

- 1) What is superelevation, and what is its role in river avulsion?
- 2) Describe how stacking patterns in fluvial stratigraphy are related to river meandering and avulsion

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- 1) Superelevation is height of a river's water surface above the elevation of the surrounding floodplain. The greater a river's superelevation, the more likely it is to avulse. Superelevation makes it energetically favorable for a river's flow to take a new path across a floodplain.
- 2) Stacking patterns of fluvial stratigraphy are the result of depositional patterns created by the two most important fluvial processes, avulsion and meandering. Rivers that avulse with minimal meandering tend to create strata with isolated channel bodies surrounded by floodplain sediments. In contrast rivers that meander with minimal avulsions tend to create highly amalgamated bodies of channel sediment and tend not to preserve much floodplain sediment.