

So when we pull on an object, it tends to elongate and we called that tension. But what happens when we push on an object? It turns out a couple different things happen, and we call that compression.

But why do we care about compression? Compression is what's going to hold up our building for one thing. And the different forms that we have to resist compression, columns are probably the most obvious, but arches, vaults, domes, and anti-funicular forms also help resist compression.

Before we go any further, let's experiment a bit with columns and compression.