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*The AASHTO LRFD Bridge  
Design Specifications:  
Yesterday, Today and  
Tomorrow*

John M. Kulicki, Ph.D., Chairman/CEO  
Modjeski and Masters, Inc.

# OHBDC – Especially 1983 Edition

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# Spring 1986 – Gang of Four

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## Name

- James E. Roberts
- H. Henrie Henson
- Paul F. Csagoly
- Charles S. Gloyd

## 1986 Affiliation

Caltrans

CODOH

FLDOT

WashDOT

# NCHRP 20-7/31 “Development of Comprehensive Bridge Specs and Comm.”

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- Task 1 - Review of other specifications for coverage and philosophy of safety.
- Task 2 - Review AASHTO documents for possible inclusion into specification.
- Task 3 - Assess the feasibility of a probability-based specification.
- Task 4 - Prepare an outline for a revised AASHTO specification.

# May 1987 HSCOBS - A Turning Point

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- Findings of NCHRP Project 20-7/31 presented.
- Seven options for consideration.
- Funding requested to initiate an NCHRP project to develop a new, modern bridge design specification.
- NCHP Project 12-33 - “Development of Comprehensive Specification and Commentary”.
- Modjeski and Masters, Inc. began work in July, 1988.

# Getting Organized

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- Editorial Team
  - Frank Sears
  - Paul Csagoly
  - Dennis Mertz
  - John Kulicki
- Code Coordinating Committee
- Task Forces – Essentially by Section and Calibration
- 56 Members – Only 1 defector in 5 years
- Not always peace in the valley!

# Development Objectives

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- Technically state-of-the-art specification.
- Comprehensive as possible.
- Readable and easy to use.
- Keep specification-type wording – do not develop a textbook.
- Encourage a multi-disciplinary approach to bridge design.

# Constraints

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- Do not allow for further deterioration.
- Do not explicitly allow future increase in truck weights.
- No requirement to make bridges uniformly “heavier” or “lighter”.



# Major Changes

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- A new philosophy of safety - LRFD.
- The identification of four limit states.
- The relationship of the chosen reliability level, the load and resistance factors, and load models through the process of calibration
  - new load factors
  - new resistance factors.

# Allowable Stress Design

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$$\Sigma Q_i \leq R_E / F_S$$

where:

- $Q_i$  = a load
- $R_E$  = elastic resistance
- $F_S$  = factor of safety

# Load Factor Design

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$$\Sigma \gamma_i Q_i \leq \phi R$$

where:

- $\gamma_i$  = a load factor
- $Q_i$  = a load
- $R$  = resistance
- $\phi$  = a strength reduction factor

# Load and Resistance Factor Design

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$$\sum \eta_i \gamma_i Q_i \leq \phi R_n = R_r$$

in which:

- $\eta_i = \eta_D \eta_R \eta_I \geq 0.95$  for loads for max
- $= 1/(\eta_I \eta_D \eta_R) \leq 1.0$  for loads for min

where:

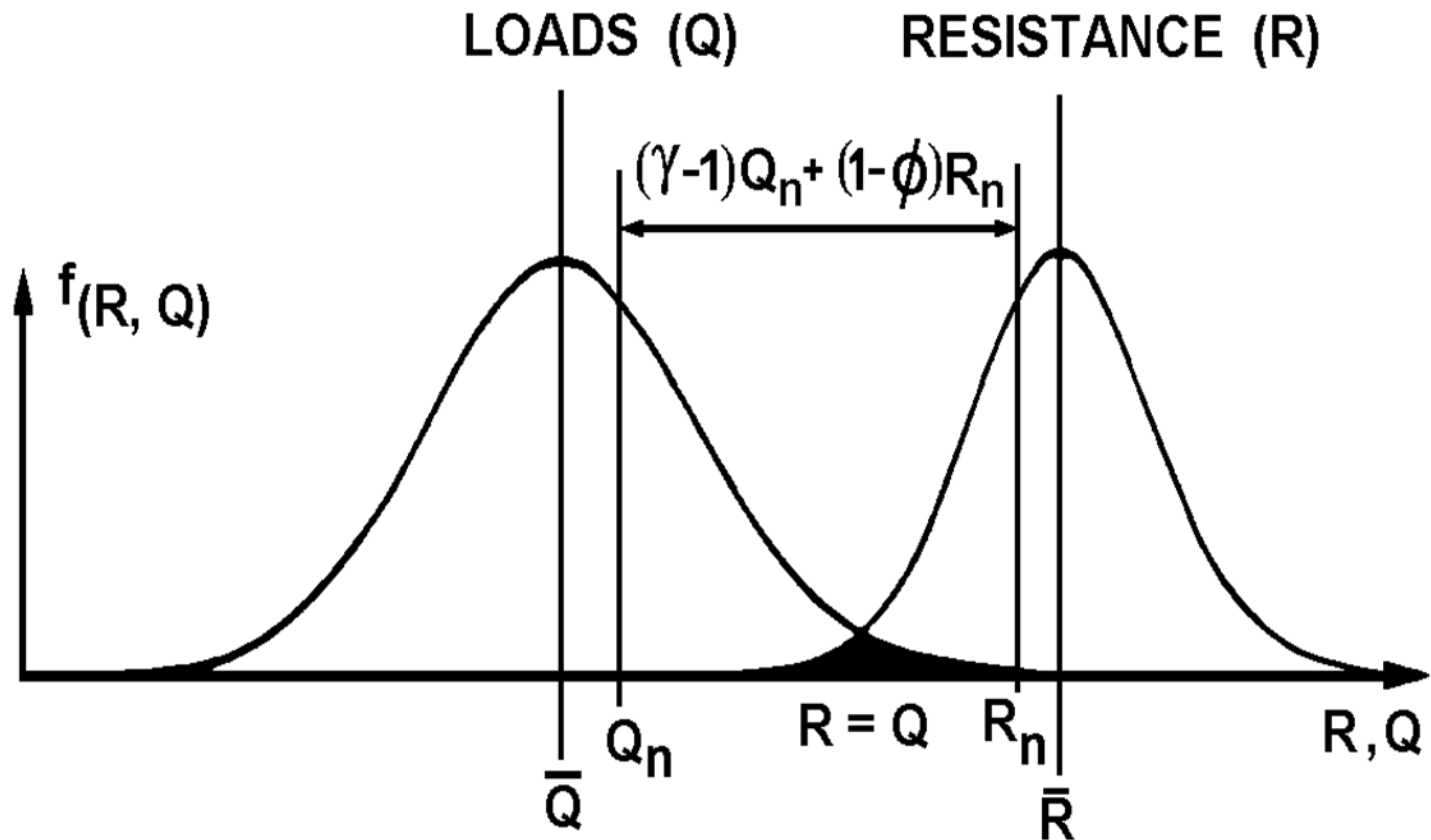
- $\gamma_i$  = load factor: a statistically based multiplier on force effects
- $\phi$  = resistance factor: a statistically based multiplier applied to nominal resistance

# LRFD (Continued)

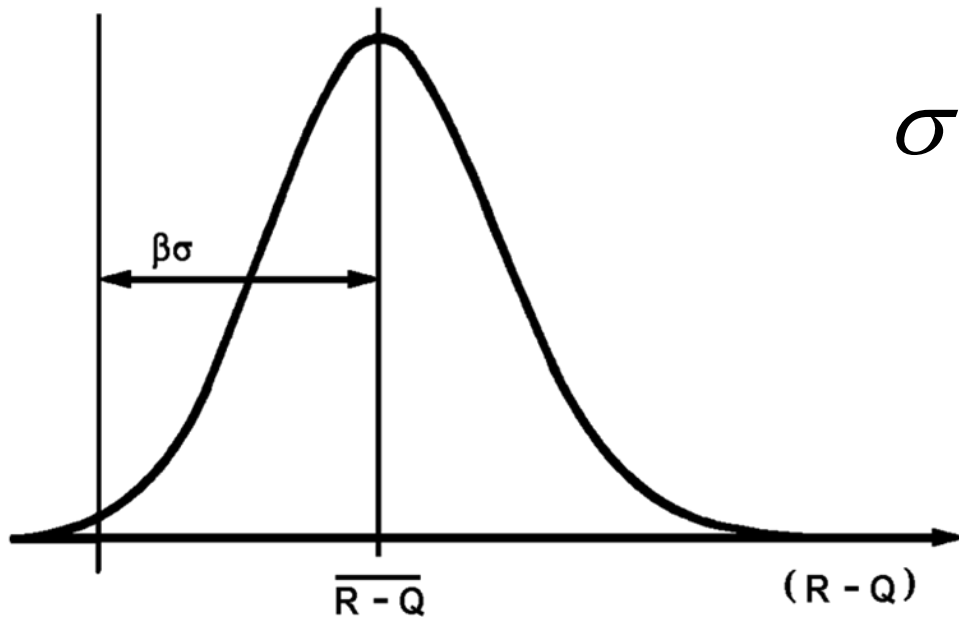
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- $\eta_i$  = load modifier
- $\eta_D$  = a factor relating to ductility
- $\eta_R$  = a factor relating to redundancy
- $\eta_I$  = a factor relating to importance
- $Q_i$  = nominal force effect: a deformation, stress, or stress resultant
- $R_n$  = nominal resistance
- $R_r$  = factored resistance:  $\phi R_n$

# LRFD - Basic Design Concept



# Some Algebra



$$\sigma_{(R-Q)} = \sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_Q^2}$$

$$\beta = \frac{\bar{R} - \bar{Q}}{\sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_Q^2}}$$

$$\bar{R} = \bar{Q} + \beta \sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_Q^2} = \lambda R = \frac{1}{\phi} \lambda \sum \gamma_i x_i$$

$$\phi = \frac{\lambda \sum \gamma_i x_i}{\bar{Q} + \beta \sqrt{\sigma_R^2 + \sigma_Q^2}}$$

# Reliability Calcs Done for M and V – Simulated Bridges Based on Real Ones

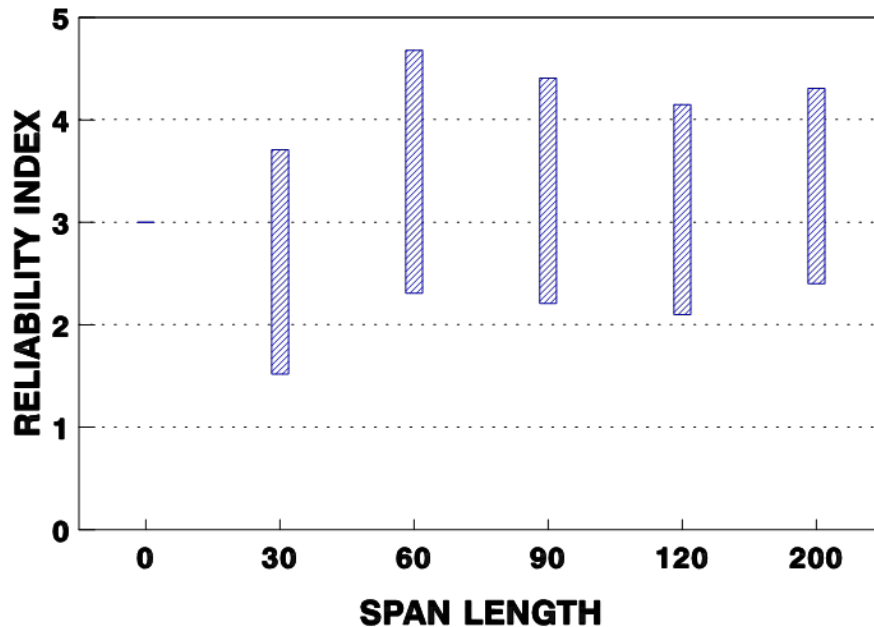
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- 25 non-composite steel girder bridge simulations with spans of 30,60,90,120,and 200 ft, and spacings of 4,6,8,10,and 12 ft.
- Composite steel girder bridges having the same parameters identified above.
- P/C I-beam bridges with the same parameters identified above.
- R/C T-beam bridges with spans of 30,60,90,and 120 ft, with spacing as above.

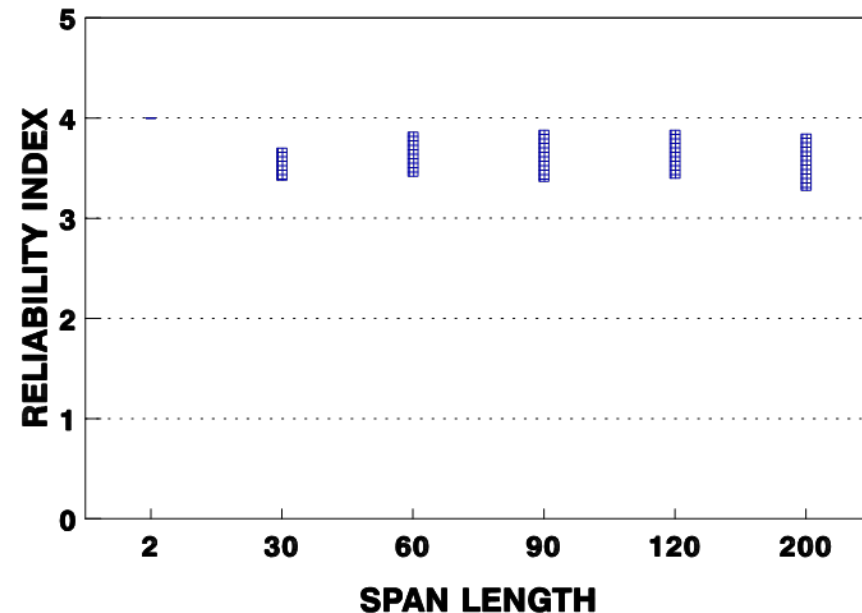


# Reliability of Std Spec vs. LRFD – 175 Data Points

**RELIABILITY INDICES  
1989 AASHTO**

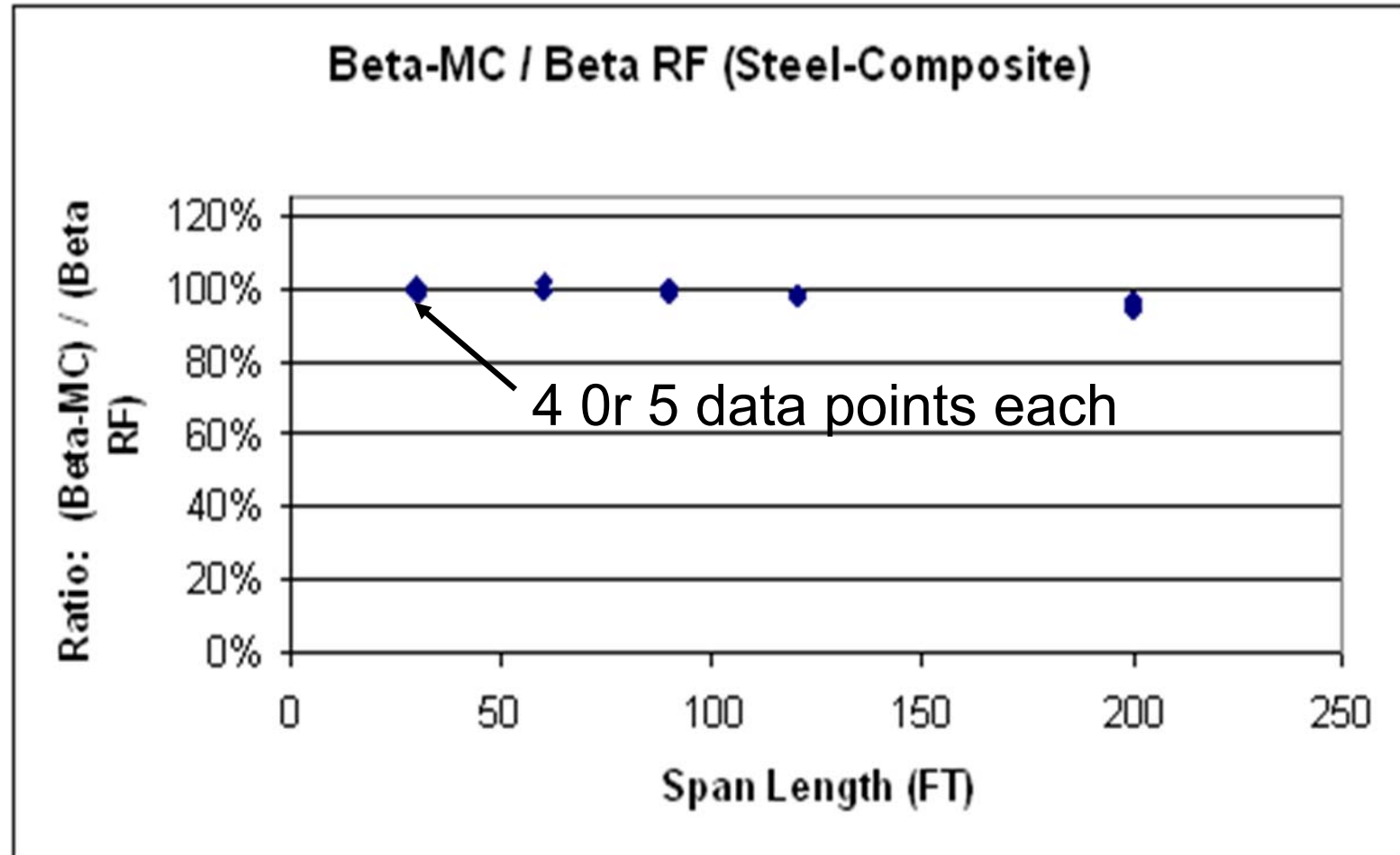


**RELIABILITY INDICES  
PROPOSED - PRELIM**

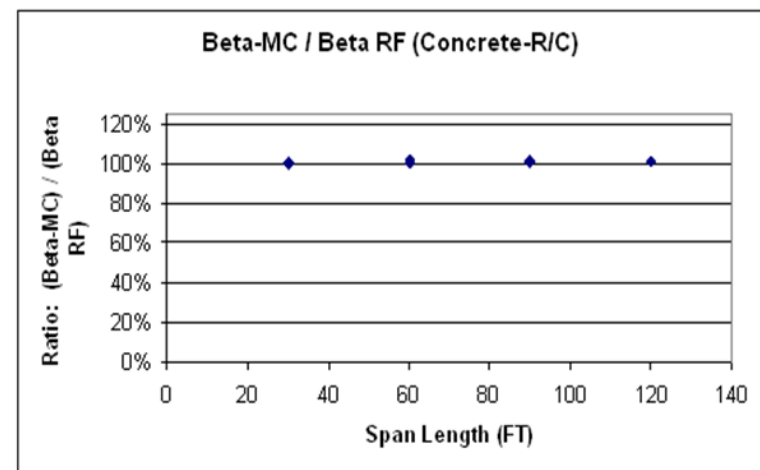
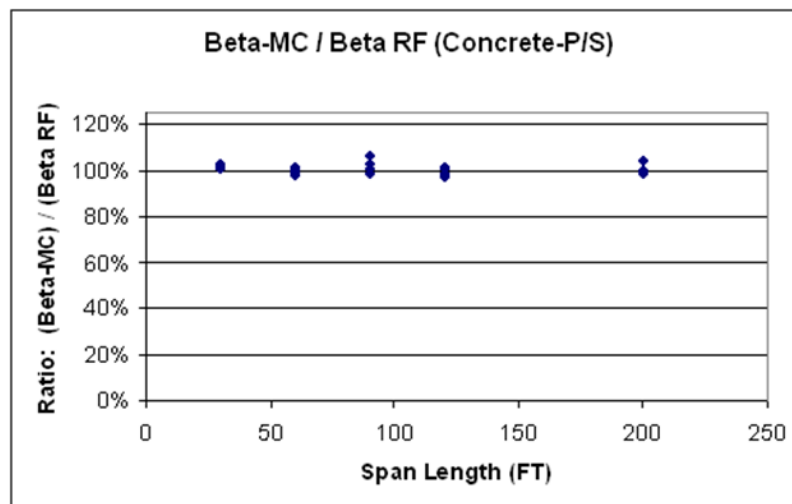
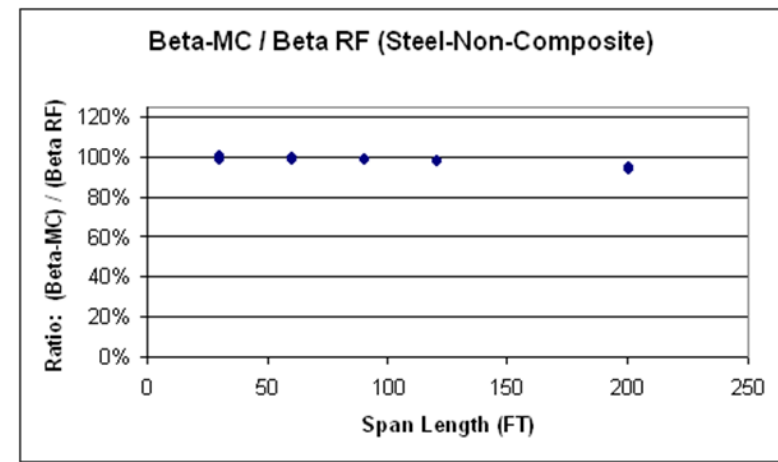
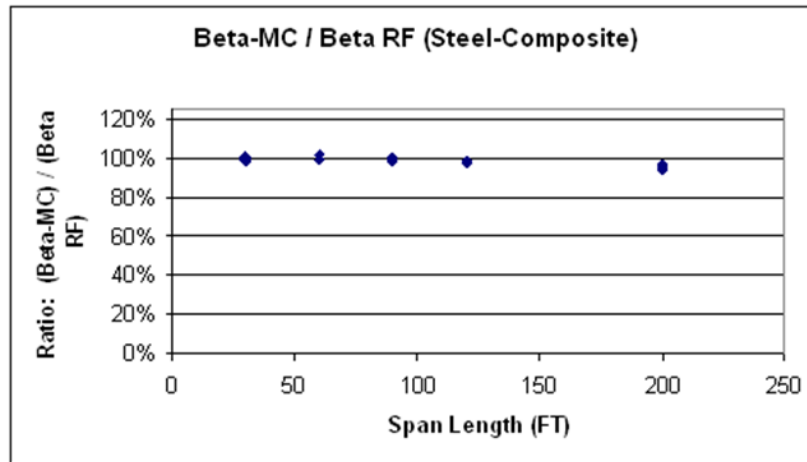


# 2006 Monte Carlo Reanalysis of 1993 Beta

## Beta

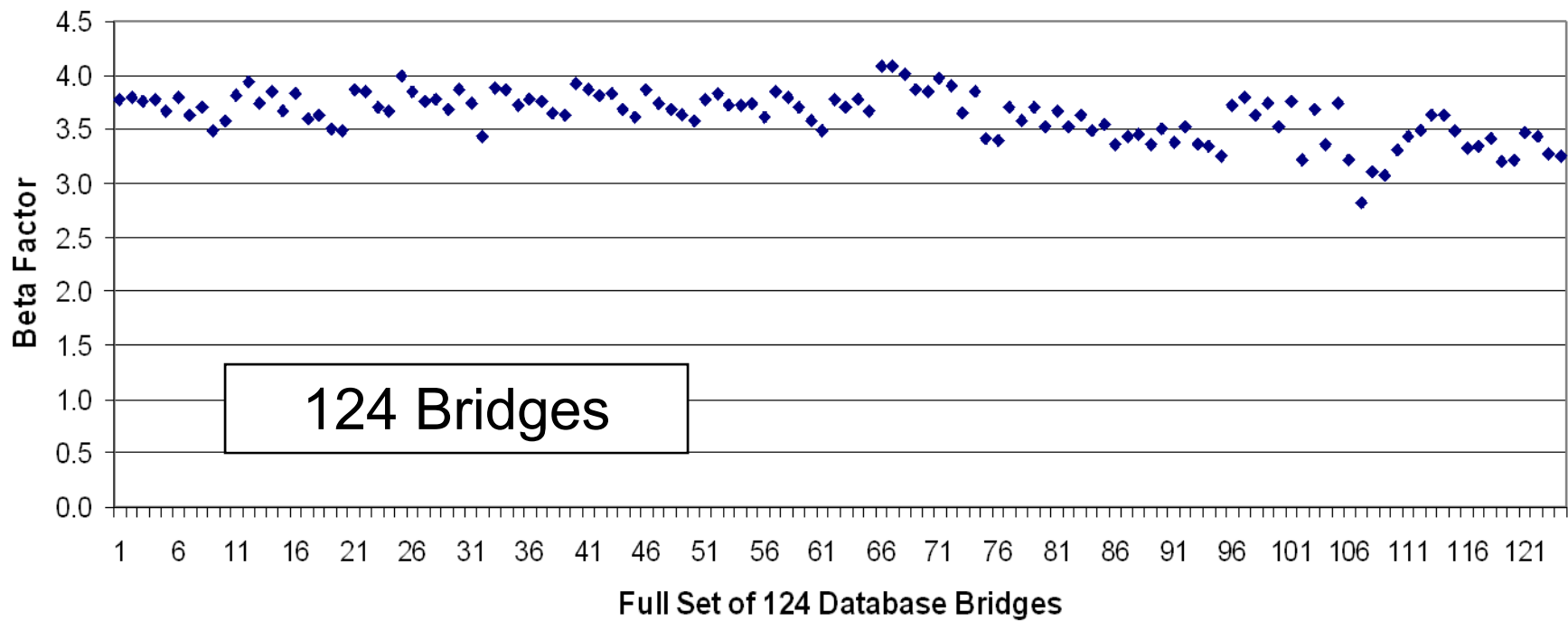


# 2006 Monte Carlo Reanalysis of 1993 Beta



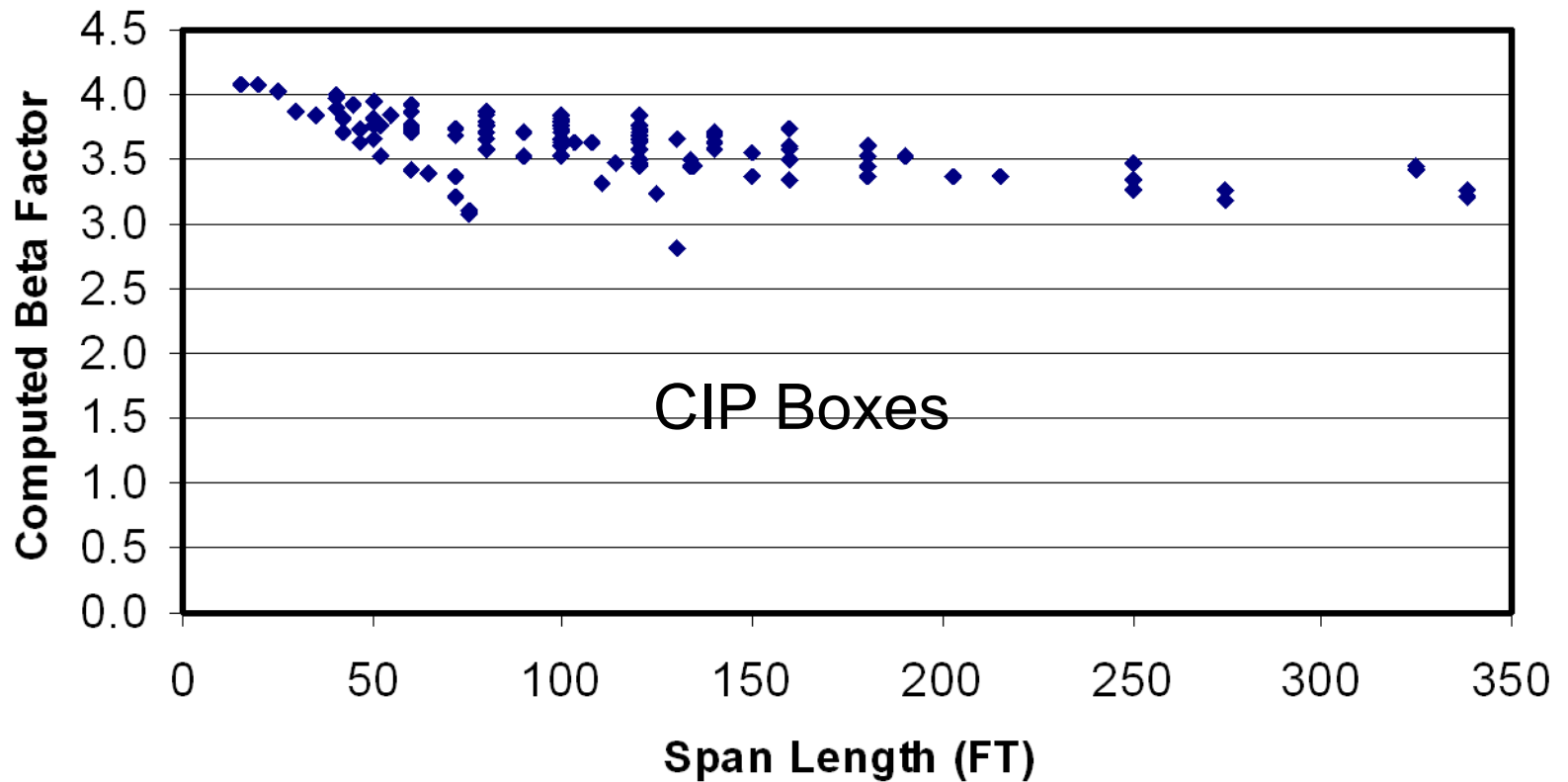
# 2006 Monte Carlo Analysis of Beta for New Bridge Data Base

Bridge Database: Beta Factors Using Monte Carlo Analysis



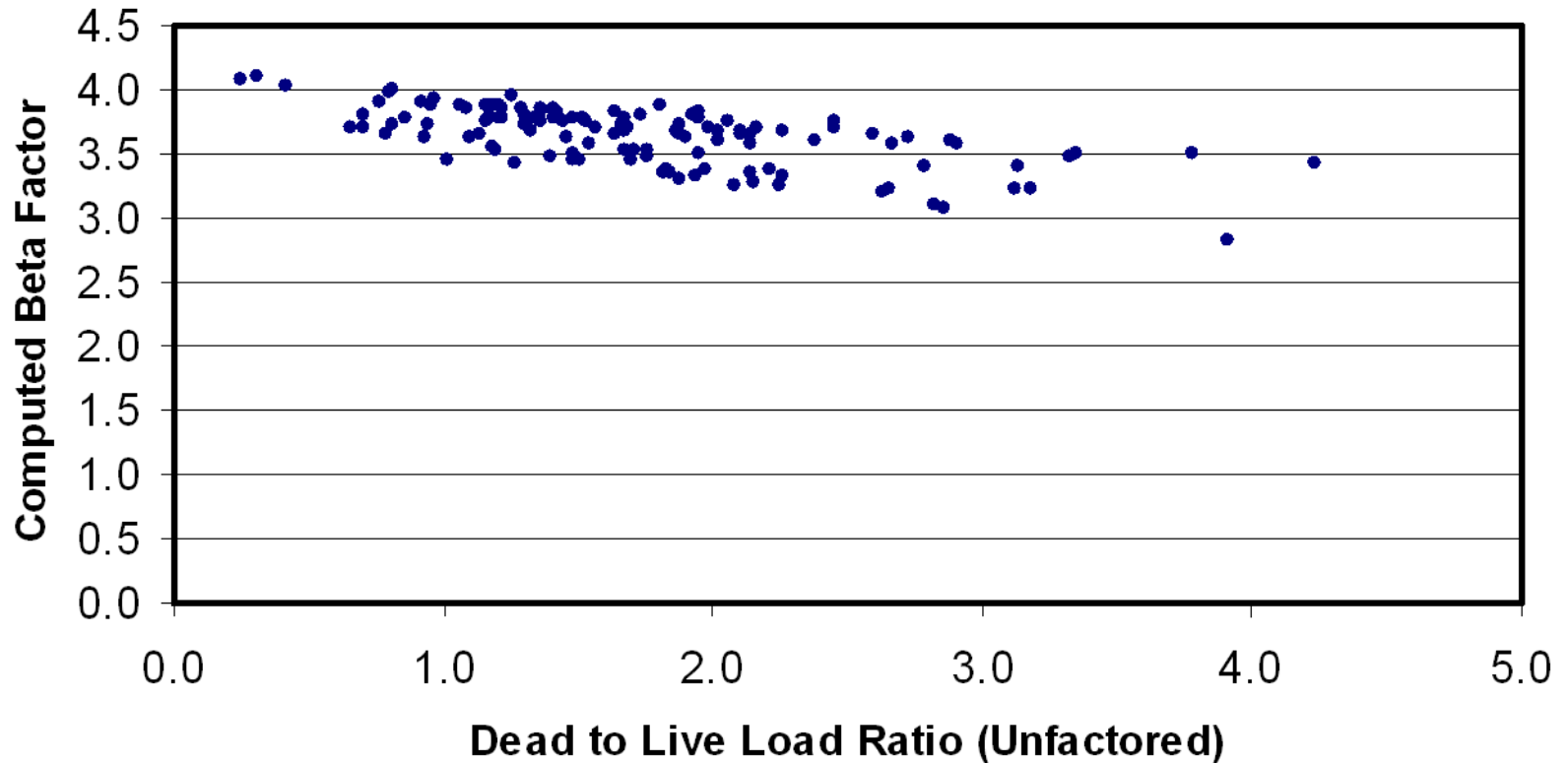
# 2006 Monte Carlo Analysis

## Monte Carlo Analysis: Beta vs Span Length



# 2006 Monte Carlo Analysis

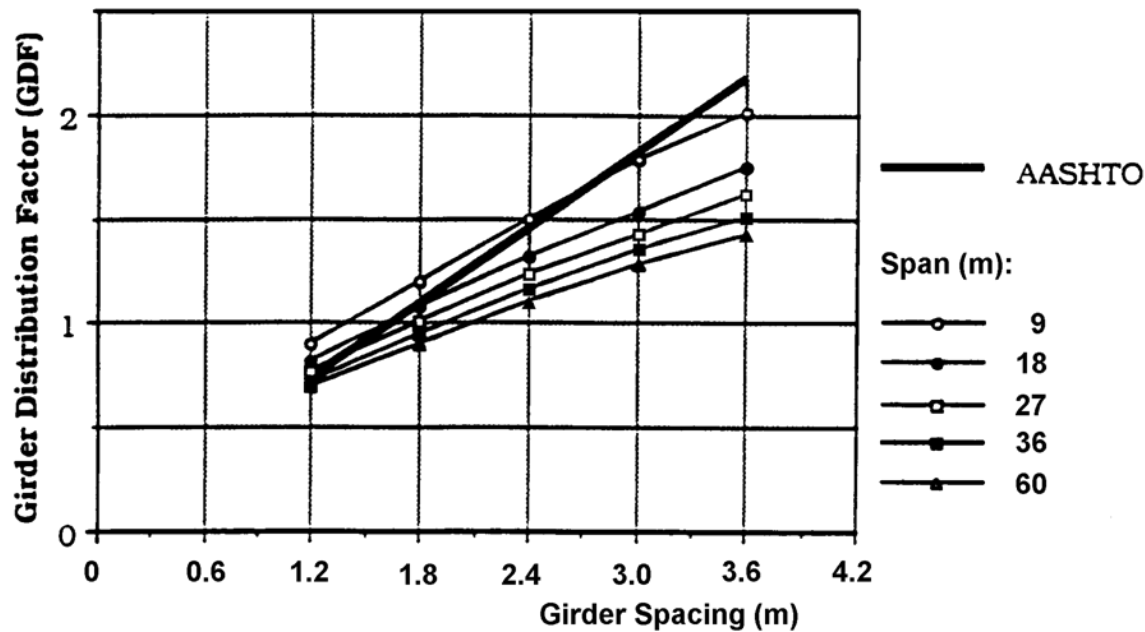
Monte Carlo Analysis: D/L Ratio vs. Beta



# Major Changes

- Revised calculation of load distribution

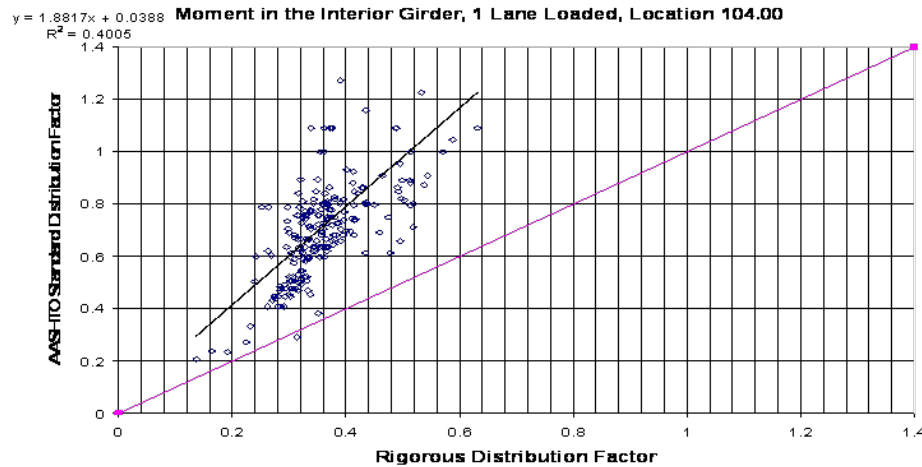
$$g = 0.075 + \left( \frac{S}{2900} \right)^{0.6} \left( \frac{S}{L} \right)^{0.2} \left( \frac{K_g}{Lt_s^3} \right)^{0.1}$$



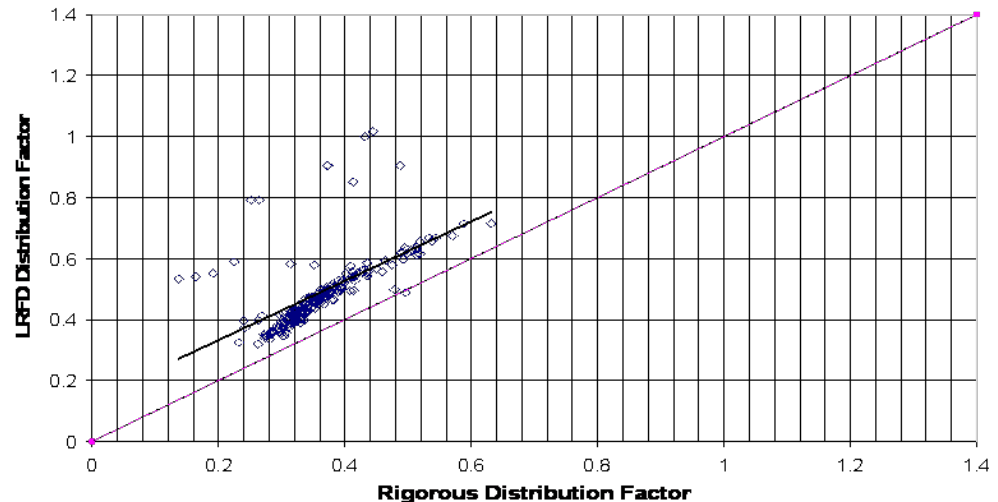
Circa  
1990

# Distribution Factors Revisited (2005)

## On-Going Work – NCHRP 12-62



$y = 0.9729x + 0.1378$  **Moment in the Interior Girder, 1 Lane Loaded, Location 104.00**  
 $R^2 = 0.3521$



Courtesy of  
Prof. Jay Puckett



# Major Changes (Continued)

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- Combine plain, reinforced and prestressed concrete.
- Modified compression field/strut and tie.
- Limit state-based provisions for foundation design.
- Expanded coverage on hydraulics and scour.
- The introduction of the isotropic deck design.
- Expanded coverage on bridge rails.
- Inclusion of large portions of the AASHTO/FHWA Specification for ship collision.

# Major Changes (Continued)

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- Changes to the earthquake provisions to eliminate the seismic performance category concept by making the method of analysis a function of the importance of the structure.
- Guidance on the design of segmental concrete bridges – from Guide Spec.
- The development of a parallel commentary.
  
- **New Live Load Model – HL93**
- **Continuation of a long story**

# 1912 Article Published in *Transactions* of ASCE, Henry B. Seaman

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- It would thus seem that 80 lb/sf would be a maximum load, if indeed it should not be much less, for long spans.

# *Bridge Engineering*, Published in 1916, J.A. Waddell

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Waddell discusses the source of distributed load used in the design of bridges:

Some people have the idea that a **herd of cattle** will weigh more per square foot than a **crowd of people**, but such is not the case, as the actual limit for the former is about 60 lb/ft<sup>2</sup>.

L.R. Manville and R.W. Gastmeyer,  
*Engineering News*, September 1914

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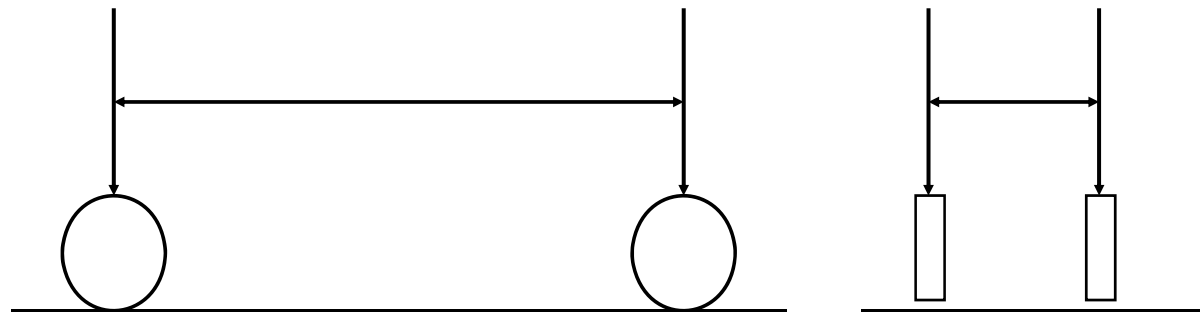
“The customary loading assumed for the design of highway bridges in the past has been a certain uniform live load alone, possibly a typical heavy wagon or road-roller, or a uniform live load with a concentration....

**But these older types of loading are inadequate for purposes of design to take care of modern conditions; they should be replaced by some types of typical motor trucks.”**

# L.R. Manville and R.W. Gastmeyer, *Engineering News*, September 1914

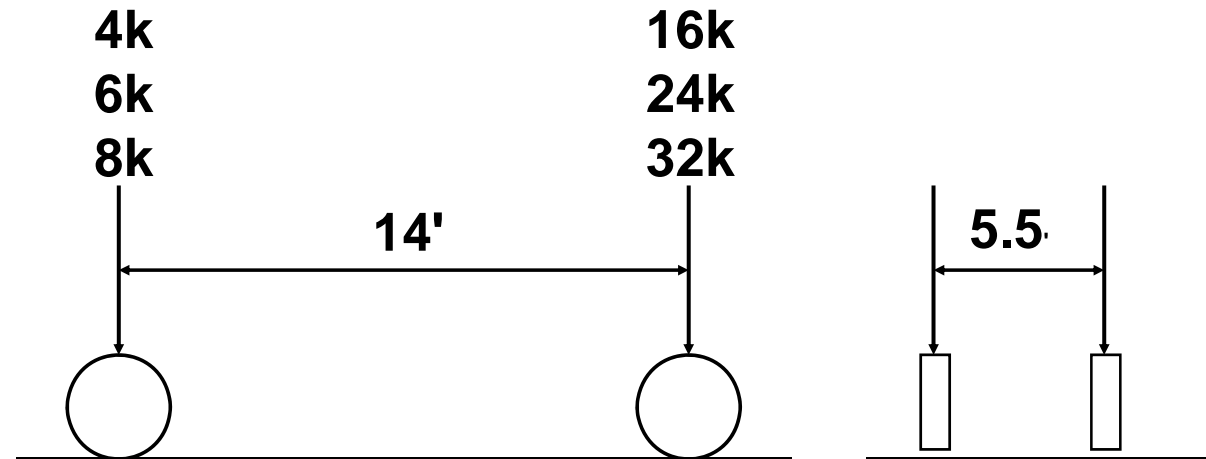
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4-Ton	3k	8'	5k	5'
10-Ton	4k	12'	16k	6'
12-Ton	6k	12'	18k	6'
14-Ton	4k	12'	24k	6'
17-Ton	14k	12'	20k	6'
<b>20-Ton</b>	<b>12k</b>	<b>12'</b>	<b>28k</b>	<b>6'</b>



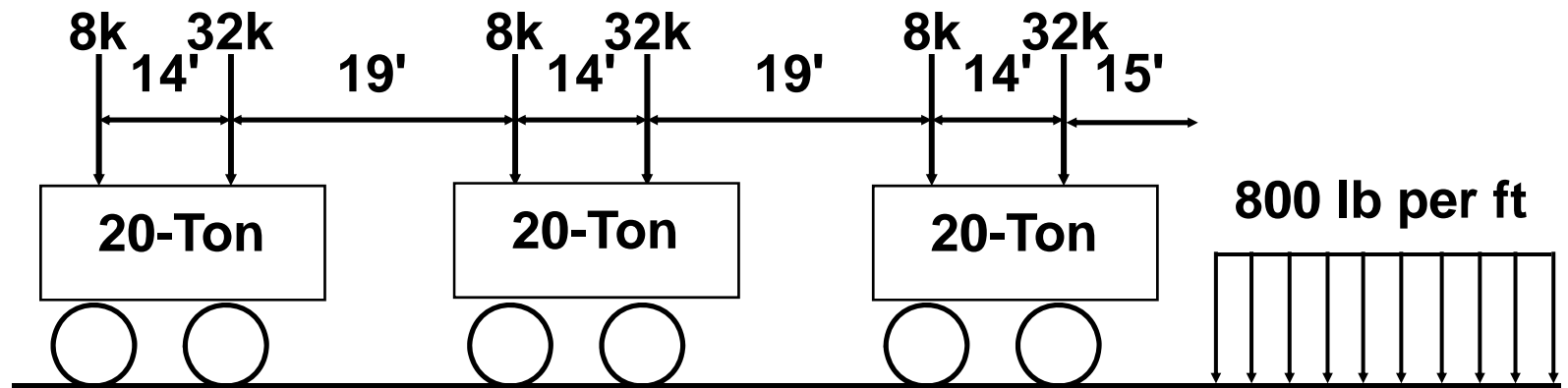
# 1923 AREA Specification

10-Ton  
15-Ton  
20-Ton



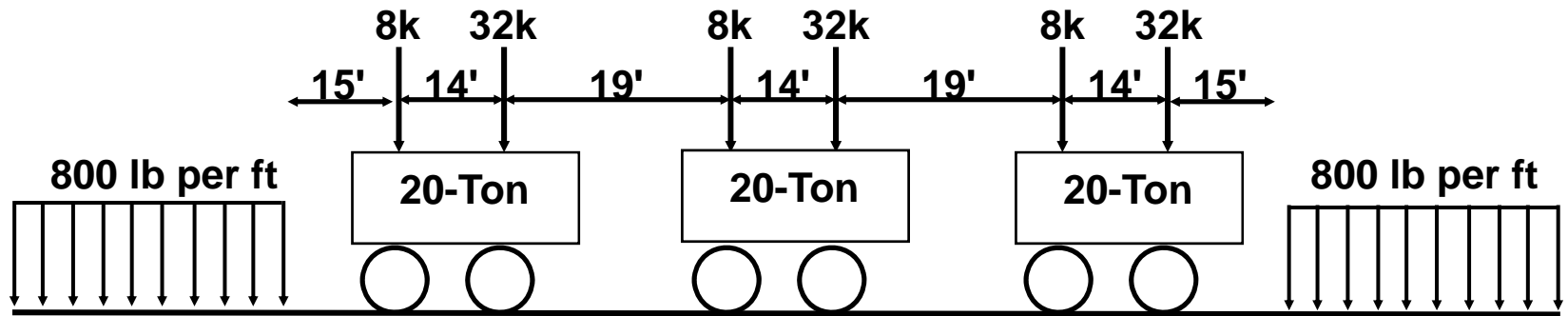
**VERY CLOSE!!**

# 1923 AREA Specification





# 1924 AREA Specification

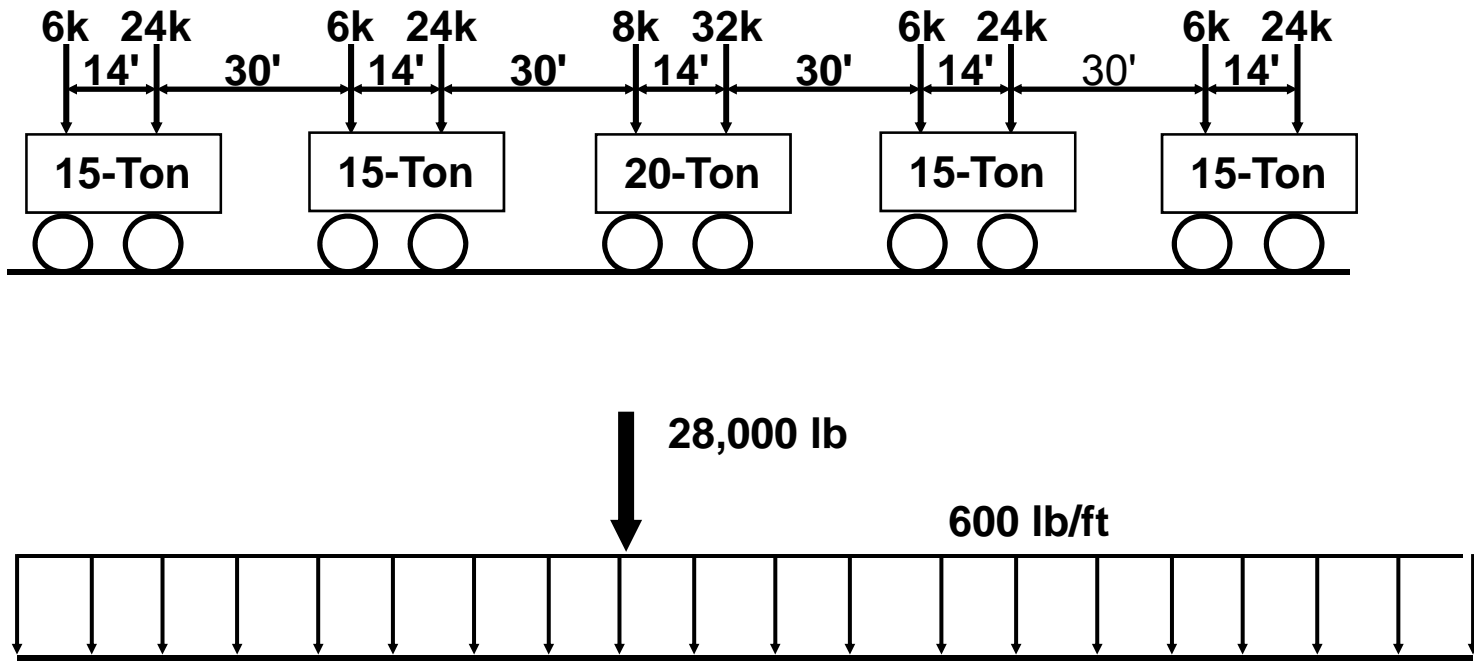


# Shoemaker's Truck Train and Equivalent Load (Bold Added)-1923

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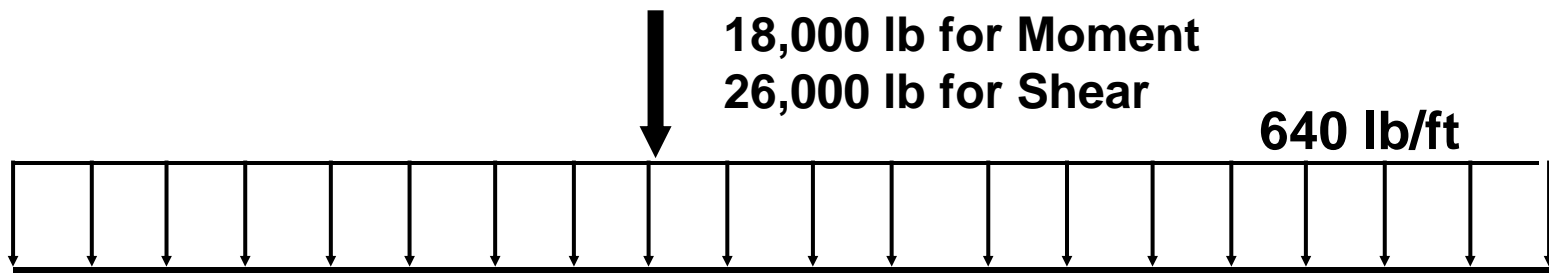
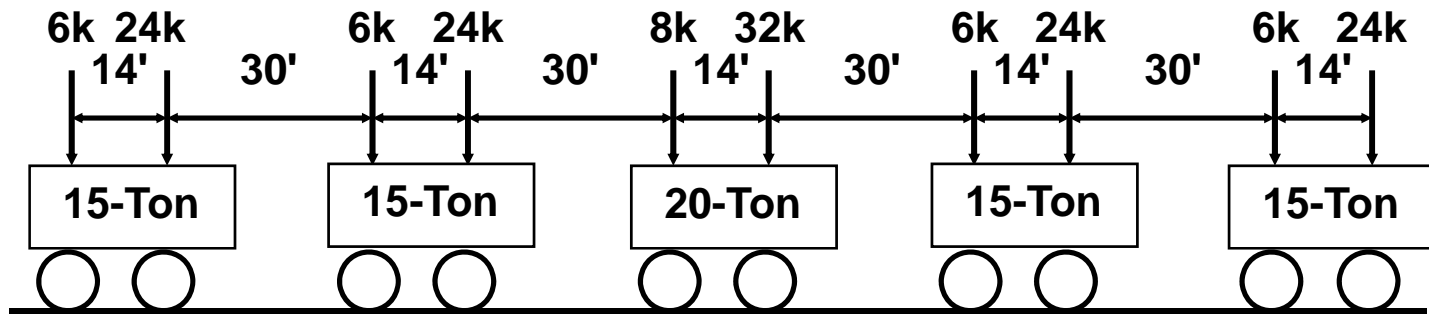
- The 7.5-ton [capacity] truck, which weighs about 15 tons when loaded to capacity and **which can be overloaded to weigh about 20 tons**, is the heaviest commonly used.
- A large part of traffic, however, is carried in trucks of 5 tons capacity or less. It would not appear to be necessary, therefore, to provide for a succession of 20-ton loads.

# Shoemaker's Truck Train and Equivalent Load - 1923

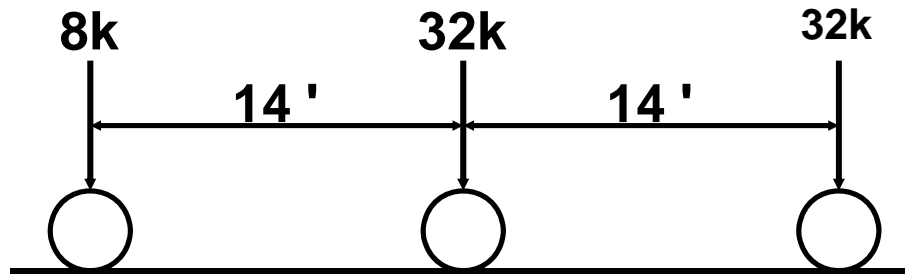


By 1929 Lane Load becomes what we have today

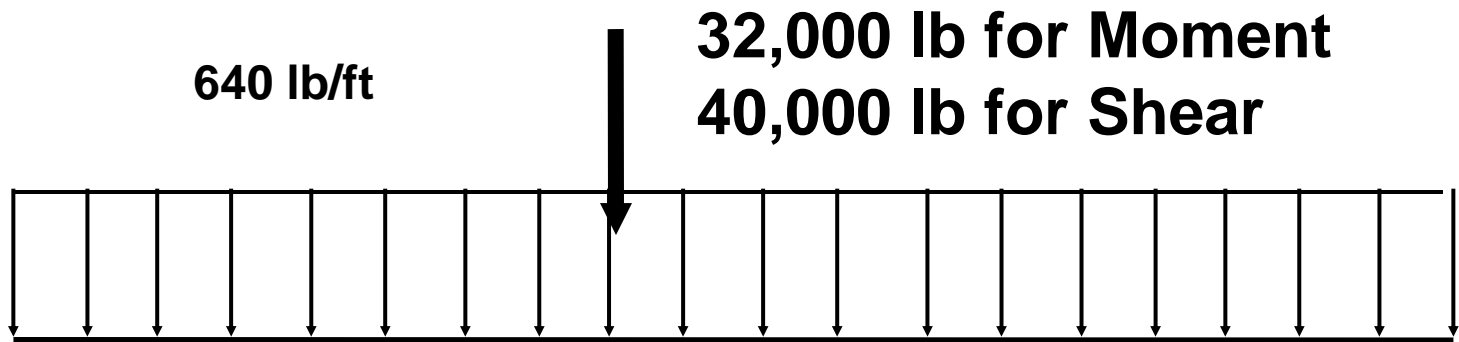
# 1928-1929 Conference Specification



# 1941 AASHTO----HS20 (Almost)



**H20 - S16**



# 1941-1944 Rebellion & Chaos!!

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- Much disagreement over HS Loading
- “An Analysis of Highway Loads Based on the Special Loadometer Study of 1942” by Dr. A.A. Jakkulka
- Recommended HS20 Truck “Because it was the more common stress producing truck on the road”

# 1941-1944 Rebellion & Chaos!!

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At the December 1944 Bridge Committee Group Meeting, a progress report on a truck loading study conducted at Texas A and M College was presented. The minutes of the meeting state that:

the discussion that followed ....**soon developed into a “free for all”** over “them” good old fighting words “what design loading should be used.” After the meeting got down to normalcy again, Mr. Paxon presented...

# 1944 Agreement

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- No HS Lane Load---use H20 Lane Load
- Variable axle spacing adopted – more closely approximates “the tractor trailers now in use”
- HS20-S16-44.....44 added to reduce confusion from so many changes



# Live Load Continued to be Debated

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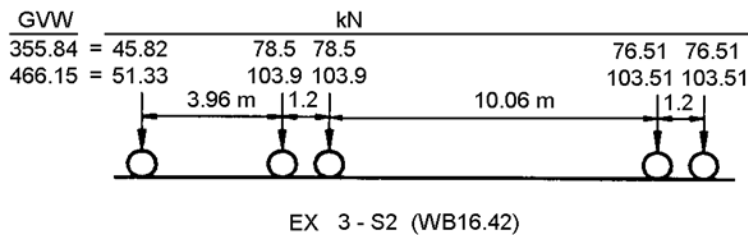
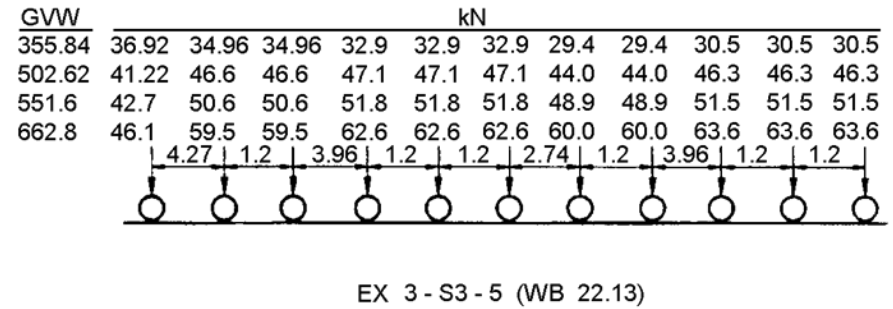
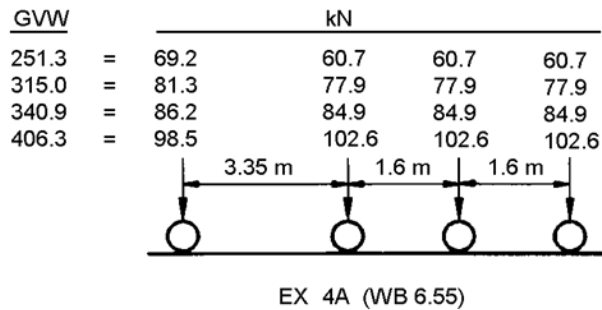
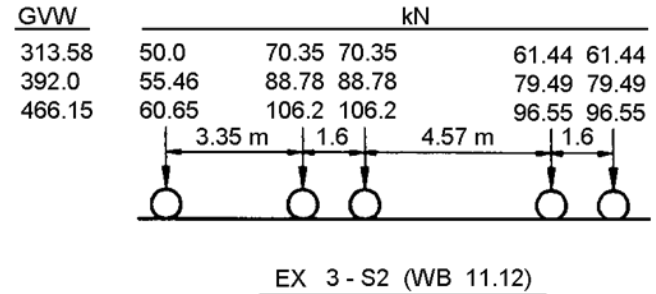
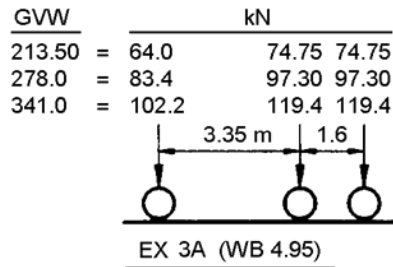
- Early 1950's – discussion to remove the lane load as too heavy and wasteful for continuous spans.
- Throughout 50's there are discussions about increasing the design truck
- 1958 – decision to do nothing until after AASHO Road Tests are completed.

# Live Load Continued to be Debated

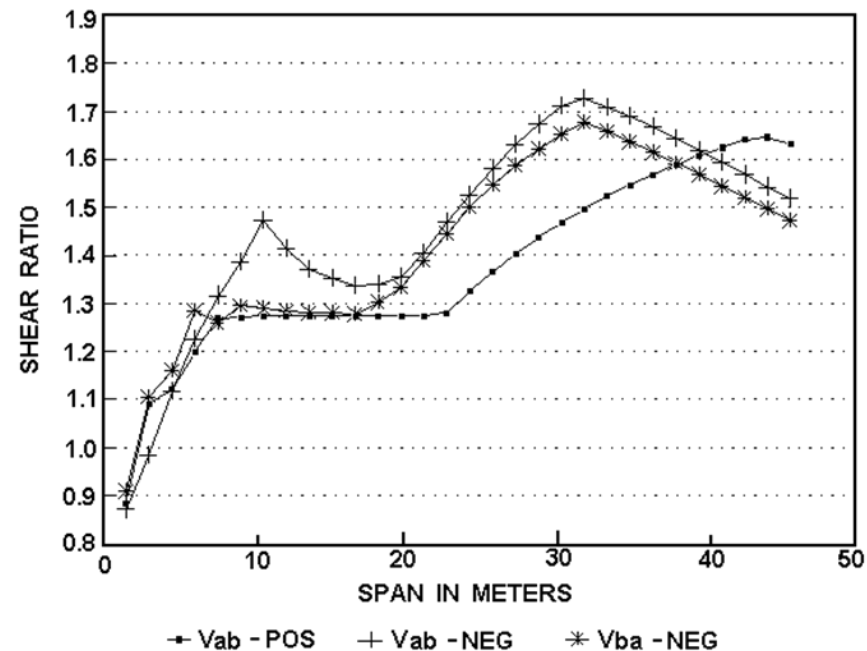
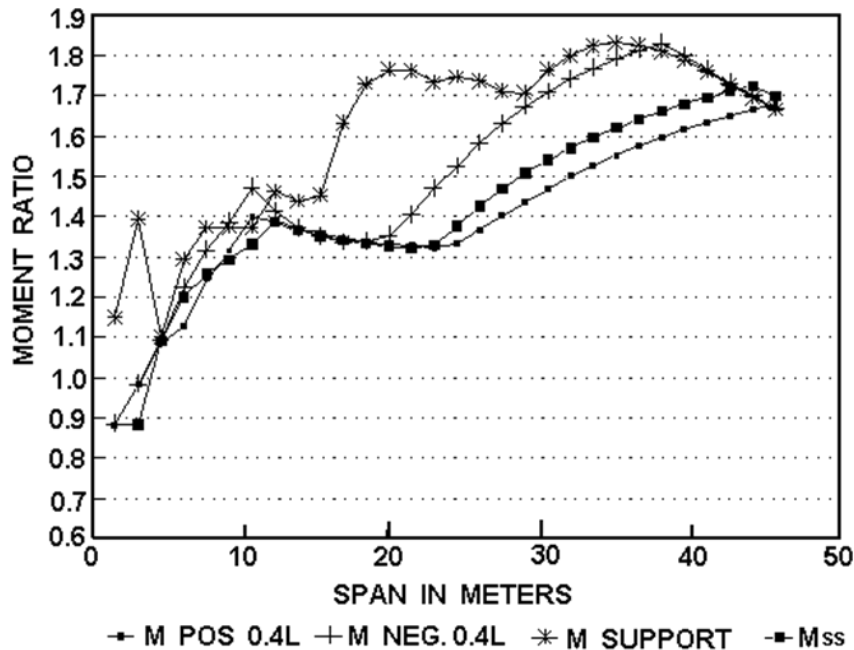
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- Late 60's – H40, HS25 and HS30 discussed
- 1969 – SCOBBS states unanimous opposition to increasing weight of design truck – “wasteful obsolescence” of existing bridges
- 1978 – HS25 proposed again
- 1979 – HS25 again – commentary –
  - need for heavier design load seems unavoidable
  - HS25 best present solution
  - 5% cost penalty
- Motion soundly defeated

# “Exclusion Loads” – Based on TRB Special Report 225, 1990

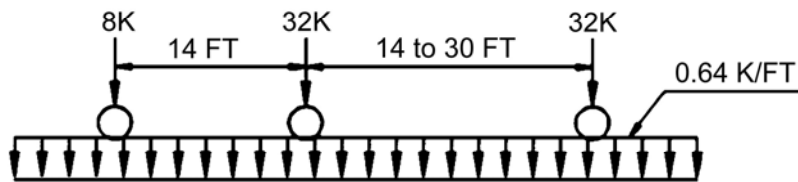
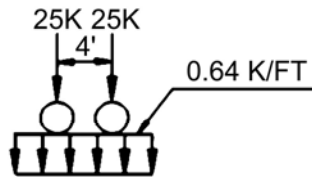


# EXCL/HS20 Truck or Lane or 2 – 110 kN Axles @ 1.2 m

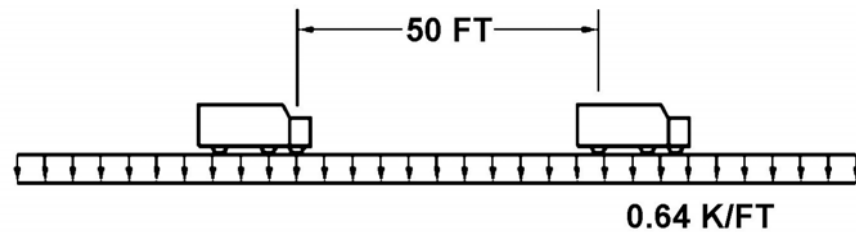


# Selected Notional Design Load

## HL-93

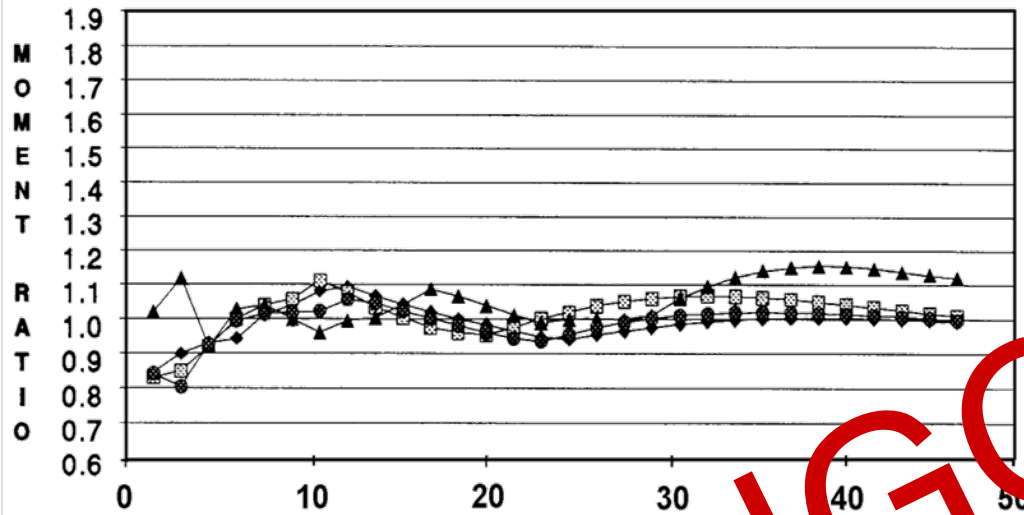


PROPOSED LOADS

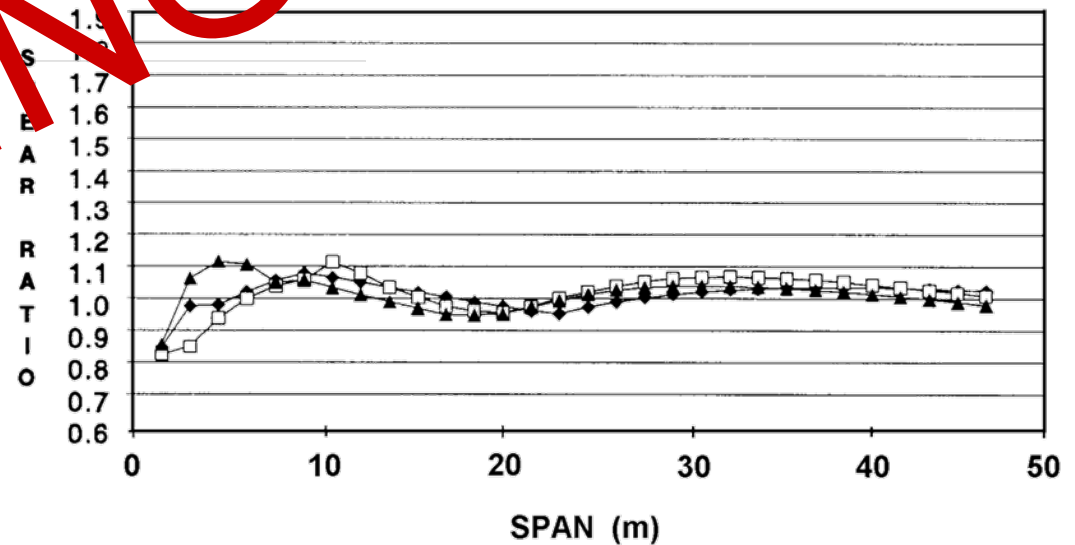


- NEGATIVE MOMENT AND INTERIOR REACTIONS
- $\geq 50$  FT
- FIXED WHEELBASE ON TRUCK = 14 FT
- 90%

# EXCL/HL 93 – Circa 1992



**BINGO!!**



# NCHRP 12-33 Project Schedule

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- First Draft - 1990 – general coverage
- Second Draft - 1991 – workable
- Third Draft - 1992 – pretty close
- Two sets of trial designs - 1991 and 1992
- Fourth Draft - 1993 – ADOPTED!!
- 12,000 comments
- Reviewed by hundreds
- Printed and available - 1994

# Implementation Starts Slowly

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- Lack of software.
- Early lack of training – but several thousand have taken NHI courses with more to come.
- Perceived difficulties
  - Load distribution
  - Shear in concrete
  - Foundations
  - Load cases seemed numerous but that may be because they are all stated
  - Continual changes – more later
- Similar story with EUROCode plus national issues.



# Implementation (Continued)

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- Down size, right size, capsized.
- To SI or not to SI? That's the question.
- But things are moving, especially compared to other major changes.
- Federal deadline: 2007.
- By 2007:
  - 5,000 LRFD bridges
  - More than half of states doing part or all LRFD

# First LRFD Major Bridge Opened 1997

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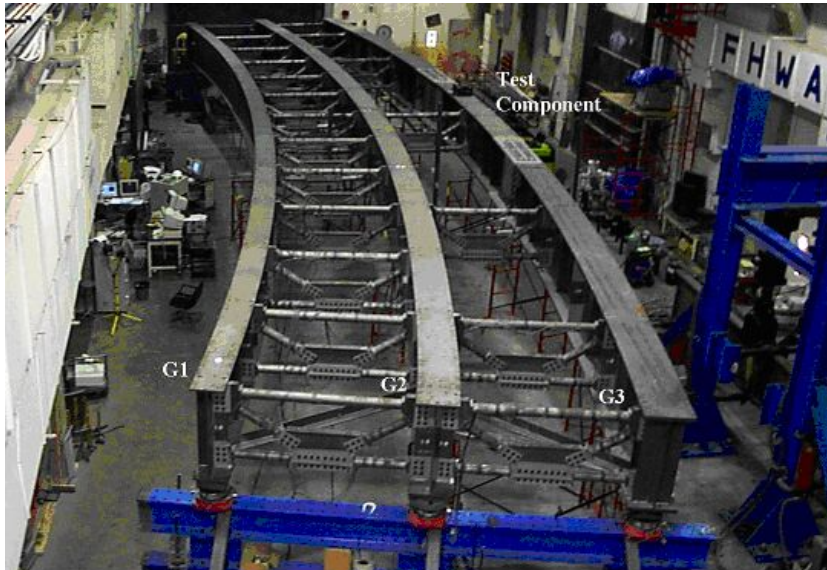
# Upgrades and Changes to 1990 Technology

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- 1996 foundation data reinserted.
- New wall provisions – ongoing upgrade.
- 2002 upgraded to ASBI LFRD Segmental Guide Specs.
- MCF Shear in concrete simplified and clarified several times – major update in 2002.
- Load distribution application limits expanded several time in 1990's due to requests to liberalize.
- More commentary added.

# Upgrades and Changes

- 2004 – major change in steel girder design in anticipation of.....
- 2005 – seamless integration of curved steel bridges ending three decade quest.



# Curved Girder Leaders

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- Dr. Bill Wright
- Dr. Don White
- Mr. Mike Grubb
- Dr. Dennis Mertz
- Mr. Ed Wasserman

# Upgrades and Changes (Continued)

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- 2005 – P/C loses updated
- 2006 – complete replacement of Section 10 – Foundation Design
- 2006 – more concrete shear options
- Some 2007 Ballot Items.....
  - Streamline MCF for concrete shear design
  - 1,000 year EQ maps and collateral changes
  - Seismic Guide Spec - displacement based
  - Pile construction update
  - Simplified load distribution

# HSCOBS Asserts Ownership

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- LRFD Oversight Committee – Circa 2002

“The mission ... is to promote LRFD as the national standard for bridge design and develop a strategic plan to successfully implement LRFD by 2007 for all new bridge designs.

...to develop a strategic plan to identify and prioritize educational and training needs.....





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Where Do We Go From Here?



# Future as Seen in 1993 – Continued Development

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- Quantifying Redundancy.
- Expanded database of loads, etc.
- Refinement of foundation provisions.
- Simplification of load distribution.
- Improvements in reliability procedures.
- Joint probability procedures
  - LL with EQ?
  - Ship and scour?
  - EQ and scour?
  - Ice and wind?
  - Etc.

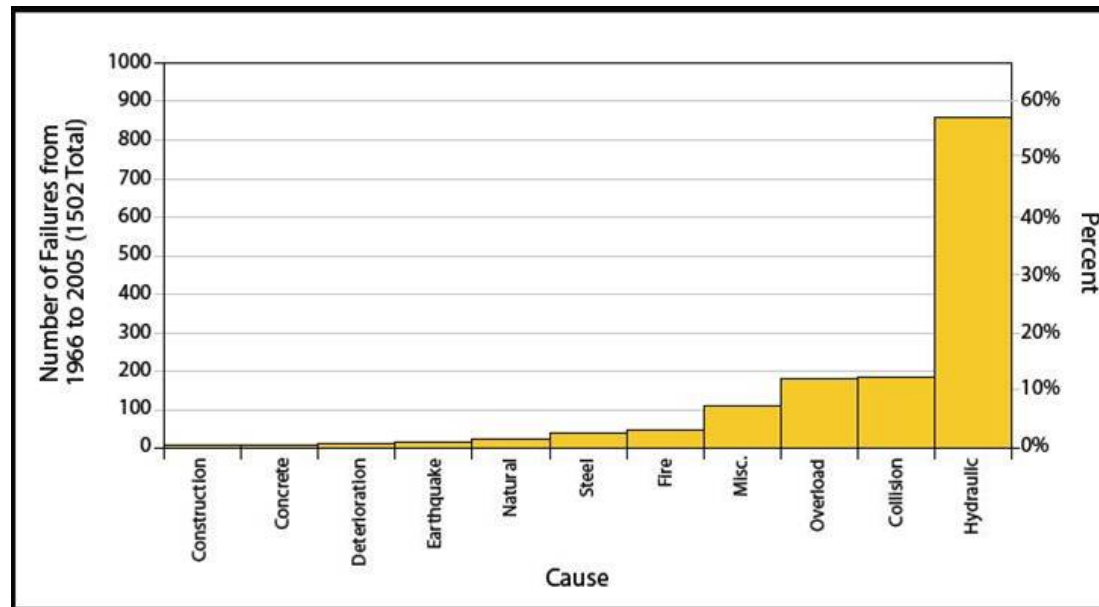
# Calibration of Service Limit State

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- Deformation, cracking, service stress limits.
- What quantitative criteria can be established?
- What is the structural penalty for violating a non-strength limit state?
- How often can the limit state be exceeded in the design life?
- What is an appropriate reliability index?
- What is the appropriate loading in terms of magnitude, configuration, and placement? How does this relate to multiple presence factors?
- Should permit loads and illegal loads be considered?
- **Will SHRP 2 do it??**

# Other Limit States??

- Does current design address the real culprits?
- Where are owners spending maintenance \$\$?
- Do we know the impact of changes?



- Will FHWA LTBP Tell Us??

# Rehabilitation

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- Applying new standards to existing bridges has always been a challenge.
- Are other limit states or load combinations or reliability targets appropriate for rehab?
- Do we need and “Application Manual” for rehab?

# Bridge Security

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- Per 2003 BRC recommendations, T-1 formed several years ago
- Much research on-going
- ASCE Committee on Bridge Security formed – James Ray, Chair
- First fledgling steps towards specifications accepted in 2007 – NCHRP 12-72

# Coastal Storms

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**TASK ORDER DTFH61-06-T-70006 (2006)**

**DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDE**

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**AND HANDBOOK OF RETROFIT OPTIONS**

**FOR BRIDGES VULNERABLE TO**

**COASTAL STORMS**

Modjeski and Masters, Inc.

Moffatt & Nichol, Inc.

Ocean Engineering Associates, Inc.

Dennis R. Mertz

D' Appolonia

# Quantification of Redundancy

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- 2005 – T-5 commits to work with results of:
  - NCHRP 406 – redundancy of super
  - NCHRP 458 – redundancy of sub
  - Goals:
    - Multiplier table for routine girder bridges.
    - Process for evaluating more complex bridges for a reliability index in damaged state.



# Joint Probability of Occurrence

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- 2005 – T-5 also commits to continued review of:
  - FHWA Synthesis Report on Extreme Loading Combinations by Nowak, Knott and Dumas, August, 1996
  - NCHRP 489 – extreme events, 1999
- 2005 T-5 presentation by Sue Hida on CALTrans in-house study of joint probability of scour and EQ-----non-issue.
- Focus shifting to “all hazard “ approach.

# Fatigue and Fracture

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- Should new load histograms be obtained?
  - Traffic changes after 1970's oil embargo
  - Increases in legal loads
  - CB's etc.
  - Load bandwidth increase
- Having said that – still seeing little load induced damage
- Have we given up on F and F Spec changes for HPS?

# Perfection is Still an Illusive Goal

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**But Improvement Is Possible and Demanded By Society**

# Summary

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- The object was to switch to a more robust, more expandable, more adaptable platform-----like Windows vs. DOS.
- As with the switch to Windows, there were some transitional learning curves and headaches----but many developers can see benefits, users can see the logic.
- It is unrealistic to expect the LRFD Specs to become static-----researches will always have new ideas, nature will continue to teach us lessons.
- But LRFD was intended to adapt and grow!

# Net Effect So Far

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# “08 Interim Accessory???”

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# Thank You

And A Special “Thank You” To  
All Who Helped Over The Last  
Two Decades!!

# But Some Must Be Mentioned

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- NCHRP – Ian Friedland, Scott Sabol, Dave Beal
- SCOBS – Bob Cassano, Clellon Loveall, Jim Siebels, Dave Pope, Mal Kerley
- Panel – Jim Roberts, Chairman
- AASHTO – Kelley Rehm, Ken Kobetsky
- Modjeski and Masters – Dennis Mertz, Wagdy Wassef, Diane Long