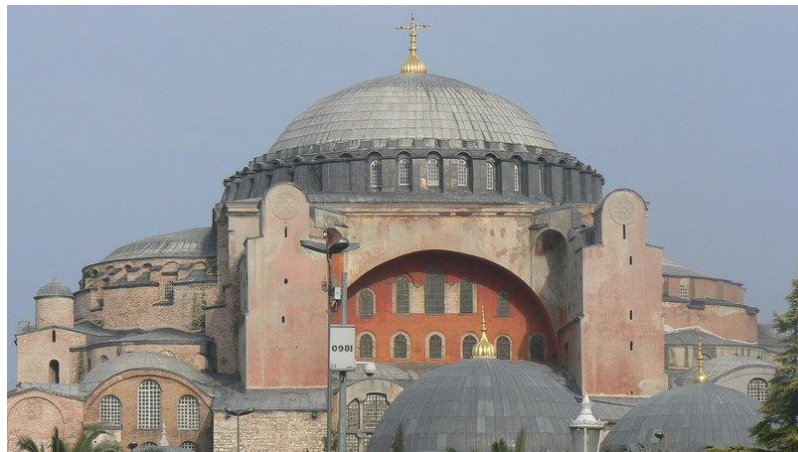




# MASONRY DOMES



# This lecture

What is a masonry dome?

Spherical domes

repetition of membrane solution:

distribution of meridian and hoop stresses

criticism: a masonry dome is not in membrane state

typical crack pattern; usual protection against cracking

tension resistance due to crosswise compression

Oval domes

Most famous masonry domes:

Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

Brunelleschi's dome in Florence

# WHAT IS A MASONRY DOME?

Heyman (1995): „a rounded vault forming a roof”

[ no generally accepted definition]

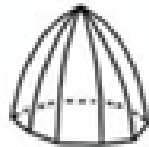
Shapes: huge variety



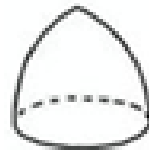
*Hemispherical*



*Segmental*



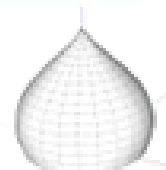
*Faceted*



*Pointed*

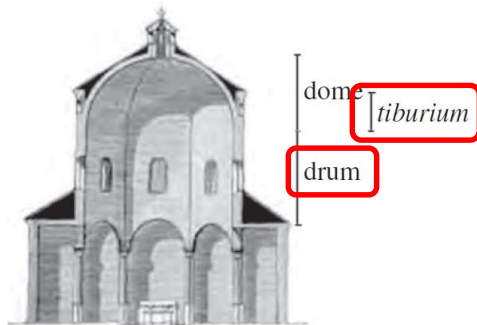


*Oval*

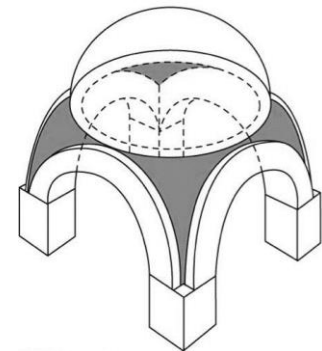


*Bulbous etc.*

How to support it: e.g. dome rests on a drum e.g. dome rests on pendentives



*Beatini et al (2018)*



<http://sridhistory.blogspot.com/>

# This lecture

What is a masonry dome?

## Spherical domes

repetition of membrane solution:

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typical crack pattern; usual protection against cracking

criticism: a masonry dome is not in membrane state

tension resistance due to crosswise compression

Oval domes

Most famous masonry domes:

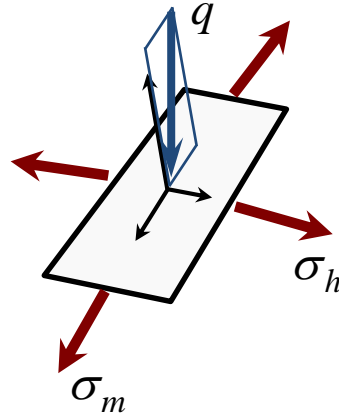
Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

Brunelleschi's dome in Florence

# Repetition: Membrane solution for spherical domes

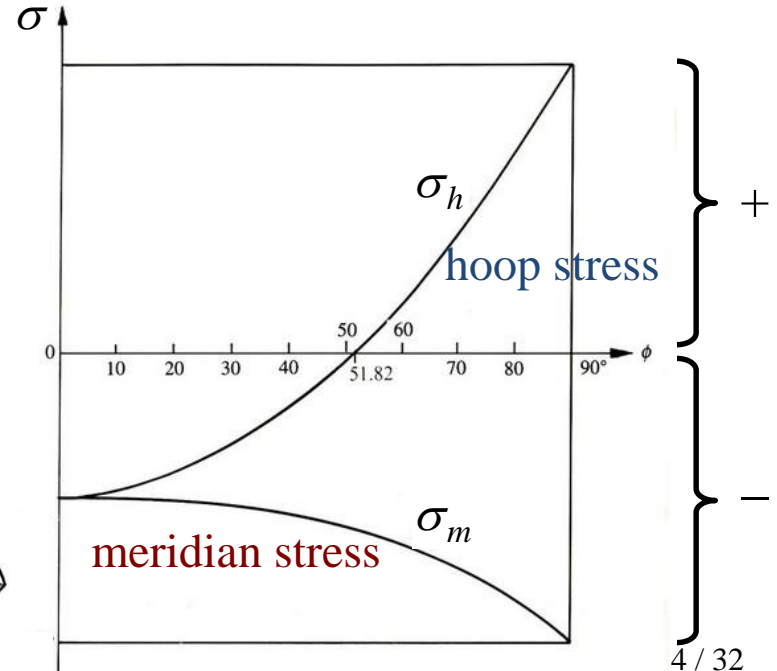
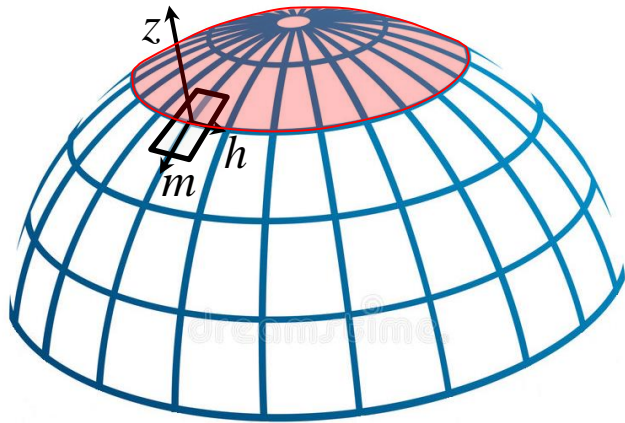
$m$ : meridional direction

$h$ : hoop direction



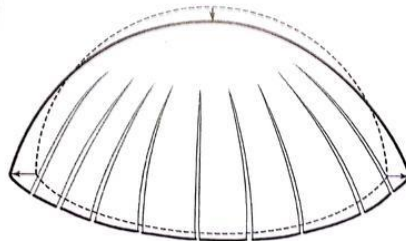
$$\sigma_m = -\frac{q}{t} R \frac{1}{1 + \cos \varphi}$$

$$\sigma_h = \frac{q}{t} R \left( \cos \varphi - \frac{1}{(1 + \cos \varphi)} \right)$$



Predicted crack pattern:

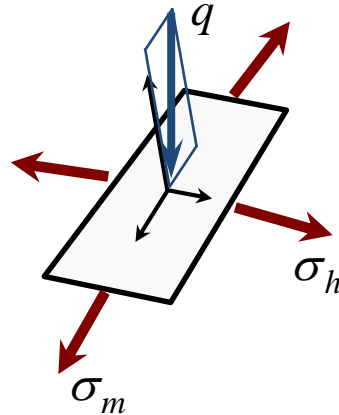
lateral thrust! ⇐



# Repetition: Membrane solution for spherical domes

$m$ : meridional direction

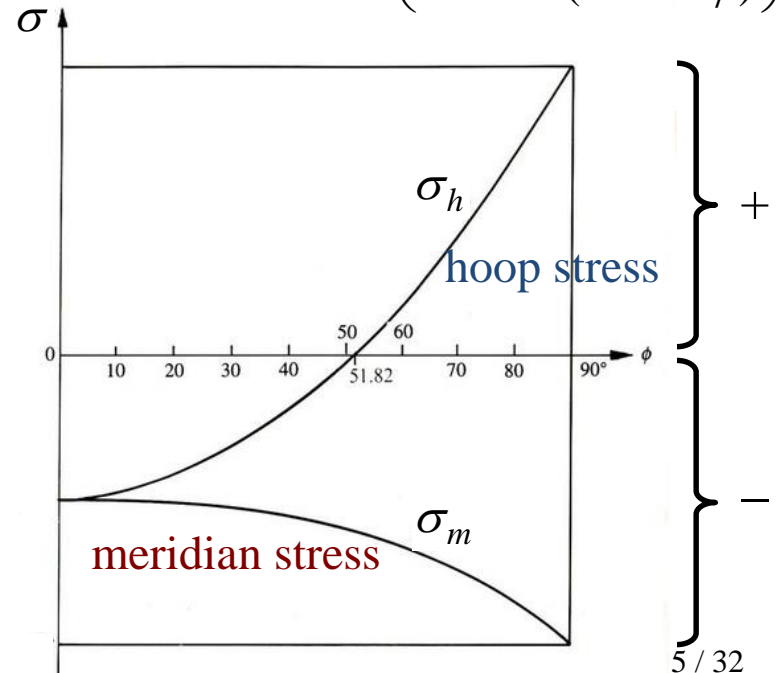
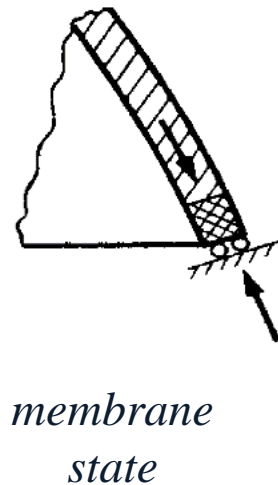
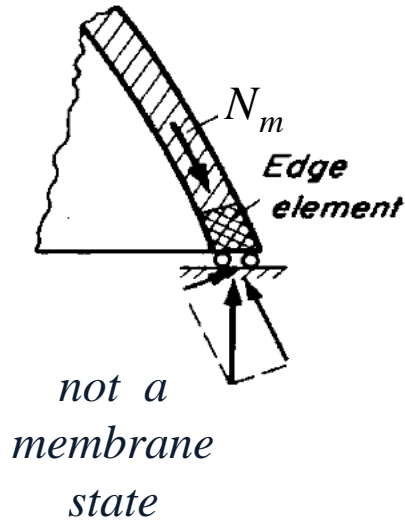
$h$ : hoop direction



$$\sigma_m = -\frac{q}{t} R \frac{1}{1 + \cos \varphi}$$

$$\sigma_h = \frac{q}{t} R \left( \cos \varphi - \frac{1}{(1 + \cos \varphi)} \right)$$

## Importance of boundaries:

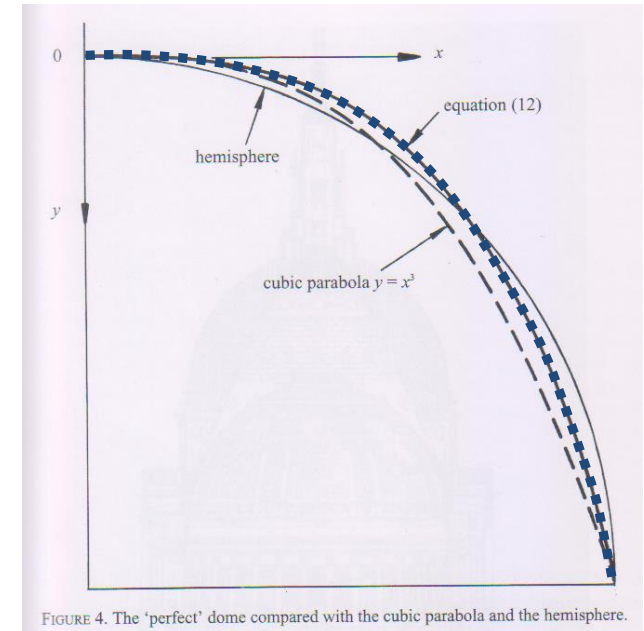


# Criticism: Not a membrane state

The ideal dome shape for pure selfweight & uniform thickness:

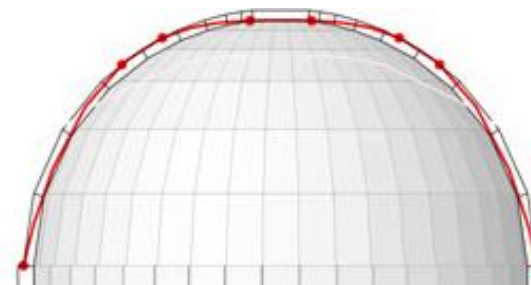
$$y = \frac{1}{2} x_0 \left[ \int_0^{x/x_0} e^{t^2} dt - \int_0^{x/x_0} e^{-t^2} dt \right]$$

$$y = (0.7206) [x^3 + (0.3338) x^7 + (0.0496) x^{11} + (0.0041) x^{15} + (0.0002) x^{19} + \dots] \quad (12)$$



Consequence:

- ⇒ In real domes the thrust does not run along the middle surface
- ⇒ membrane solution: only a poor first approximation!

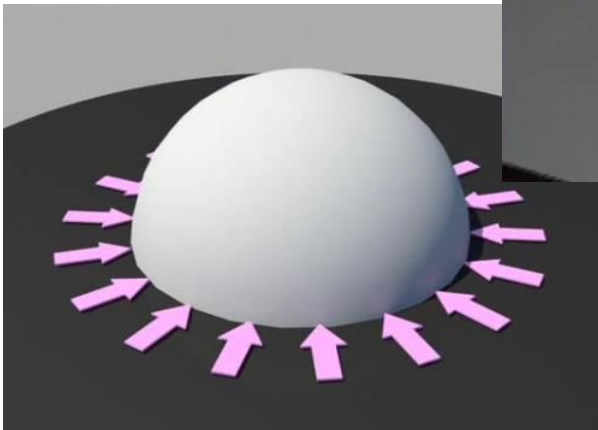
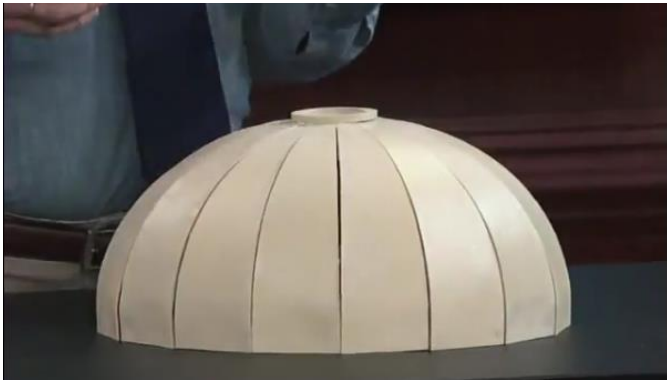


*Heyman (1998)*

*e.g.  
Beatini et al (2018)*



# Typical crack pattern under weight



(Stephen Ressler, West Point)

<http://www.yousubtitles.com/13-Three-Great-Domes-Rome-to-the-Renaissance-id-1373387>



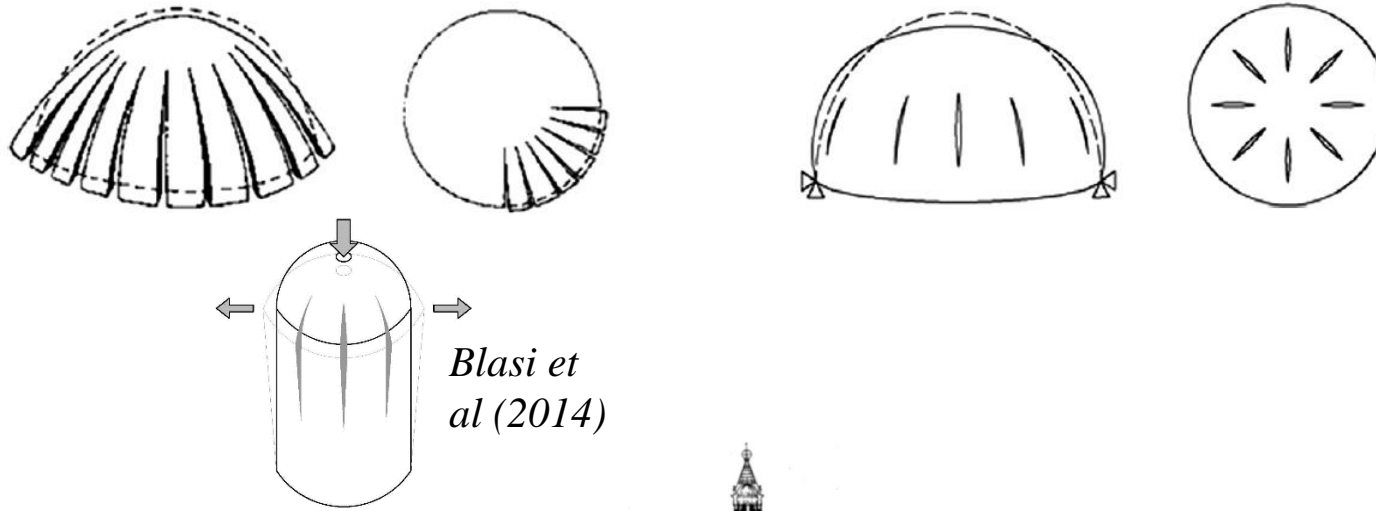
# Typical crack pattern under weight



(Stephen Ressler, West Point)

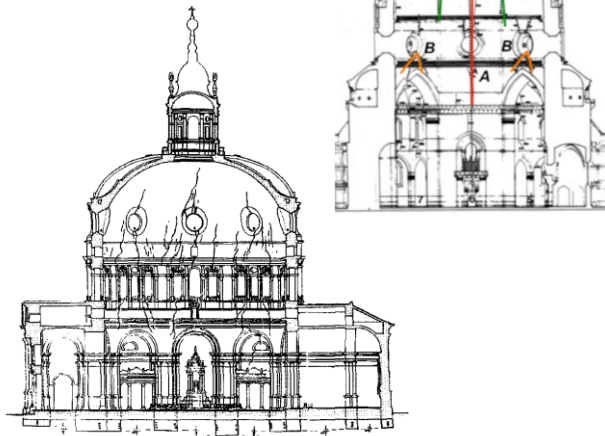
<http://www.yousubtitles.com/13-Three-Great-Domes-Rome-to-the-Renaissance-id-1373387>

# Typical crack pattern under weight



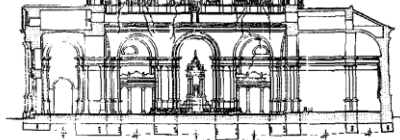
*Atamturktur et al (2012)*

Ottoni (2014):



Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Garro (1962):



Sanctuary of Vicoforte

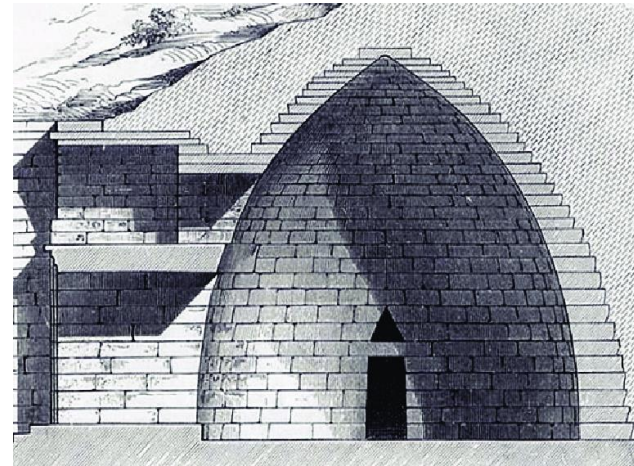
# Protection against typical cracking

e.g. resistance of the dome neighbourhood:

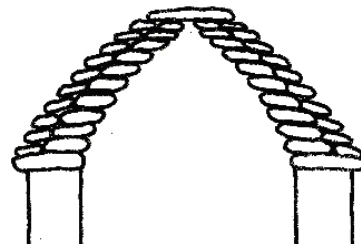
works even for corbel domes:

→ Atreus treasury, BC 1250 :

[simply the neighbouring earth mass takes the lateral forces]



→ „Cardenha” in Northern Portugal, used for shelter since neolith:

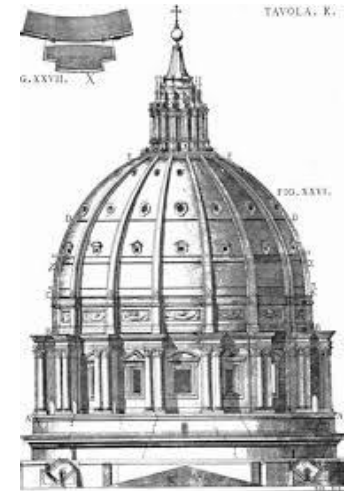
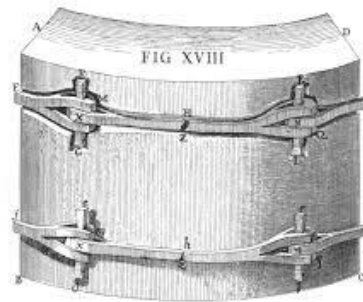


*Martynenko (2017)*

[heavy, thick  
dome & support]

# Protection against typical cracking

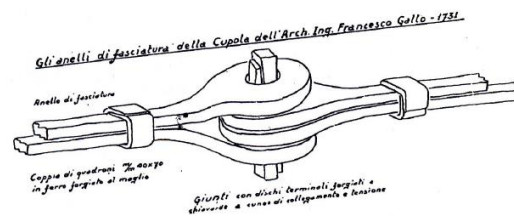
e.g. iron rings or chains:



St Peter's Basilica, Rome,  
strengthened by Poleni



*Aoki et al (2004)*

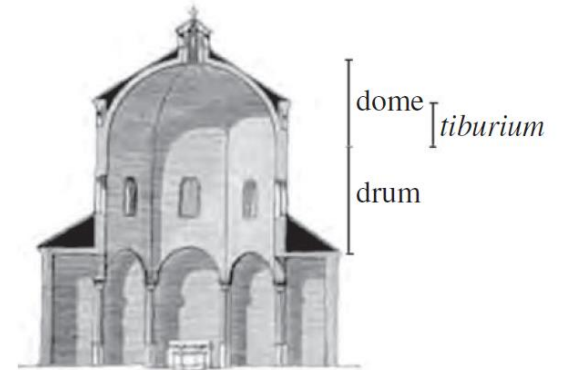
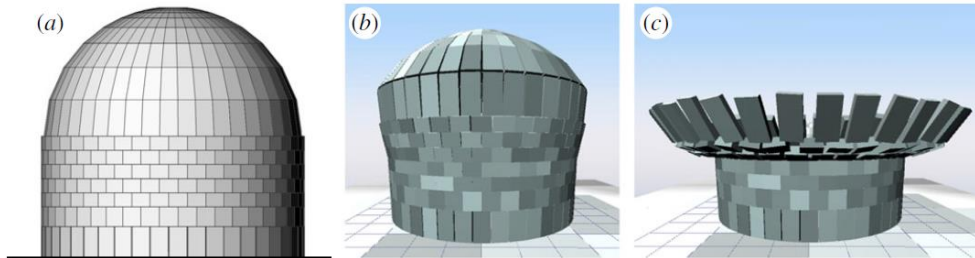


*Blasi et al (2014)*

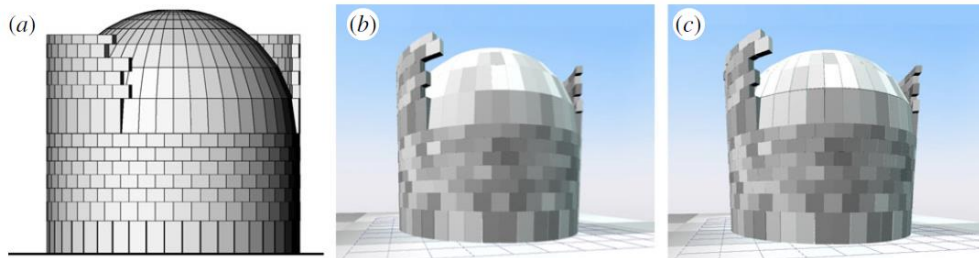


# Protection against typical cracking

e.g. stabilizing effect of a tiburium:



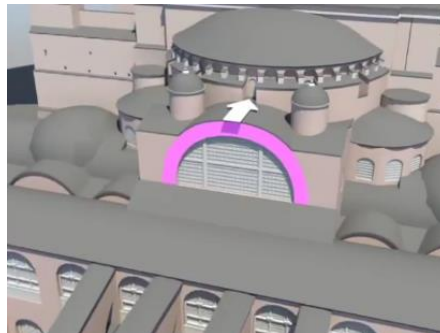
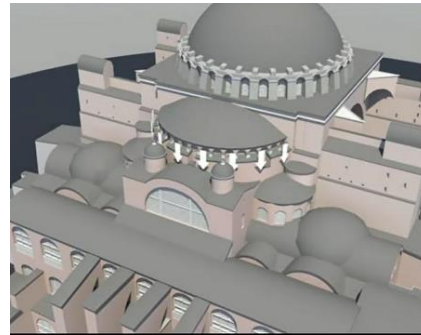
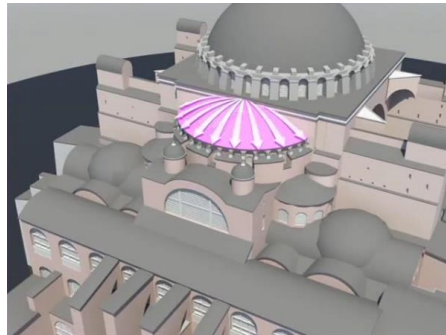
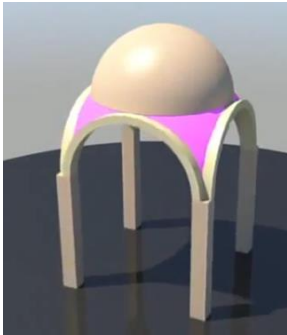
*Beatini et al (2018)*



# Protection against typical cracking

e.g. more sophisticated structural solutions:

Hagia Sofia:

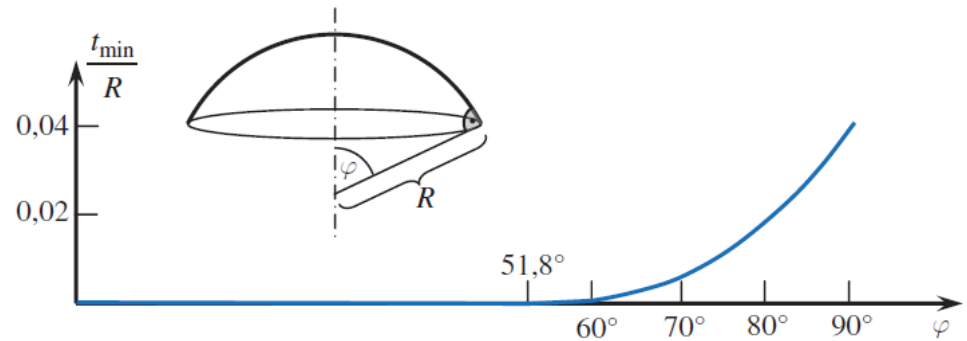




# Tension resistance due to crosswise compression

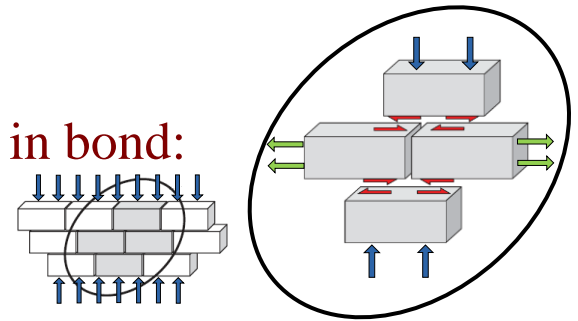
Heyman (1967):

minimally necessary  
wall thickness for a  
hemispherical dome:  $t_{\min} = 0,042 \cdot R$

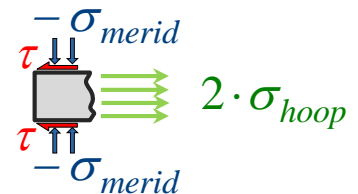
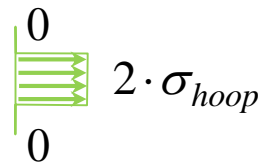
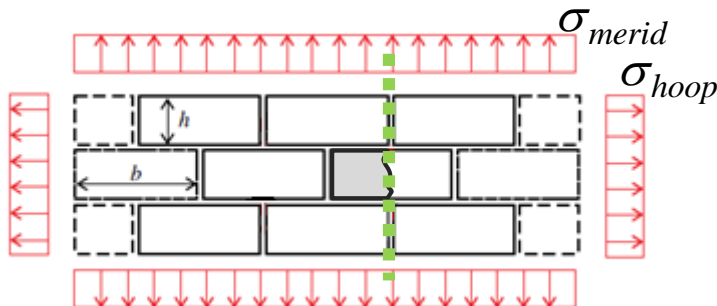


Simon & Bagi (2016): smaller value found for bricks in bond:

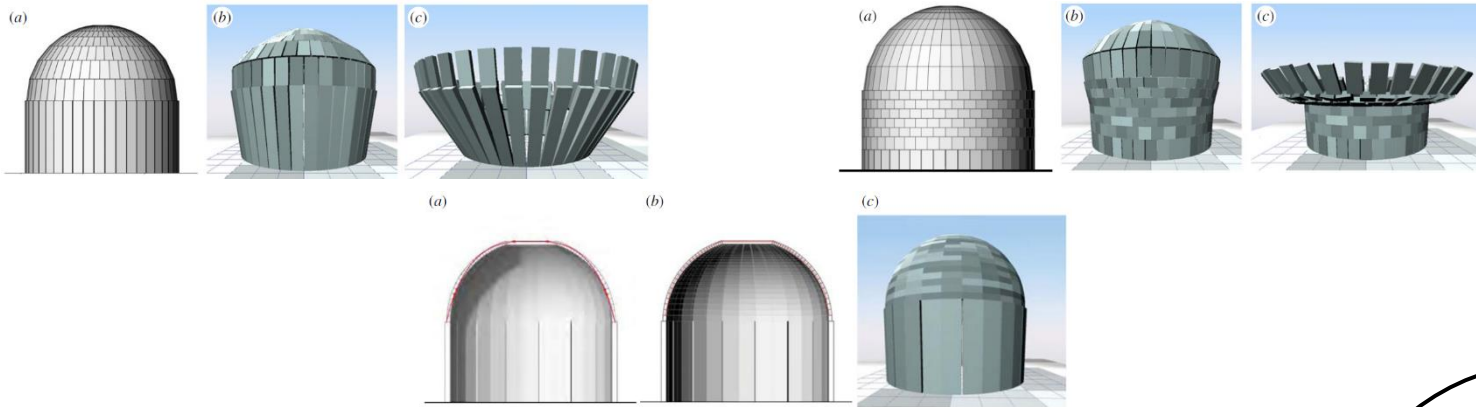
$$t_{\min} = 0,037 \cdot R_{\text{middle}}$$



Beatini et al (2018): for simple running bond pattern:

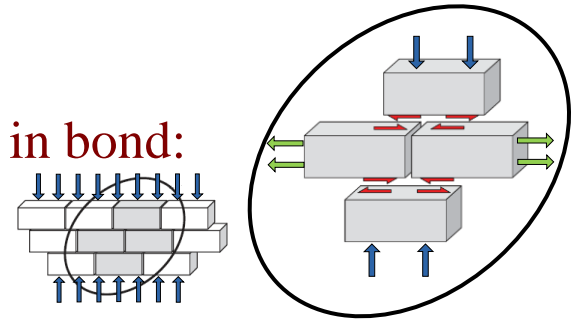


# Tension resistance due to crosswise compression

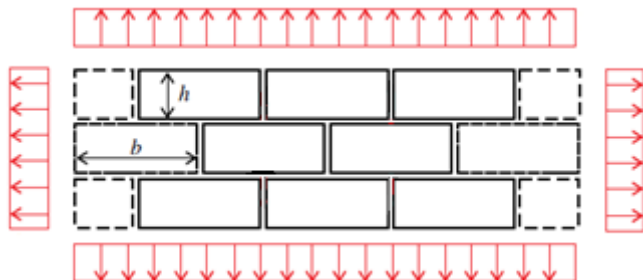


Simon & Bagi (2016): smaller value found for bricks in bond:

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Beatini et al (2018):

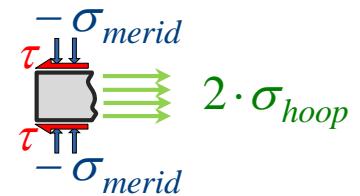


$$\tau \leq \mu \cdot (-\sigma_{\text{merid}})$$

$$2 \cdot \left( \frac{b}{2} \cdot \tau \right) = h \cdot 2\sigma_{\text{hoop}}$$

$$h \cdot 2\sigma_{\text{hoop}} \leq b \cdot \mu \cdot (-\sigma_{\text{merid}})$$

$$\sigma_{\text{hoop}} \leq \frac{b}{2h} \cdot \mu \cdot (-\sigma_{\text{merid}})$$



# This lecture

What is a masonry dome?

Spherical domes

repetition of membrane solution:

distribution of meridian and hoop stresses

typical crack pattern; usual protection against cracking

criticism: a masonry dome is not in membrane state

tension resistance due to crosswise compression

Oval domes

Most famous masonry domes:

Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

Brunelleschi's dome in Florence

# OVAL DOMES

← widely applied in the Renaissance & Baroque

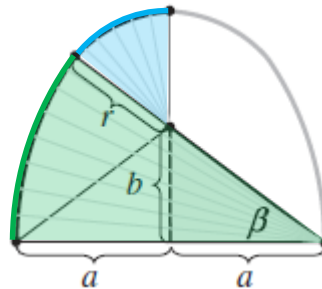
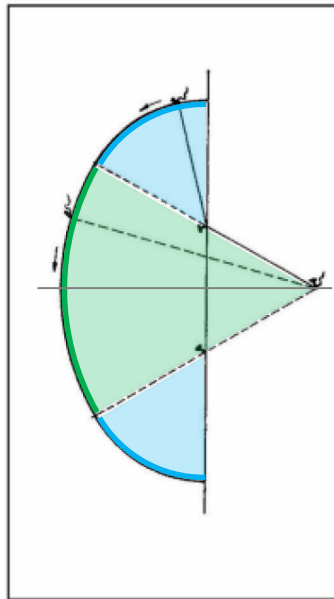
„Oval”:

→ closed, convex, smooth curve having two axes of symmetry

→  $\approx$  an elongated circle, approximate ellipse

Groundplan: (Huerta, 2007)

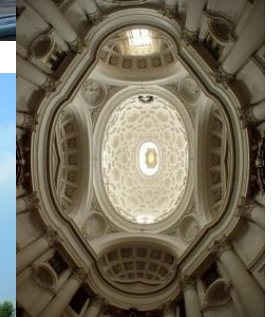
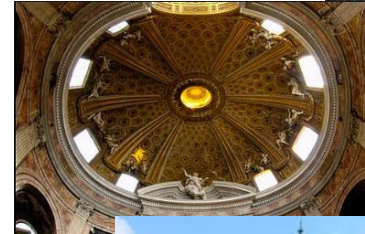
Method 1: compose it from circular arcs!



„eccentricity angle”,  $\beta$ :  
deviation from the circle:

→  $b = 0$  or  $\beta = 0$  : no deviation from the circle

→  $b = \sqrt{3}a$  or  $\beta = 60^\circ$  : largest possible deviation



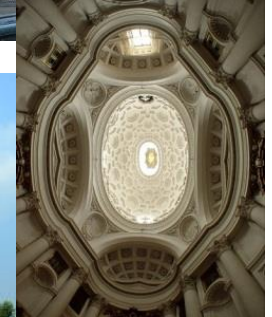
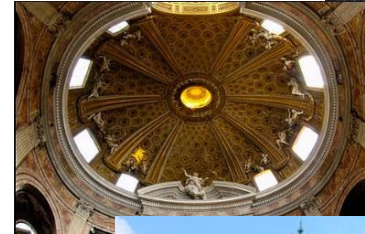
# OVAL DOMES

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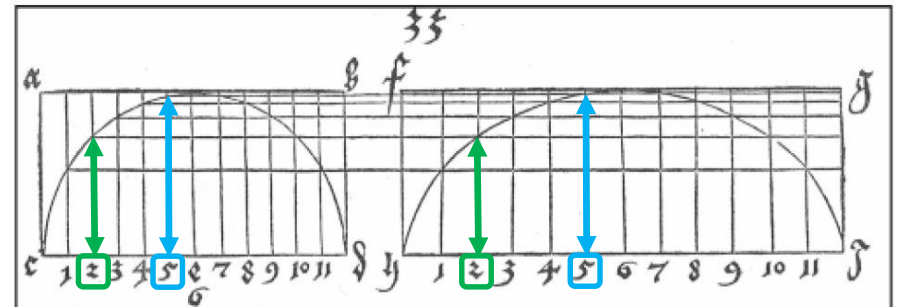
→  $\approx$  an elongated circle, approximate ellipse

Groundplan: (Huerta, 2007)



Method 2: elongate a circle!

[  $\Rightarrow$  ellipse received;  
not known at that time ]



Method 2 was not used in building practice;

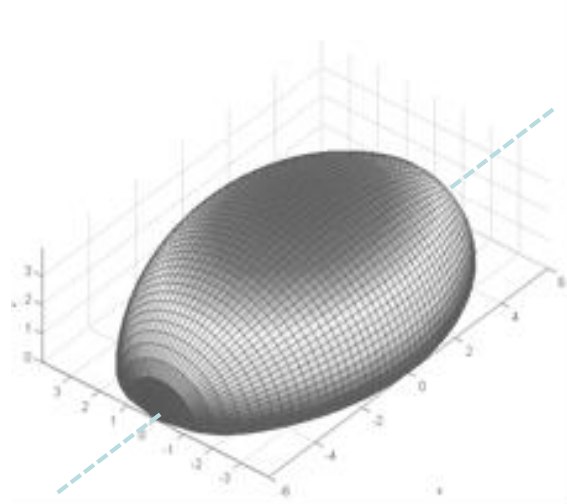
Method 1 could provide an excellent approximation for ellipse

# OVAL DOMES

The middle surface of oval domes:

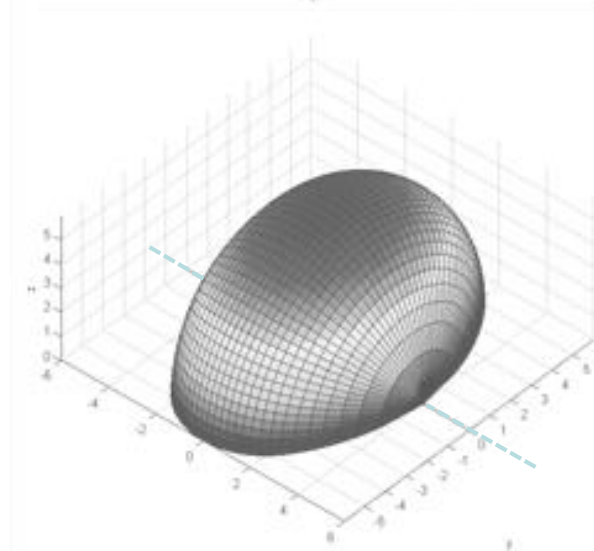
Type 1: „flat domes”

*Rotate the groundplan  
about the longer axis!*



Type 2: „high domes”

*Rotate the groundplan  
about the shorter axis!*

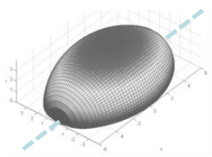




# OVAL DOMES

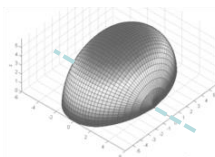
The middle surface of oval domes:

Type 1: „flat domes”



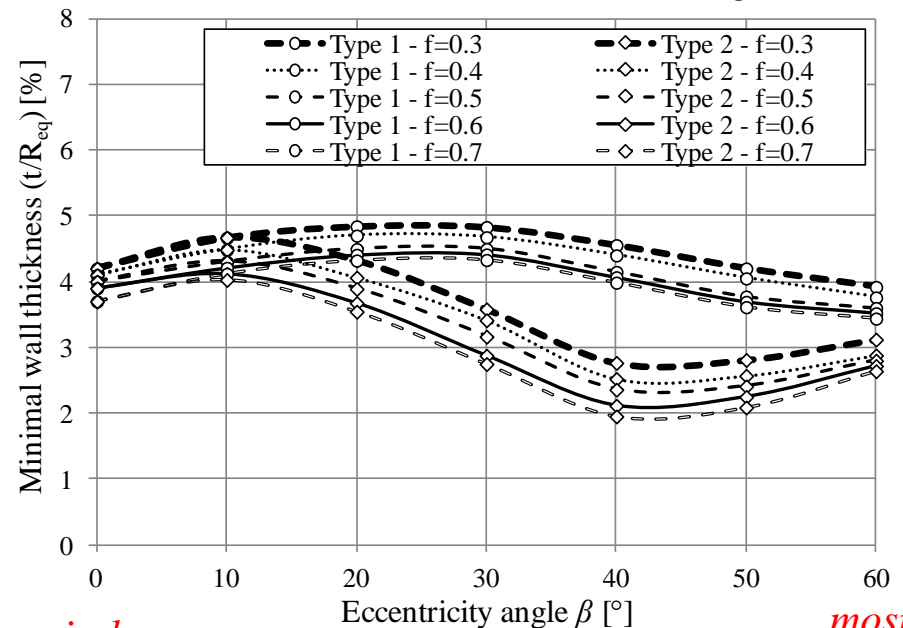
*Rotate the groundplan  
about the longer axis!*

Type 2: „high domes”



*Rotate the groundplan  
about the shorter axis!*

*Simon & Bagi (2016)*



*circle*

*most  
elongated  
oval*

Some of the conclusions:

→ Both types may require smaller thickness than a semispherical dome.

→ Type 2 („high”) domes are stronger than Type 1 („flat”) domes.

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tension resistance due to crosswise compression

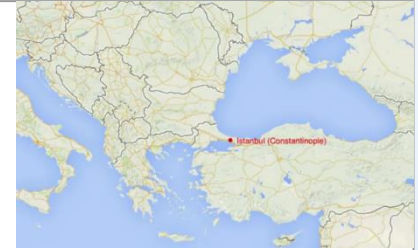
Oval domes

Most famous masonry domes:

Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

Brunelleschi's dome in Florence

# Main Dome of Hagia Sofia, Istanbul



Cathedral originally built: 537

537 – 1453 Christian church

1453 – 1935 Moslim mosque

1935 – museum

<http://www.istanbulturkeybook.com>

The main dome: 558: previous dome collapsed in earthquake

562: the recent dome (made much higher) is ready  
survived several earthquakes

[ overview of changes since 537: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFOlOZzO3jY> ]

Replacement of the main dome:

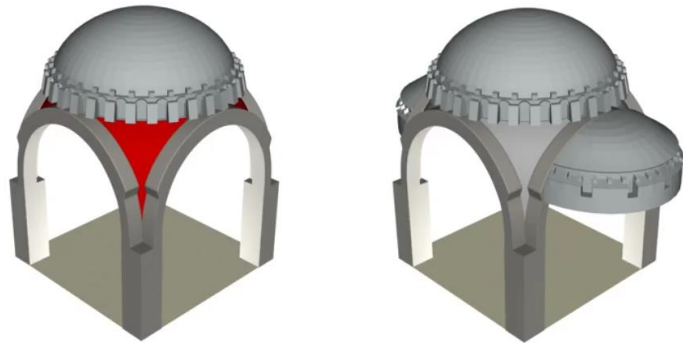


# Dome of Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

Material: brick and stone

Span: 31 m (largest masonry dome until Brunelleschi's dome in Florence)

Support system: innovation: „pendentives” [ sections from a larger sphere ] ;  
complex system of structural units carry the lateral thrust



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEKtWii7Vns>



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfpusWEd2jE>

# Dome of Hagia Sofia, Istanbul

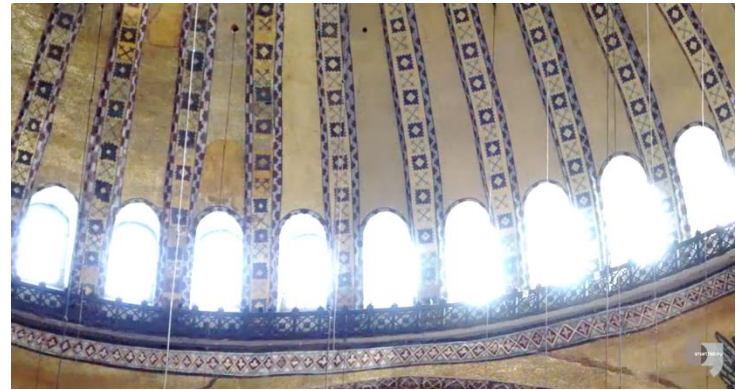
To prevent cracking due to hoop stress:

- 40 brick ribs forming the dome
- between them: arched windows



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfpusWE2jE>

„suspended  
from heaven”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfpusWE2jE>

Suggested videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5DTh1c-f1uc> (long, history & structural)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XfpusWE2jE> (cooperating struct. units)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S90SMOKeVpA> (short, supporting)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uEKtWii7Vns> (short, structural system)



# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Beginning of Renaissance, flourishing & competing cities:

Florence cathedral planned still in 14th century,  
then it was nearly ready but missed a dome 😊

44 m span [ nearly the span of the Pantheon ]



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IOPIGPQPuM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IOPIGPQPuM&feature=youtu.be)

Main challenges: **HUGE** size

→ no external buttressing allowed [ no space around ]

→ no scaffolding allowed [ not enough trees ]



*aislesalvotimeingh*



Can it be solved at all? public competition launched, 1419

won: Filippo Brunelleschi, a goldsmith;  
childhood: mathematics and arts;  
stubborn, self-confident; kept his ideas top secret



# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IOPIGPQPuM&t=11s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IOPIGPQPuM&t=11s)

Brunelleschi's answers:

→ to decrease the lateral thrust:

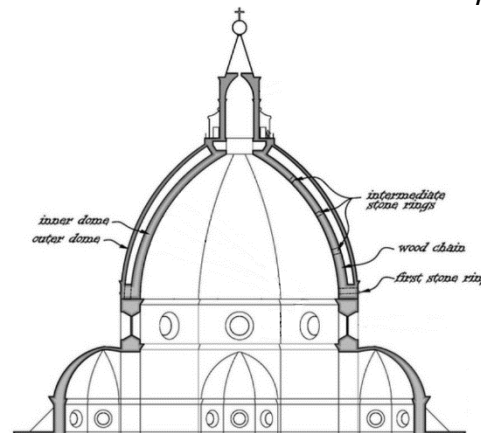
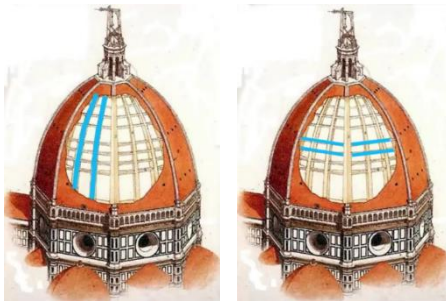
a) make the dome *pointed*

b) make it *light*:

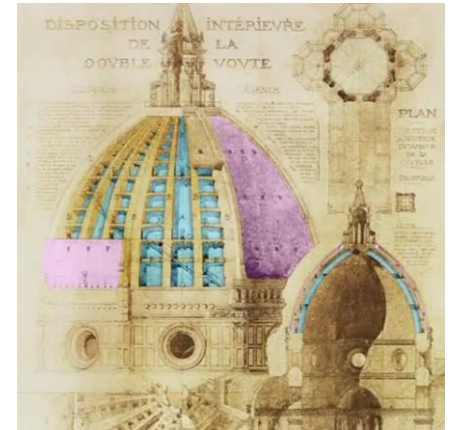
build two domes instead of a single one

- a thick inner, sandstone and marble dome
- a thin outer, brick dome

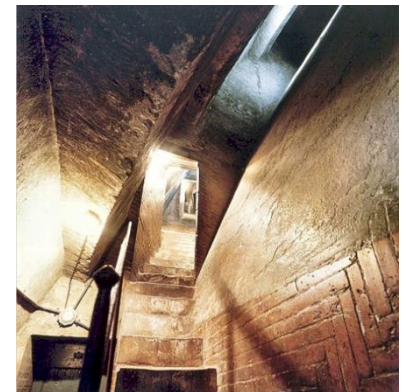
interconnected:



<http://florencedome.com/blog.html>



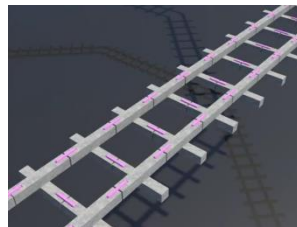
<http://www.yousubtitles.com/13-Three-Great-Domes-Rome-to-the-Renaissance-id-1373387>



# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Brunelleschi's answers:

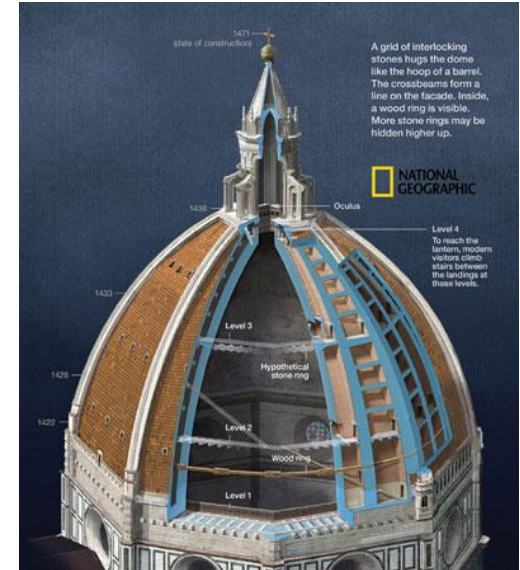
→ to decrease hoop stress & strain:  
3 stone & 1 wooden „chains”



<http://www.yousubtitles.com/13-Three-Great-Domes-Rome-to-the-Renaissance-id-1373387>



[www.teggelaar.com](http://www.teggelaar.com)

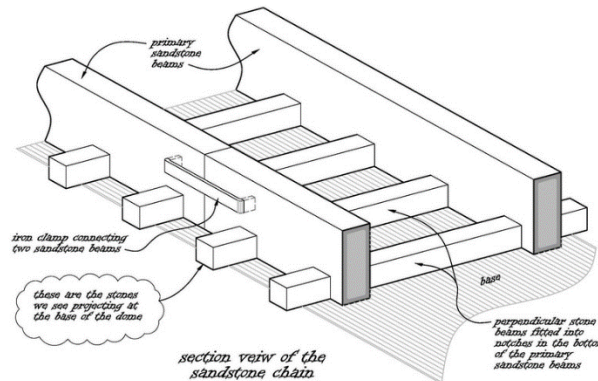


<http://www.digitalmediaworld.tv/in-depth/226-brunelleschi-s-dome>

e.g. the lowest stone ring:

Why stone?

⇐ shortage in iron



<http://florencedome.com/blog.html>

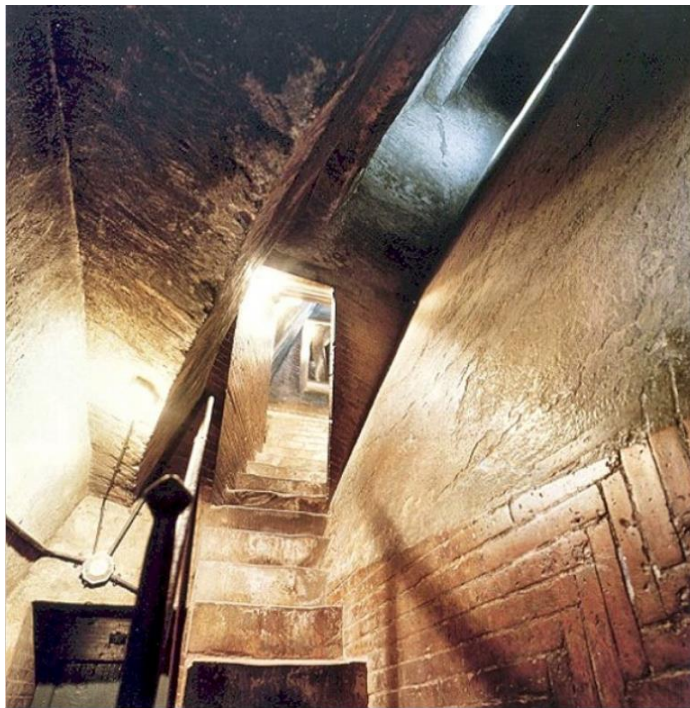


# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Brunelleschi's answers:

→ to build the dome without scaffolding:

a self-supporting construction method is needed!



[www.teggelaar.com](http://www.teggelaar.com)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkBaxFuh40E>

[ herringbone pattern is found in the dome ]

# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Brunelleschi's answers:

→ to build the dome without scaffolding:  
a self-supporting construction method is needed!

the huge trick: to use **HERRINGBONE PATTERN**  
⇒ dome successfully built between 1420-1436

Experiment by Jones, Sereni & Massimo Ricci (2010):



*ytaba36.wordpress.com*



[ Ricci's dome is  
not ready yet ! ]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkBaxFuh40E>



# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Brunelleschi's answers:

- to build the dome without scaffolding:  
a self-supporting construction method is needed!

the huge trick: to use **HERRINGBONE PATTERN**

How the idea came?

- may origin from seljukids (moslim architecture)
- Venice: applied too, from XIth century, but for very small niches



*Askarov(2004)*

Brunelleschi may had proved

that the idea works:

[small theatre dome found nearby]





# Dome of Santa Maria del Fiore, Florence

Suggested videos:

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/early-renaissance1/sculpture-architecture-florence/v/brunelleschi-dome-of-the-cathedral-of-florence-1420-36> short

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_IOPiGPQPuM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_IOPiGPQPuM&feature=youtu.be) 😊 short

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWz90KdrDBs> short, on Ricci's results

Homework:

on technical details:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kkBaxFuh40E>

51:55

[entitled „Great Cathedral Mystery” 😊]



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exrD5RwjIlo&feature=youtu.be&t=93>



# Questions

1. Recognize from a figure: *hemispherical* / *oval* / *pointed dome*. Explain the following terms: *pendentive*; *drum*; *tiburium*; *corbel dome*; *herringbone pattern*.
2. Introduce the typical crack pattern of a hemispherical masonry dome without or with a tension ring at its bottom. How can you *protect* a spherical dome against its typical cracking modes?
3. How to calculate the *tension resistance* in horizontal direction in a dry masonry wall with simple running bond pattern, caused by the vertical compression stress and friction resistance in the horizontal contacts?
4. What are the *two main geometrical types* of oval domes? Explain the meaning of the diagram that shows the relation between *minimally necessary wall thickness* and the *eccentricity angle*.