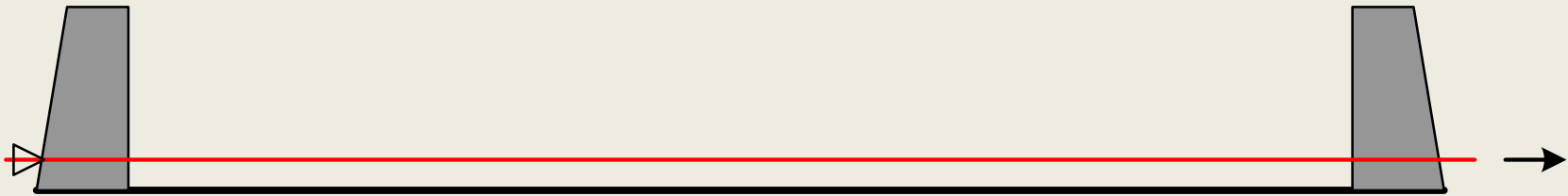


# AASHTO Provisions for Loss of Prestress: Explained

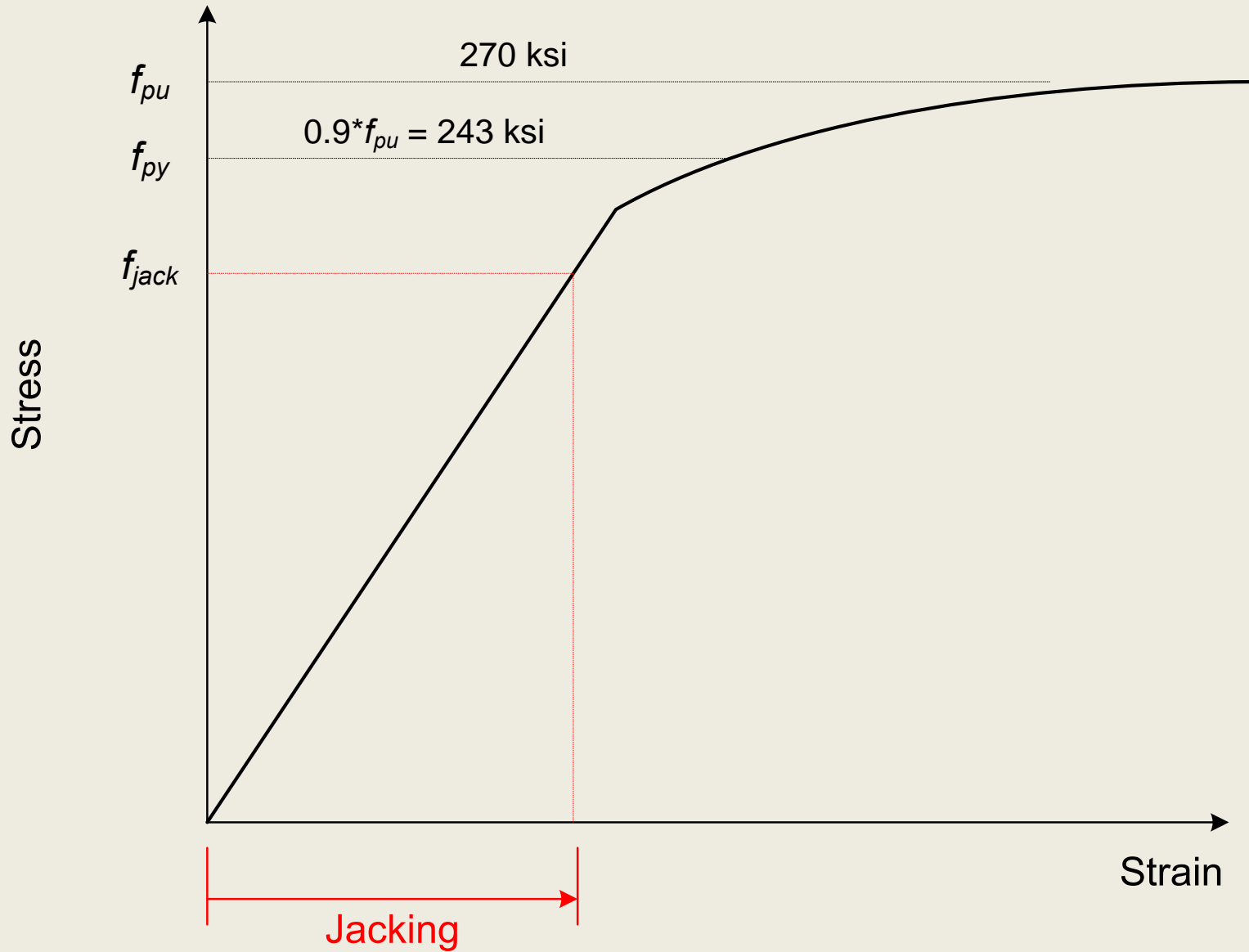
(AASHTO 5.9.5)

Brian Swartz, PhD, P.E.  
Messiah College

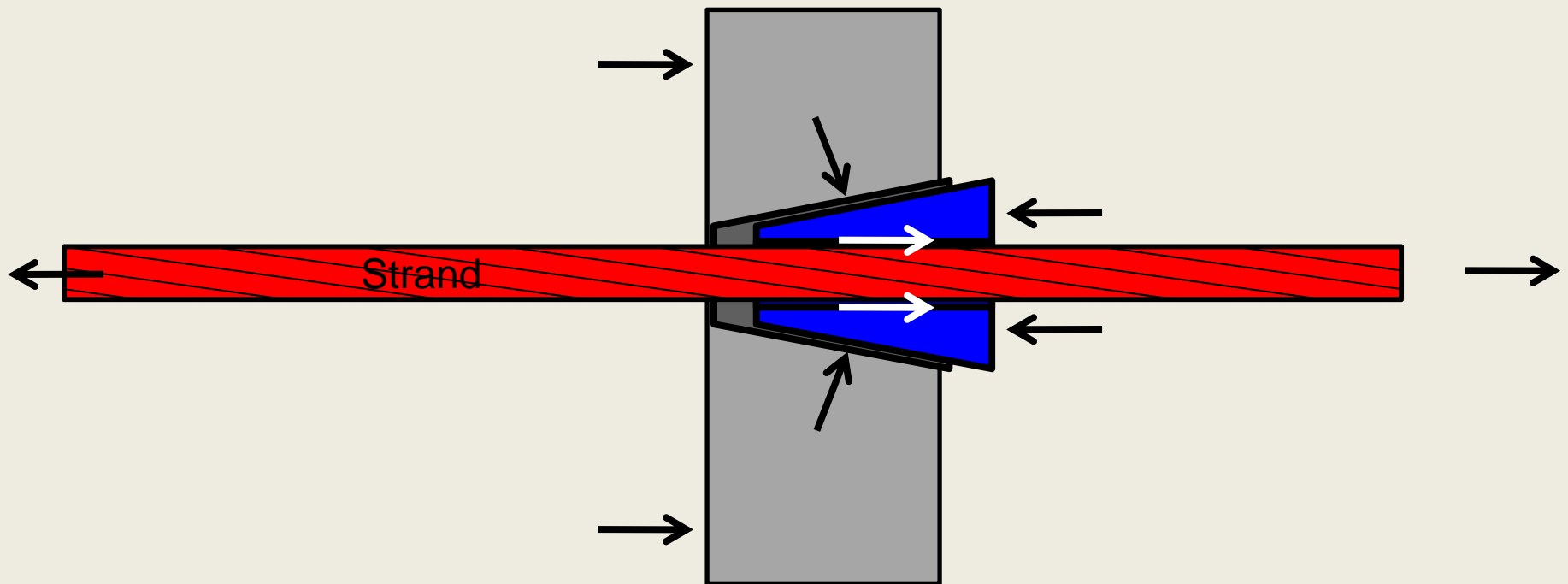
# Construction Timeline: Tension Strands



# P/S Steel Properties: Stress vs. Strain (Grade 270)

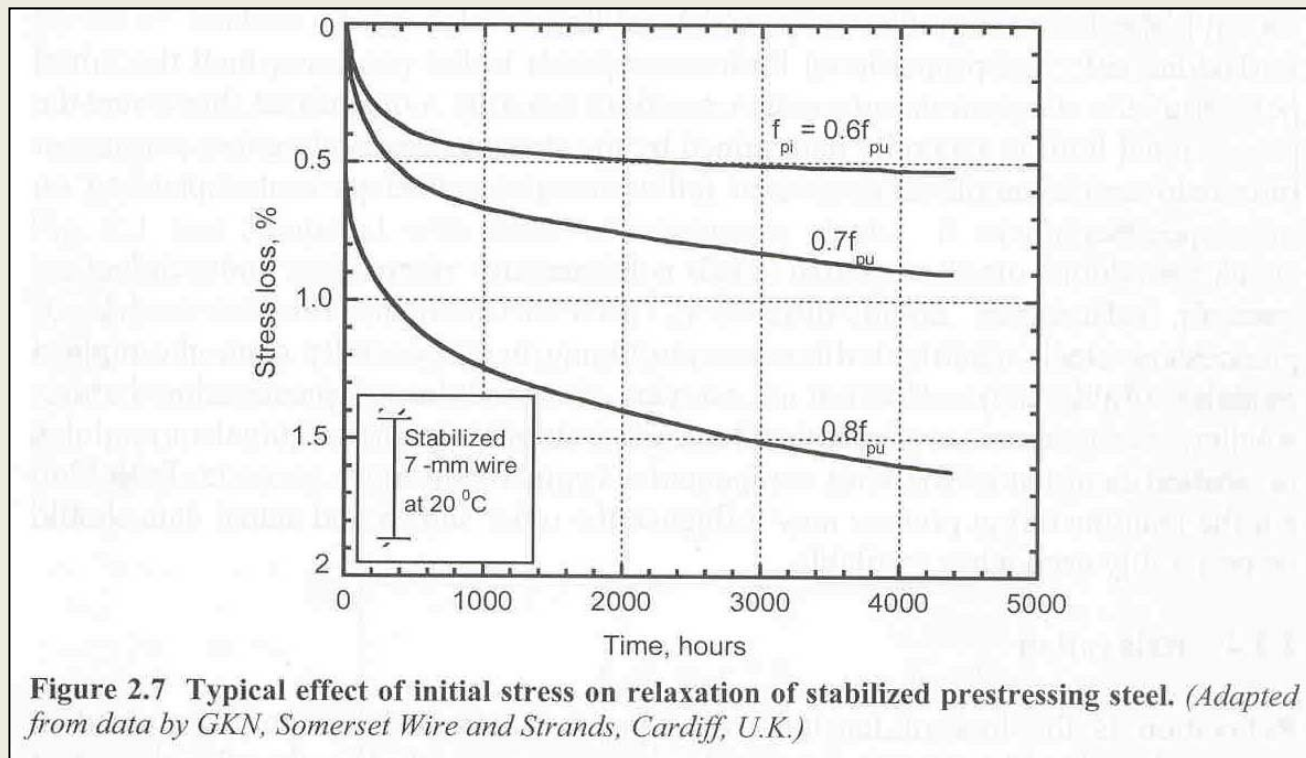


# Construction Timeline: Anchorage Seating



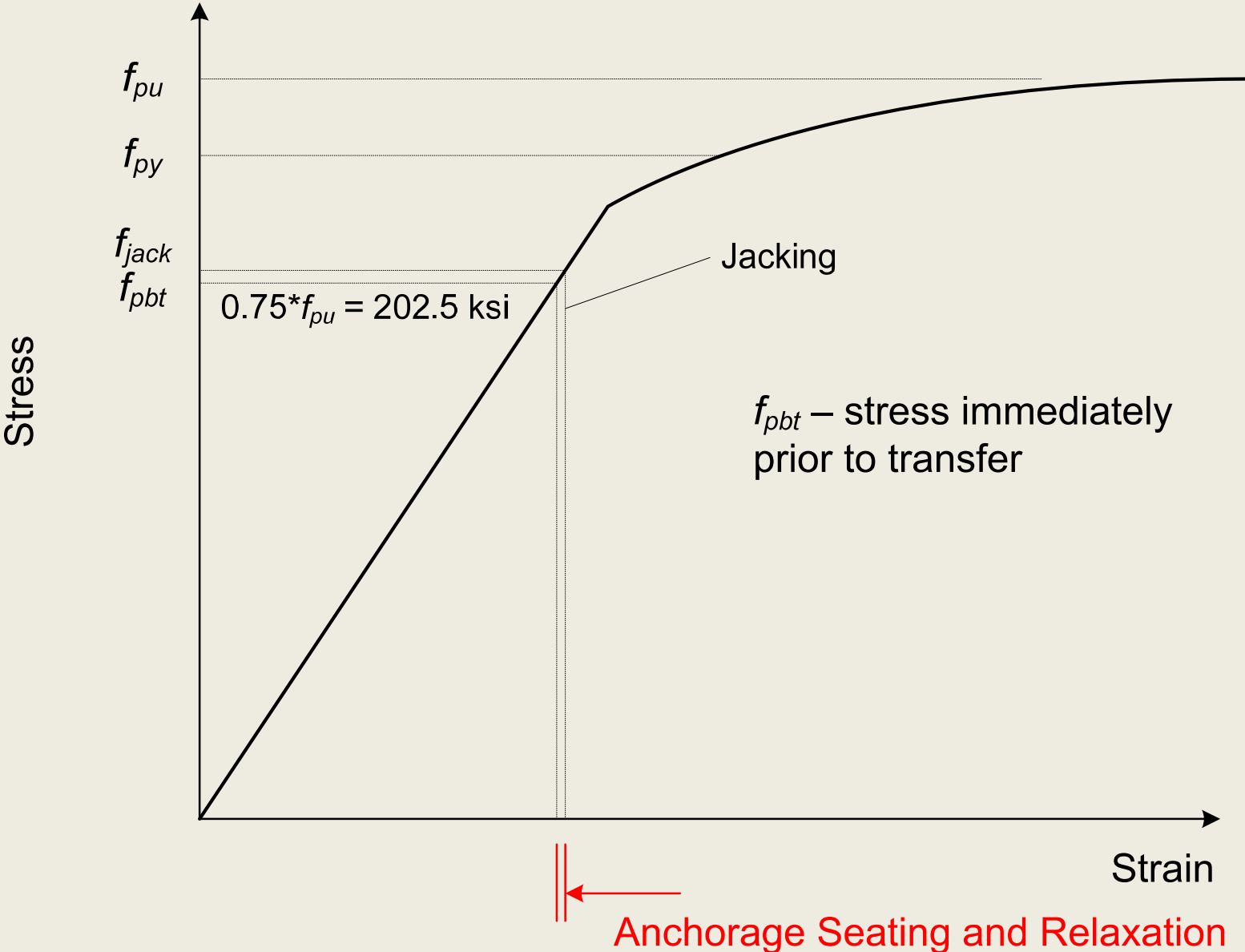
# P/S Steel Properties: Relaxation

- Loss of stress in a stressed material held at constant length
- Recall: Creep = Change in length of a material under constant stress
- Most significant factors:  $f_{pi}/f_{py}$  and time



Source: Naaman (2004)

# Prestress Loss: Anchor Seating and Relaxation



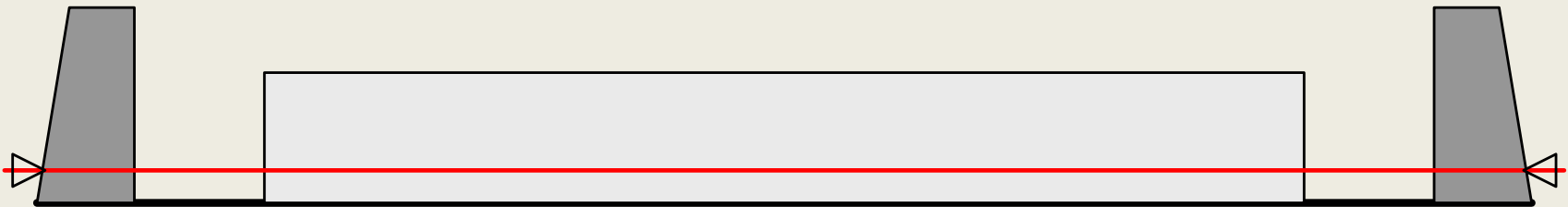
# P/S Steel: Stress Limits

Table 5.9.3-1 Stress Limits for Prestressing Tendons.

Condition	Tendon Type		
	Stress-Relieved Strand and Plain High-Strength Bars	Low Relaxation Strand	Deformed High-Strength Bars
Pretensioning			
Immediately prior to transfer ( $f_{pbt}$ )	$0.70 f_{pu}$	$0.75 f_{pu}$	—
At service limit state after all losses ( $f_{pe}$ )	$0.80 f_{py}$	$0.80 f_{py}$	$0.80 f_{py}$
Post-Tensioning			
Prior to seating—short-term $f_{pbt}$ may be allowed	$0.90 f_{py}$	$0.90 f_{py}$	$0.90 f_{py}$
At anchorages and couplers immediately after anchor set	$0.70 f_{pu}$	$0.70 f_{pu}$	$0.70 f_{pu}$
Elsewhere along length of member away from anchorages and couplers immediately after anchor set	$0.70 f_{pu}$	$0.74 f_{pu}$	$0.70 f_{pu}$
At service limit state after losses ( $f_{pe}$ )	$0.80 f_{py}$	$0.80 f_{py}$	$0.80 f_{py}$

Source: AASHTO (2009)

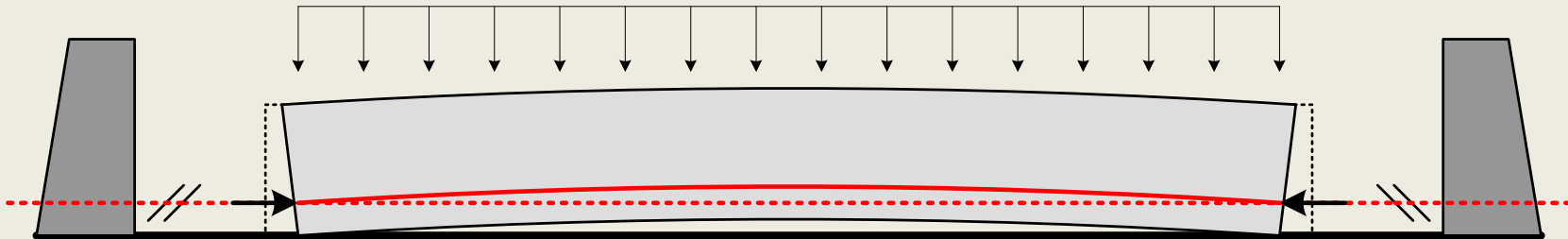
# Construction Timeline: Cast Concrete



- Steel: Tension                      Concrete: Zero Stress
- Steel–Concrete Bond = Strain Compatibility

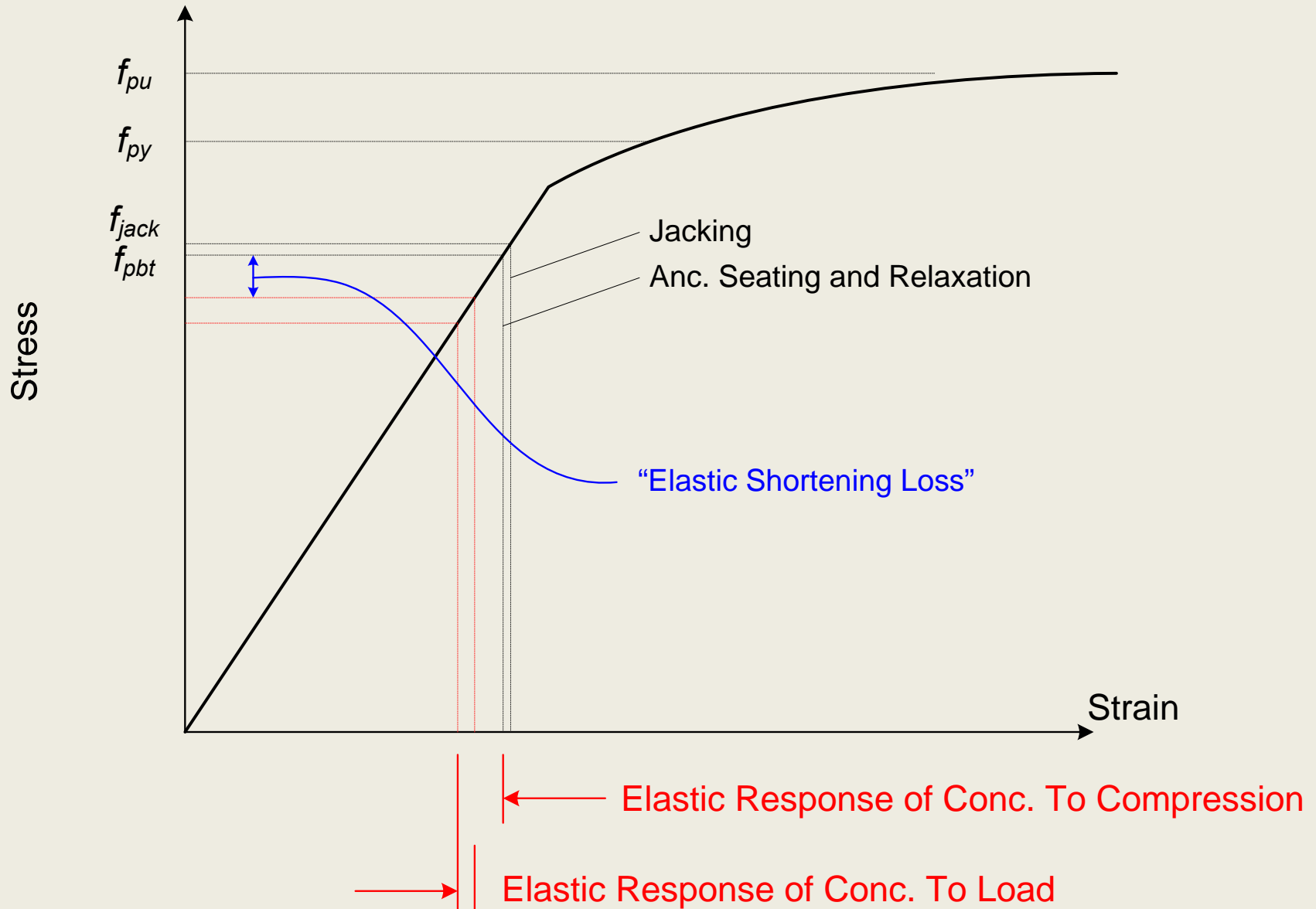


# Construction Timeline: Transfer



- Steel shortens (towards zero-stress point)
- Strain compatibility (bonded to concrete)
- Concrete shortens
  - Shorter than zero-stress length = compression
- Eccentric prestressing produces camber
- If beam cambers, it must carry its selfweight

# Prestress Loss: Elastic Shortening



# Prestress Loss: Elastic Shortening

- AASHTO 5.9.5.2.3a-1 (requires iteration)

$$\Delta f_{pES} = \frac{E_p}{E_{ct}} f_{cgp} = E_p \left( \frac{f_{cgp}}{E_{ct}} \right) = E_p \varepsilon_{concrete} = E_p \varepsilon_{steel}$$

- AASHTO C5.9.5.2.3a-1 (no iteration)

$$\Delta f_{pES} = \frac{A_{ps} f_{pbt} (I_g + e_m^2 A_g) - e_m M_g A_g}{A_{ps} (I_g + e_m^2 A_g) + \frac{A_g I_g E_{ci}}{E_p}}$$

# Concrete: Stress Limits (Transfer)

## 5.9.4 Stress Limits for Concrete

### 5.9.4.1 For Temporary Stresses Before Losses— Fully Prestressed Components

#### 5.9.4.1.1 *Compression Stresses*

The compressive stress limit for pretensioned and post-tensioned concrete components, including segmentally constructed bridges, shall be  $0.60 f'_{ci}$  (ksi).

#### 5.9.4.1.2 *Tension Stresses*

The limits in Table 1 shall apply for tensile stresses.

Source: AASHTO (2009)

# Concrete: Stress Limits (Transfer)

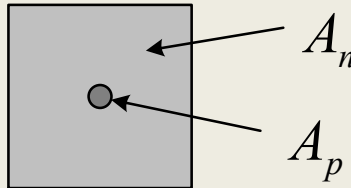
Table 5.9.4.1.2-1 Temporary Tensile Stress Limits in Prestressed Concrete Before Losses, Fully Prestressed Components.

Bridge Type	Location	Stress Limit
Other Than Segmentally Constructed Bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In precompressed tensile zone without bonded reinforcement</li> </ul>	N/A
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In areas other than the precompressed tensile zone and without bonded reinforcement</li> </ul>	$0.0948\sqrt{f'_{ci}} \leq 0.2$ (ksi)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In areas with bonded reinforcement (reinforcing bars or prestressing steel) sufficient to resist the tensile force in the concrete computed assuming an uncracked section, where reinforcement is proportioned using a stress of <math>0.5 f_y</math>, not to exceed 30 ksi.</li> </ul>	$0.24\sqrt{f'_{ci}}$ (ksi)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For handling stresses in prestressed piles</li> </ul>	$0.158\sqrt{f'_{ci}}$ (ksi)
Segmentally Constructed Bridges	Longitudinal Stresses Through Joints in the Precompressed Tensile Zone	

Source: AASHTO (2009)

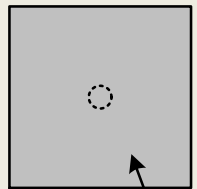
# Calculating Concrete Stresses: Transfer

- Net Section Properties
  - Calculate elastic shortening losses explicitly



$$f_c = A_{ps} \left( f_{pbt} - \Delta f_{pES} \right) \left[ -\frac{1}{A_n} \pm \frac{e_n y_n}{I_n} \right] \pm \frac{M y_n}{I_n}$$

- Gross Section Properties
  - An approximation of net section properties
  - Not exact, but (usually) most convenient

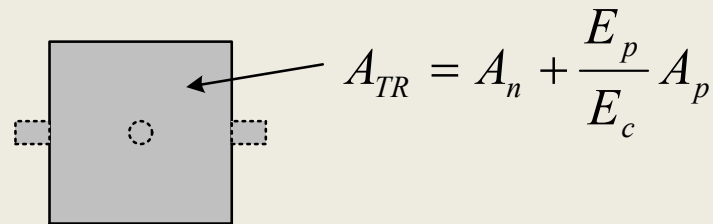


$$f_c = A_{ps} \left( f_{pbt} - \Delta f_{pES} \right) \left[ -\frac{1}{A_g} \pm \frac{e_g y_g}{I_g} \right] \pm \frac{M y_g}{I_g}$$

$A_g = A_n + A_p$

# Calculating Concrete Stresses: Transfer

- Transformed Section Properties
  - Exactly equivalent to use of net section properties
  - Elastic shortening is considered implicitly in the method



$$f_c = A_{ps} f_{pbt} \left[ -\frac{1}{A_{TR}} \pm \frac{e_{TR} y_{TR}}{I_{TR}} \right] \pm \frac{M y_{TR}}{I_{TR}}$$

# Calculating Concrete Stresses: Transfer

- Example: Bottom Fiber Stress using Gross Section Properties
  - change in bottom fiber stress due to transfer...

$$\Delta f_{cb1} = A_{ps} \left( f_{pbt} - \Delta f_{pES} \right) \left[ -\frac{1}{A_g} - \frac{e_m y_b}{I_g} \right] + \frac{M y_b}{I_g}$$



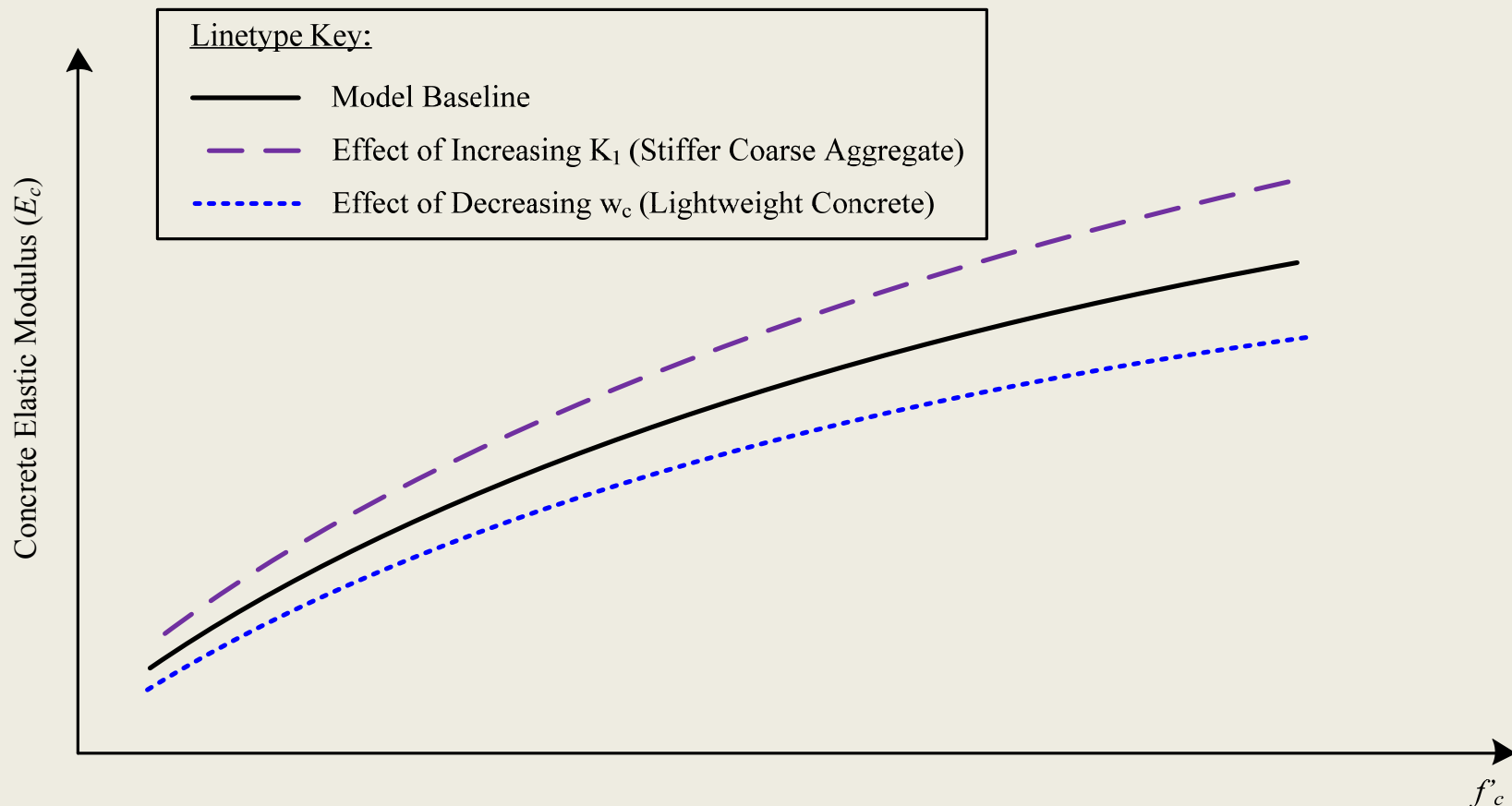
# Construction Timeline: Transfer → Final Time

- Current AASHTO Method uses two stages:
  1. Transfer → Deck Placement
  2. Deck Placement → Final Time
- Consider:
  - Volumetric changes in concrete: shrinkage & creep
  - Application of loads
  - Implications of composite behavior

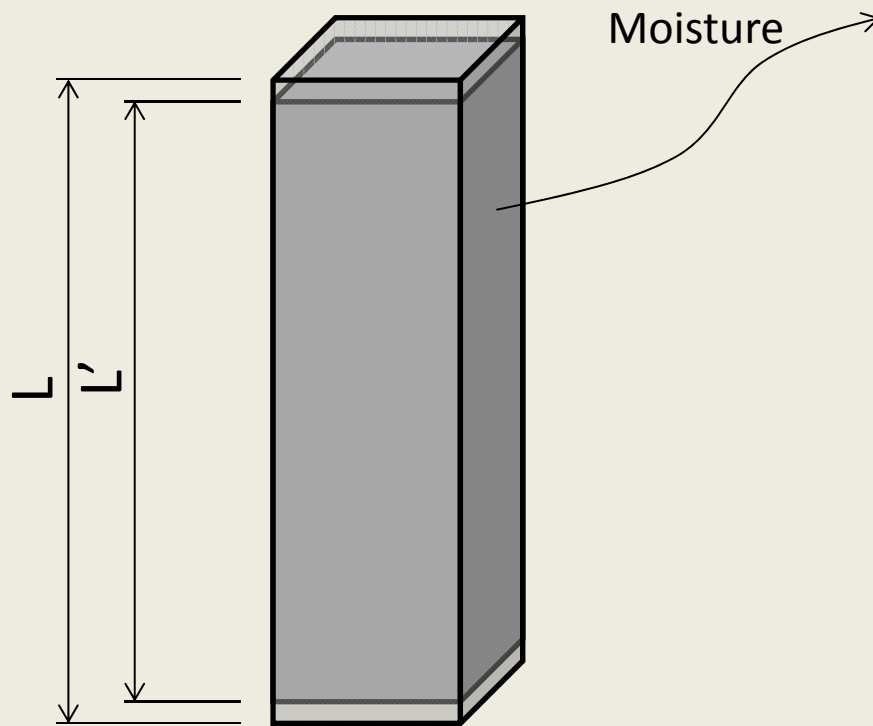
# Concrete Properties: Elastic Modulus

- AASHTO 5.4.2.4 ( $K_1$  added in 2005 – NCHRP Report 496)

$$E_c = 33,000 K_1 w_c^{1.5} \sqrt{f'_c}$$



# Concrete Properties: Shrinkage

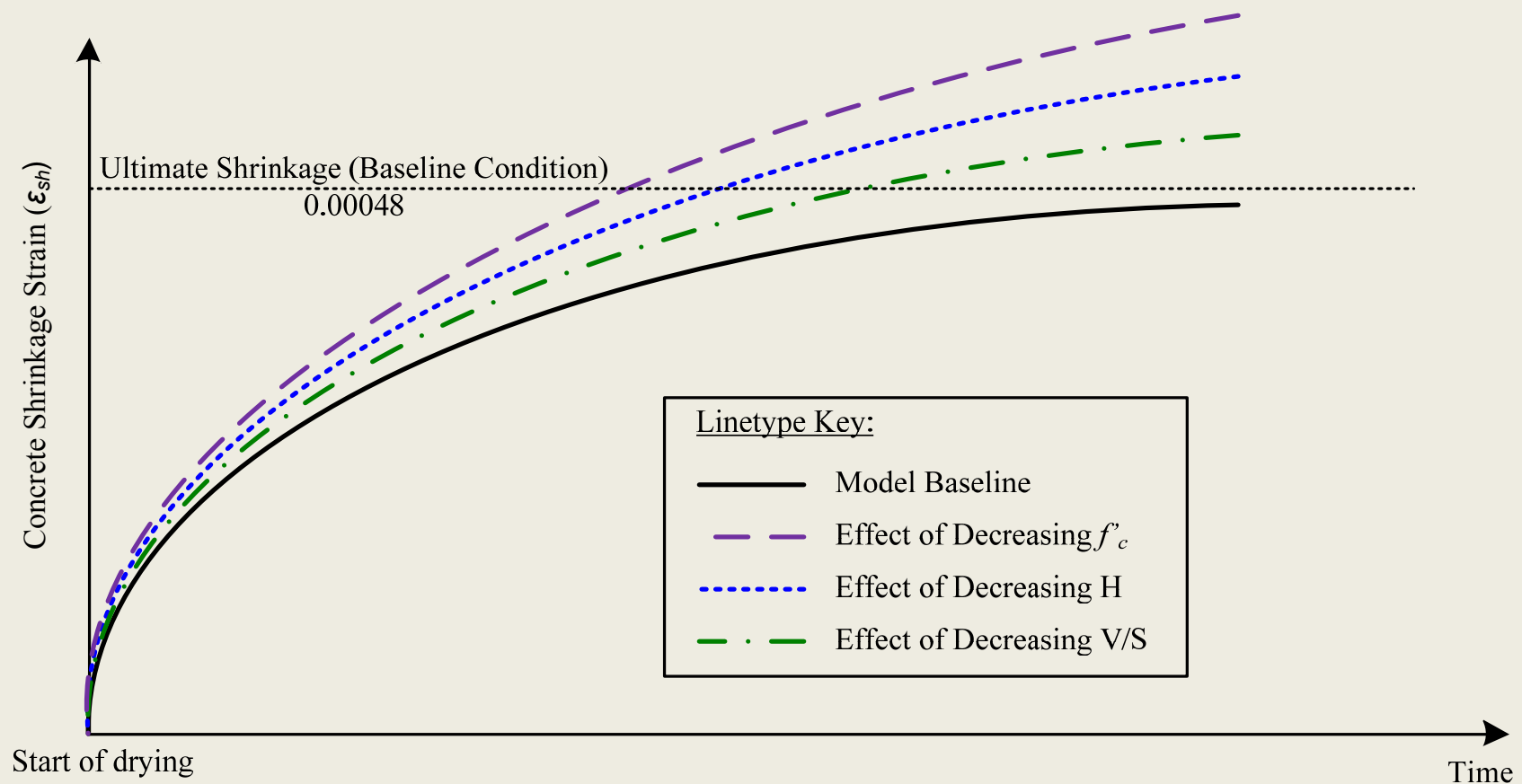


$$\epsilon_{sh} = \frac{\Delta L}{L} = \frac{L - L'}{L}$$

# Concrete Properties: Shrinkage

- AASHTO 5.4.2.3.3 (new in 2005 for high-strength concrete – NCHRP Report 496)

$$\epsilon_{sh} = k_s k_{hs} k_f k_{td} 0.48 \times 10^{-3}$$



# NCHRP 496 Shrinkage Data

Shrinkage Strain  
(microstrains)

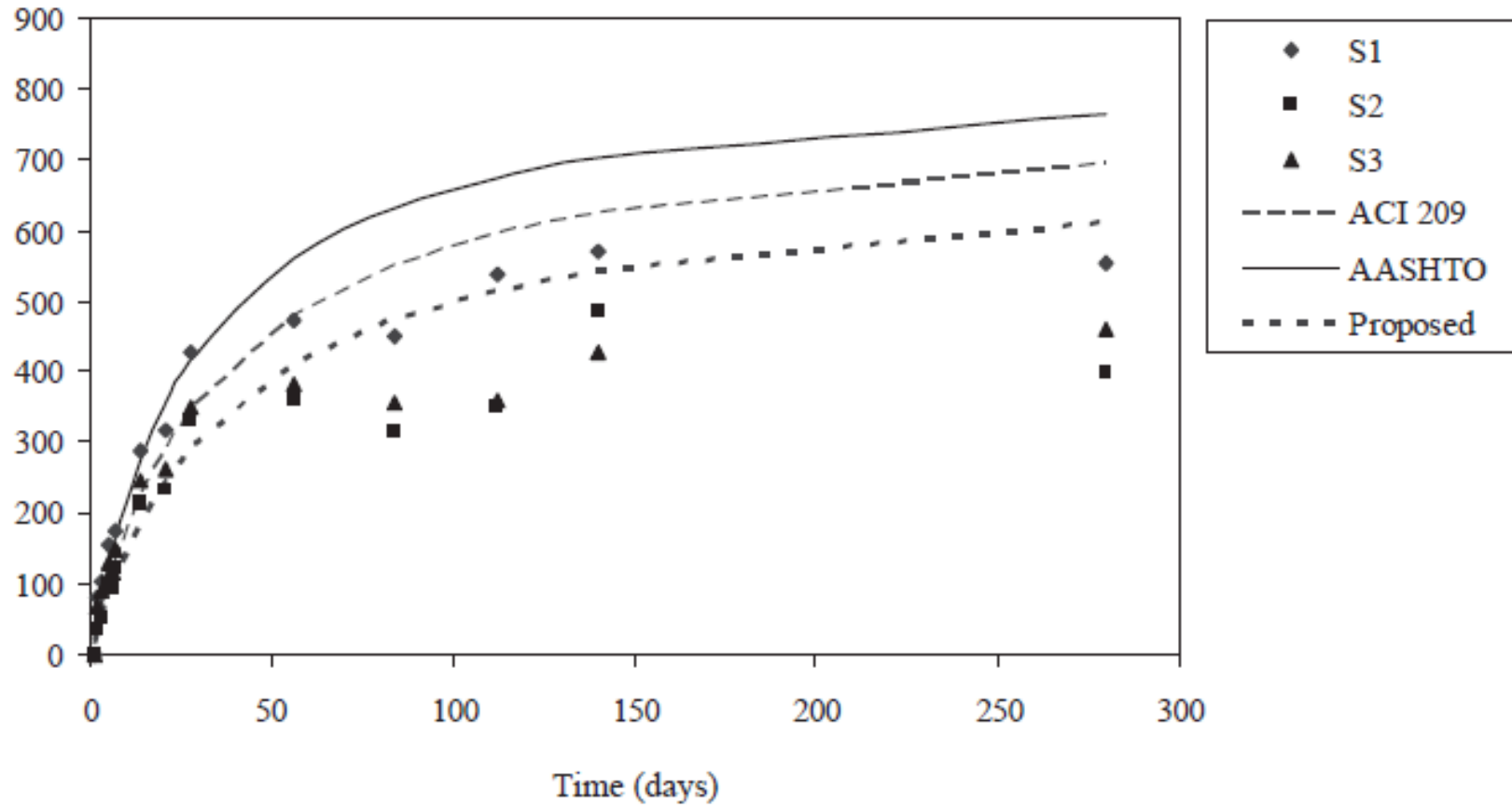
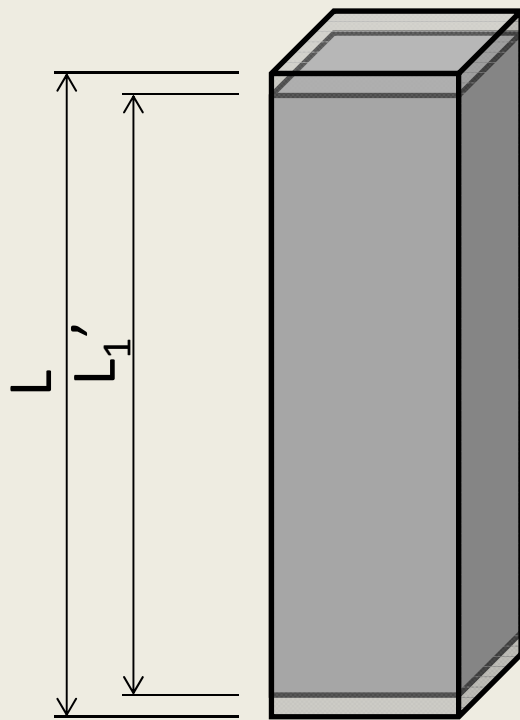


Figure 9. Shrinkage for Nebraska mix NE09G-S.

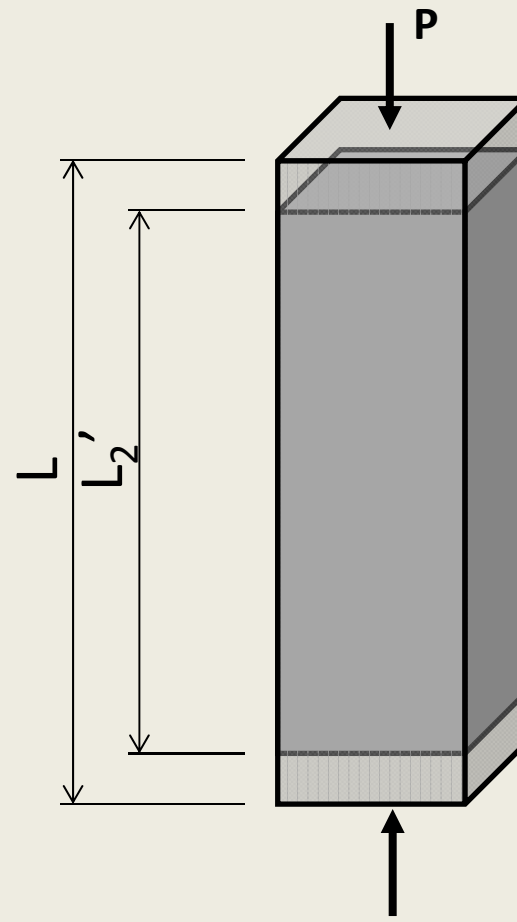
# Concrete Properties: Creep

Shrinkage Specimen



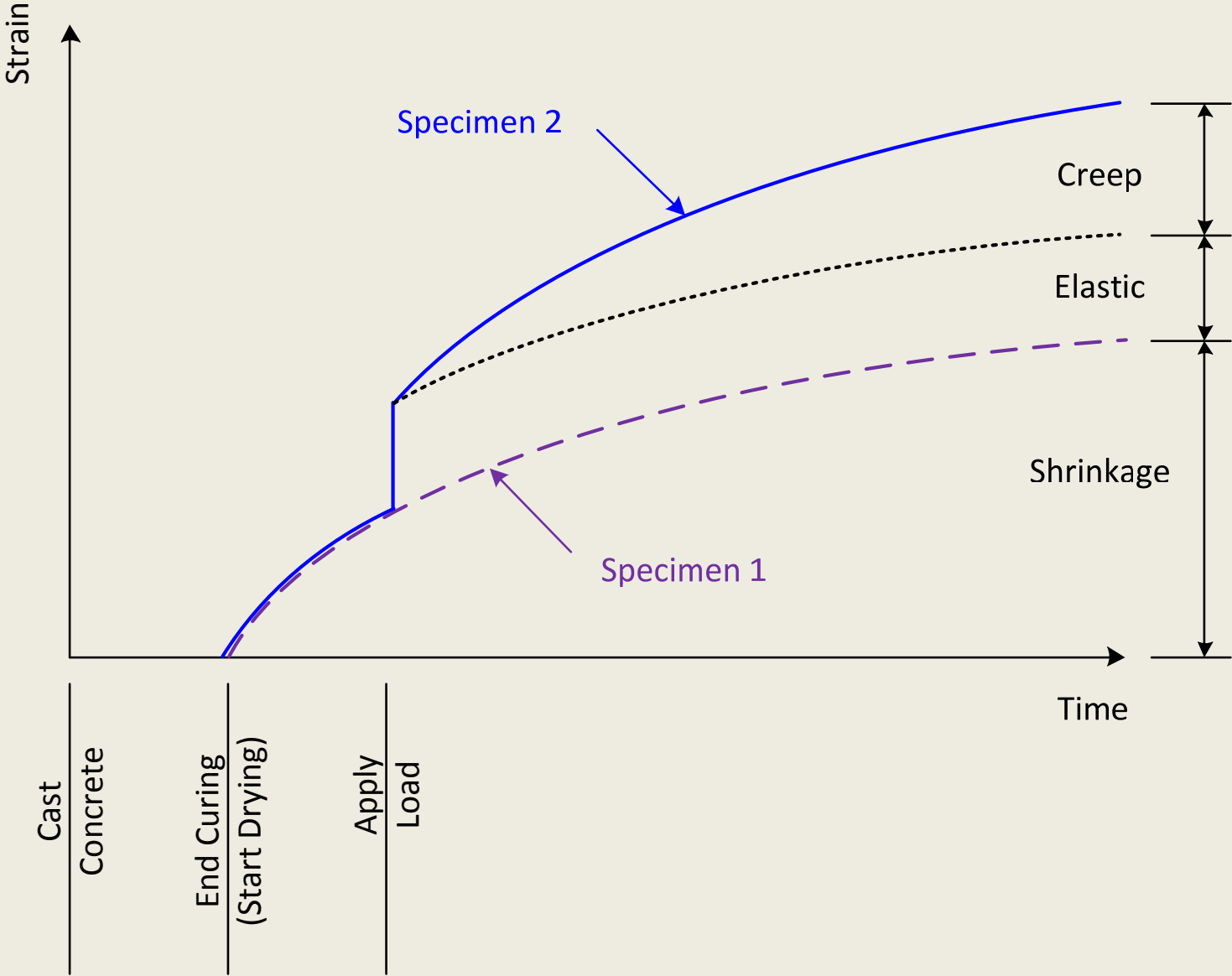
$$\epsilon_1$$

Creep Specimen

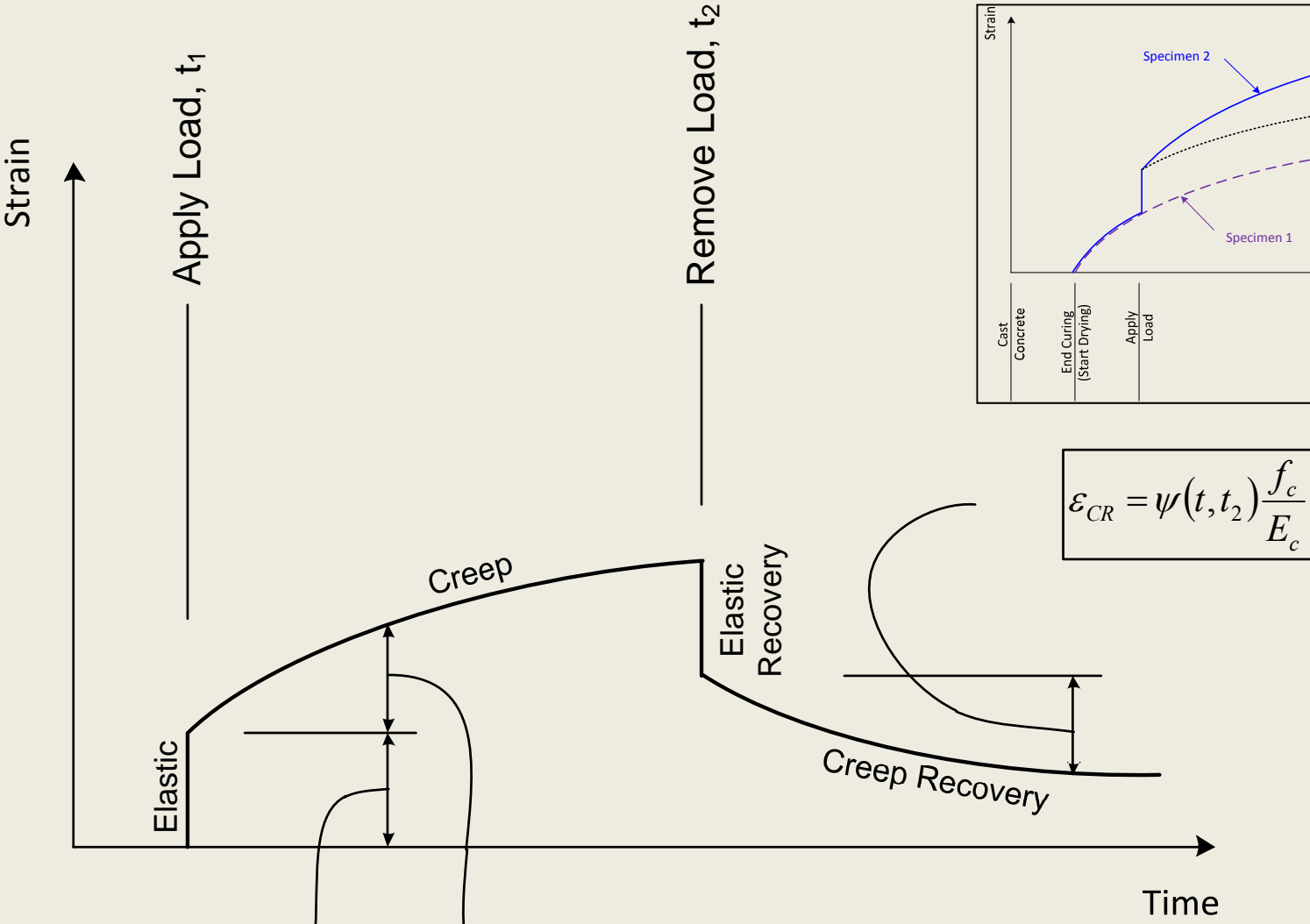


$$\epsilon_2$$

# Concrete Properties: Creep



# Concrete Properties: Creep



$$\epsilon_{EL} = \frac{f_c}{E_c}$$

$$\epsilon_{CR} = \psi(t, t_1) \frac{f_c}{E_c}$$

$$\epsilon_{CR} = \psi(t, t_2) \frac{f_c}{E_c}$$

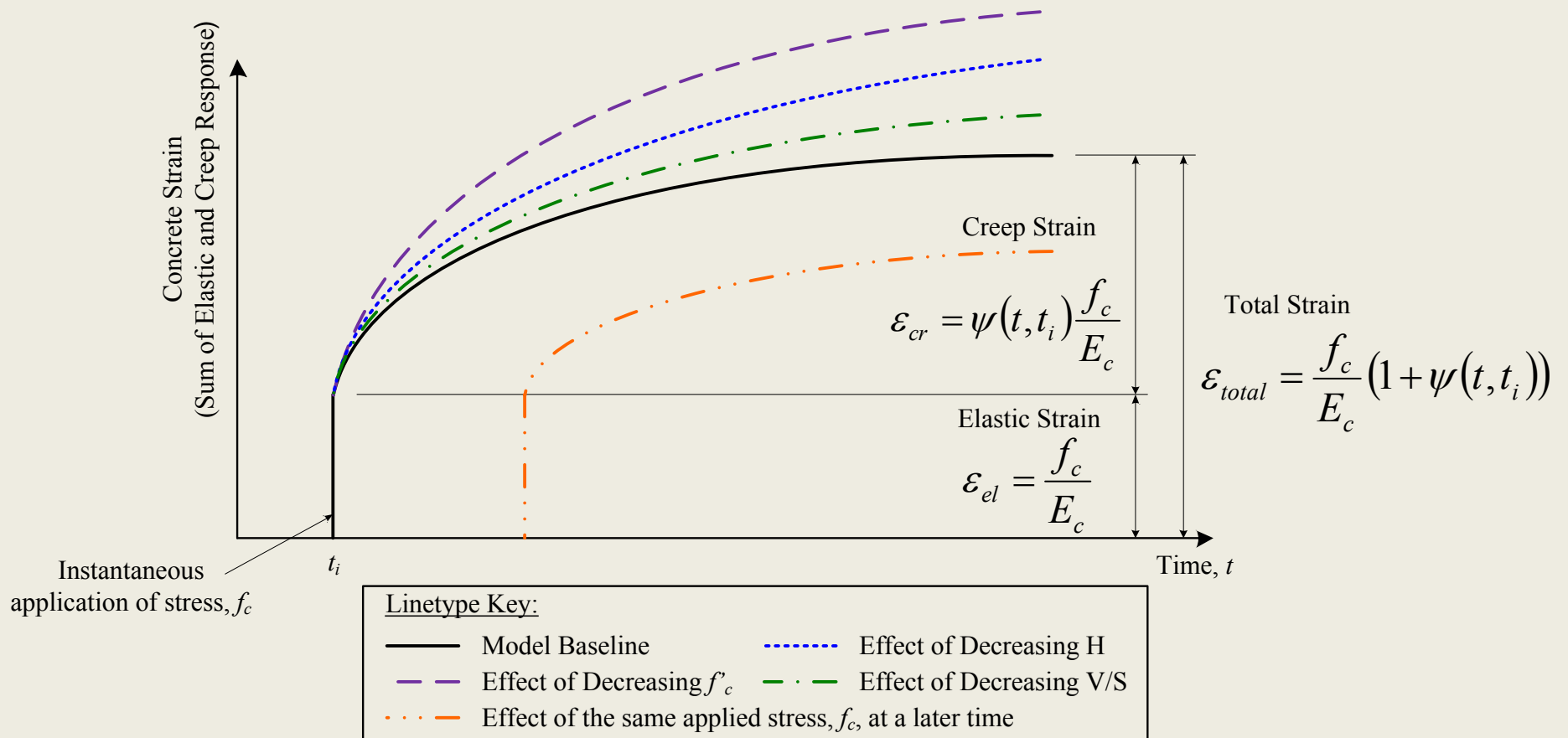
Creep Coefficient



# Concrete Properties: Creep

- AASHTO 5.4.2.3.2

$$\psi(t, t_i) = 1.9k_s k_{hc} k_f k_{td} t_i^{-0.118}$$



# NCHRP 496 Creep Data

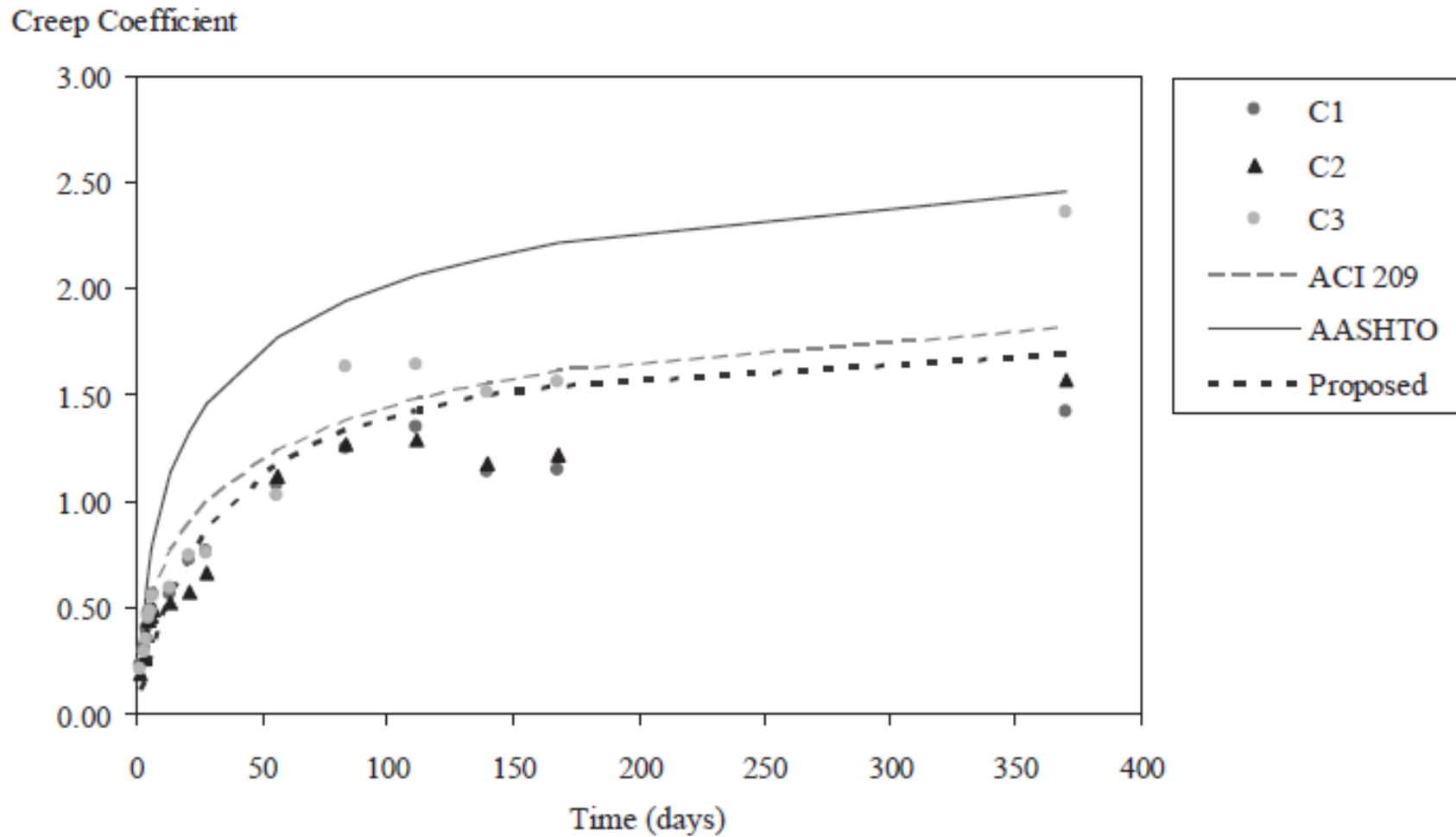
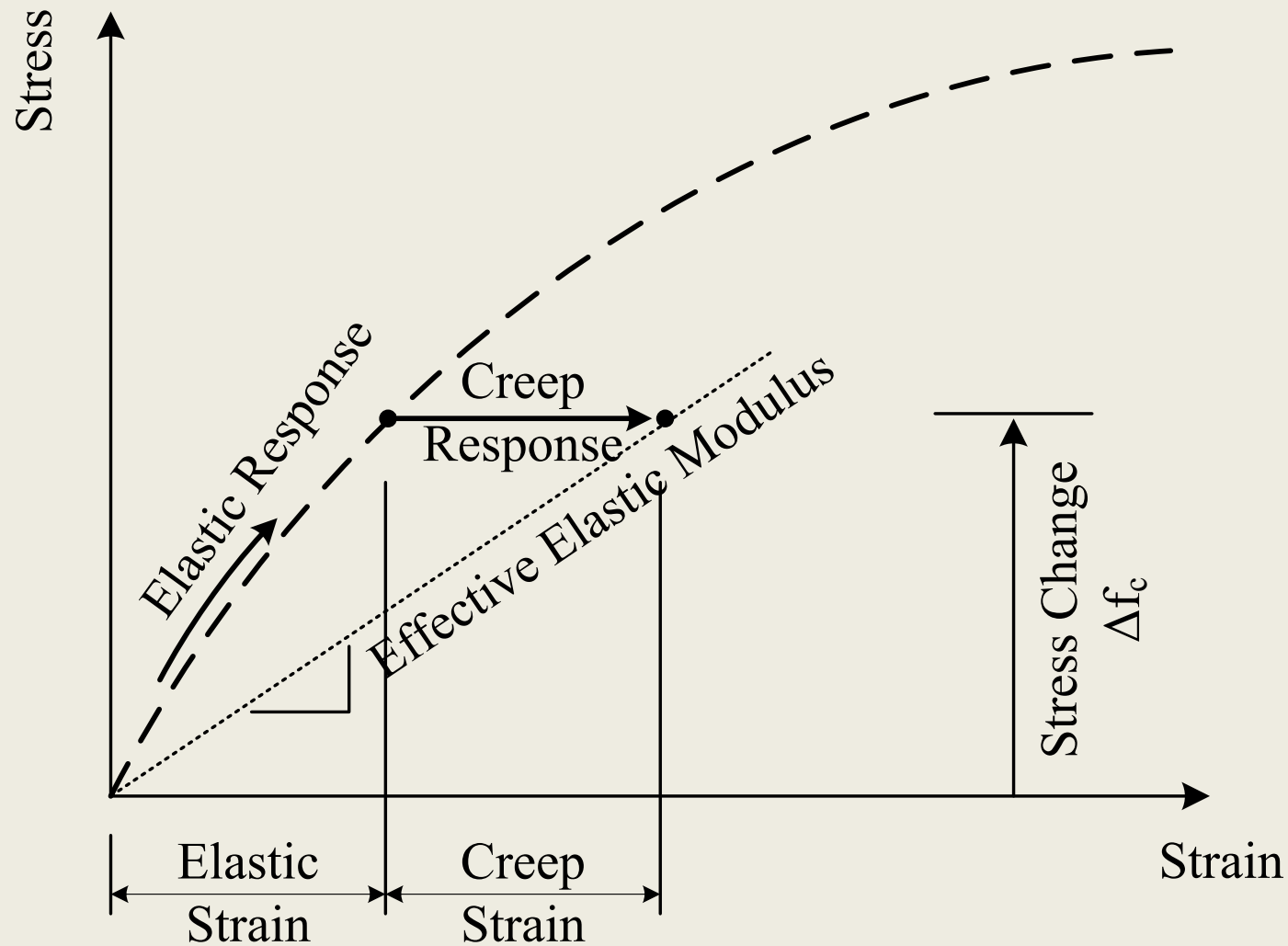


Figure 16. Creep for Washington mix WA10G-01 loaded at 1 day.

# Concrete Properties: Creep



# Prestress Loss: Girder Shrinkage (Before Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.2a

$$\boxed{\Delta f_{pSR} = \varepsilon_{bid} E_p K_{id}} = E_p \left( \underbrace{\varepsilon_{bid} K_{id}}_{\text{"Net" strain for (concrete + steel)}} \right)$$

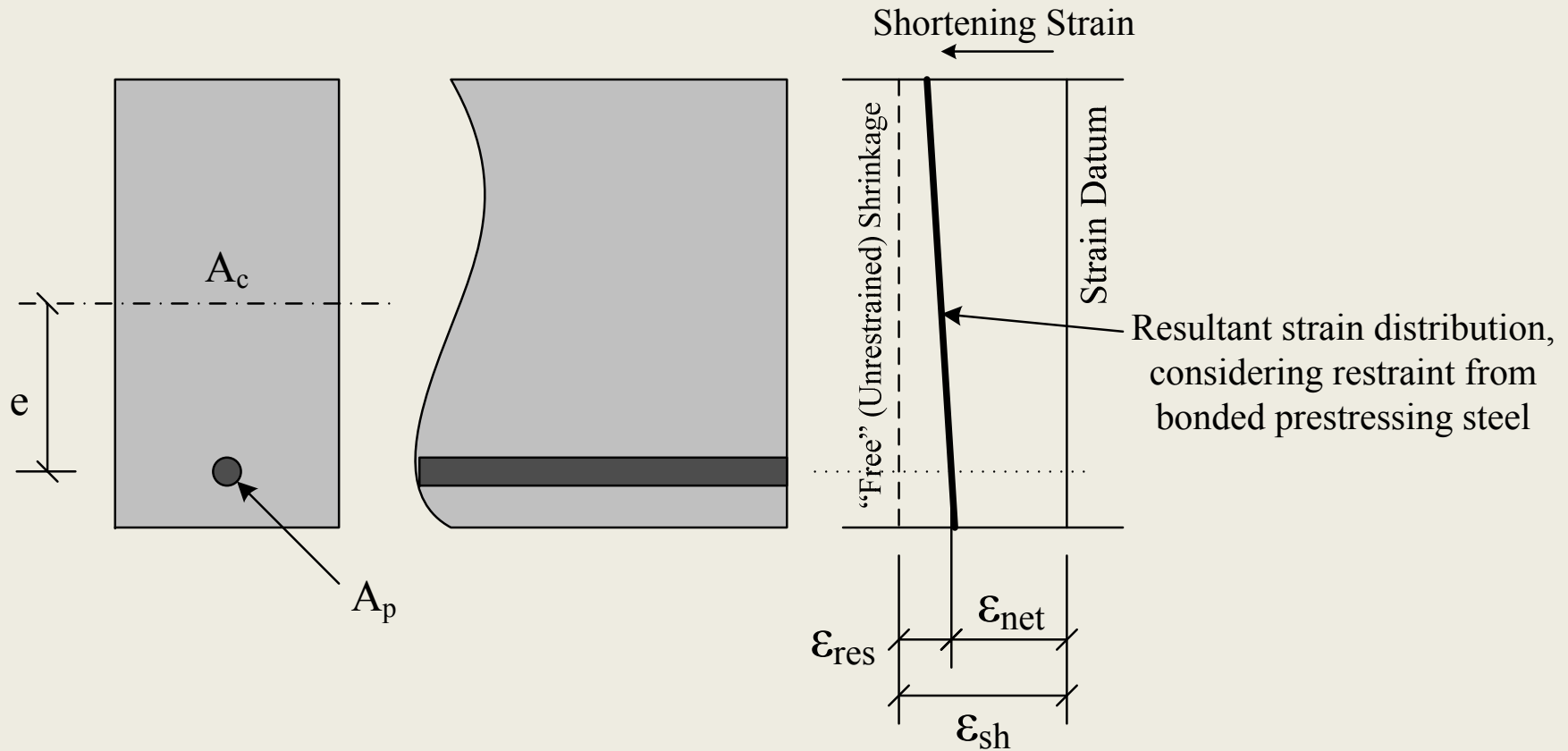
Concrete Shrinkage Strain

"Net" strain for (concrete + steel)

$\varepsilon_{bid}$

- b**: "beam" (girder)
- i**: "initial" (end of curing)
- d**: "deck" (time after end of curing that deck is placed)

# Transformed Section Coefficient



Girder Section

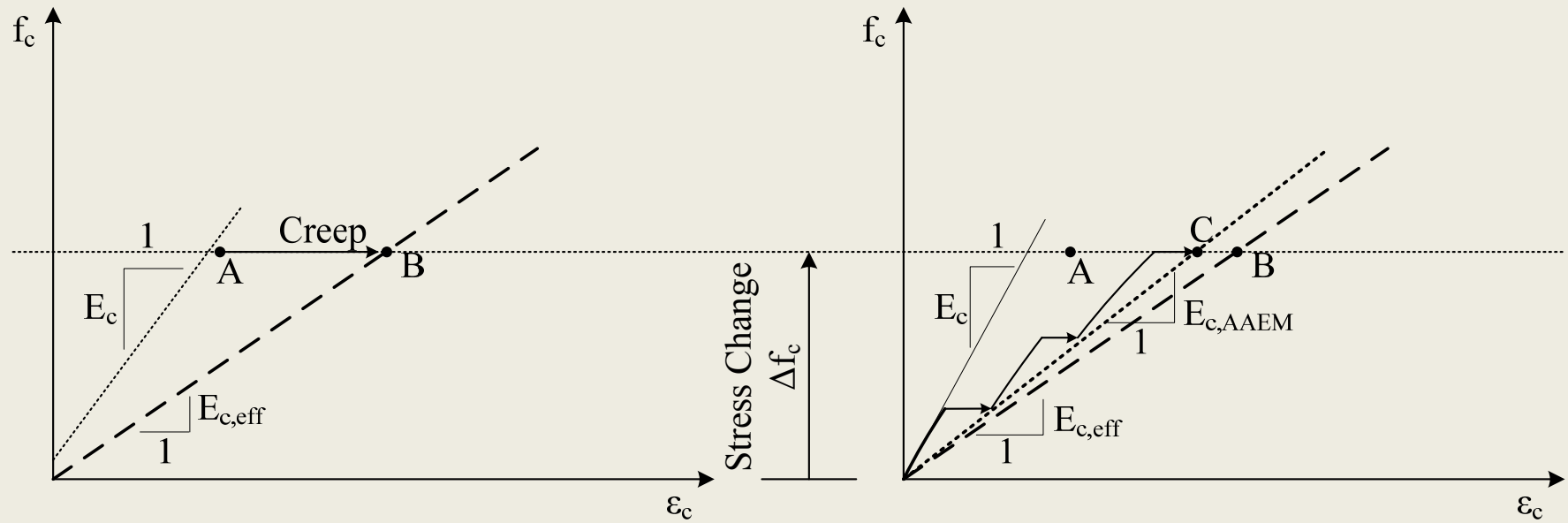
Girder Elevation

Strain Distribution

$$K_{id} = \frac{1}{1 + \frac{E_p}{E_{ci}} \frac{A_{ps}}{A_g} \left( 1 + \frac{A_g e_{pg}^2}{I_g} \right) \left[ 1 + 0.7 \psi_b(t_f, t_i) \right]} = \frac{\epsilon_{net}}{\epsilon_{sh}}$$

Age-Adjusted Effective Modulus

# Age-Adjusted Effective Modulus



(A)

(B)

$$E_{c,eff} = \frac{E_c}{1 + \psi(t, t_i)}$$

$$E_{c,AAEM} = \frac{E_c}{1 + \chi\psi(t, t_i)}$$

$$\chi \approx 0.7$$

# Prestress Loss: Girder Creep (Before Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.2b

$$\Delta f_{pCR} = \frac{E_p}{E_{ci}} f_{cgp} \psi_b(t_d, t_i) K_{id} = E_p \left\{ \left[ \left( \frac{f_{cgp}}{E_{ci}} \right) \psi_b(t_d, t_i) \right] K_{id} \right\}$$

Elastic Strain

Creep Strain

“Net” creep strain for (concrete + steel)

$$\psi_b(t_d, t_i)$$

**b**: “beam” (girder)

**i**: “initial” (transfer)

**d**: “deck” (time after transfer that deck is placed)

**t<sub>d</sub>**: time of interest for creep strain


**t<sub>i</sub>**: age of concrete when stress change occurred

# Prestress Loss: Relaxation (Before Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.2c

$$\Delta f_{pR1} = 1.2 \text{ksi}$$

$1.5 \text{ksi}$



...for low-relaxation strands

For more detailed calculation procedure:

Magura, D.D., Sozen, M.A., and Siess, C.P. 1964. A Study of Stress Relaxation in Prestressing Reinforcement. PCI Journal. V. 9, No. 2: pp. 13-57.



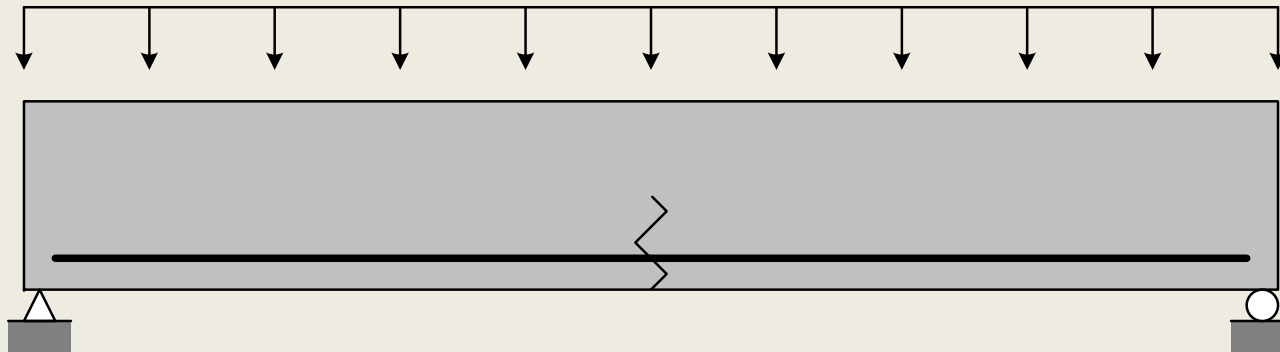
# Concrete Stresses: Losses (Before Deck)

- Change in bottom fiber stress due to losses before deck placement...

$$\Delta f_{cb2} = A_{ps} \left( \Delta f_{pSR} + \Delta f_{pCR} + \Delta f_{pR1} \right) \left( \frac{1}{A_g} + \frac{e_m y_b}{I_g} \right)$$

# Application of Deck Weight

- Concrete Tension or Prestress “Gain” ??
  - Both!
- Reinforced Concrete analogy:



- Tension in the steel does NOT “pre-compress” the surrounding concrete

# Concrete Stress: Deck Weight

$$\Delta f_{cb3} = \frac{M_{deck} y_b}{I_g}$$

# Concrete Stress: Superimposed Dead Load

$$\Delta f_{cb4} = \frac{M_{SIDL} y_{bc}}{I_c}$$

# Prestress Loss: Girder Shrinkage (After Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.3a

$$\boxed{\Delta f_{pSD} = \varepsilon_{bdf} E_p K_{df}} = E_p \left( \underbrace{\varepsilon_{bdf} K_{df}}_{\text{"Net" strain for (concrete + steel)}} \right)$$

Concrete Shrinkage Strain

"Net" strain for (concrete + steel)

$\varepsilon_{bdf}$

- b**: "beam" (girder)
- d**: "deck" (age of concrete at deck placement)
- f**: "final" (final time)

# Prestress Loss: Girder Creep (After Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.3b

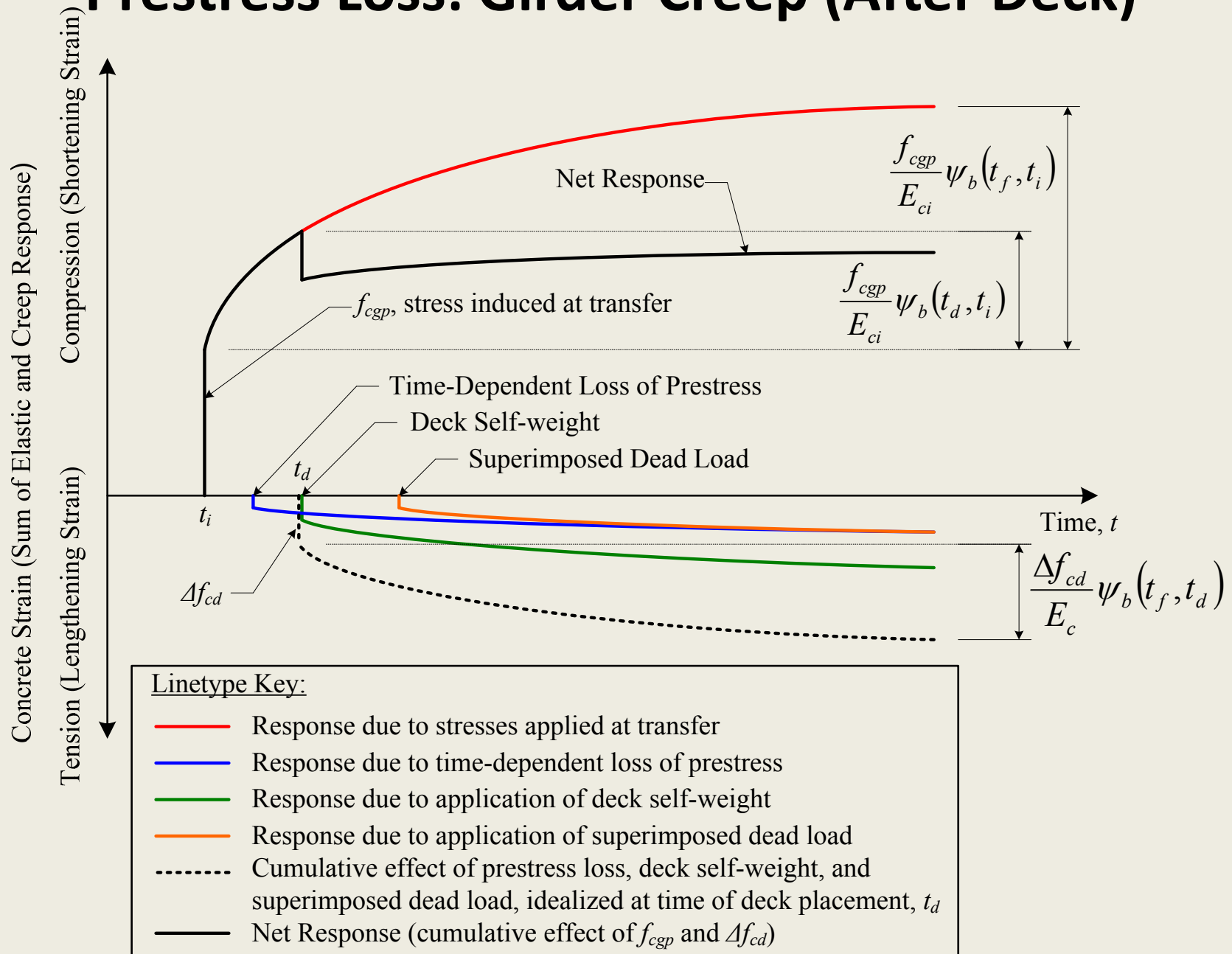
$$\Delta f_{pCD} = \frac{E_p}{E_{ci}} f_{cgp} [\psi_b(t_f, t_i) - \psi_b(t_d, t_i)] K_{df} + \frac{E_p}{E_c} \Delta f_{cd} \psi_b(t_f, t_d) K_{df}$$

$$\Delta f_{pCD} = E_p \left\{ \left[ \left( \frac{f_{cgp}}{E_{ci}} \right) (\psi_b(t_f, t_i) - \psi_b(t_d, t_i)) \right] K_{df} \right\} + E_p \left\{ \left[ \left( \frac{\Delta f_{cd}}{E_c} \right) \psi_b(t_f, t_d) \right] K_{df} \right\}$$

$\Delta f_{cd}$

Change in concrete stress at the centroid of the prestressing strands due to time-dependent loss of prestress between transfer and deck placement, combined with deck weight and superimposed loads

# Prestress Loss: Girder Creep (After Deck)




# Prestress Loss: Relaxation (After Deck)

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.3c

$$\Delta f_{pR2} = 1.2ksi$$

1.5ksi



...for low-relaxation strands



# Concrete Stress: Losses (After Deck)

- Change in bottom fiber stress due to losses after deck placement...

$$\Delta f_{cb5} = A_{ps} \left( \Delta f_{pSD} + \Delta f_{pCD} + \Delta f_{pR2} \right) \left( \frac{1}{A_c} + \frac{e_{pc} y_{bc}}{I_c} \right)$$

# Shrinkage of Deck Concrete

- AASHTO 5.9.5.4.3d
  - “The prestress gain due to shrinkage of deck composite section,  $\Delta f_{pSS}$ , shall be determined as”:

$$\Delta f_{pSS} = \frac{E_p}{E_c} \Delta f_{cdf} K_{df} [1 + 0.7\psi_b(t_f, t_d)]$$

$$\Delta f_{cdf} = \underbrace{\left[ \frac{\varepsilon_{ddf} A_d E_{cd}}{1 + 0.7\psi_d(t_f, t_d)} \right]}_{\text{“}P_{deck}\text{”}} \left( \frac{1}{A_c} - \frac{e_{pc} e_d}{I_c} \right)$$

“ $P_{deck}$ ”

# Shrinkage of Deck Concrete



force }  
 stress }  
 strain }

$$P_{deck} = \underline{\varepsilon_{ddf}} \left( \frac{E_{cd}}{\underline{[1 + 0.7\psi_d(t_f, t_d)]}} \right) A_d$$

Age-adjusted eff. modulus

More appropriately:  $(\varepsilon_{ddf} - \varepsilon_{bdf})$

$\varepsilon_{ddf}$

- d**: "deck" (deck concrete properties)
- d**: "deck" (age of concrete at deck placement)
- f**: "final" (final time)

$\psi_d(t_f, t_d)$

- d**: "deck" (deck concrete properties)
- d**: "deck" (age of concrete at deck placement)
- f**: "final" (final time)
- t<sub>f</sub>**: time of interest for creep strain
- t<sub>d</sub>**: age of concrete when stress change occurred

# Concrete Stress: Shrinkage of Deck Concrete

$$\Delta f_{cb6} = P_{deck} \left( -\frac{1}{A_c} + \frac{y_{bc} e_d}{I_c} \right)$$

# Concrete Stress: Live Load

$$\Delta f_{cb7} = \frac{M_{LL} y_{bc}}{I_c}$$

# Concrete Stress: Total

$$f_{cb} = \sum_{i=1}^7 f_{cbi}$$

# Concrete: Stress Limits (Service)

Table 5.9.4.2.1-1 Compressive Stress Limits in Prestressed Concrete at Service Limit State After Losses, Fully Prestressed Components.

Location	Stress Limit
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In other than segmentally constructed bridges due to the sum of effective prestress and permanent loads</li></ul>	$0.45 f'_c$ (ksi)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In segmentally constructed bridges due to the sum of effective prestress and permanent loads</li></ul>	$0.45 f'_c$ (ksi)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Due to the sum of effective prestress, permanent loads, and transient loads <b>as well as</b> during shipping and handling</li></ul>	$0.60 \phi_w f'_c$ (ksi)

Source: AASHTO (2009)

# Concrete: Stress Limits (Service)

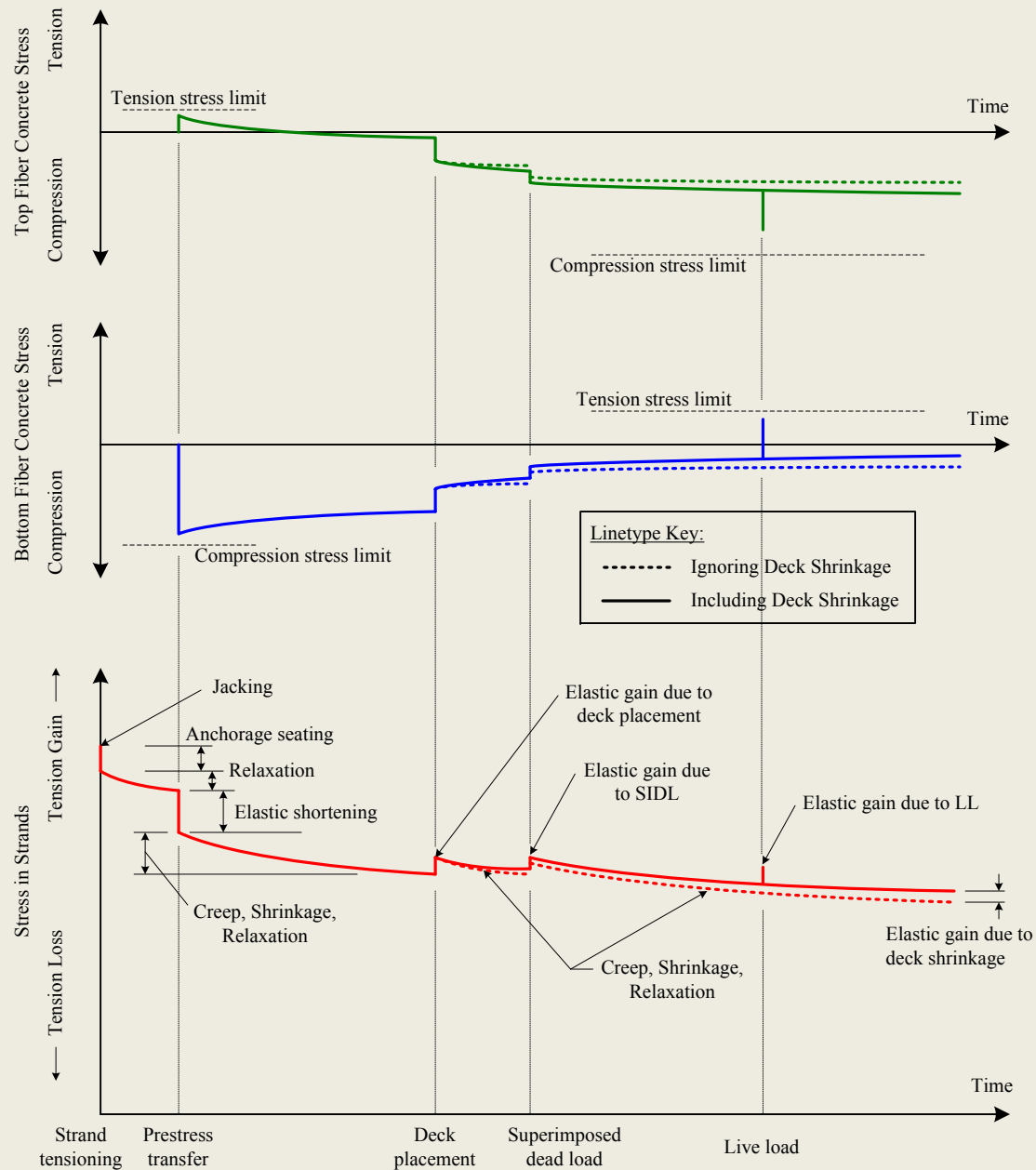
**Table 5.9.4.2.2-1 Tensile Stress Limits in Prestressed Concrete at Service Limit State After Losses, Fully Prestressed Components.**

Bridge Type	Location	Stress Limit
Other Than Segmentally Constructed Bridges	Tension in the Precompressed Tensile Zone Bridges, Assuming Uncracked Sections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For components with bonded prestressing tendons or reinforcement that are subjected to not worse than moderate corrosion conditions</li> <li>• For components with bonded prestressing tendons or reinforcement that are subjected to severe corrosive conditions</li> <li>• For components with unbonded prestressing tendons</li> </ul>	0.19 $\sqrt{f'_c}$ (ksi)
		0.0948 $\sqrt{f'_c}$ (ksi)
		No tension
Segmentally Constructed Bridges	Longitudinal Stresses Through Joints in the Precompressed Tensile Zone	

Source: AASHTO (2009)



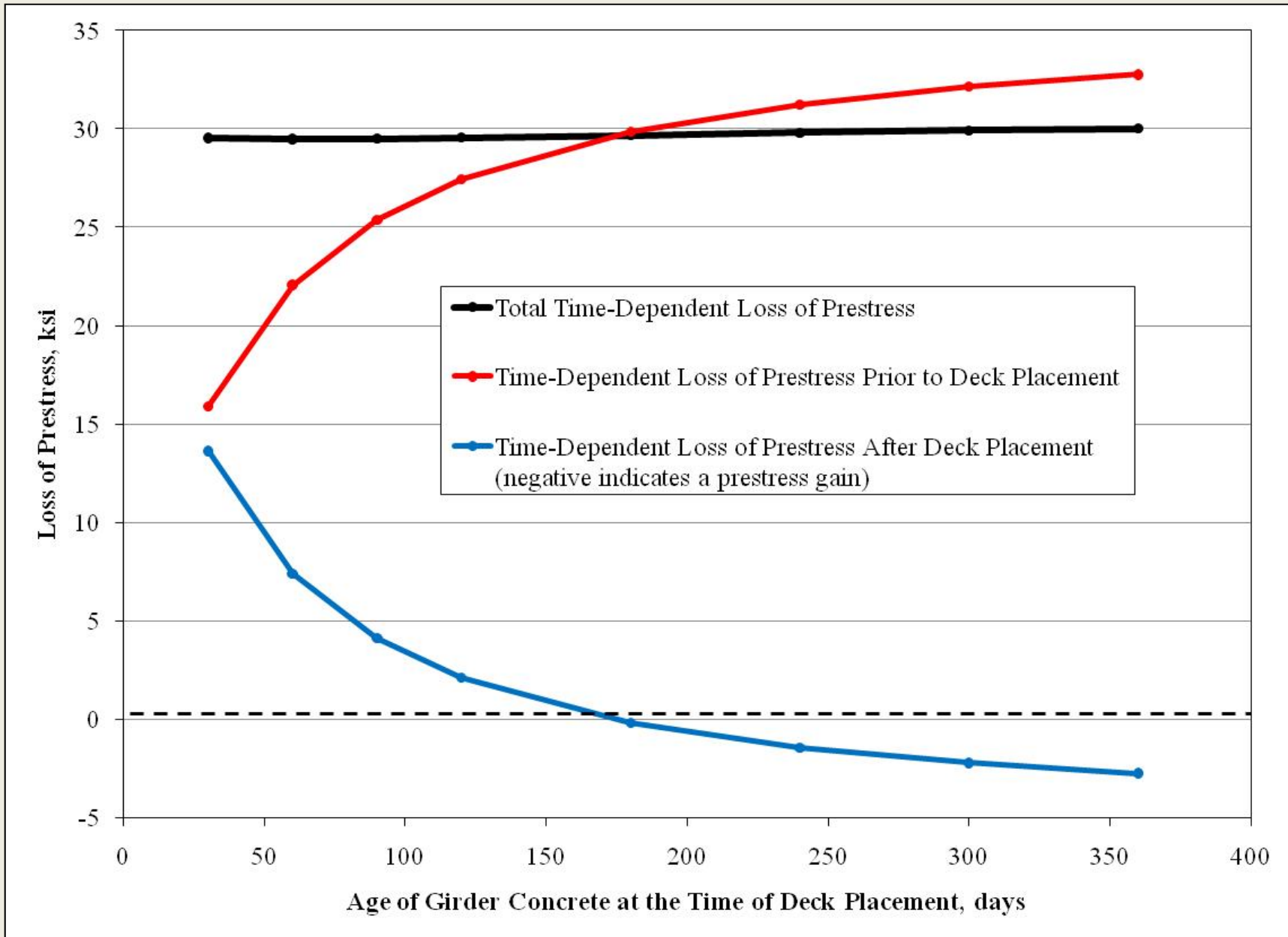
# Construction Timeline: Summary



# Uncertainty in Loss Calculations

- Concrete Compressive Strength
- Material Property models:
  - Elastic modulus, shrinkage, creep
- Initial jacking force
- Environmental conditions:
  - Relative humidity
- Geometric tolerance (“as-built”)
- Magnitude of Loads
- Construction Sequence (time of deck placement)

# Time of Deck Placement



# Post-Tensioned Construction

- Friction
- Anchorage Seating
- Elastic Shortening

# Conclusion

- Calculation of prestress loss relies on basic mechanics, and assumptions about material behavior
- Concrete stress is really the bottom line; not prestress loss
- Losses cannot be known precisely (too many uncertainties)

# Acknowledgements and References

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Al-Omaishi, N., M. K. Tadros, and S. J. Seguirant. 2009. "Estimating Prestress Loss in Pretensioned, High-Strength Concrete Members." *PCI Journal* 54 (4): 132–159.

[http://pci.org/view\\_file.cfm?file=JL-09-FALL-13.pdf](http://pci.org/view_file.cfm?file=JL-09-FALL-13.pdf)

Tadros, M.K., Al-Omaishi, N., Seguirant, S.J., and Gallt, J.G. 2003. "Prestress Losses in Pretensioned High-Strength Concrete Bridge Girders." NCHRP Report 496, Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC. 63pp.

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