

**2E14**


**Design  
of aluminium and stainless steel  
structures**

František Wald



# List of lessons

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- 
- 1) Aluminium structures
  - 2) HAZ softening
  - 3) Design of aluminium elements
  - 4) Design of aluminium connections
  - 5) Design beyond the elastic limit
  - 6) Aluminium advanced design
- 
- 7) Stainless steel structures
  - 8) Stainless steel material and material properties
  - 9) Specialty in design of stainless steel structural elements
  - 10) Connection design
  - 11) Erection and installation of stainless steel structures
  - 12) Stainless steel advanced design

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# Objectives of the lecture

- Introduction to aluminium design
- References
- Examples
- Material selection
- Eurocodes for aluminium design



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# Advantages

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- Weight ( $2700 \text{ kg/m}^3$ )
- Corrosion
- Non magnetic and low toxic
- Fatigue, low ductility transition temperature

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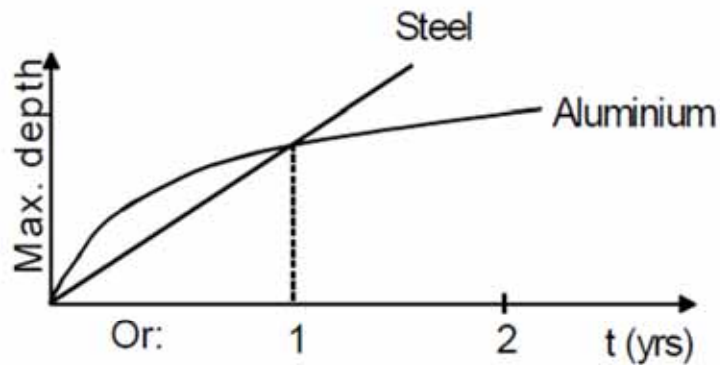
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# Corrosion

Rate of corrosion in a marine environment:

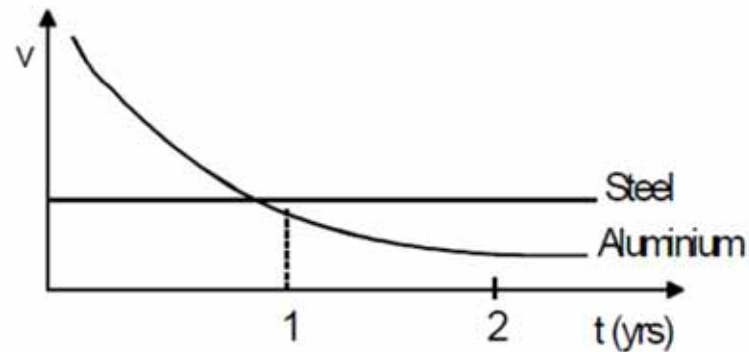
Steel:  $v_{St} = k_{St} \cdot t$

Aluminium:  $v_{Al} = k_{Al} \cdot t^{1/3}$



Consequence:

Virtually maintenance free construction



After 20 years in sea water:

Average corrosion rate/year: St52/Al 10-40/1

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Educational program TALAT [www.eaa.net/eea/education/TALAT](http://www.eaa.net/eea/education/TALAT)

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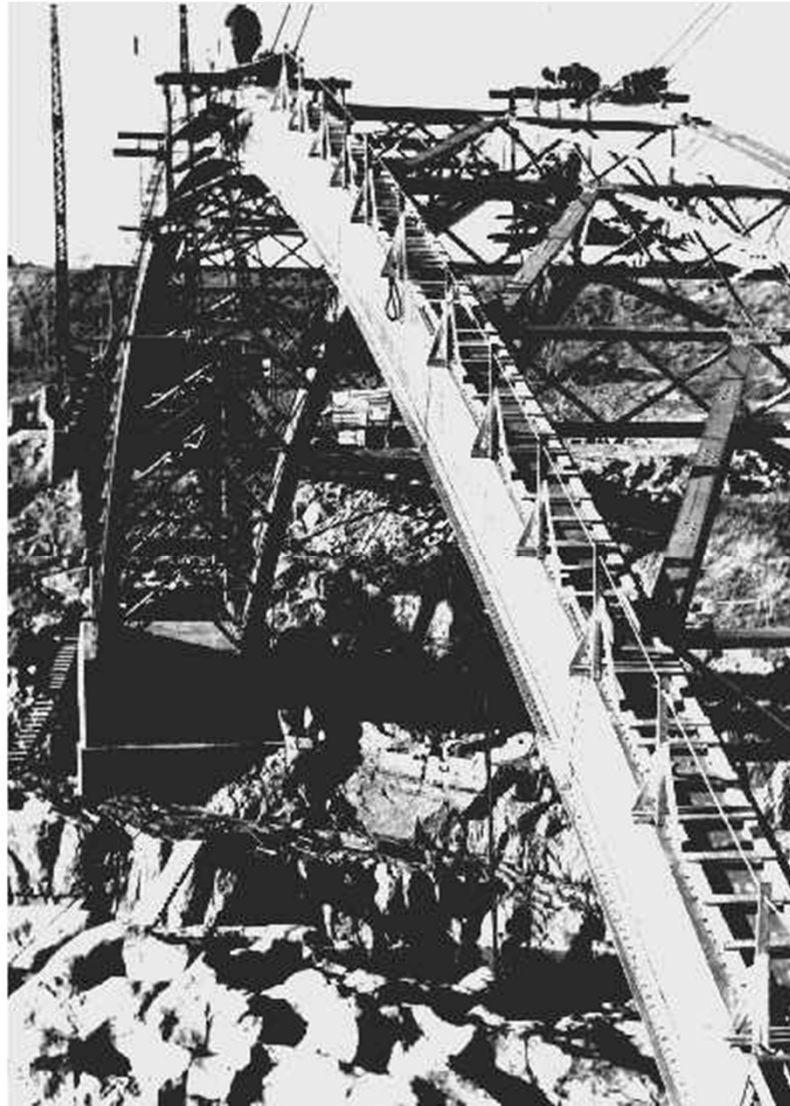
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# History – Bridge Quebec 1947



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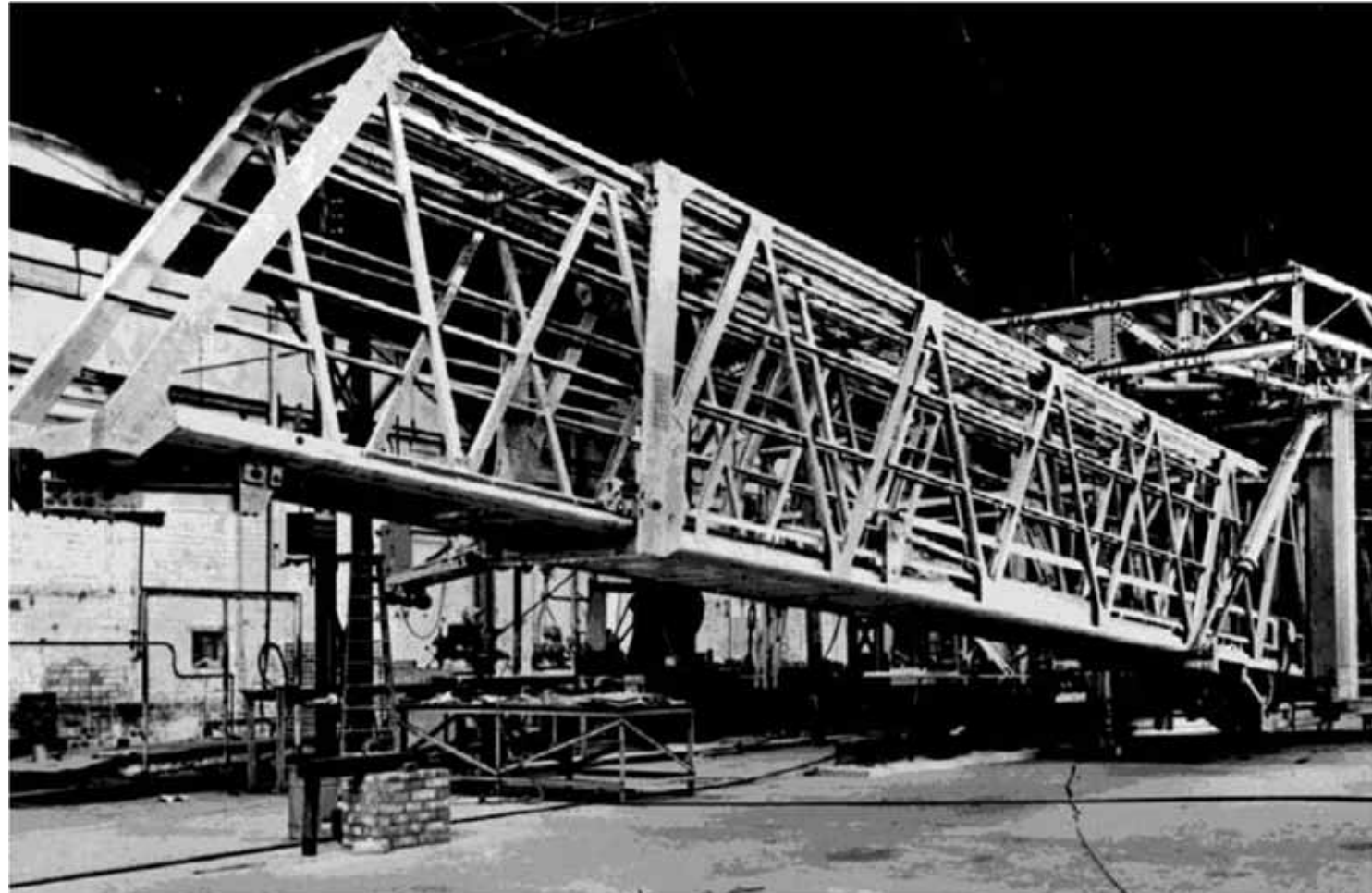
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# History – Bridge for airport terminal 1948





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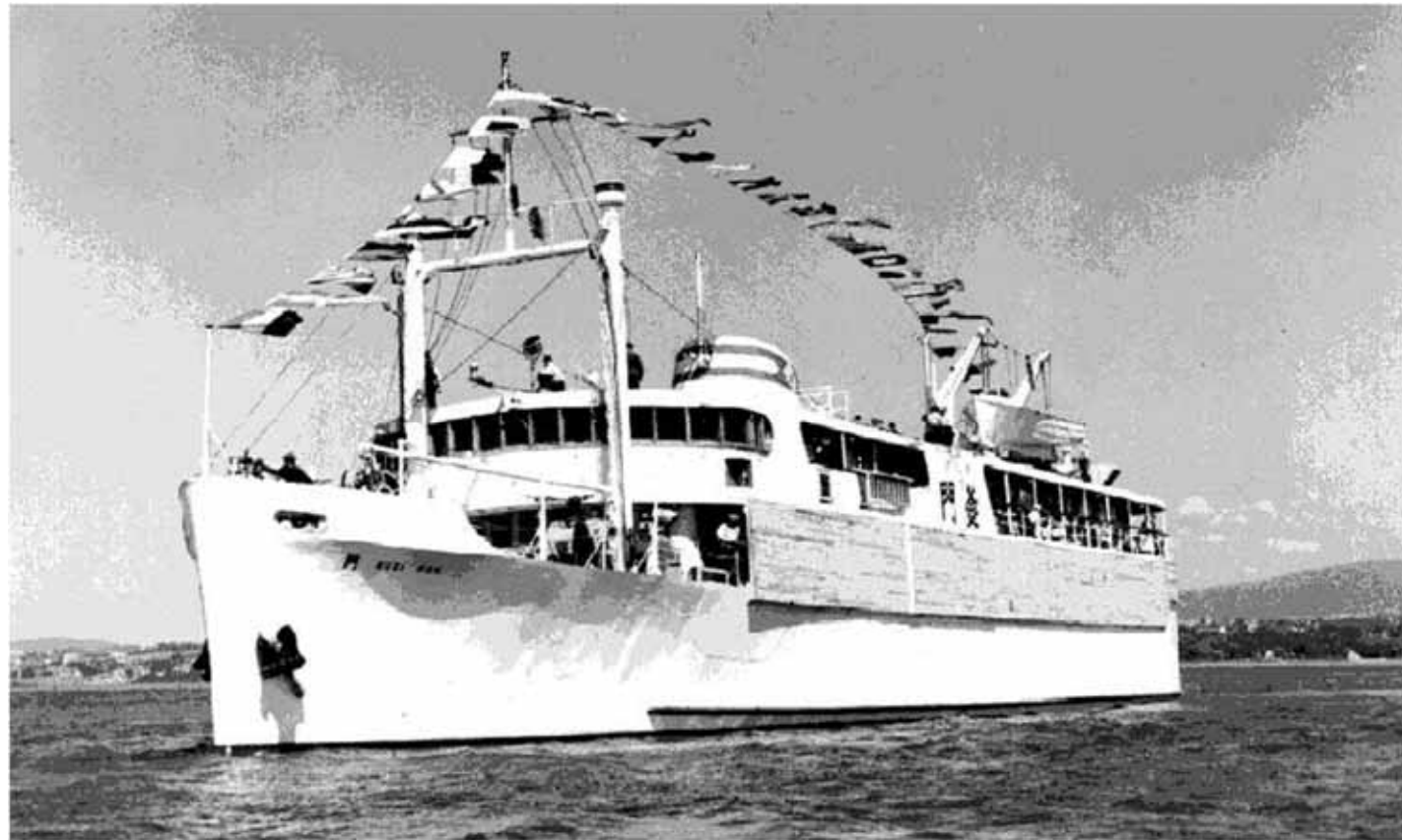
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# History – Aluminium ship 1948



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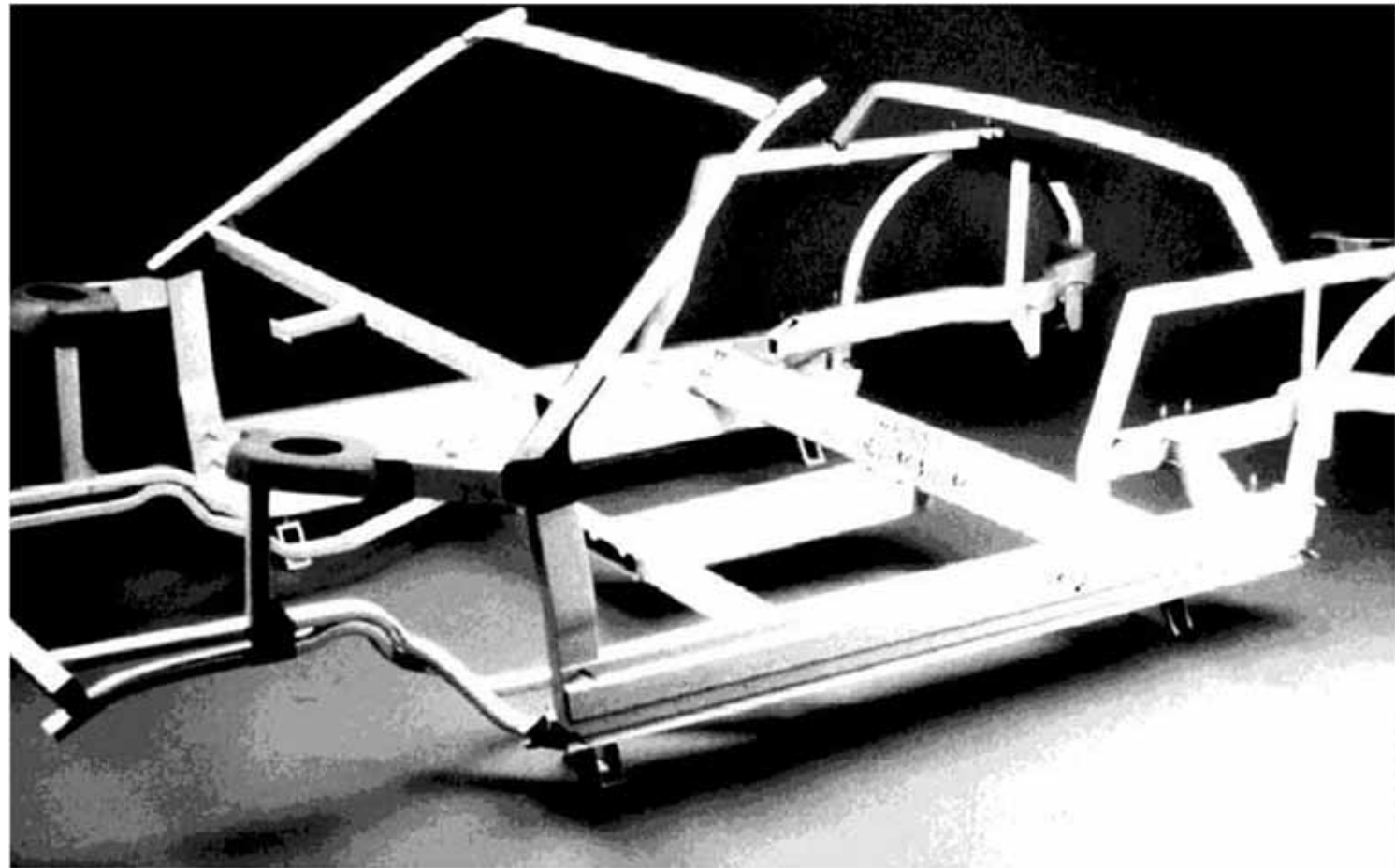
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# History – Skeleton of car, Landover 1990



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# History – Offshore helimodule, 1986



Helideck, Helihangar, Stairtowers and Support Structure

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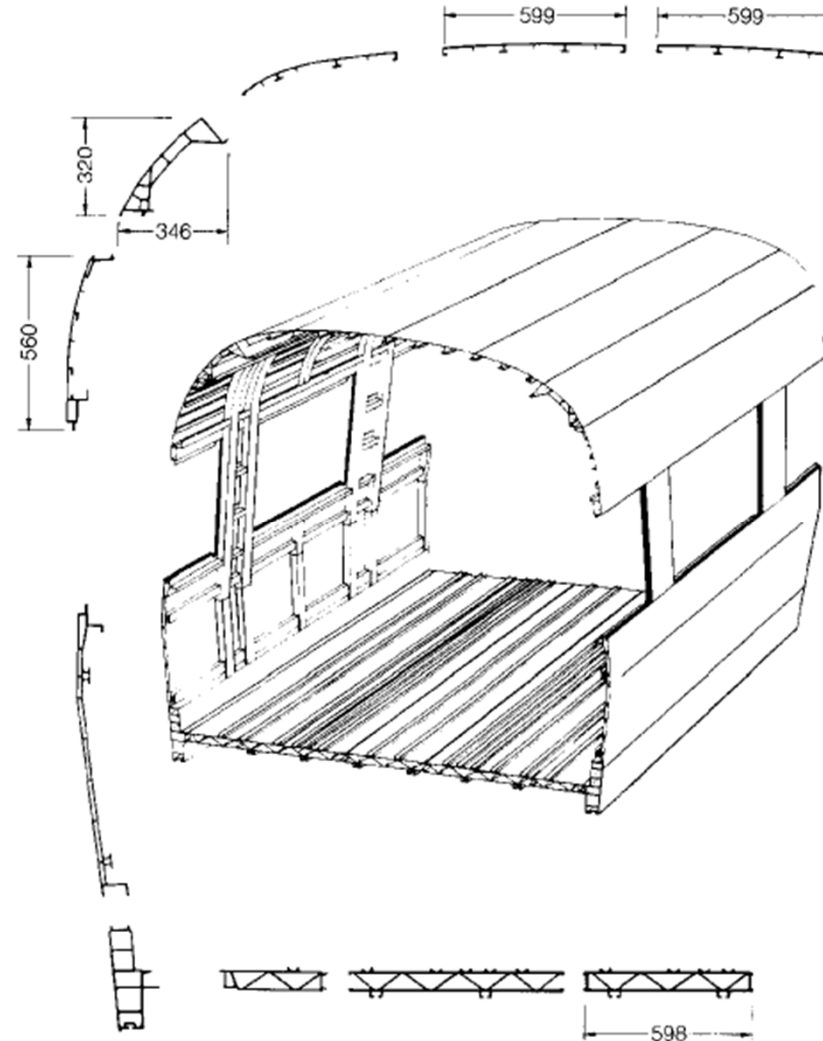
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# History – Couch for subway 1992



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# Examples of application

- [Scaffolds](#)
- [Platforms](#)
- [Roofing](#)
- [Mobil structures](#)



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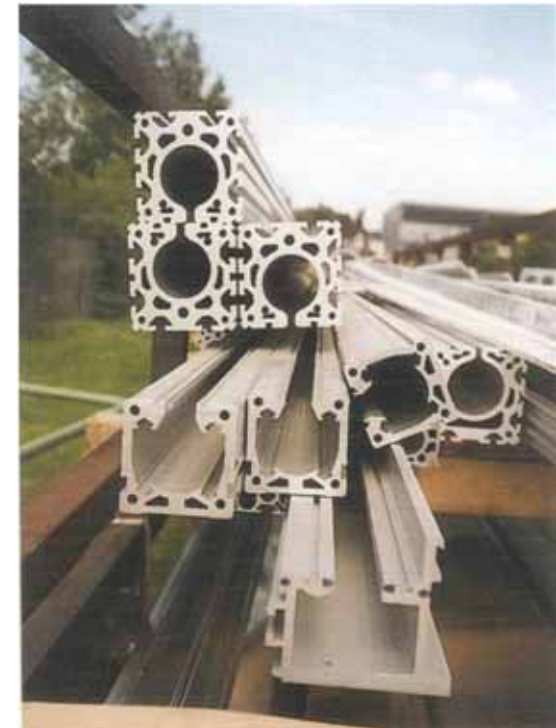
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# Aluminium and its alloys

- Pure Aluminium
- Aluminium Alloys
  - Wrought alloys
  - Casting alloys
  - Non-heat treatable alloys
  - Heat treatable alloys



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# Pure aluminium

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- Electrolytic smelters
- Cast into different shapes or forms suitable for manufacturing of semifinished products
- Level of purity a distinction is made between
  - commercial purity (99,5 - 99,8% aluminium) and
  - high purity (up to 99,98% aluminium)

# Alloying elements

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- Improve its strength (from 20 MPa to 350 MPa)
- Commonly used
  - Copper (Cu)
  - Magnesium (Mg)
  - Zinc (Zn)
  - Silicon (Si)
  - Manganese (Mn)
- Other alloying elements
  - bismuth (Bi), boron (B), chromium (Cr), lithium (Li), iron (Fe), lead (Pb), nickel (Ni), titanium (Ti), zirconium (Zr), strontium (Sr) and sodium (Na)
  - in small quantities to achieve special metallurgical effects or properties, e.g. grain refining, machinability etc.



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# Adding lithium (Li)

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- Quantities of 3 to 5%
  - Improves the elastic modulus
  - Decreases the density.
- Structural aluminium-lithium alloys
  - restricted to aerospace applications
  - special care and attention at
    - casting,
    - fabrication,
    - use
    - scrap recycling stages

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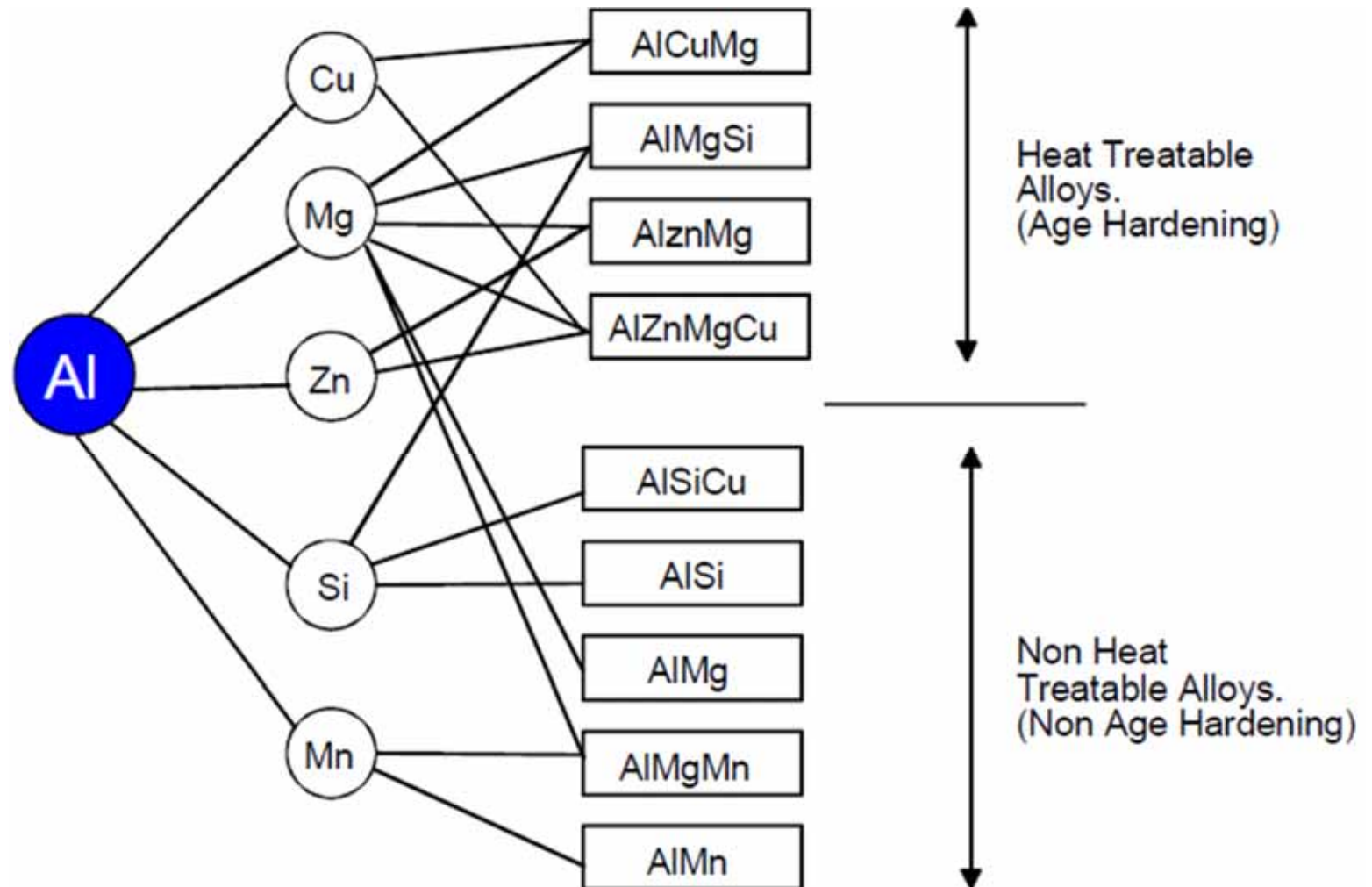
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# Heat treatable and not treatable alloys



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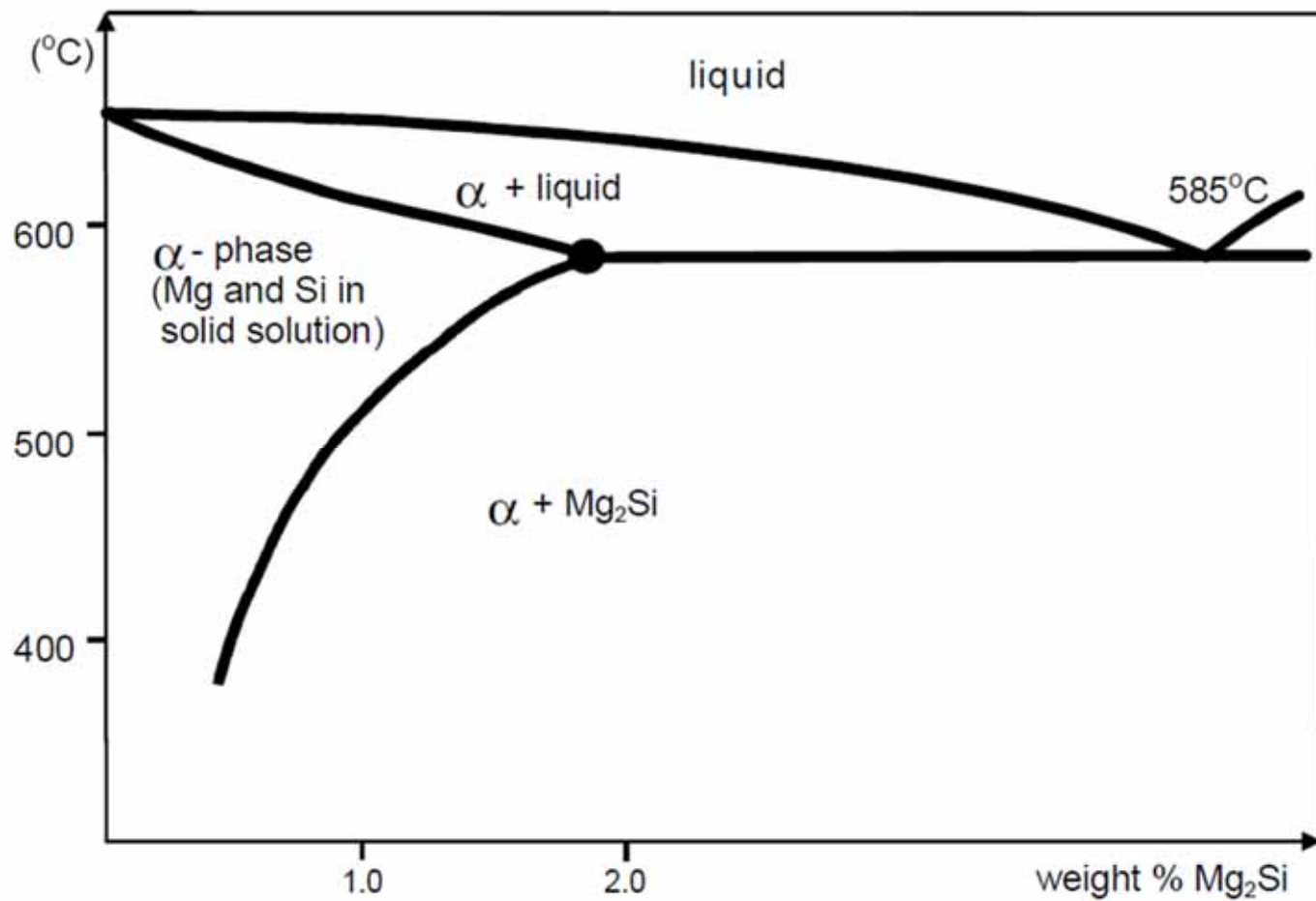
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# Heat treatment



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# The nature of heat treatment

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- Heating for a prescribed period
  - at a prescribed temperature, then cooling rapidly from this temperature,
  - usually by quenching (solution heat-treatment).
- Ageing
  - spontaneously at ordinary temperatures (natural ageing)
  - by heating for a prescribed period at a prescribed low temperature (artificial ageing).

The application of both solution heat-treatment and artificial ageing is often termed “full heat treatment”

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# Solution treatment

**Heating, quenching**, artificial ageing, re-heat treatment

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- **Heating**

Specified temperature range and heating length. Alloying constituents tend to diffuse from the core into the aluminium cladding. Cast aluminium alloys need to be solution heat-treated for longer periods than wrought aluminium alloys.

- **Quenching**

Plate, extrusions and strip may be discharged from a furnace horizontally and quenched by water sprays to minimise distortion. Distortion can also be reduced by decreasing the cooling rate using hot water or oil as a quenching medium and this is often helpful with castings and forgings.

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# Solution treatment

Heating, quenching, **artificial ageing**, re-heat treatment

- **Artificial ageing**

Hardening can be accelerated by heating the solution heat-treated alloy in the range 100 - 200 °C for a suitable period.

Maximum strength is generally achieved by prolonged ageing at low temperature rather than by rapid ageing at high temperature.

- **Re-heat treatment**

Alloys which have been incorrectly heat-treated can be re-solution treated and then precipitation treated again to enable optimum properties to be achieved.

Clad material should not be re-heat treated.

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# Heat treatment

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- Non heat treatable (Non-age hardening) alloys
  - AlMg
  - AlMn
  - AlMgMn
  - AlSiCu
  - AlSi
- Heat treatable (Age hardening) alloys
  - AlMgSi (6000 series)
  - AlZnMg(Cu) (7000 series)
  - AlCuMg (2000 series)
  - AlLi (8000 series)

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# Four digit alloy designation system

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- The first digit indicates the alloy group as follows:
- The second digit indicates modifications of the original alloy or impurity limits.
- The last two digits identify the aluminium alloy or indicate the aluminium purity.
  - A letter used as a prefix indicates an experimental alloy.
  - A letter used as a suffix indicates national variations.



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# The first digit indicates the alloy group

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- Al. 99,00 % purity and above 1xxx
- Copper (Cu) 2xxx
- Manganese (Mn) 3xxx
- Silicon (Si) 4xxx
- Magnesium (Mg) 5xxx
- Magnesium and Silicon (MgSi) 6xxx
- Zinc (Zn) 7xxx
- Other element (eg. Li, Fe) 8xxx
- Unused series 9xxx

# Classification examples of commonly used alloys

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**Int. reg. record EN 573**

**ISO**

1050A

Al 99,5

1070A

Al 99,7

2017A

AlCu4MgSi

3103

AlMn1

5052

AlMg2,5

5454

AlMg2,7Mn

5083

AlMg4,5Mn

6060

AlMgSi

6063

AlMg0,5Si

6082

AlSiMgMn

7020

AlZn4,5Mg1

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# Temper Designation

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## **F as-fabricated**

Fabricated products without special control

## **O annealed**

Wrought products which are annealed to obtain the lowest strength temper

## **H strain hardened**

Wrought products which have been cold worked

## **W solution heat treated**

Unstable temper applicable only to alloys which spontaneously age at room temperature

## **T thermally treated to produce stable tempers other than F, O, and H**

Products which are thermally treated, with or without supplementary strain hardening.

The T is always followed by one or more digits.

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# H-temper - strain hardened

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## H1 strain hardened only

The number following this designation indicates the degree of strain hardening

## H2 strain hardened and partially annealed

Applies to products that are strain hardened more than the desired final amount and then reduced in strength to the desired level by partial annealing.

## H3 strain hardened and stabilized

Applies to products which are strain hardened and whose mechanical properties are stabilized by a low temperature thermal treatment which results in slightly lower tensile strength and improved ductility. This designation is applicable only to those alloys

which, unless stabilized, gradually age-soften at room temperature.

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# H-temper - strain hardened

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Three-digit H temper designation

**H111** to products strain hardened less than the amount required for a controlled H11

**H112** acquire some temper from shaping processes

**H311** to products which are strain hardened less than the amount required for a controlled H31 temper.

**H321** to products which are strain-hardened less than the amount required for a controlled H32 temper

**H323/H343** to products which are specially

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# T temper - thermally treated

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## **T4 solution heat treated and naturally aged to a substantially table condition**

to products which are not cold worked after solution heat treatment, or in which the effect of cold work in flatterring or straightening

## **T5 cooled from an elevated temperature shaping process and then artificially aged**

to products which are not cold worked after cooling from an elevated temperature shaping process, or in which the effect of cold work in flatterring or straightening

## **T6 solution heat treated and then artificially aged**

to products which are not cold worked after solution heat treatment, or in which the effect of cold work in flatterring or straightening may not be recognized in mechanical property limits.

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# Assessment 1

- What are the advantages of aluminium structures?
- What is nature of heat treatment?
- How is indicated the heat treatment?



# Aluminium products for structural applications

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- **Extrusions**
  - The extrusion process
  - Direct extrusion
  - Indirect and hydrostatic extrusion
  - Extrusions for structural applications
- **Sheet and plate**
  - The cold rolling process
  - Hot rolling
  - Alloys for rolled products
- **Casting alloys**



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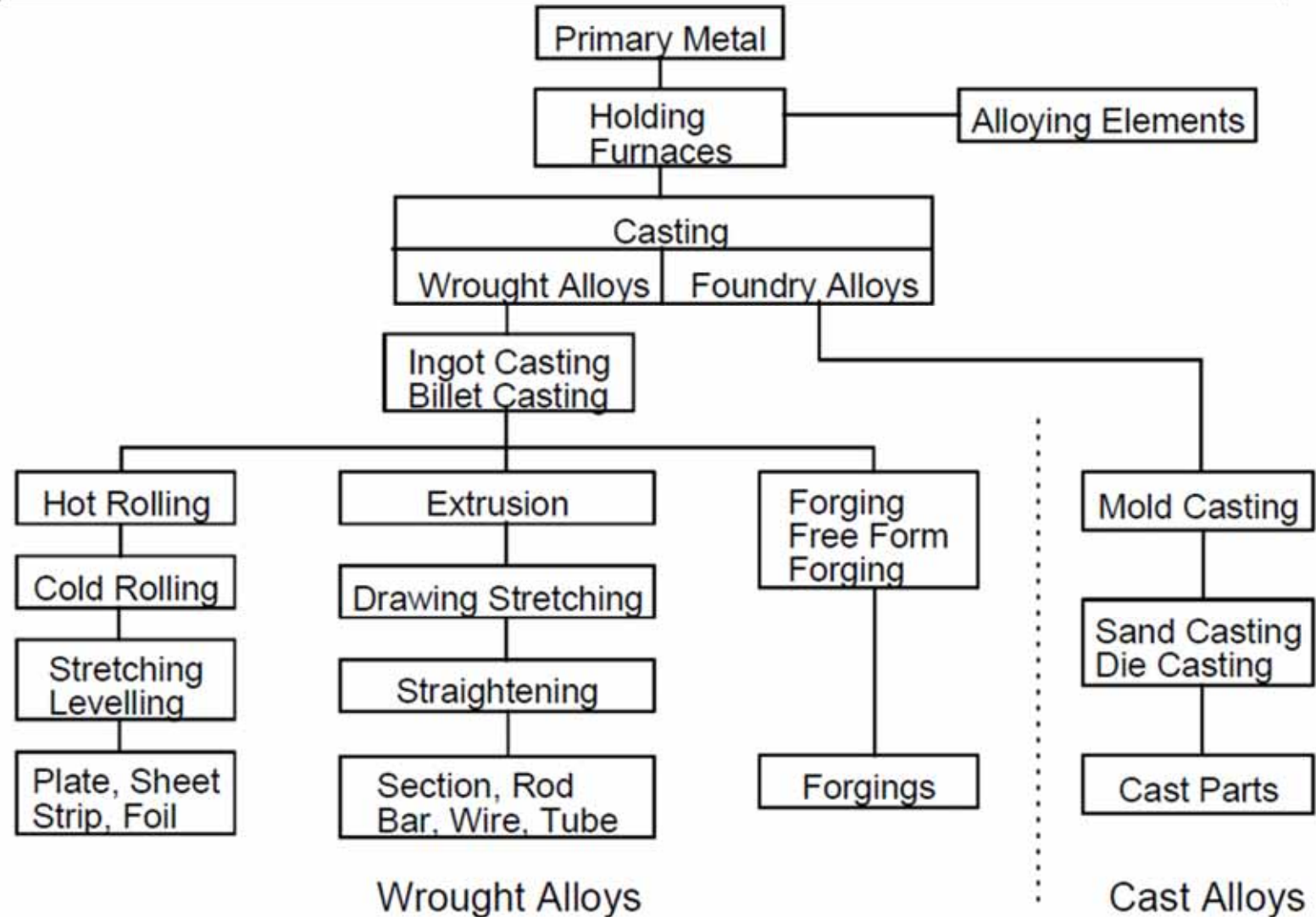
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# Processing aluminium alloys



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# Wrought alloys

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- For fabrication by hot and cold forming processes
  - rolling, forging and extrusion.
- Principal alloying elements
  - Magnesium strengthening element
    - added up to 5% by weight.
  - Zinc, copper and/or silicon + magnesium
    - very high strength alloys special heat treatments.
  - Lead and bismuth
    - The machinability is increased by adding.
  - Copper and/or nickel, manganese or iron
    - High temperature strength properties

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# Casting alloys

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- For the fabrication of cast parts
- High fluidity in the liquid state
- Good resistance to hot cracking during solidification.
- Castability
  - addition of silicon (7 to 13% Si)
  - the silicon content further up to 25% reduces the thermal expansion down to levels of iron and steel

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# Extrusion process

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- At temperatures 400° - 500° C
  - using a pre-heated billet
- Direct Extrusion
- Indirect and Hydrostatic Extrusions
- Extrusion alloys
  - 6000-series (AlMgSi), and the
- Extrusion speed for the 6063 alloy
  - between 20 and 70 m/min.

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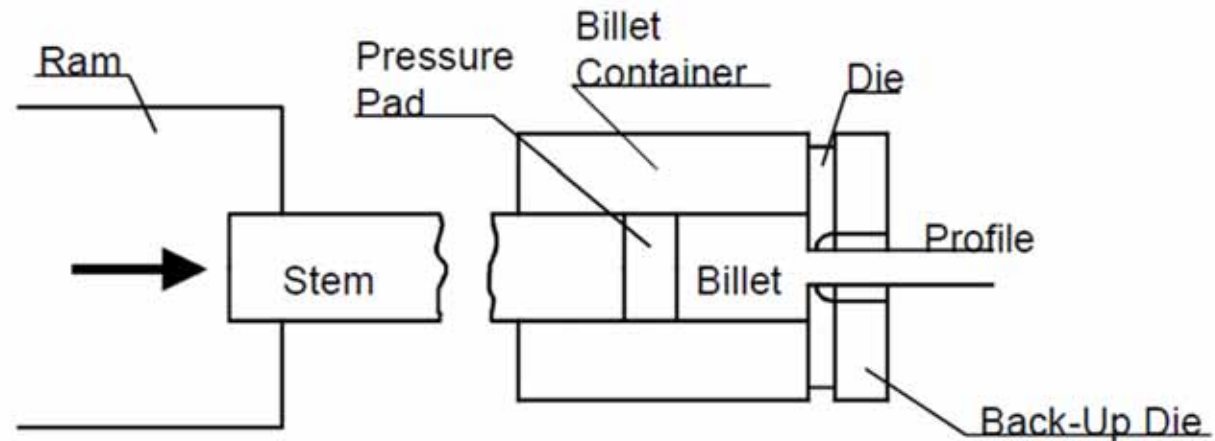
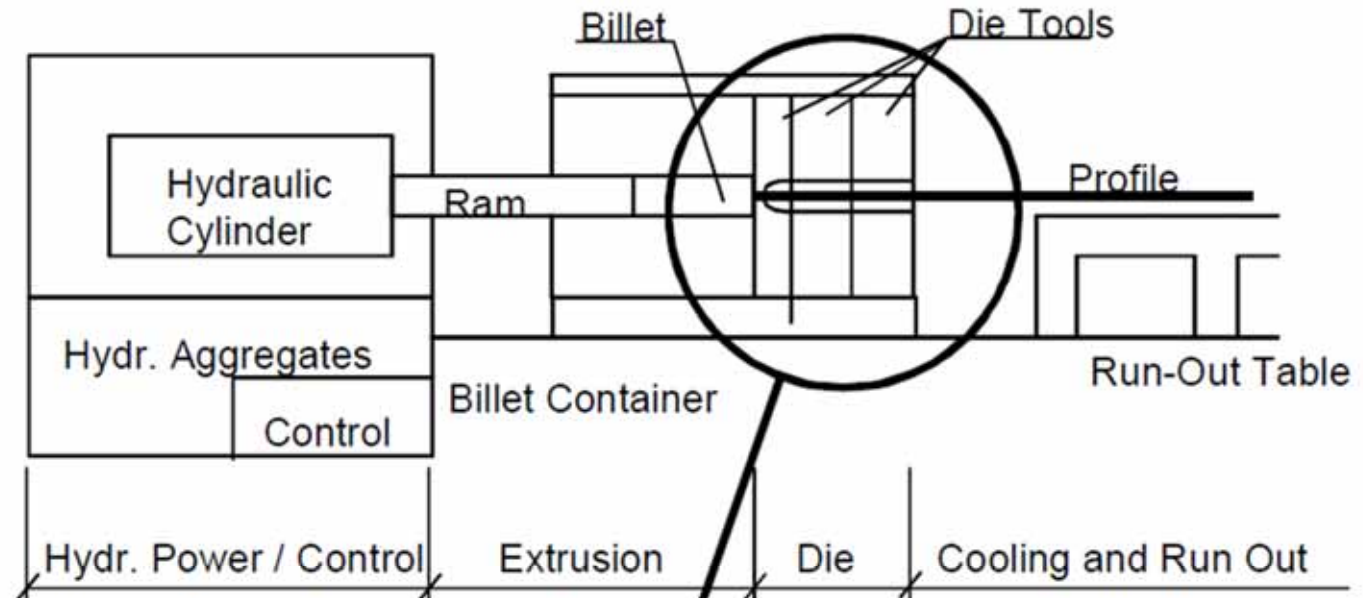
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# Extrusion process



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# Extrusion - examples

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- **AlMn - 3000-series for drawn tubes**
  - due to very high formability
  - excellent dimensional tolerance abilities
- **2000-series or the 7000 series**
  - strength performance
  - no weldability (Cu alloys)
  - potential danger of stress corrosion (Zn alloys).
- **AlMgSi 6000-serie**
  - majority of extrusions good overall performance i.e.
    - relatively easy to extrude
    - medium to high strength in the T6 condition
    - good corrosion resistance in marine and industrial environments
    - good weldability by all welding methods
    - good availability on the market, both as standard and special sections

6082 (AlMgSi1Mn) T6 In Europe normal

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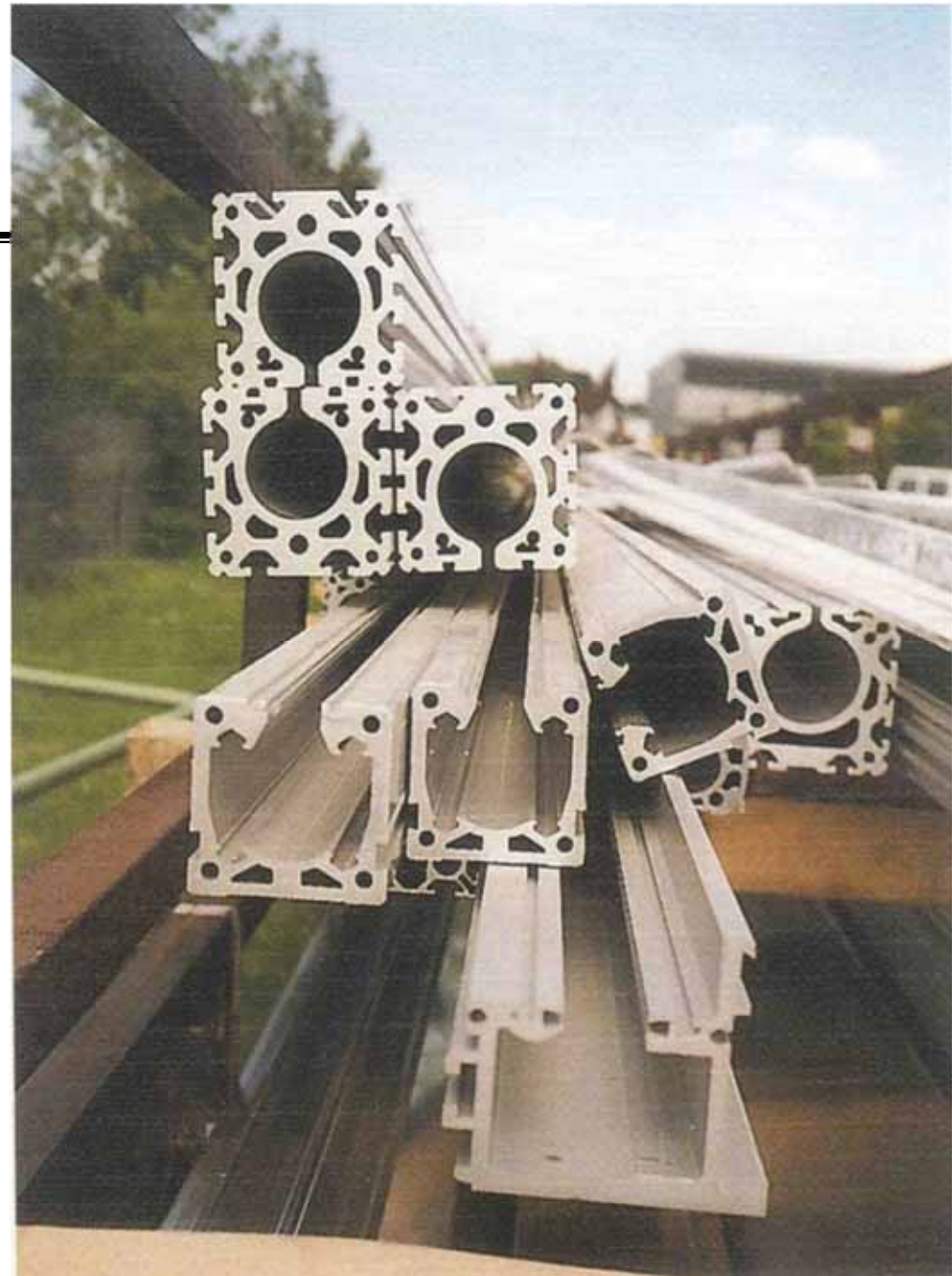
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# Sections

- Extrusion
- Extrusion
- Extrusion
  
- Casting
- Cold forming
- Hot rolling



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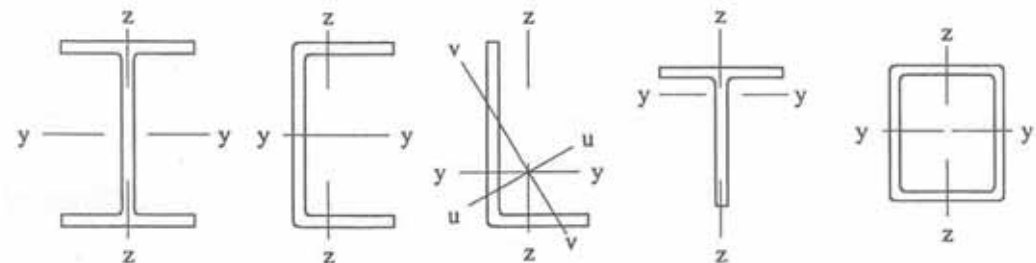
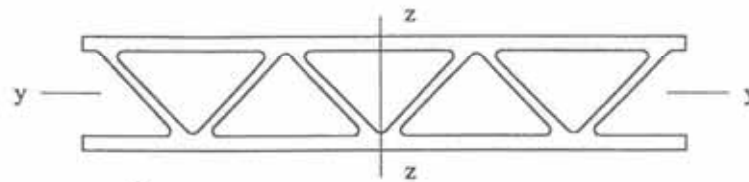
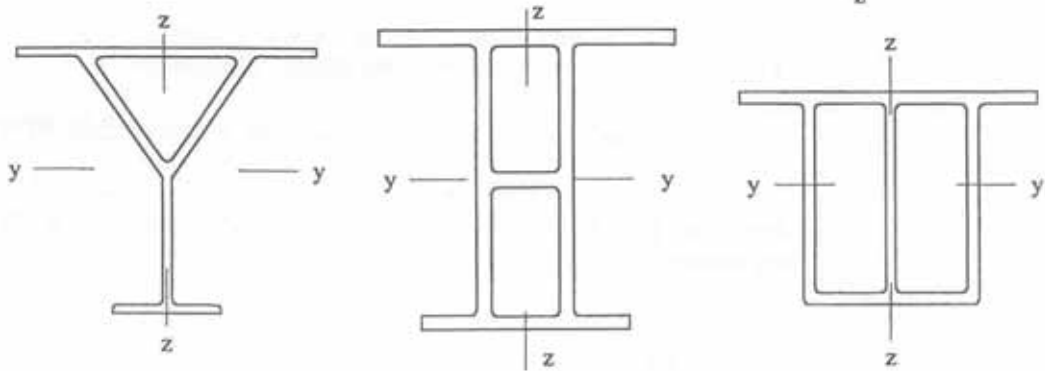
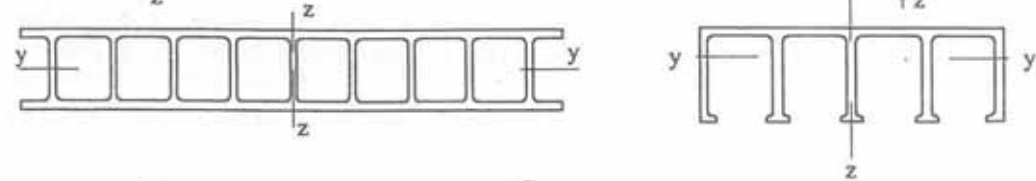
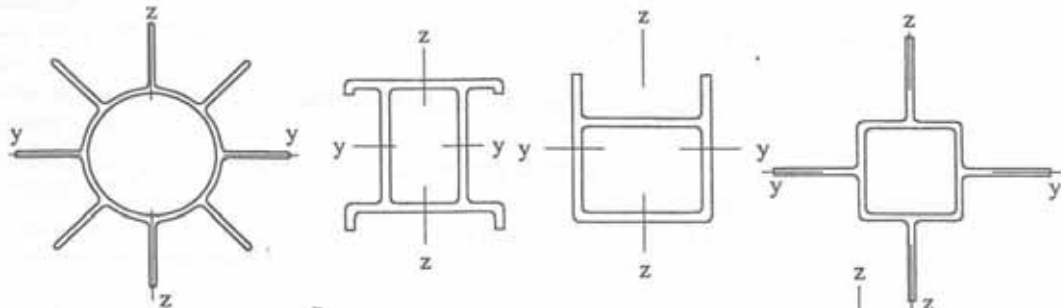
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# Sections

- Extrusion
- Extrusion
- Extrusion
- Casting
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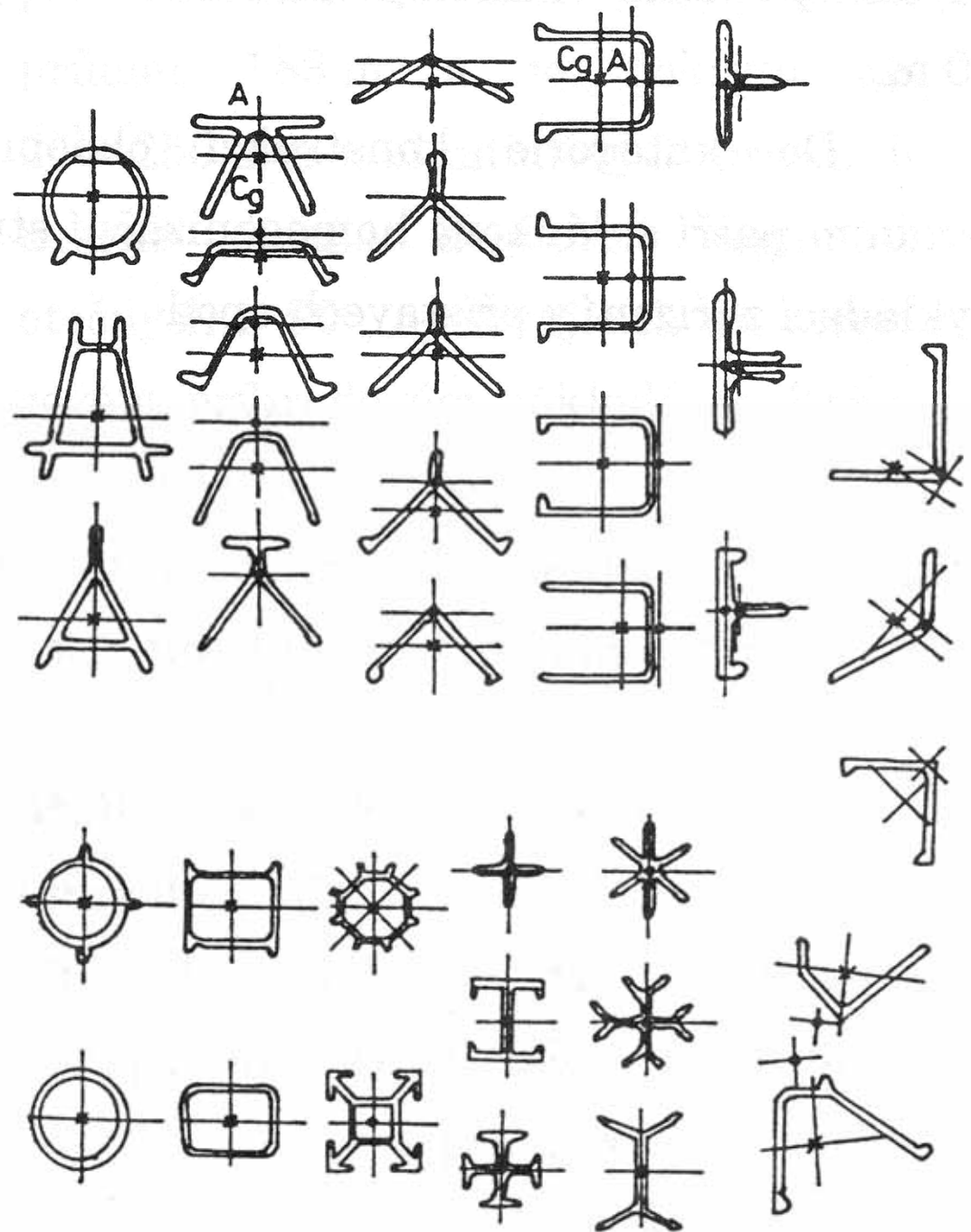
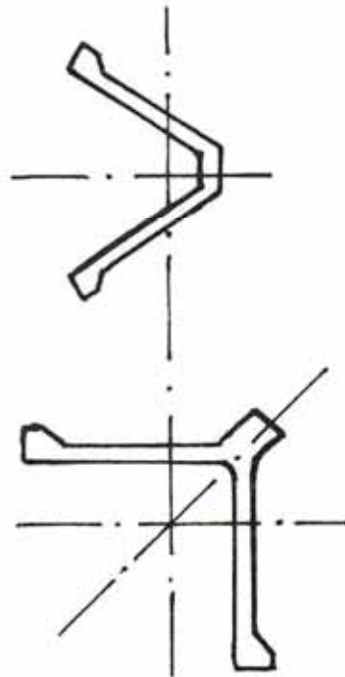
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# Extrusion

- Bulbs
- Stiffeners
- Locks



# Extrusion – preparation for welding

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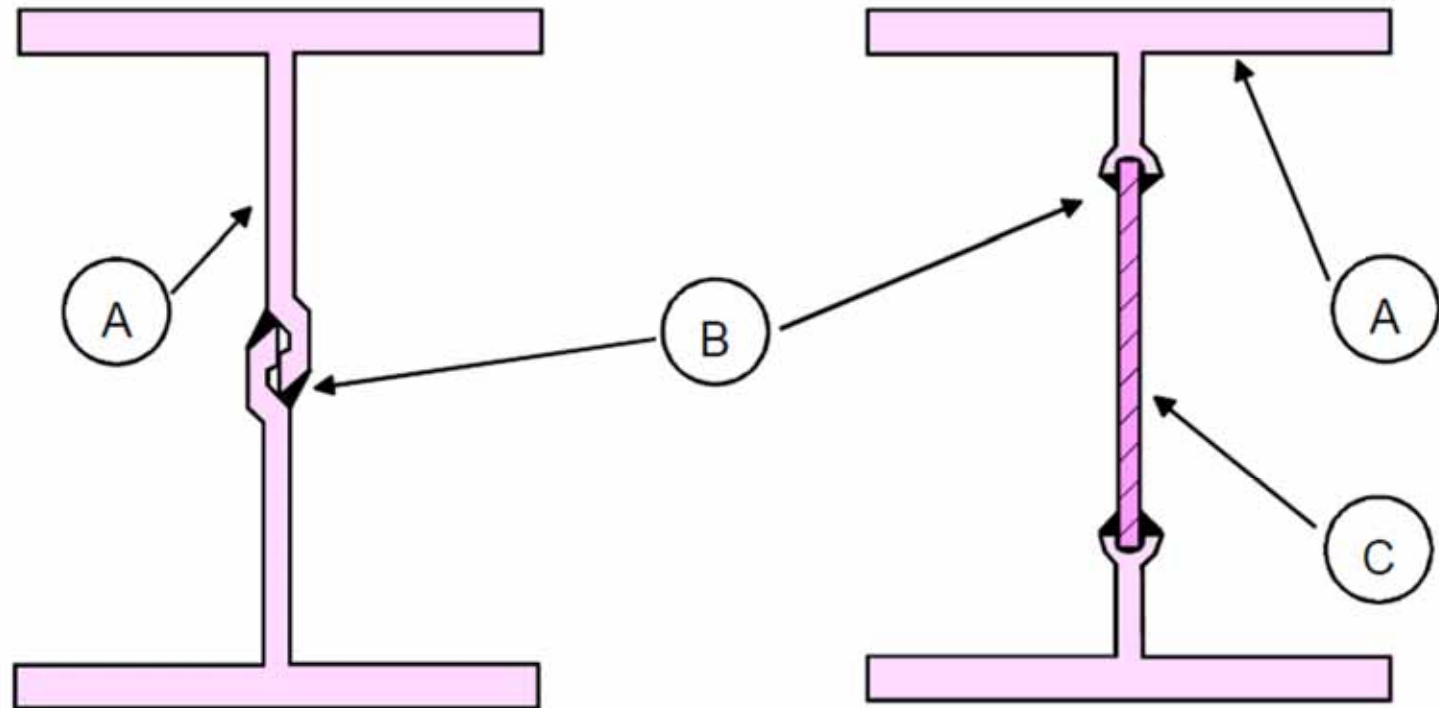
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A: Extruded profiles

B: Fillet welds

C: Extruded flat bar or rolled plate

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# Extrusion - thicknesses

Min. possible wall thickness for extrusion presses 10 - 80 MN.

Alloy	Profile type	25	50	75	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
Al 99-99,9	a	0,8	1	1,2	1,5	2	2,5	2,5	3	4	4	5
AlMgSi 0,5	b	0,8	1	1,2	1,5	2	2,5	2,5	3	4	4	5
AlMn 1	c	1	1	1,5	2	2,5	2,5	2,5	4	5	5	6
AlMg 1												
AlMgSi 1	a	1	1,2	1,2	1,5	2	2,5	3	4	4	5	6
	b	1	1,2	1,5	2	2	2,5	3	4	4	5	6
	c	2	1,5	2	2	3	4	4	5	5	6	6
AlMg 3	a	1	1	1,2	1,5	2	2,5	3	4	4	5	6
	b	1	1	1,2	1,5	2	2,5	3	4	4	5	6
AlCuMg 1	a	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,5	2	3	5	5	6	7	8
	b	1,2	1,2	1,2	1,5	2	3	5	5	6	7	8
ALZnMgCu	a	2	2	2,5	3	3	5	6	8	12	12	14

a: Solid / semi-hollow sections

b: Hollow sections with equal wall thicknesses

c: Hollow sections with unequal wall thicknesses

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Assessment 2

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# Extrusion – recommended shapes

	Insteads of this	This is recommended
Equal wall thickness		
Sharp edges		
Profile symmetrie		
Better dimensional control		
Avoid hollow sections if possible		
Increased strength of weak points		

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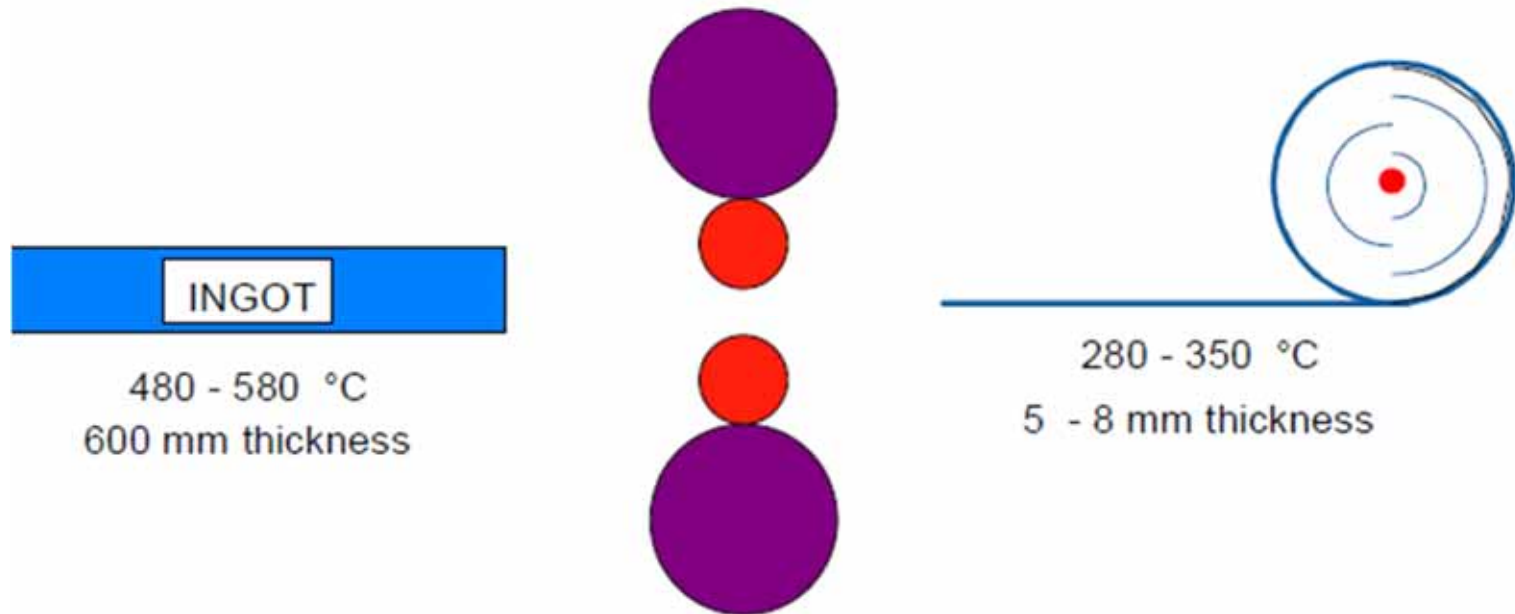
Eurocodes

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# Hot rolling



- Thick sheetings

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# Hot rolling

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- Non heat treatable alloys
  - 5052 (AlMg2.5)
  - 5083 (AlMg4.5Mn)
  - 5054 (AlMg2.7Mn)
- Heat treatable alloys
  - 6082 (AlMgSi1)
  - 7020 (AlZn4.5Mg1)

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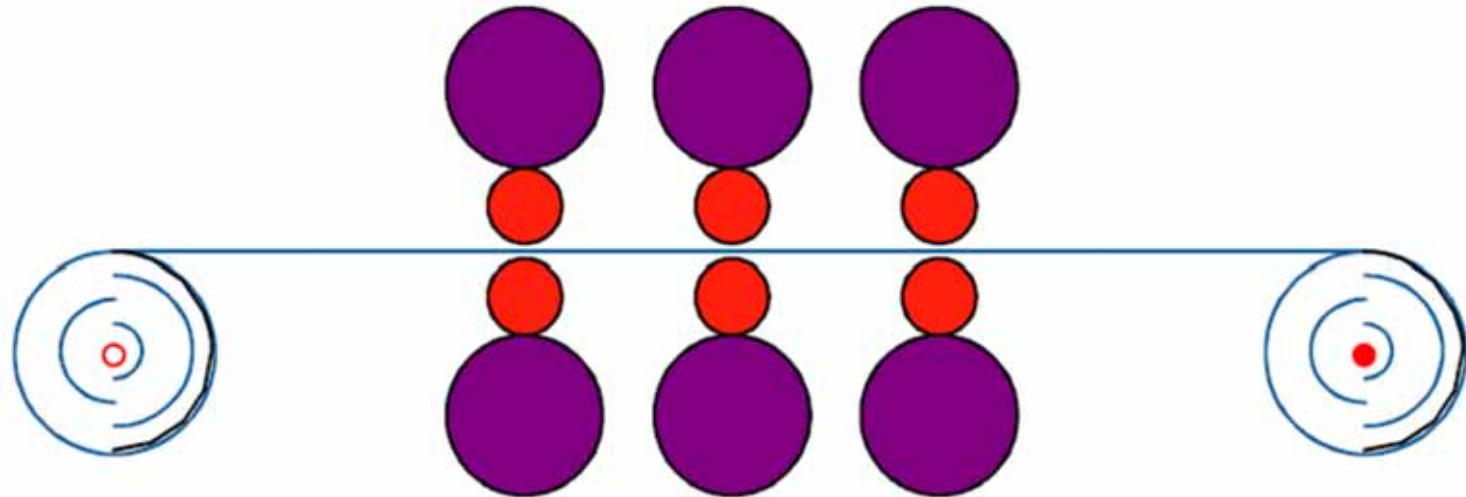
Eurocodes

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# Reverse hot rolling



- Thin sheetings

# Casting Alloys for Structural Applications

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- The typical alloys  
AlSiMg, AlSiCu, AlMg, AlCuTi and AlZnMg,
  - AlSi-alloys are preferred with respect to castability.
- **Sand casting**
  - produced by pouring molten metal into a sand mold and allowing it to solidify.
- **Permanent mold casting**
  - produced by feeding molten metal by force of gravity or low pressure into a mold constructed of durable material (iron or steel), and allowing it to solidify.
- **Die casting**
  - produced by injecting molten metal under high pressure into a metal mold or die and allowing it to solidify.



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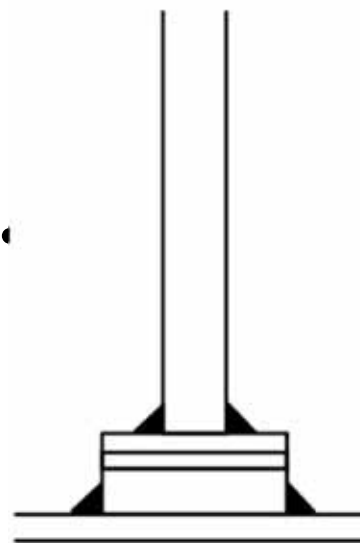
# Advanced sheetings



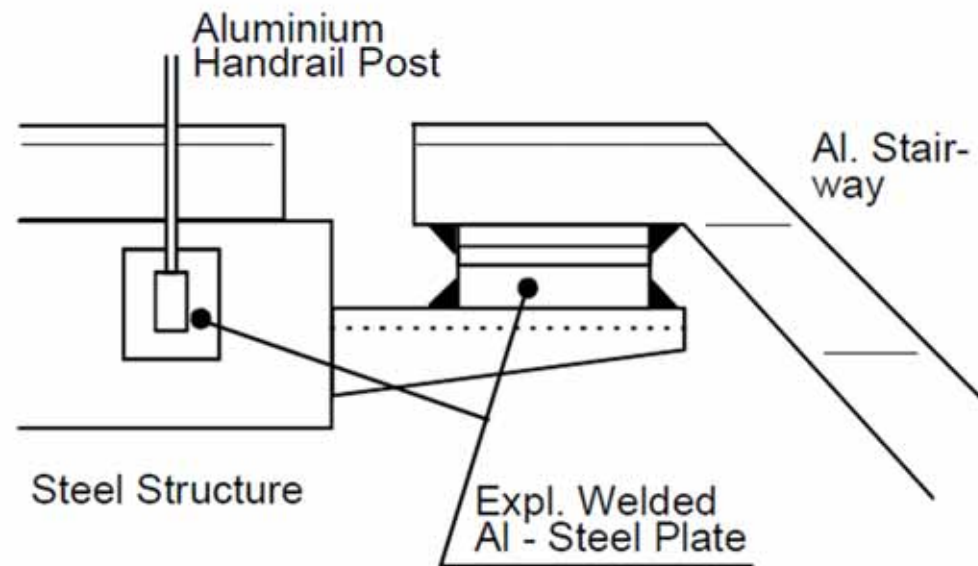
Aluminium Alloy Plate

Al 99.5 Flyer Plate

Steel Alloy Plate



Steel Deck Plate



Aluminium  
Handrail Post

Al. Stair-  
way

Steel Structure

Expl. Welded  
Al - Steel Plate

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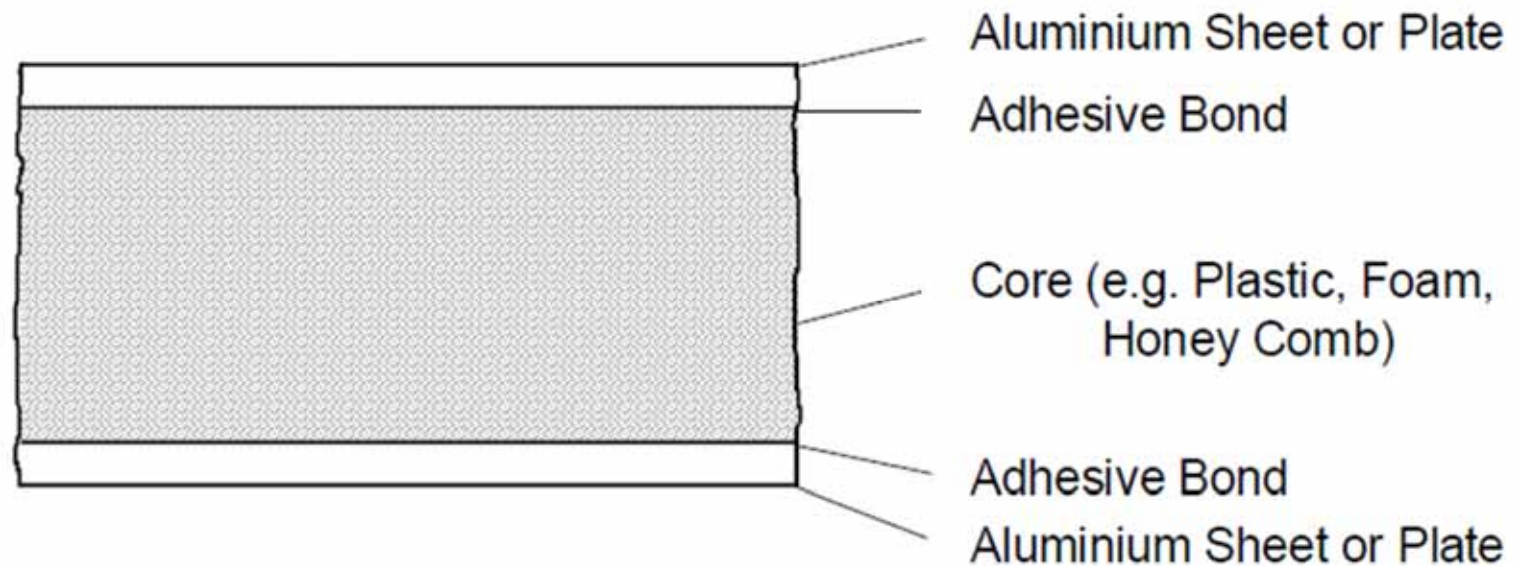
Eurocodes

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# Sandwich panels - principle



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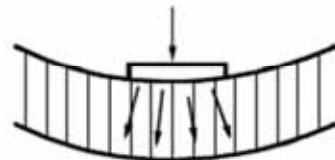
# Sandwich panels - advantages



Normal stresses are taken by the faces.



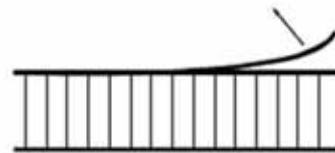
Transverse shear stress is taken by the core.



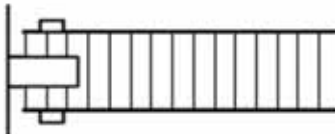
The core must have sufficient resistance against compression.



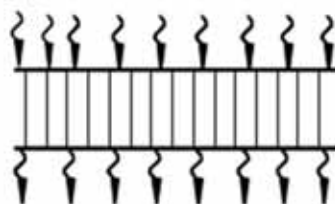
The panel must resist compression loading without buckling.



The adhesive joint must resist tension and peeling stresses.



Adequate load transfer joints between different structures to be considered.



Thermal insulation capacity for the complete panel construction.

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# Assessment

- What are the major processes for aluminium products?
- What are the advantages of extrusion?
- What is the reason for limits of size and thickness in extrusion?



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# Choice of alloy and temper

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- The available semi product range
- Delivery time from stock or plant
- Prices, etc

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# Costs

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- Main relevant factors,
  - type of alloy
  - quantity and price
  - material dimensions
  - delivery time/eventual need for own internal stock
  - demands for special material control/certificates and traceability

- Type of Alloy

**AlMn1 < AlMg2,5 < AlMg4,5Mn < AlMgSi1**

# Design

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- Steel as a reference material

- Material property

$$E = 70\,000 \text{ MPa}$$

$$\rho = 2\,700 \text{ kg / m}^3$$

$\rho$  ductility 0,1 % to 12 % (structural above 4 %)  
(steel min 15 %, commonly 40 % and more)

# Standards

## Eurocode 9 - Design of Aluminium Structures

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Pre-standards	Eurocode	Title
ENV 1999-1-1	<b>EN 1999-1-1</b>	General structural rules.
ENV 1999-1-2	<b>EN 1999-1-2</b>	Structural fire design
ENV 1999-2	<b>EN 1999-1-3</b>	Structures susceptible to fatigue
	EN 1999-1-4	Cold-formed structural sheeting
	EN 1999-1-5	Shell structures.



# Structure of EN 1999-1-1

## Chapters

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1. General
2. Basis of design
3. Materials
4. Durability
5. Structural analysis
6. Ultimate limit states for members
7. Serviceability limit states
8. Design of joints

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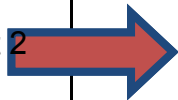
Assessment 2

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# Annexes to EN 1999-1-1

- A. Execution classes
- B. Equivalent T-stub in tension
- C. Materials selection
- D. Corrosion and surface protection
- E. Analytical models for stress strain relationship
- F. Behaviour of cross section beyond elastic limit
- G. Rotation capacity
- H. Plastic hinge method for continuous beams
- I. Lateral torsional buckling of beams and torsional or flexural-torsional buckling of compression members
- J. Properties of cross sections
- K. Shear lag effects in member design
- L. Classification of connections
- M. Adhesive bonded connections



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# Material

## EN 1991-1-1 Chapter 3

Table 3.2b - Characteristic values of 0,2% proof strength  $f_o$  and ultimate tensile strength  $f_u$  (unwelded and for HAZ), min elongation  $A$ , reduction factors  $r_{o,haz}$  and  $r_{u,haz}$  in HAZ, buckling class and exponent  $n_p$  for wrought aluminium alloys –  
Extruded profiles, extruded tube, extruded rod/bar and drawn tube

Alloy EN-AW	Product form	Temper	Thick- ness $t$ mm 1) 3)	$f_o$ 1)	$f_u$ 1)	$A$ 5) 2)	$f_{o,haz}$ 4	$f_{u,haz}$ 4	HAZ-factor <sup>4)</sup>		BC 6)	$n_p$ 7)
				N/mm <sup>2</sup>		%	N/mm <sup>2</sup>		$\rho_{o,haz}$	$\rho_{u,haz}$		
6082	EP,ET,ER/B	T4	$t \leq 25$	110	205	14	100	160	0,91	0,78	B	8
	EP/O, EP/H	T5	$t \leq 5$	230	270	8	125	185	0,54	0,69	B	28
	EP/O,EP/H ET	T6	$t \leq 5$	250	290	8	125	185	0,50	0,64	A	32
			$5 < t \leq 15$	260	310	10			0,48	0,60	A	25
	ER/B	T6	$t \leq 20$	250	295	8			0,50	0,63	A	27
			$20 < t \leq 150$	260	310	8			0,48	0,60	A	25
	DT	T6	$t \leq 5$	255	310	8			0,49	0,60	A	22
			$5 < t \leq 20$	240	310	10			0,52	0,60	A	17

# Linear/multi-linear model of material

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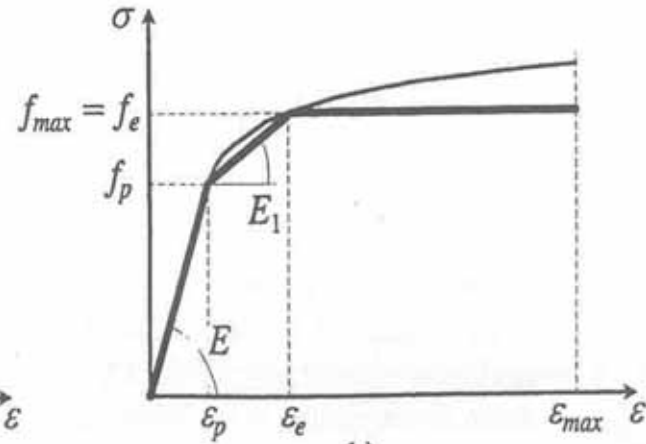
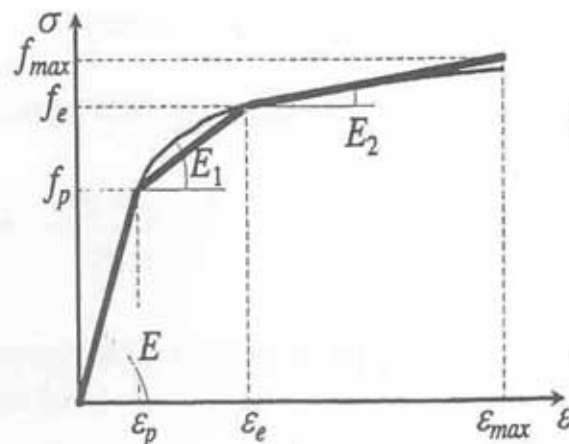
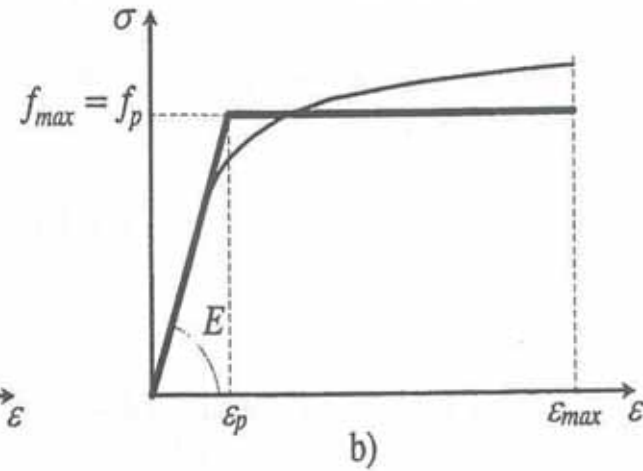
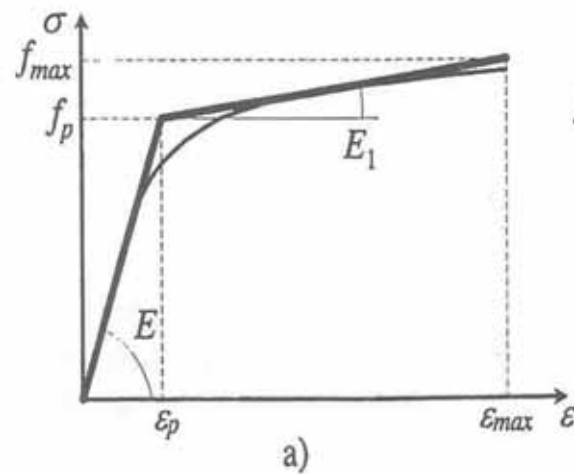
Material selection

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# Nonlinear model of material

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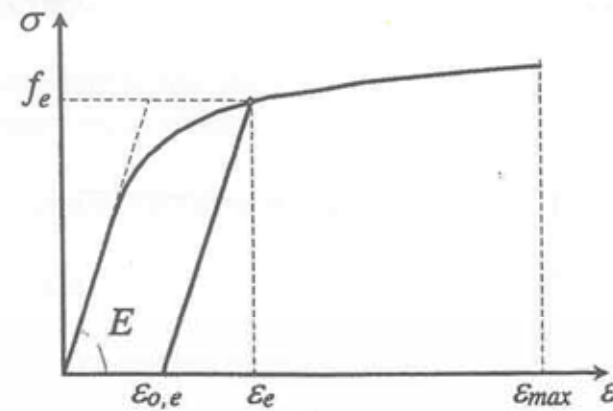
Material selection

**Eurocodes**

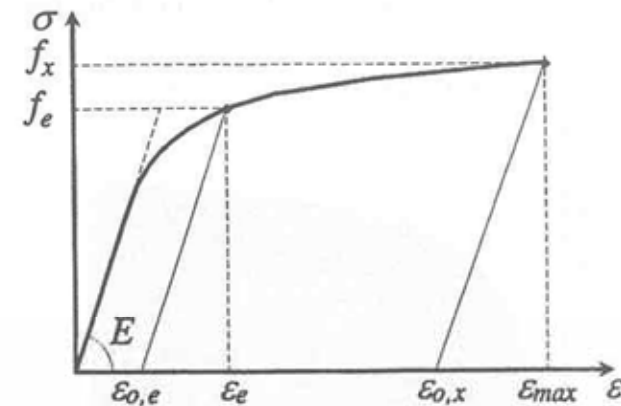
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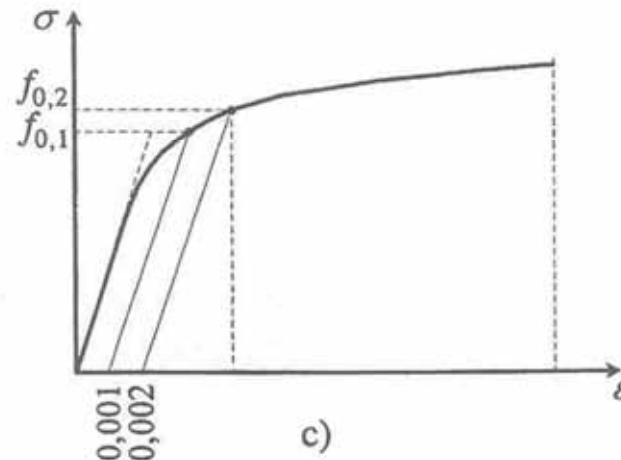
Notes



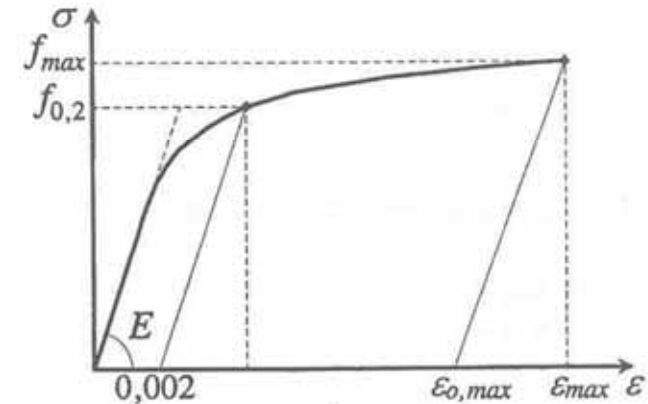
a)



b)



c)



d)

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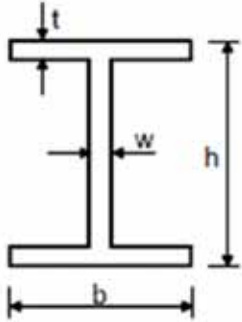

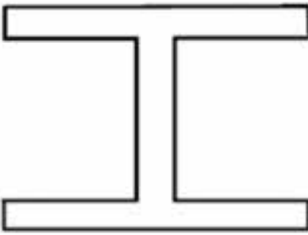
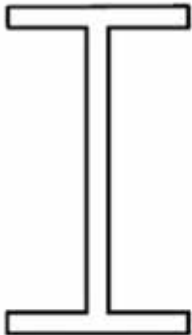
Eurocodes

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# Steel and aluminium sections

	Steel	Aluminium Alloy	Aluminium Alloy	Aluminium Alloy
Assessment 1				
Material selection	Moment of inertia in mm <sup>4</sup>	38,9 E 6	116,6 E6	116,7 E6
Material selection	EI (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )	8,17 E12	8,16 E12	8,17 E12
Assessment 2	h (mm)	240	240	300
Assessment 2	b (mm)	120	240	200
Assessment 2	t (mm)	9,8	18,3	12,9
Assessment 2	w (mm)	6,2	12	6
Assessment 2	g (kg/m)	30,7	30,3	18,4

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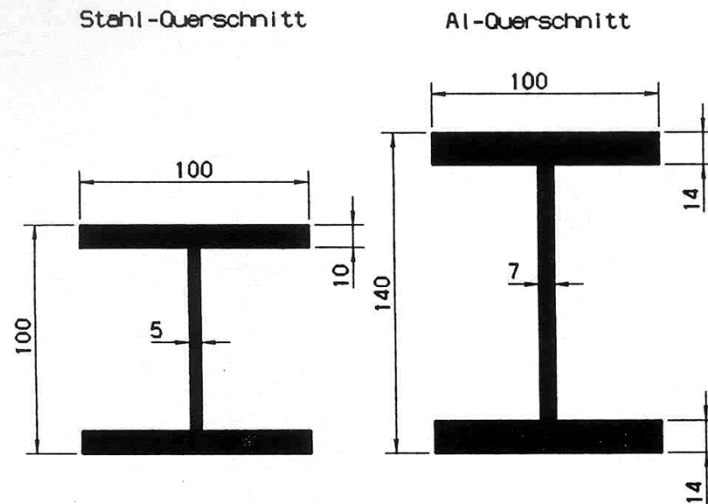
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# Aluminium and steel

## Biegesteifigkeit



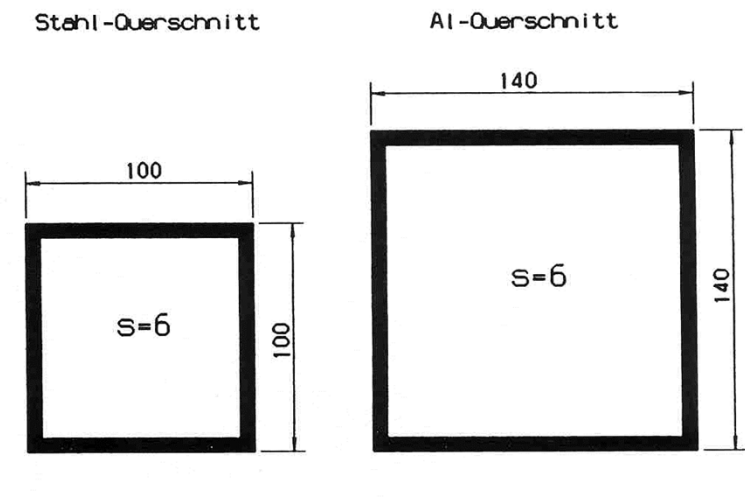
Stahl-Querschnitt  
 $E \times I = 898 \times 10^6 \text{ kNm}^2$

Gewicht = 18.84 Kg/m

Al-Querschnitt  
 $E \times I = 898 \times 10^6 \text{ kNm}^2$

Gewicht = 9.67 Kg/m

## Torsionssteifigkeit



Stahl-Querschnitt  
 $E \times I_t = 1.05 \times 10^9 \text{ kNm}^2$

Gewicht = 17.71 Kg/m

Al-Querschnitt  
 $E \times I_t = 1.05 \times 10^9 \text{ kNm}^2$

Gewicht = 8.68 Kg/m

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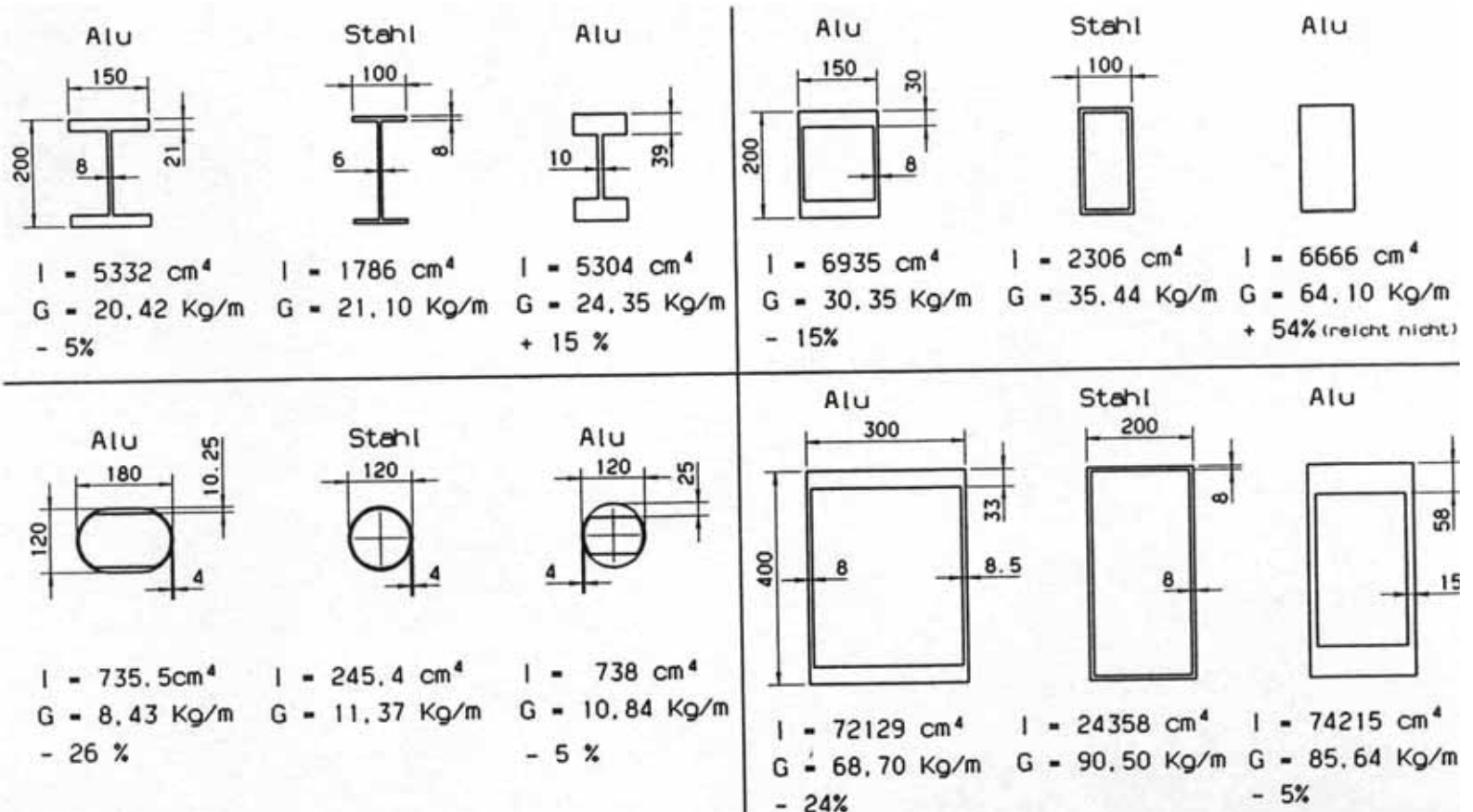
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# Aluminium and steel





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# Assessment

- What affect the cost of aluminium structures?
- What knowledge in EN 1999-1-1 supports the other Eurocodes ?
- How are described the material properties of aloys?



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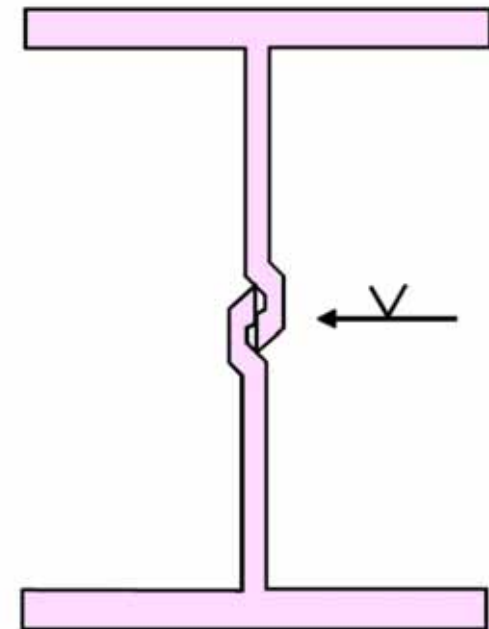
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**Summary**

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# Summary

- Weight ( $2700 \text{ kg/m}^3$ )
- Corrosion
- Non magnetic and low toxic
- Fatigue, low ductility transition temperature



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# Extrusion - examples

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- AlMgSi 6000-serie
  - majority of extrusions good overall performance i.e.
    - relatively easy to extrude
    - medium to high strength in the T6 condition
    - good corrosion resistance in marine and industrial environments
    - good weldability by all welding methods
    - good availability on the market, both as standard and special sections

6082 (AlMgSi1Mn) T6 In Europe normal

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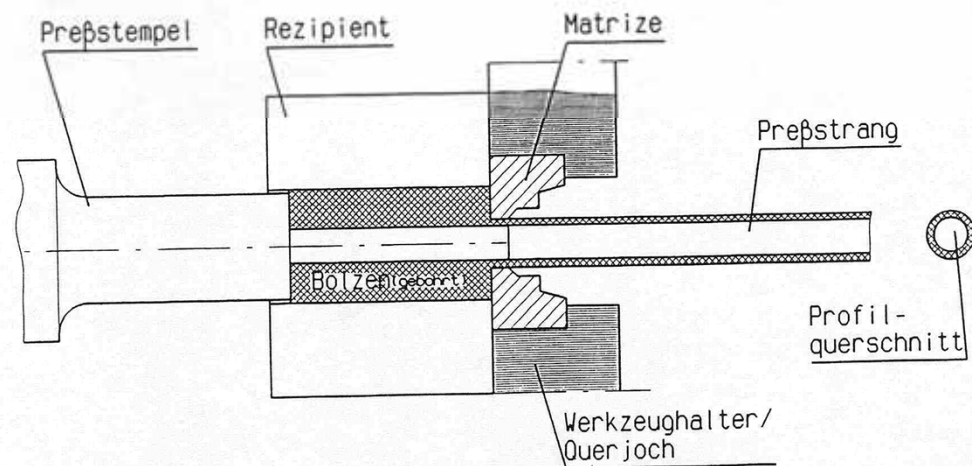
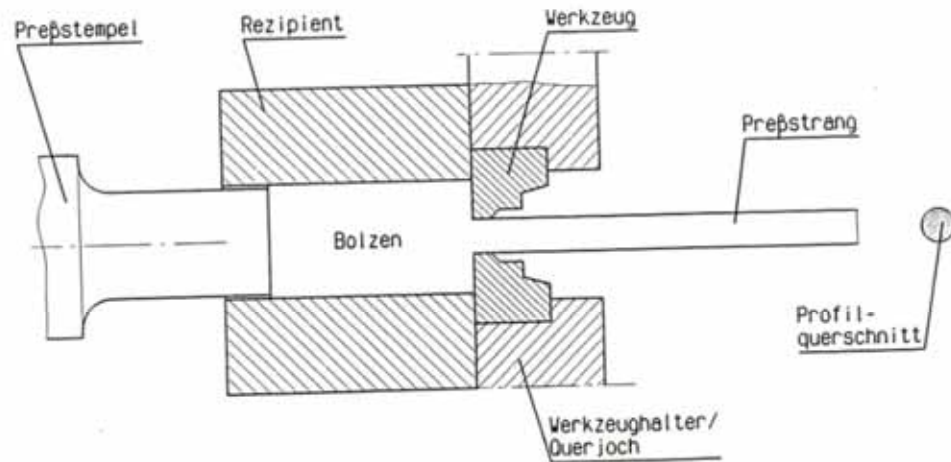
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# Extrusion



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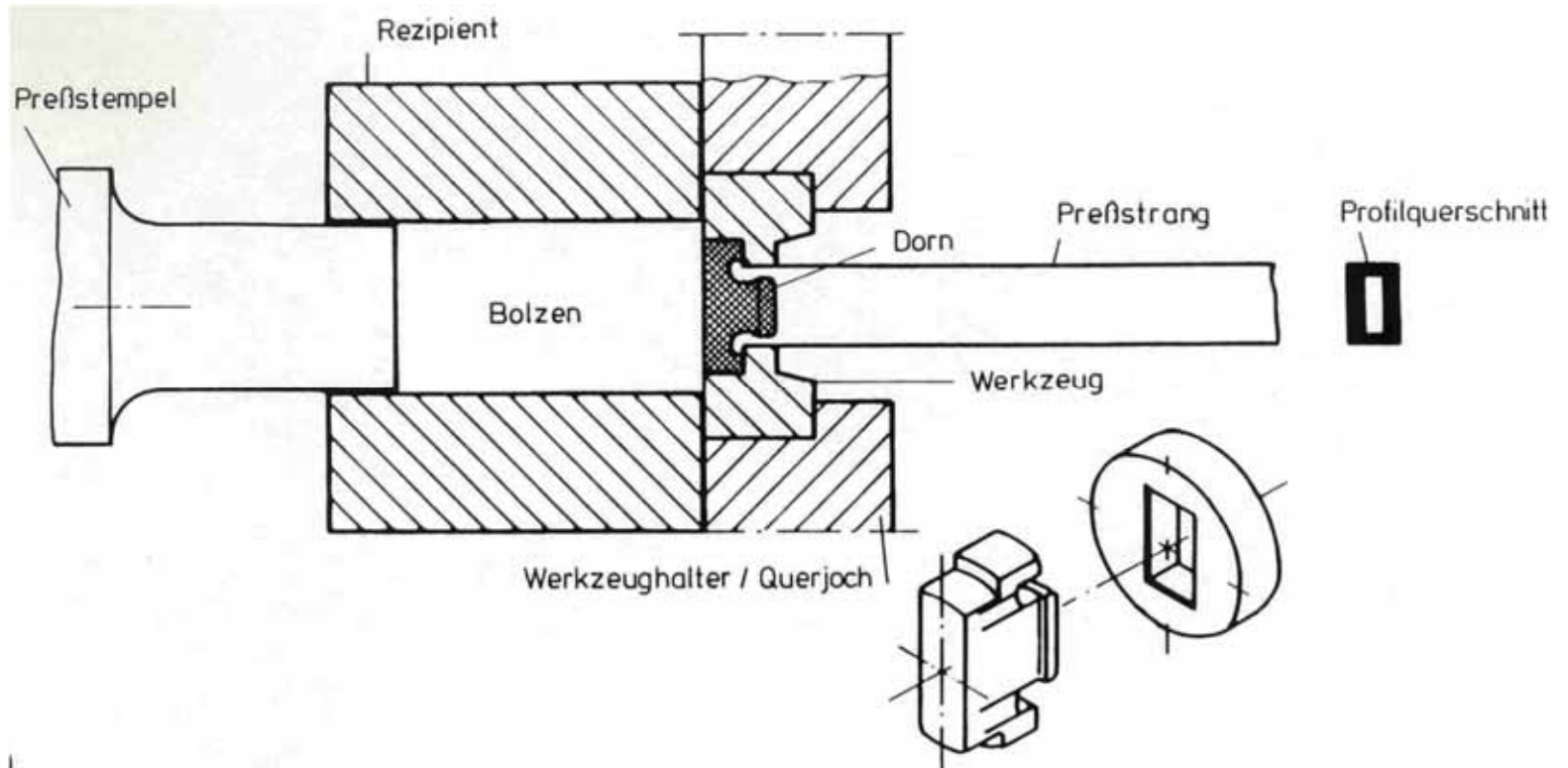
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# Extrusion



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**Thank you  
for your kind attention**

# Notes to users of the lecture

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- This session is a basic information about the fire design and requires about 90 min lecturing.
- Further readings on the relevant documents from website of [ww.eaa.net/eea/education/TALA](http://ww.eaa.net/eea/education/TALA).
- The use of relevant standards of national standard institutions are strongly recommended.
- Formative questions should be well answered before the summative questions completed within the tutorial session.
- Keywords for the lecture:  
aluminium structures, material, production, examples, Eurocodes.