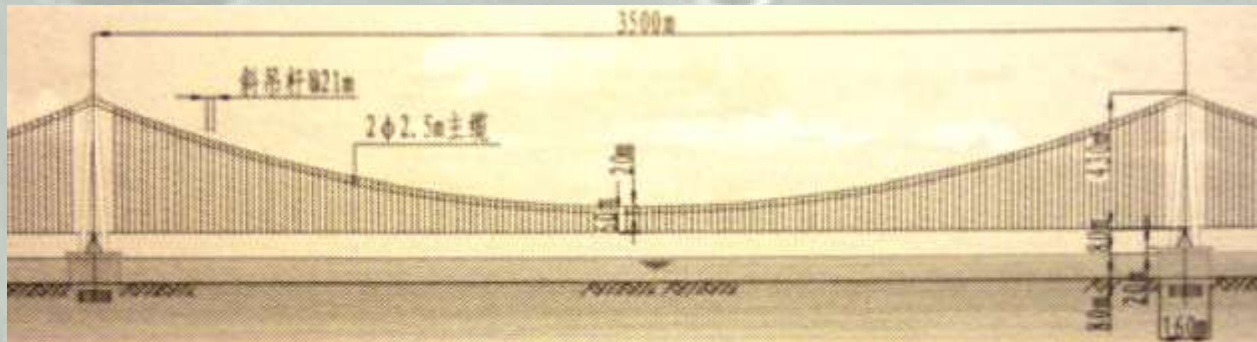


图1 立面

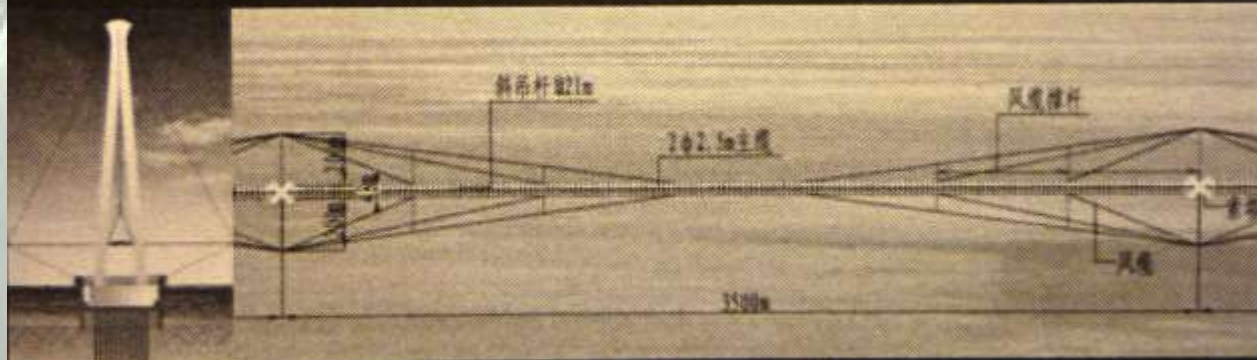


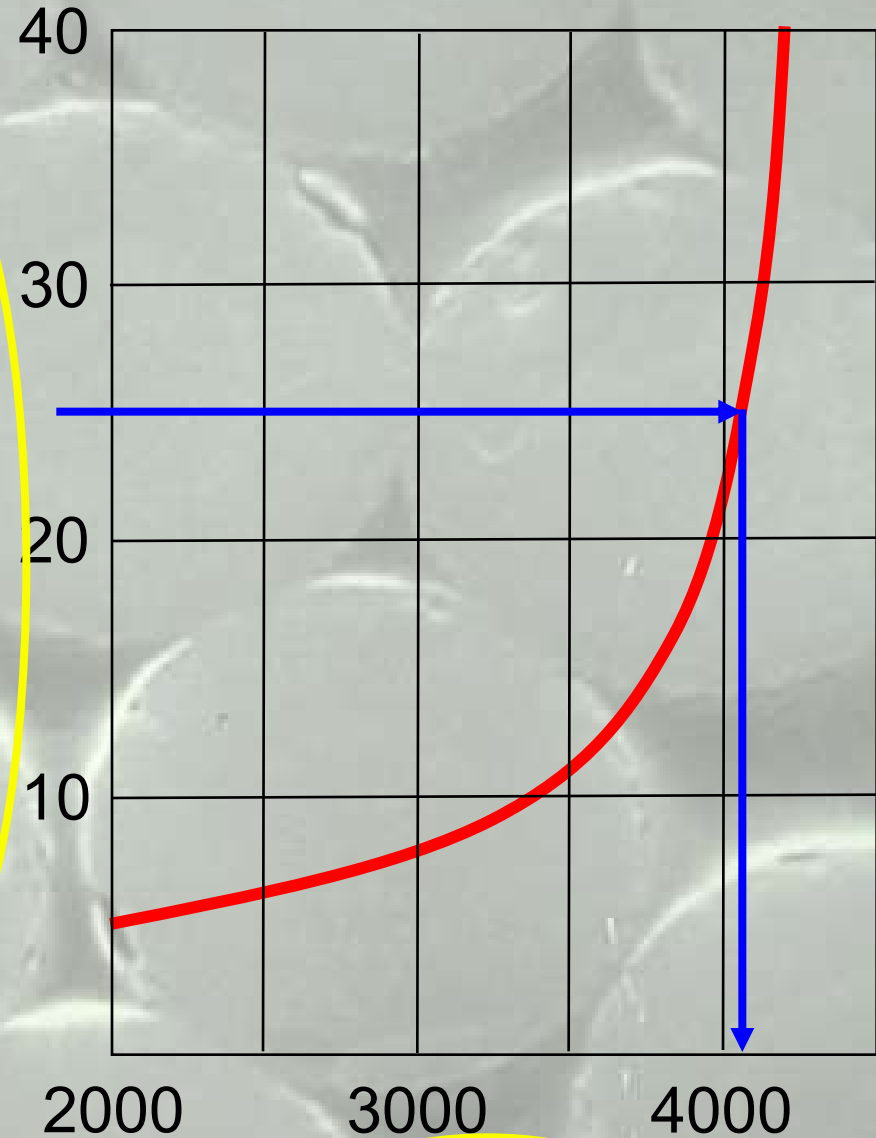
图2 横截面

图3 平面

# Break-Even Span for New Suspension Bridges

Break-even is a point where any difference between plus or minus changes side

Price per unit mass of CFRP  
Price per unit mass of steel



Span [m]

# “Break even span” (analogous to the “break even point”)

Most **economic** materials for very long span bridges **not considering maintenance:**

span < 4000 m → steel

span > 4000 m → CFRP



# Research platform FRP bridge

Transceiver

Sensor

Wireless  
Sensor

Goal: oscillation mitigation of light-weight bridges



# EMPA partners and sponsors (chronological)

- Ciba-Geigy AG
- Kommission für Technologie und Innovation (KTI)
- Stahlton AG
- BBR VT International Ltd
- Stesalit AG
- Cellpack AG
- Kanton Luzern
- Sika Schweiz AG
- S & P Clever Reinforcement AG
- Stadt Winterthur
- Winterthur Versicherungen
- Sacac Schleuderbetonwerk AG
- Ingenieurbüro Kempe GmbH
- Sulzer Innotec AG
- Dr. Deuring + Oehninger AG
- Carbo-Link GmbH
- Fiberline Composites A/S
- Maagtechnic AG

# EMPA co-workers and students involved (chronological)

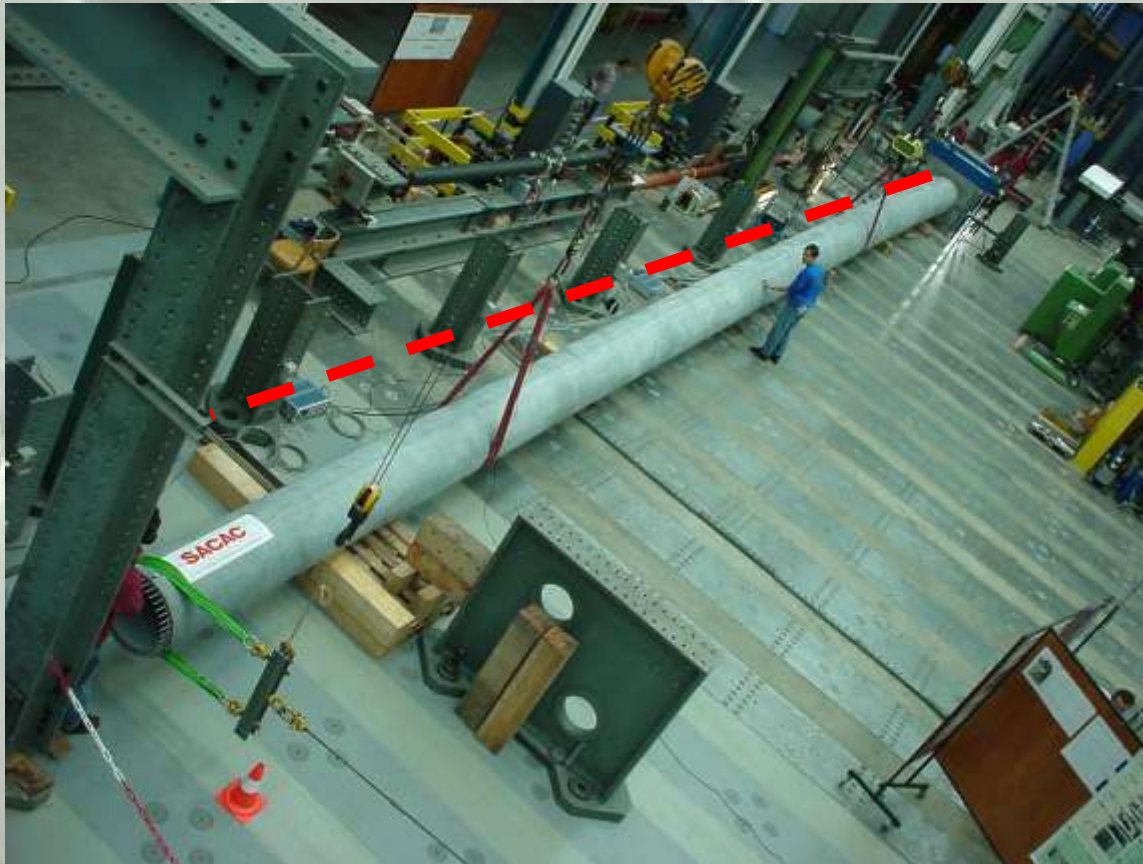
- Urs Meier
- Stephan Lingenhel
- Hanspeter Kaiser
- Heinz Meier
- Patrick Kim
- Thanasis Triantafillou
- Nikola Deskovic
- Masoud Motavalli
- Martin Deuring
- Gregor Schwegler
- Urs von Burg
- Andreas Winistörfer
- Iwan Stöcklin
- Giovanni P. Terrasi
- Roman Graf
- Stefan Kaufmann
- Christoph Bär
- Rolf Brönnimann
- Philipp Nellen
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- Marie-Anne Erki
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- Tomaz Ulaga
- Janine Régnault
- Claudia Kaufmann
- Monica Garcez
- Albrecht von Boetticher
- Christa Jordi
- Rahel Nägeli
- Andreas Langenegger
- Michael Roth
- Tobias Huber



# Dr. Janet Lees, University of Cambridge



# Flexural testing



Dr. Giovanni P Terrasi



# Made with Pre-tensioned CFRP

10 km CFRP wires

Giovanni P Terrasi / SACCAC



**Made with Pre-tensioned CFRP**

**19 km CFRP wires**



Giovanni P Terrasi / SACCAC



**Thank you very much  
for your attention**