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**The masonry vaults: Geometry definition and possible approaches to the static analysis** (Conference Paper)

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**Abstract**  
 The paper focuses on the analysis of masonry vaults: on one side it addresses some of the geometrical features involved in the treatment of shells, which usually implies not negligible difficulties in handling the vaults' problem due to the differential nature of their geometry, and, on the other side, it outlines possible approaches to the static analysis of masonry vaults. To this regard, the overall static approach should be conceived in such a way to allow the selection of membrane stress surfaces able to equilibrate the applied loads and to satisfy the admissibility conditions of the masonry material. The paper, then, deals with these two features, outlining a general approach for analytically handling the problem of static analysis of vaults. © 2005 Taylor & Francis Group, London.

**Indexed keywords**  
 Applied loads, General approach, Geometrical features, Masonry vaults, Membrane stress, Static approach  
**Engineering controlled terms:** Masonry materials; Static analysis  
**Engineering main heading:** Structural analysis

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