

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase D – Ply Shape and Ply Number Optimization

AN MSC NASTRAN SOL 200 TUTORIAL

Composite Workshop

This workshop is phase D of a 5-phase workshop.

Phase A

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase A – Determination of the optimal 0° direction of a composite

- Perform an optimization on the angle of ply 1 to maximize stiffness
- Tools Used: MSC Nastran and SOL 200 Web App

0° Direction Optimization

Phase B

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase B – Baseline Ply Number Optimization

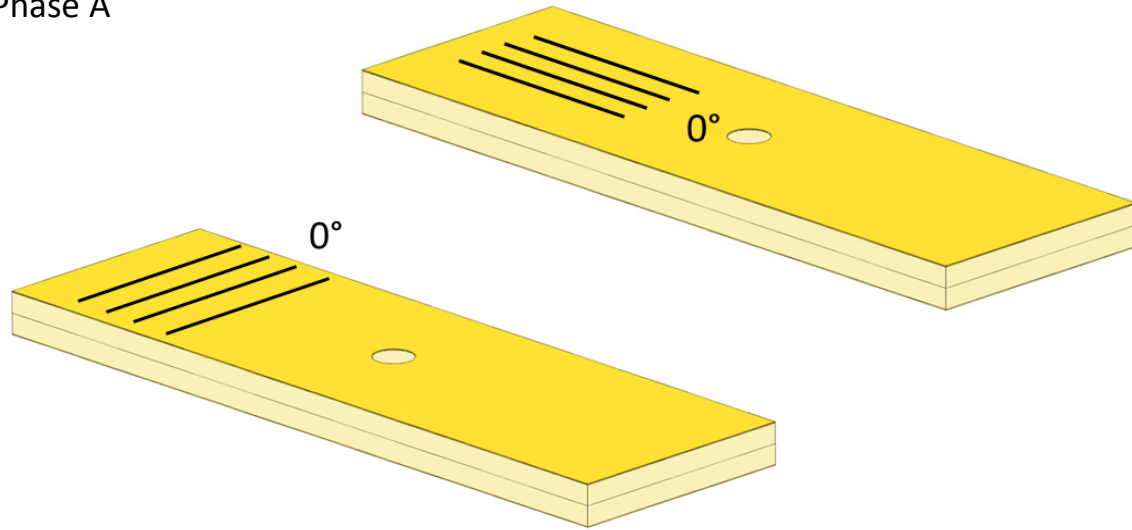
- Perform a ply number optimization with full and continuous ply shapes
- Tools Used: SOL 200 Web App (Viewer and Optimization web apps) and MSC Nastran

Baseline Ply Number Optimization

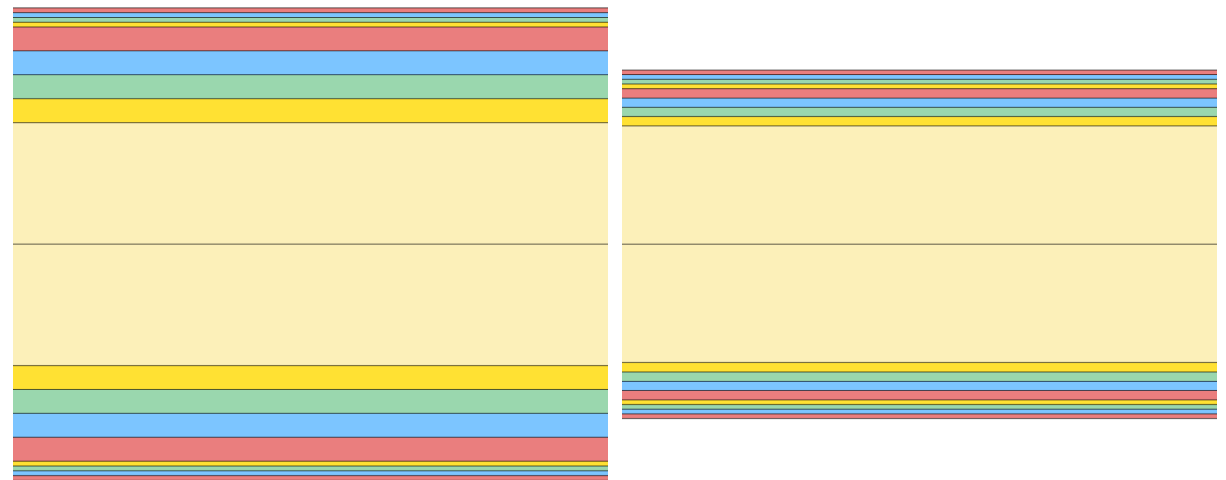
Composite Workshop

This workshop is phase D of a 5-phase workshop.

Phase A



Phase B



0° Direction Optimization

Baseline Ply Number Optimization

Composite Workshop

This workshop is phase D of a 5-phase workshop.

Phase C

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase C – Data Preparation for Ply Shape Optimization

- Manually create PLY000i Files
- Tools Used: Patran, MSC Nastran and SOL 200 Web App

Phase D

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase D – Ply Shape and Ply Number Optimization

- Input BDF and PLY000i Files
- Create Ply Shapes
- Perform Ply Number Optimization
- Inspect Plies
- Tools Used: SOL 200 Web App (Viewer and Optimization web apps) and MSC Nastran

Phase E

Workshop – Composite Coupon – Phase E – Stacking Sequence Optimization

- Input BDF
- Perform Stacking Sequence Optimization
- Validate Performance
- Inspect Plies
- Tools Used: SOL 200 Web App (Stacking Sequence and Viewer web apps) and MSC Nastran

Ply Shape Optimization

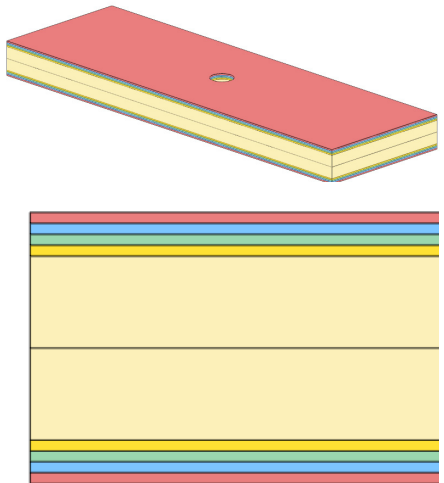
Ply Number Optimization

Stacking Sequence Optimization

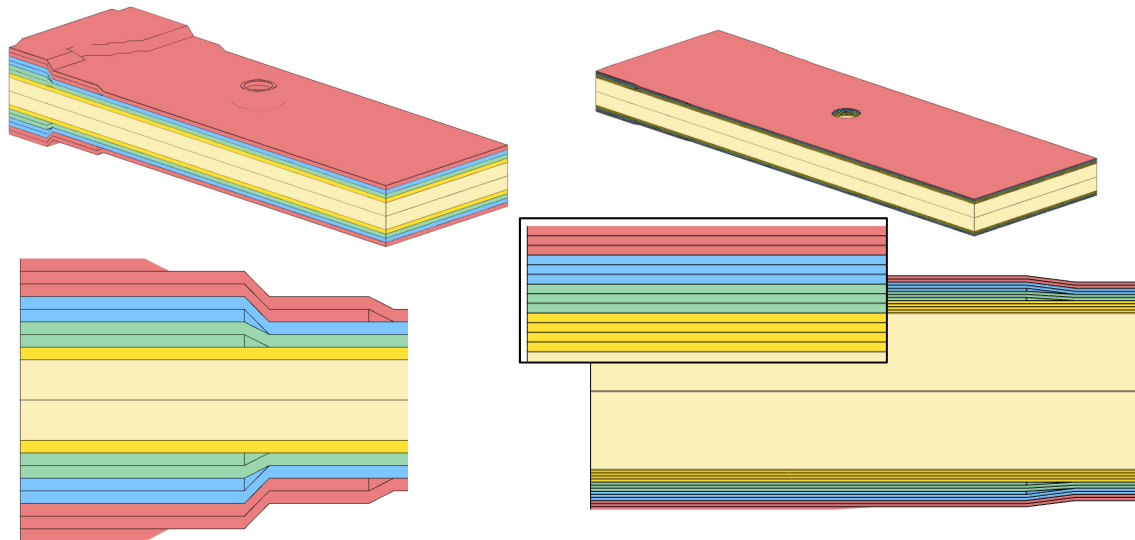
Composite Workshop

This workshop is phase D of a 5-phase workshop.

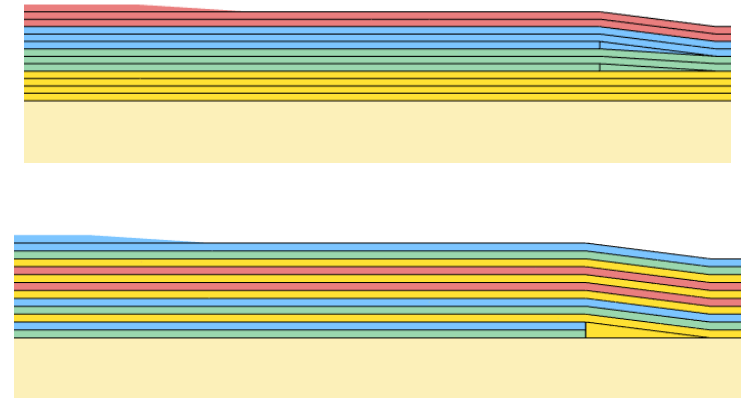
Phase C



Phase D



Phase E



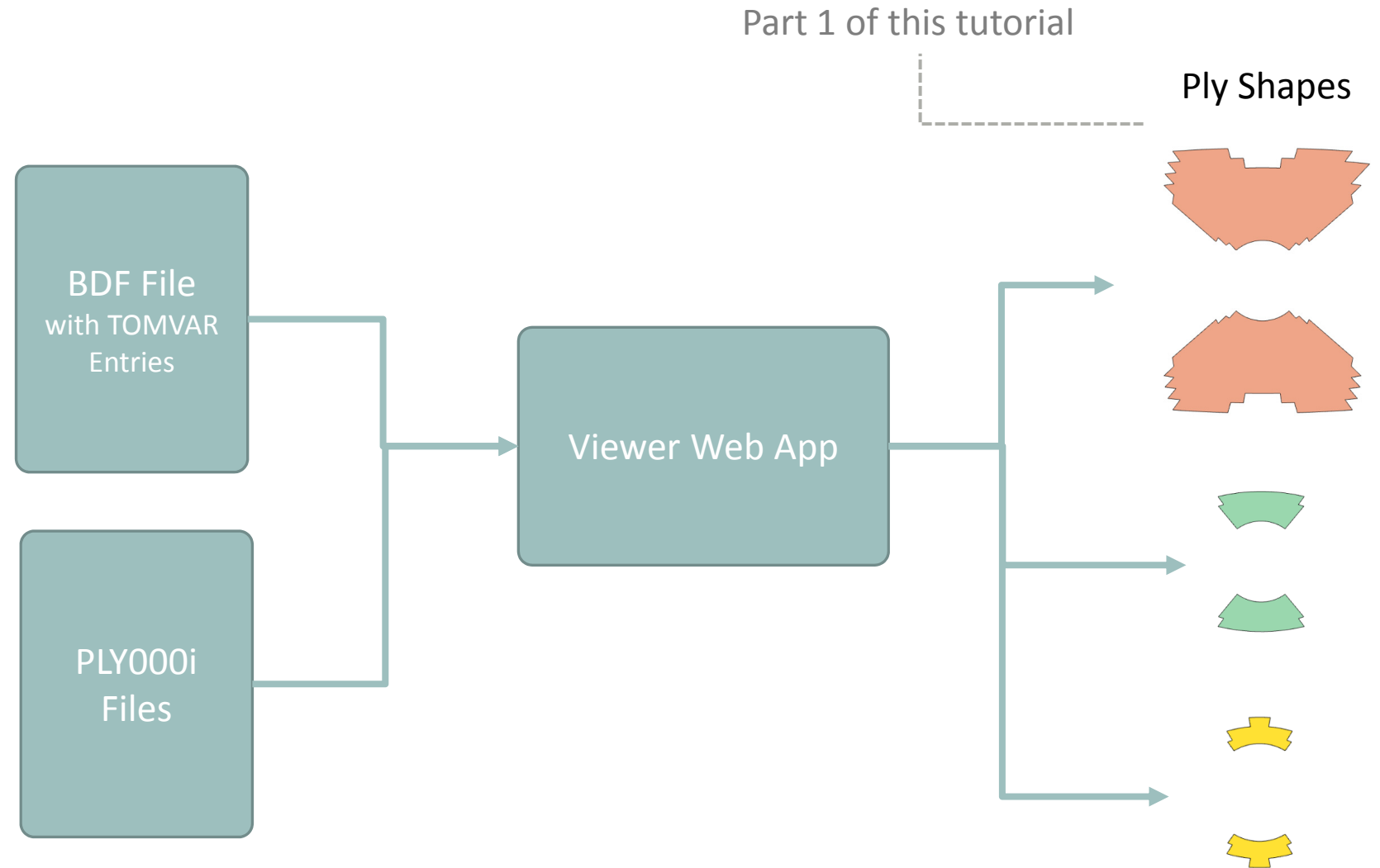
Ply Shape Optimization

Ply Number Optimization

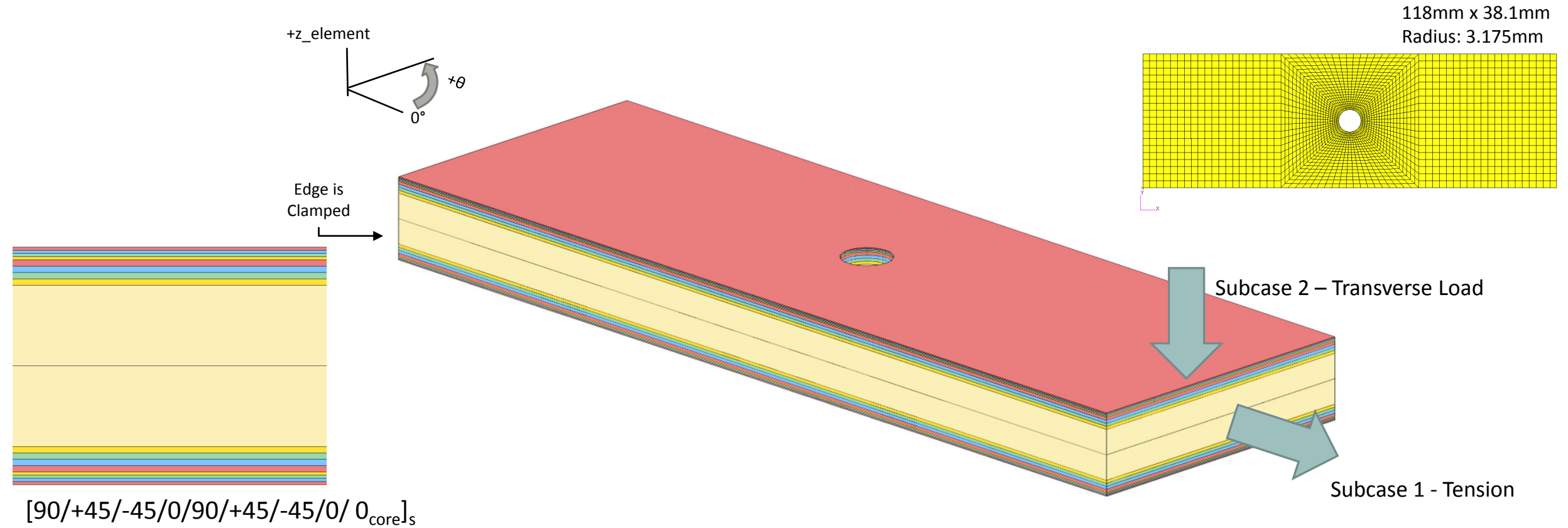
Stacking Sequence
Optimization

Goal: Construct Optimal Ply Shapes and Perform Ply Number Optimization

- The goal is to construct ply shapes that produce a lightweight composite but satisfy failure index constraints.
- This tutorial discusses how to operate the Viewer web app to construct new optimized ply shapes and perform a ply number optimization.



Details of the structural model

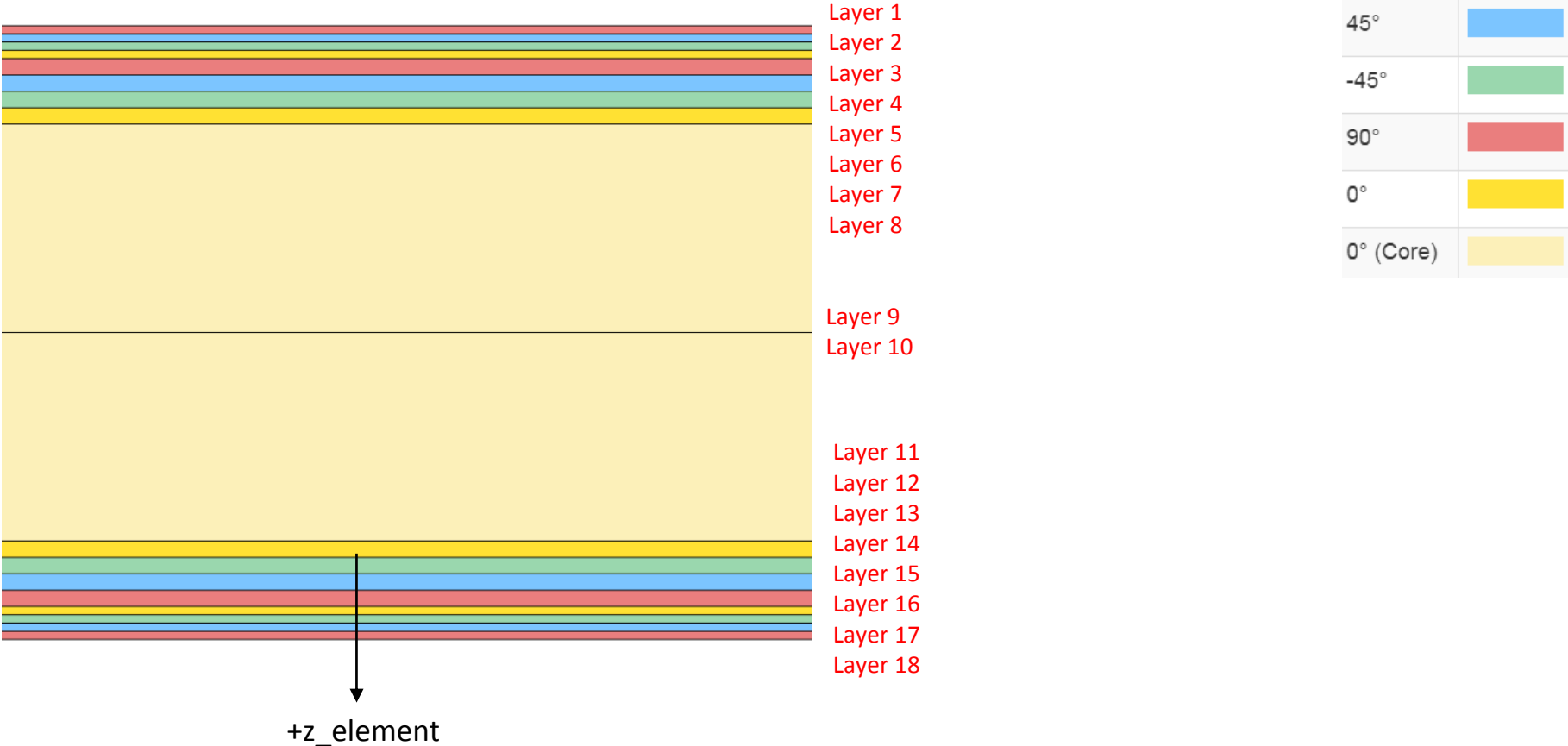


Details of the Composite Layers

This composite consists of 18 layers.

The PCOMP entry defines only 9 layers, but the LAM=SYM option indicates that the composite is symmetric. Internally, layers 10, 11, ..., 18 are generated and stored.

- Layers 9 and 10 correspond to the core.
- These layers are NOT optimized.
 - Layers 1 and 18 correspond to 90° layers.
 - Layers 2 and 17 correspond to 45° layers.
 - Layers 3 and 16 correspond to -45° layers
 - Layers 4 and 15 correspond 0° layers.
- These layers are optimized.
 - Layers 5 and 14 correspond to 90° layers.
 - Layers 6 and 13 correspond to 45° layers.
 - Layers 7 and 12 correspond to -45° layers.
 - Layers 8 and 11 correspond 0° layers.



PCOMP	1			90.	HILL	SYM
	101	.125	90.	YES	Layer 1	
	101	.125	45.	YES	Layer 2	
	101	.125	-45.	YES	Layer 3	
	101	.125	0.	YES	Layer 4	
	101	.25	90.	YES	Layer 5	
	101	.25	45.	YES	Layer 6	
	101	.25	-45.	YES	Layer 7	
	101	.25	0.	YES	Layer 8	
	501	3.175	0.	YES	Layer 9	

Recommended PCOMP Sequence for Optimization

When following the optimization procedure documented in this tutorial, the initial PCOMP entry should meet the following 2 criteria.

1. Include fixed and non-fixed layers

It is recommended that the PCOMP entry is formatted with fixed and non-fixed layers.

- The fixed layers will remain unchanged during the optimization procedure and their thicknesses are equal to the ply thickness. These layers are meant to track quantities such as ply stress, ply strain, failure index or strength ratio.
- The non-fixed layer's thicknesses will vary throughout the optimization procedure.

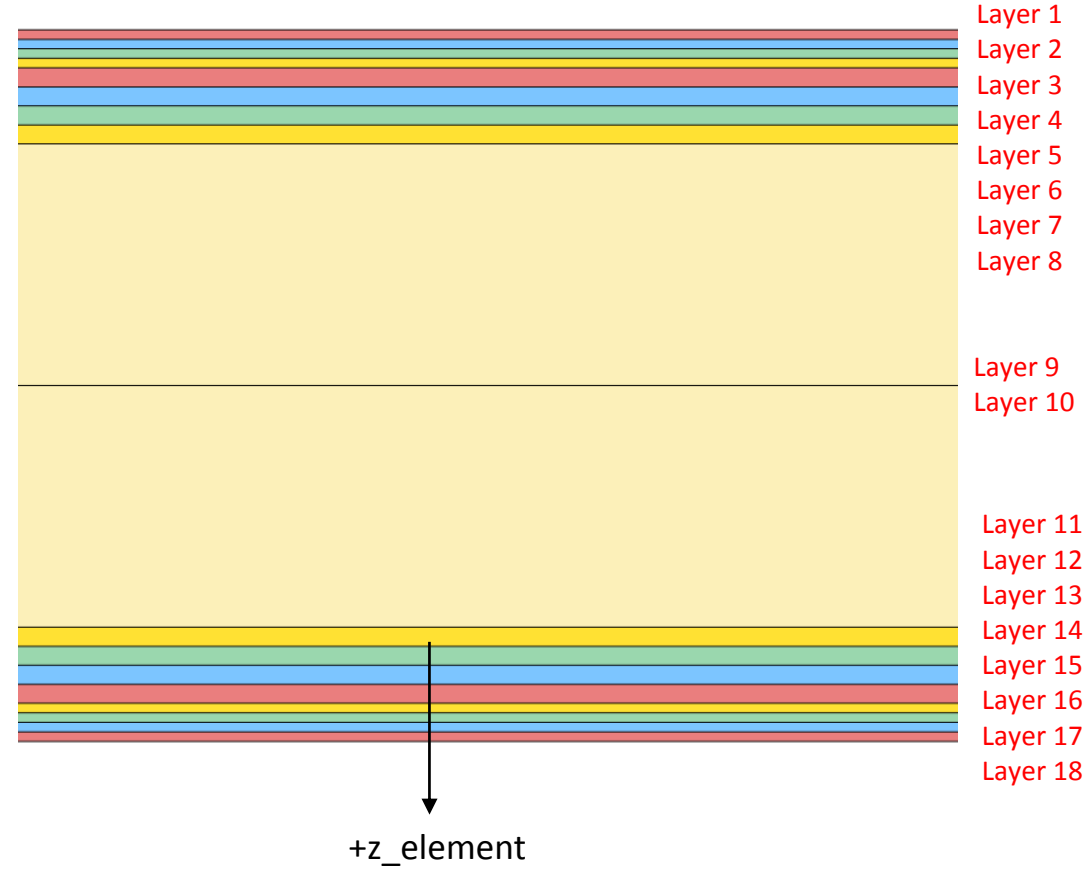
Consider the 90-degree layers. One 90-degree layer is placed as layers 1 and 5. Layer 1's thickness is fixed to .125mm. Layer 5's thickness will vary during the optimization procedure.

2. The sequence should have 90°, then 0° layers

The 90-degree layers should come before the 0-degree layers.

NOT OK: [0/+45/-45/90/0/+45/-45/90/ 0_{core}]_s

OK: [90/+45/-45/0/90/+45/-45/0/ 0_{core}]_s



Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Layer 7
Layer 8

Layer 9
Layer 10

Layer 11
Layer 12
Layer 13
Layer 14
Layer 15
Layer 16
Layer 17
Layer 18

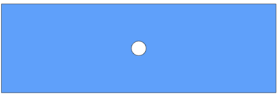

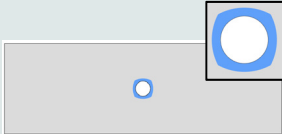
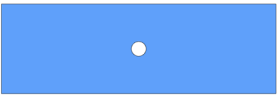
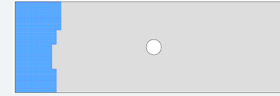
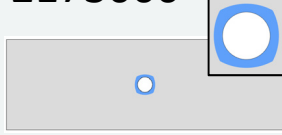
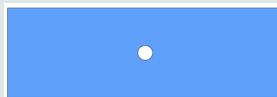
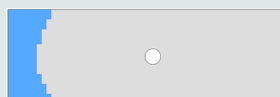
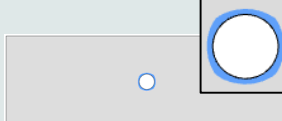


45°	
-45°	
90°	
0°	
0° (Core)	

PCOMP	1			90 .	HILL		SYM
	101	.125	90 .	YES	Layer 1	These plies remain fixed throughout the entire optimization procedure.	Monitor the failure index of each layer or constrain the failure index with DRESP1/DCONSTR entries.
	101	.125	45 .	YES	Layer 2		
	101	.125	-45 .	YES	Layer 3		
	101	.125	0 .	YES	Layer 4		
	101	.25	90 .	YES	Layer 5	Create TOMVAR entries for the layers and perform ply shape and ply number optimization for these layers only	
	101	.25	45 .	YES	Layer 6		
	101	.25	-45 .	YES	Layer 7		
	101	.25	0 .	YES	Layer 8		
	501	3.175	0 .	YES	Layer 9		

Using PLY000i Files to Create Optimal Ply Shapes

- The data contained in PLY000i files, e.g. model.ply0005, are critical to construct optimal ply shapes. BDF and PLY000i files are used in this tutorial to construct new optimal ply shapes.
- The SOL 200 Web App's Viewer is used to create new ply shapes.
- Ply shape candidates 1, 2 and 3 are used for the 90°, ±45° and 0° layers. Additional ply shapes can yield further mass reduction. For 0°, additional ply shape candidates 4 and 5 are created.

- Each ply shape candidate is assigned a unique GPLY ID, e.g. 111000, 2111000. For more details on the GPLY ID numbering convention, refer to the appendix, section *GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC00)*.
- Ply shapes are created based on the data contained in the PLY000 files. The PLY000i files are generated by Topometry Optimization or may be created manually, as done in this tutorial. Alternatively, both methods may be combined for a hybrid method.
- Some GPLY IDs have a number 2 as a suffix. This composite is symmetric and the suffix of 2 indicates a symmetric ply. For example, GPLY ID 151000 has a corresponding 2151000 mirror ply.

Layer, Theta	Ply Shape Candidate 1	Ply Shape Candidate 2	Ply Shape Candidate 3	Ply Shape Candidate 4	Ply Shape Candidate 5
5 90°	151000, 2151000 	152000, 2152000 	153000, 2153000 		
6, 7 ±45°	161000, 2161000 171000, 2171000 	162000, 2162000 172000, 2172000 	163000, 2163000 173000, 2173000 		
8 0°	181000, 2181000 	182000, 2182000 	183000, 2183000 	184000, 2184000 	185000, 2185000 

Optimization Problem Statement

Design Variables

y1: Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 151000, 2151000

y2: Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 152000, 2152000

y3: Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 153000, 2153000

y4: Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 161000, 171000, 2171000, 2161000

y5: Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 162000, 172000, 2172000, 2162000

y6: Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 163000, 173000, 2173000, 2163000









y7: Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 181000, 2181000

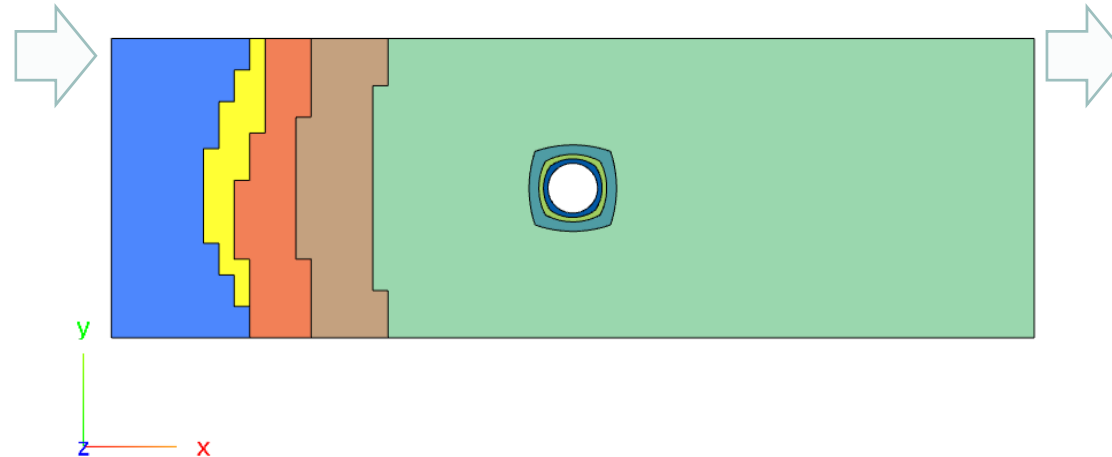
y8: Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 182000, 2182000

y9: Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 183000, 2183000

y10: Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 184000, 2184000

y11: Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 185000, 2185000

PCOMPG	2	
PCOMPG	3	
PCOMPG	4	
PCOMPG	5	
PCOMPG	6	
PCOMPG	7	
PCOMPG	8	
PCOMPG	9	



Design Objective

Minimize weight

Design Constraints

ri: Constrain the failure index of each ply

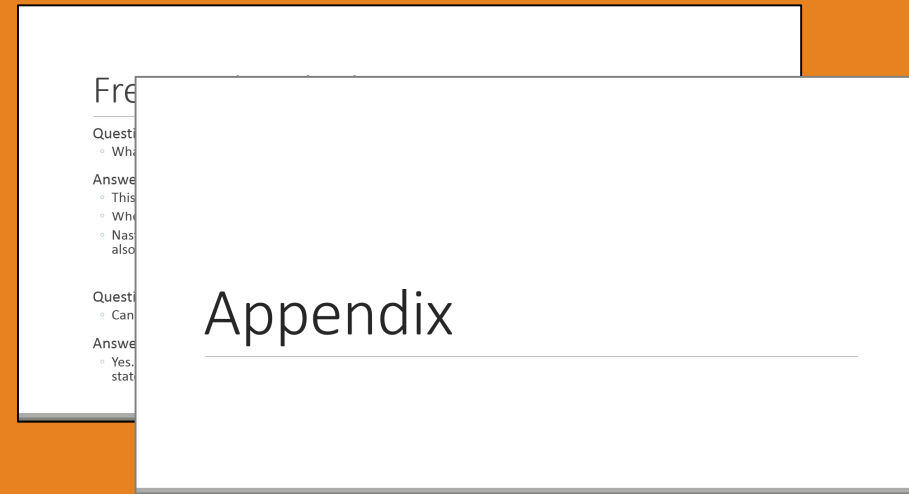
$$r_i < .95$$

For $i=1, 2, 3, \dots$

More Information Available in the Appendix

The Appendix includes information regarding the following:

- What filter values to use?
- PCOMPG Zones
- Options for Ply Number Optimization
- GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC000)
- Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Uniaxial Loading
- Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Bending



Contact me

- Nastran SOL 200 training
- Nastran SOL 200 questions
- Structural or mechanical optimization questions
- Access to the SOL 200 Web App

christian@ the-engineering-lab.com

Tutorial

Tutorial Overview

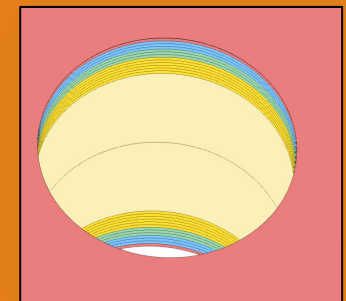
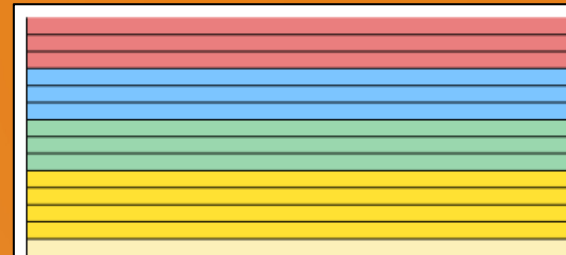
1. Part 1 – Ply Shape Creation
2. Part 2 – Ply Number Optimization
3. Part 3 – View New Plies

Special Topics Covered

Ply Shape Editing - Ply shapes require the creation of multiple PCOMP/PCOMPG entries and assigning these entries to different 2D elements, e.g. CQUAD4, CTRIA3. This tutorial describes this procedure via the use of the SOL 200 Web App. Ultimately, optimal ply shapes are created.

Ply Number Optimization – Once the optimal ply shapes are constructed, a ply number optimization is performed.

Ply Thickness Inspection - The final plies may be visually inspected via the use of the Viewer web app.



SOL 200 Web App Capabilities

The Post-processor Web App and HDF5 Explorer are free to MSC Nastran users.

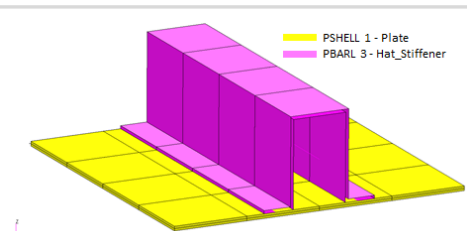
Compatibility

- Google Chrome, Mozilla Firefox or Microsoft Edge
- Windows and Red Hat Linux
- Installable on a company laptop, workstation or server. All data remains within your company.

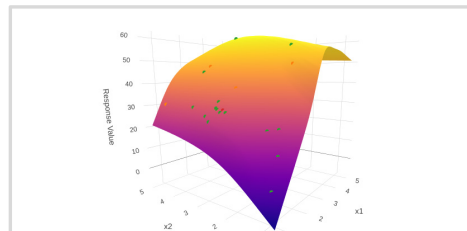
Web Apps

Benefits

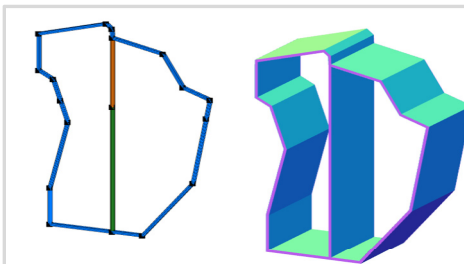
- REAL TIME error detection. 200+ error validations.
- REAL TIME creation of bulk data entries.
- Web browser accessible
- Free Post-processor web apps
- +80 tutorials



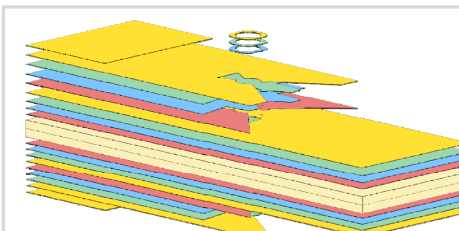
Web Apps for MSC Nastran SOL 200
Pre/post for MSC Nastran SOL 200.
Support for size, topology, topometry, topography, multi-model optimization.



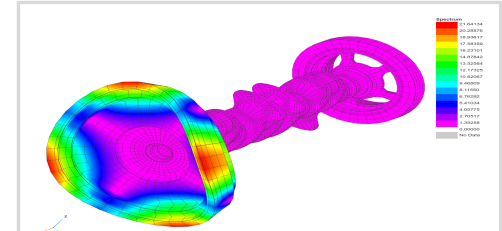
Machine Learning Web App
Bayesian Optimization for nonlinear response optimization (SOL 400)



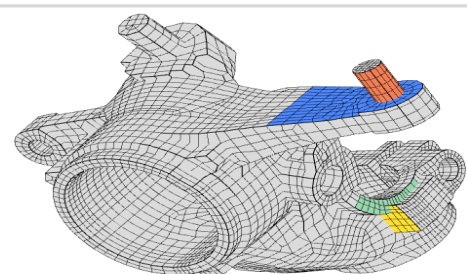
PBMSECT Web App
Generate PBMSECT and PBRSECT entries graphically



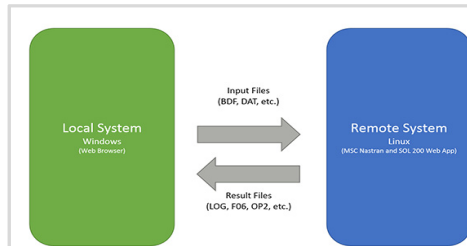
Ply Shape Optimization Web App
Optimize composite ply drop-off locations, and generate new PCOMPG entries



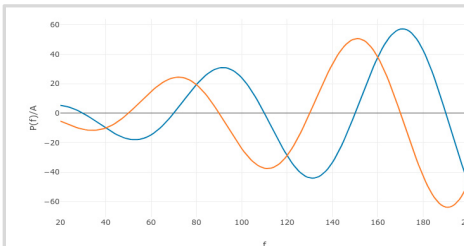
Post-processor Web App
View MSC Nastran results in a web browser on Windows and Linux



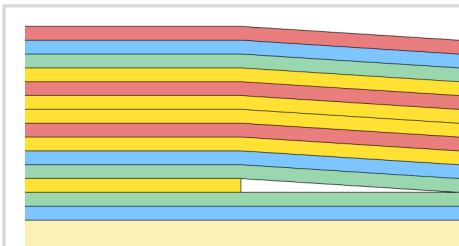
Shape Optimization Web App
Use a web application to configure and perform shape optimization.



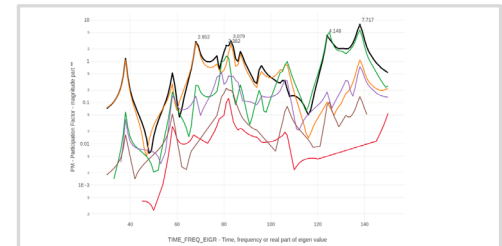
Remote Execution Web App
Run MSC Nastran jobs on remote Linux or Windows systems available on the local network



Dynamic Loads Web App
Generate RLOAD1, RLOAD2 and DLOAD entries graphically



Stacking Sequence Web App
Optimize the stacking sequence of composite laminate plies



HDF5 Explorer Web App
Create graphs (XY plots) using data from the H5 file

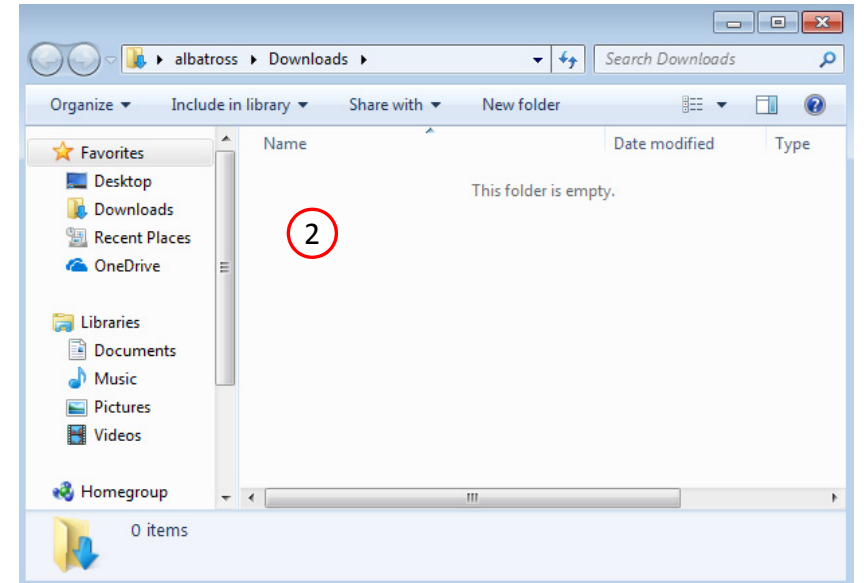
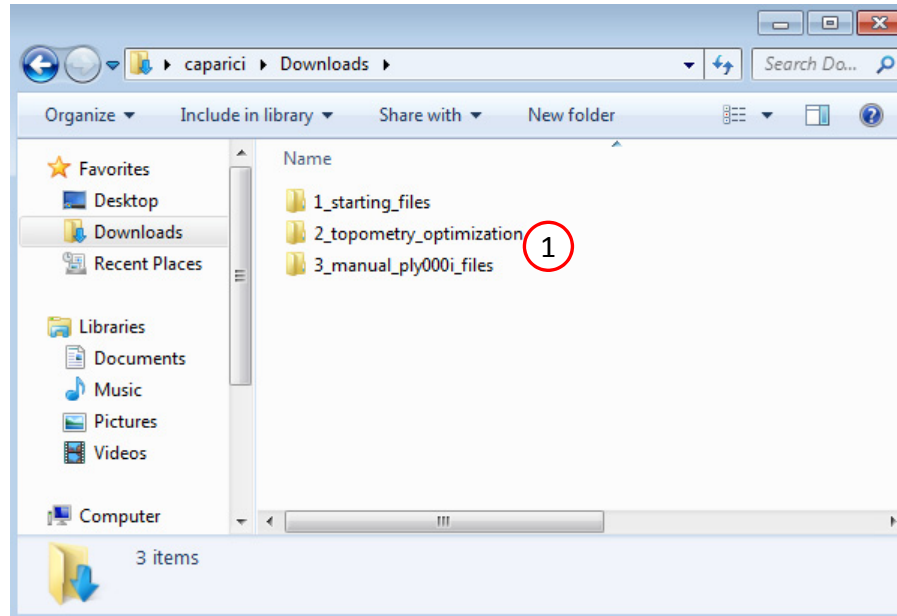
Part 1 – Ply Shape Creation

Before Starting

This tutorial is a continuation of the previous tutorial. You have two starting options.

1. You may continue on from the previous tutorial with the same BDF files.
2. Or you may start with prepared BDF files available in the User's Guide. Ensure the Downloads directory is empty in order to prevent confusion with other files. The next slides detail how to download prepared BDF files from the User's Guide.

- Throughout this workshop, you will be working with multiple file types and directories such as:
 - .bdf/.dat
 - nastran_working_directory
 - .f06, .log, .pch, .h5, etc.
- To minimize confusion with files and folders, it is encouraged to start with a clean directory.



Go to the User's Guide

1. Click on the indicated link

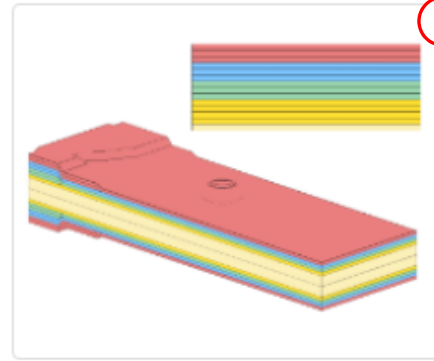
- The necessary BDF files for this tutorial are available in the Tutorials section of the User's Guide.



Obtain Starting Files

1. Find the indicated example
2. Click Link
3. The starting file has been downloaded

- When starting the procedure, all the necessary BDF files must be collected together.



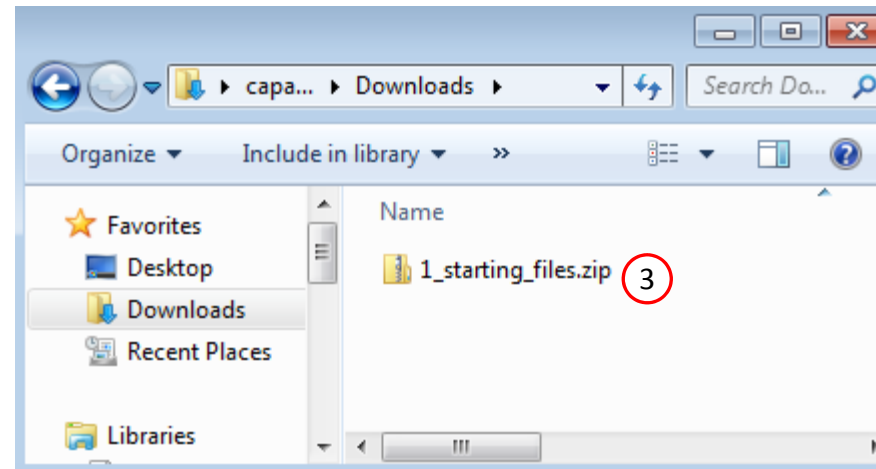
1 Composite Coupon – Phase D – Ply Shape and Ply Number Optimization

This tutorial details the process to build optimal ply shapes and perform a ply number optimization. The optimal ply shapes are constructed to follow the contours of the failure indices. The ply number optimization involves minimizing weight and constraining the failure indices of plies. The PLY000i files and BDF files from the previous tutorial, phase C, are used in this tutorial.

This is the fourth phase in a 5-phase tutorial series.

Starting BDF Files: [Link](#) 2

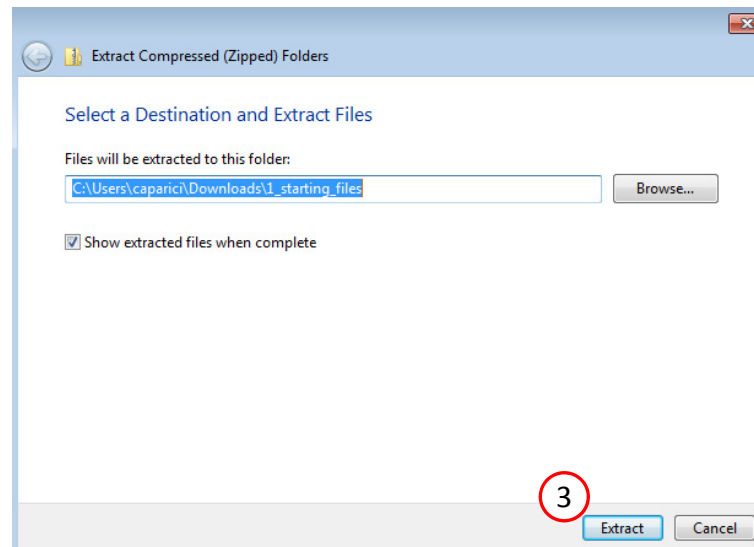
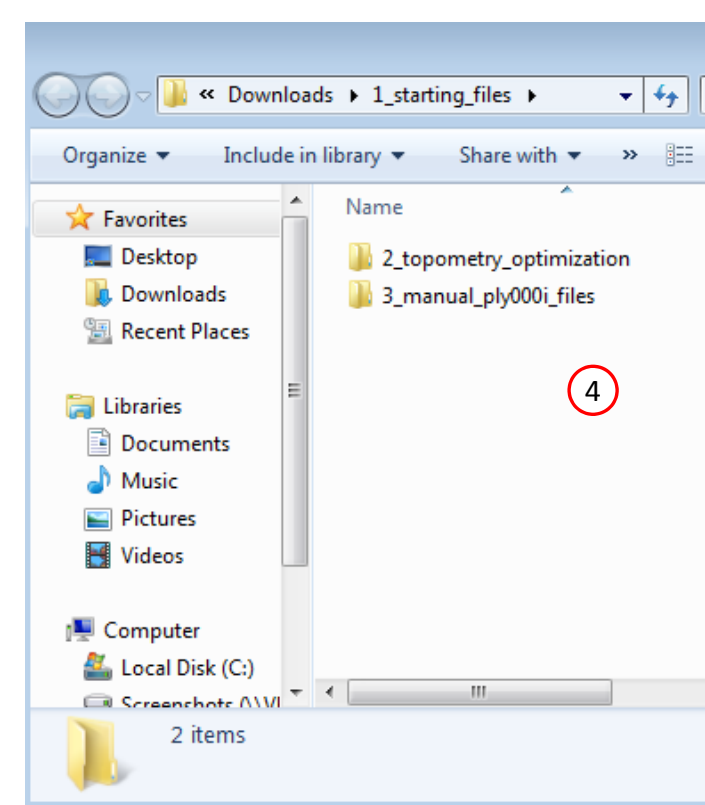
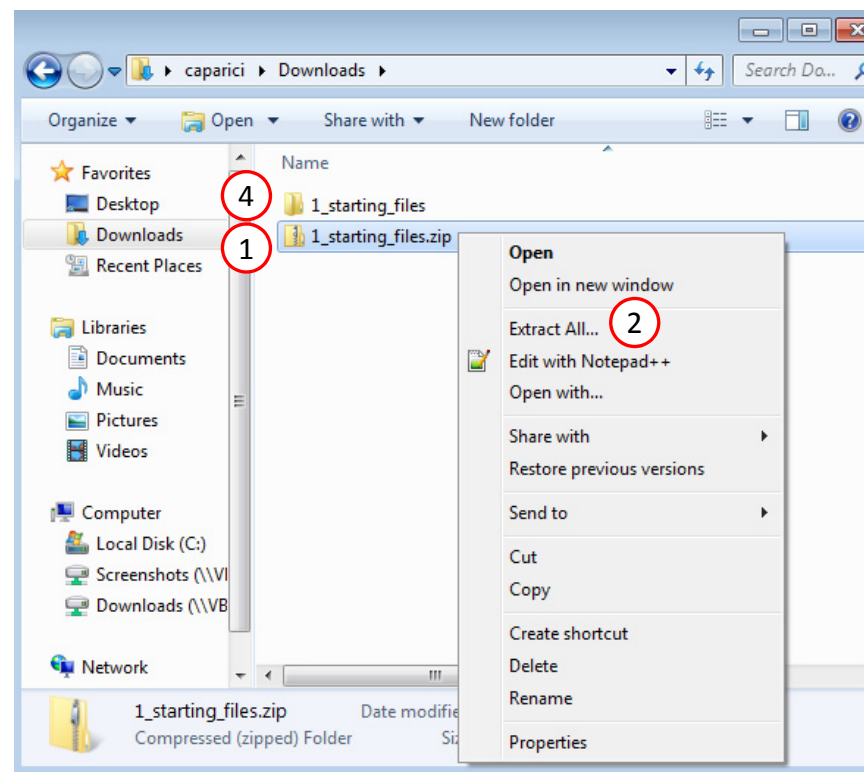
Solution BDF Files: [Link](#)



Obtain Starting Files

1. Right click on the zip file
2. Select Extract All...
3. Click Extract
4. The starting files are now available in a folder

- This example is using a previously created design model. The design model is a model that has been converted to SOL 200 and contains bulk data entries describing the optimization problem statement, e.g. variables, objective and constraints.



Open the Correct Page

1. Click on the indicated link

- MSC Nastran can perform many optimization types. The SOL 200 Web App includes dedicated web apps for the following:
 - Optimization for SOL 200 (Size, Topology, Topometry, Topography, Local Optimization, Sensitivity Analysis and Global Optimization)
 - Multi Model Optimization
 - Machine Learning
- The web app also features the HDF5 Explorer, a web application to extract results from the H5 file type.

SOL 200 Web App

Select a web app to begin

Optimization for SOL 200

Multi Model Optimization

Machine Learning | Parameter Study

HDF5 Explorer

Remote Execution

Tutorials and User's Guide

1 Full list of web apps

Open the Viewer

1. Navigate to the Composites section
2. Click Viewer

Content only available to professional engineers and students.

For access, visit

the-engineering-lab.com

or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Import BDF Files

1. Click Upload BDF
2. Click Select files
3. Navigate to directory
2_topometry_optimization
4. Select the indicated files
5. Click Open
6. Click Upload files

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[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Import PLY000i Files

1. Click Topometry
2. Click Select files
3. Navigate to directory
3_manual_ply000i_files
4. Select the indicated files
5. Click Open
6. Click Upload files

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Configure Ply Number Optimization

1. Click Ply Shapes
2. Use the scroll bar to navigate to different sections
3. Navigate to section Ply Number Optimization Configuration
4. Click Failure Index
5. Select only Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strains
6. Ensure only the following row is displayed: Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strain

- There are many additional responses that may be set as design constraints, including ply stresses, strains, and others.

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Configure Ply Number Optimization

1. Do NOT set a ply thickness for the first 4 layers.
 - The first 4 layers correspond to the outer layers and should remain fixed during the optimization. Supplying a ply thickness will set the layer as a design variable. Do NOT set a ply thickness for the first 4 layers.
2. For the first 4 layers' failure index, set the upper bound to .95

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Configure Ply Number Optimization

1. Scroll to the layer with GPLY ID 151000
2. For the first 4 layers, set the Ply Thickness to .125 mm
 - For GPLY ID 171000 (-45°), the ply thickness option is disabled. The -45° is dependent on the +45° layer. One ply number variable is required for both +45° and -45°.
3. For the indicated plies, set the upper bound to .95
4. The 9th layer (GPLY ID 191000) is the core. This core layer is not optimized, nor is a constraint created for the core.

- It should be noted that if desired, the thickness of the core may also be optimized as long as a TOMVAR entry is defined for the core layer and a PLY000i file is created for the core layer. For this example, if the core layer is to be optimized, TOMVAR entry for layer 9 should be created and a PLY0009 file should be available.

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Create Ply Shape Candidates

1. Navigate to section Ply Shape Candidates
2. Click +Options
3. Set the Slider Step Size to 0.01

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[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Create Ply Shape Candidates

1. Scroll to the following table
2. Click the indicated plus (+) icon 2 times to create 2 ply shape candidates for the 90° layer.
3. Click the indicated plus (+) icon 2 times to create 2 ply shape candidates for the 45° layer. Since the -45° is linked to the $+45^\circ$ layer, two -45° are also created.
4. Click the indicated plus (+) icon 4 times to create 4 ply shape candidates for the 0° layer.
5. Move the indicated Threshold Slider to a value of 0.47
6. Move the indicated Threshold Slider to a value of 0.21
7. Move the indicated Threshold Slider to a value of 0.03
8. Move the indicated Threshold Slider to a value of 0.02

- Values of 0.47 and .21 are used. Refer to the appendix, section *What filter values to use*, for a discussion on how these values were selected.

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Position the Model

1. Click the indicated icon to minimize the width of the panel
2. Click Center Model
3. Click Fit Model
4. Click Background Color
5. Click Front
6. Use the mouse scroll wheel to zoom out, and press and hold the right mouse button, and drag the mouse left ward to drag the model into view.
7. Mark the indicated checkbox to display the first ply shape
8. Click +Options to hide the options section

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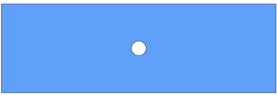

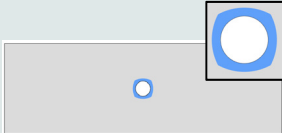
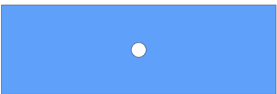



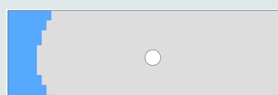
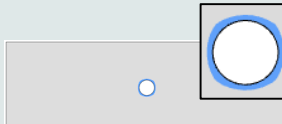


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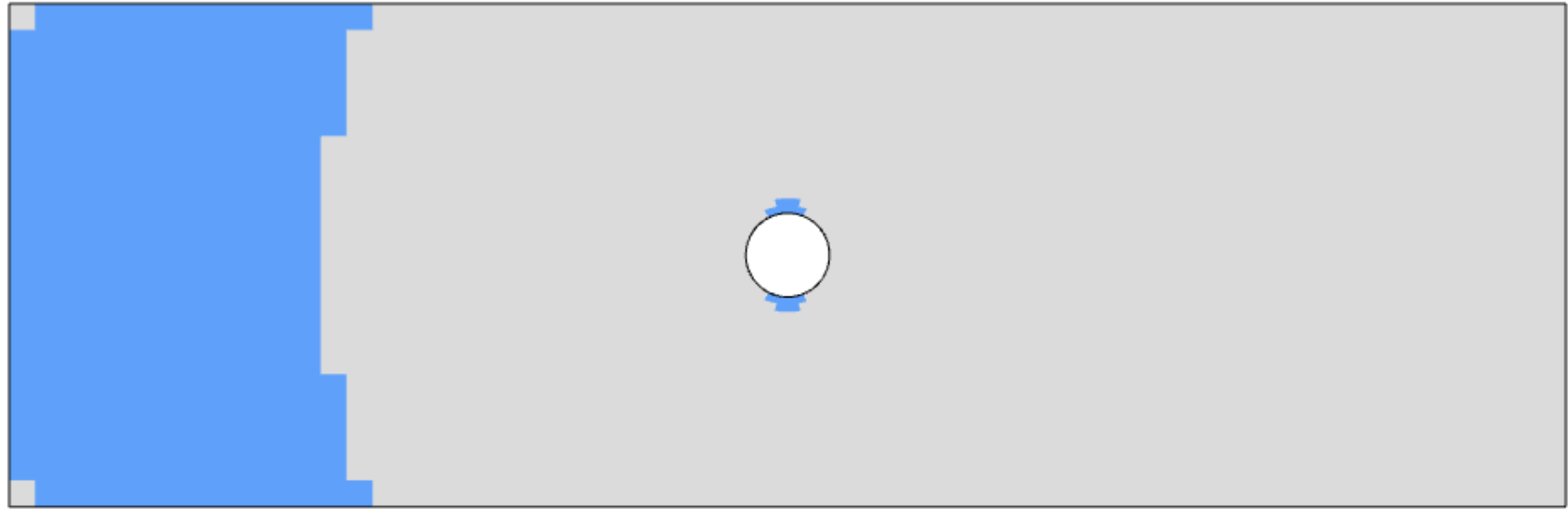
Ply Shape Candidates Creation

1. The indicated ply shape candidates will be created

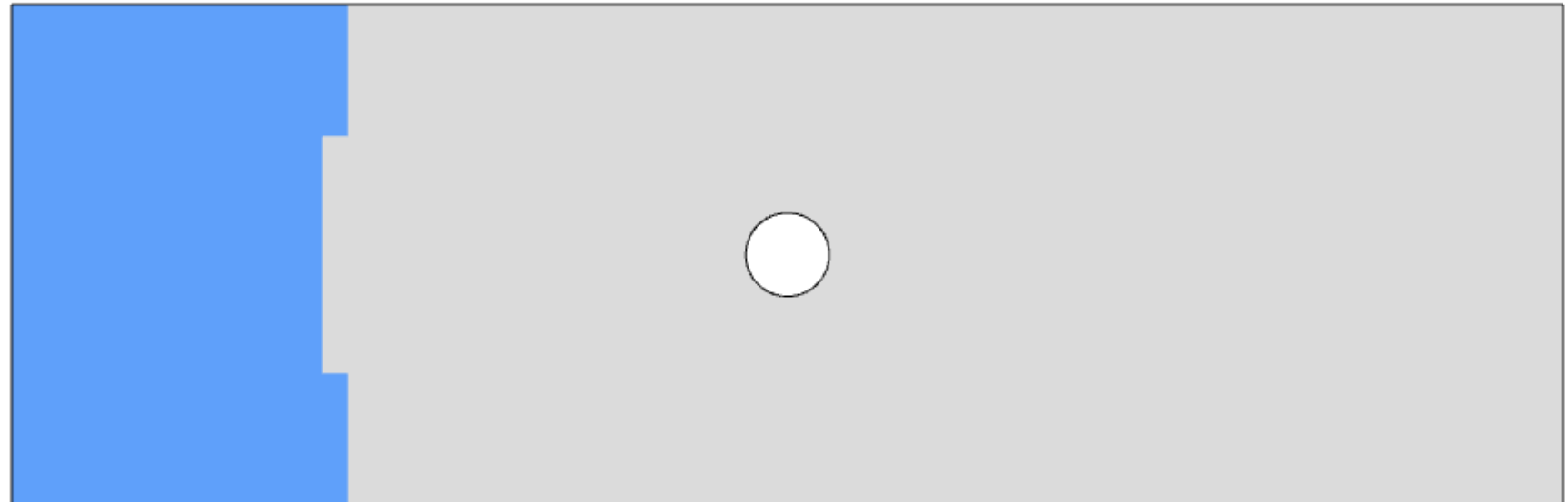
Layer, Theta	Ply Shape Candidate 1	Ply Shape Candidate 2	Ply Shape Candidate 3	Ply Shape Candidate 4	Ply Shape Candidate 5
5 90°	151000, 2151000 	152000, 2152000 	153000, 2153000 		
6, 7 ±45°	161000, 2161000 171000, 2171000 	162000, 2162000 172000, 2172000 	163000, 2163000 173000, 2173000 		
8 0°	181000, 2181000 	182000, 2182000 	183000, 2183000 	184000, 2184000 	185000, 2185000 

Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 90°

Before



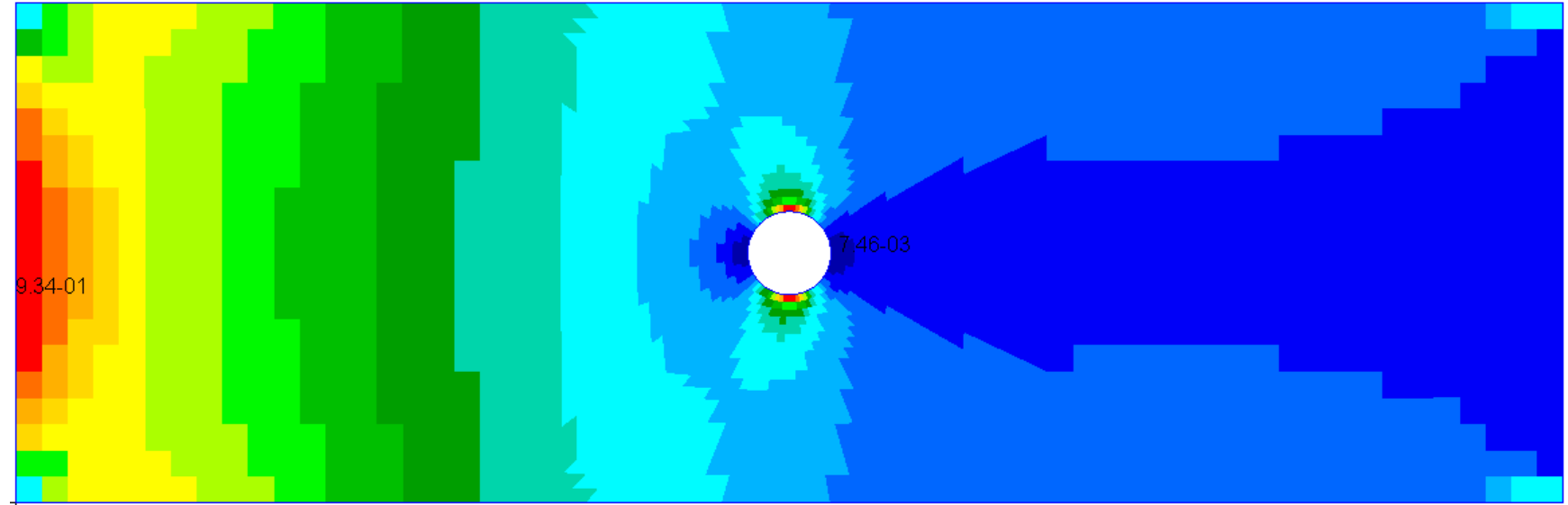
After



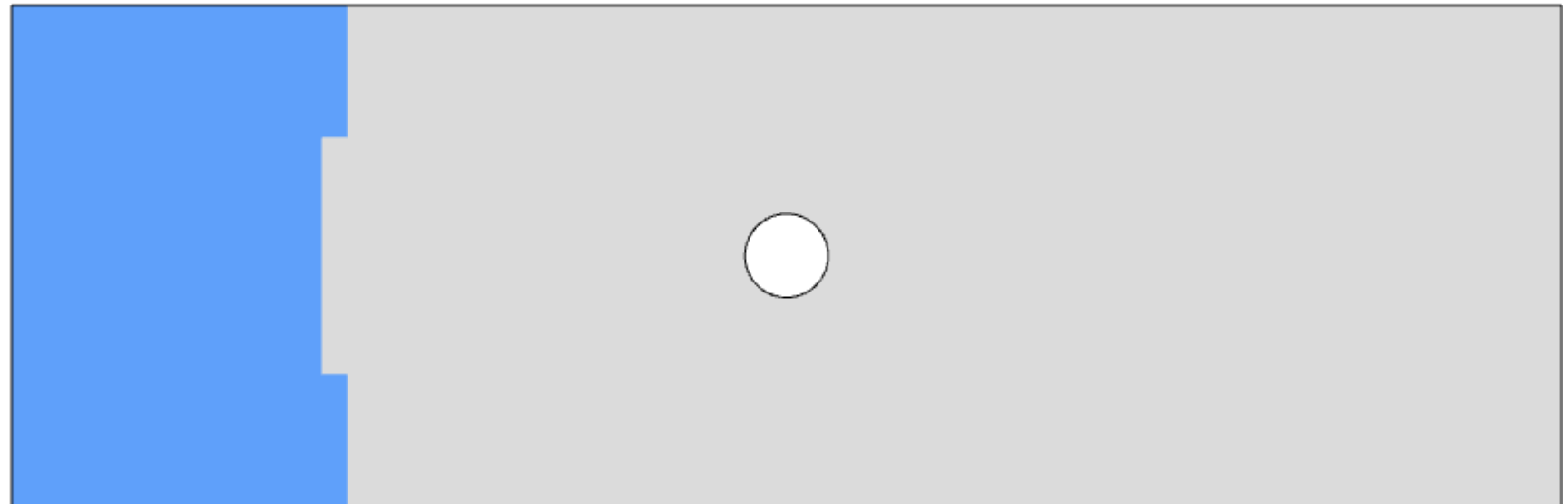
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 90°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: 90°, Candidate 2

1. Click the indicated icon
2. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 3 .
3. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the indicated region.
4. Click Clean Ply Shape

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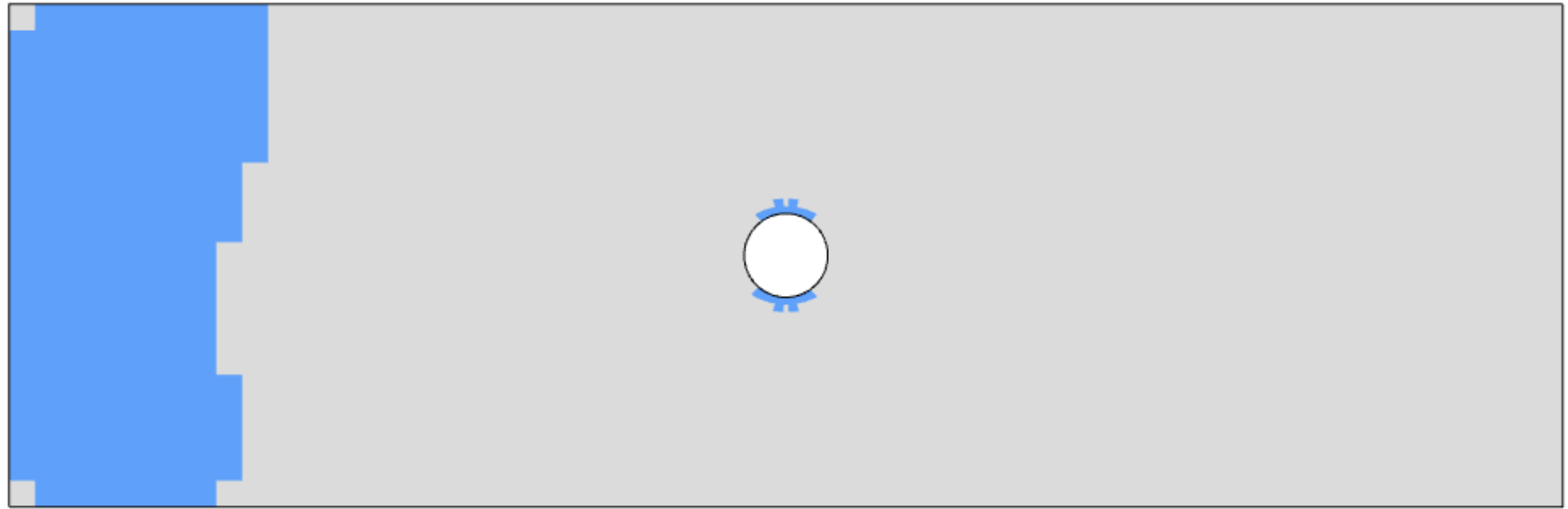
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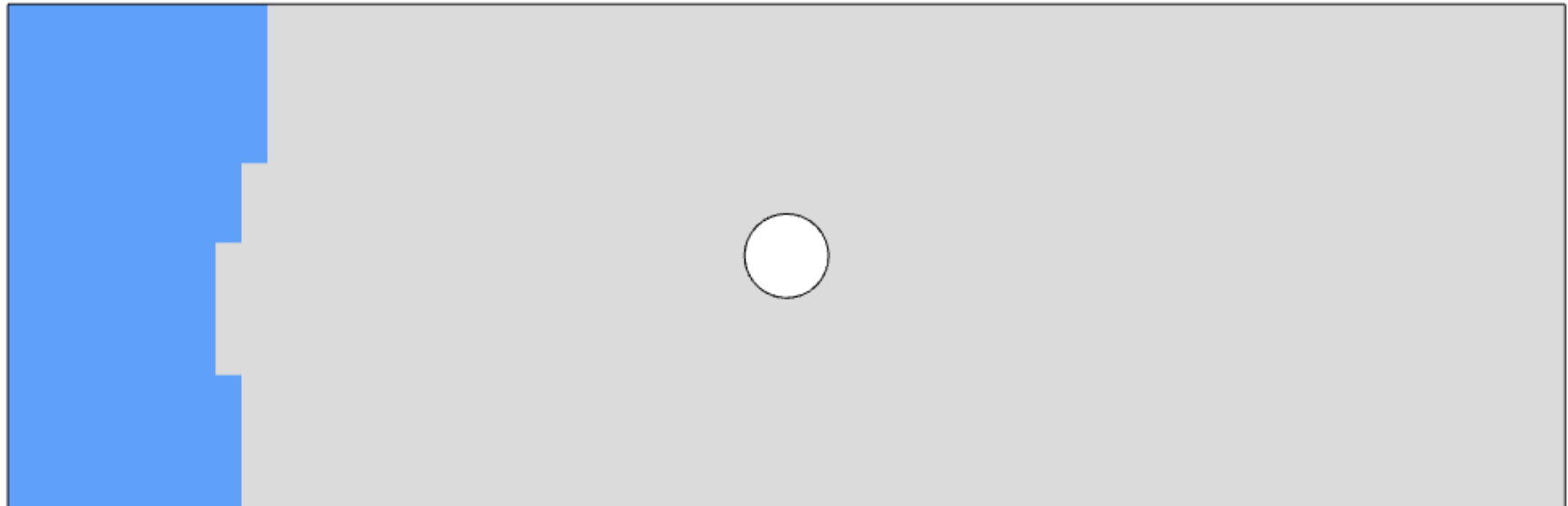
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Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 45°

Before



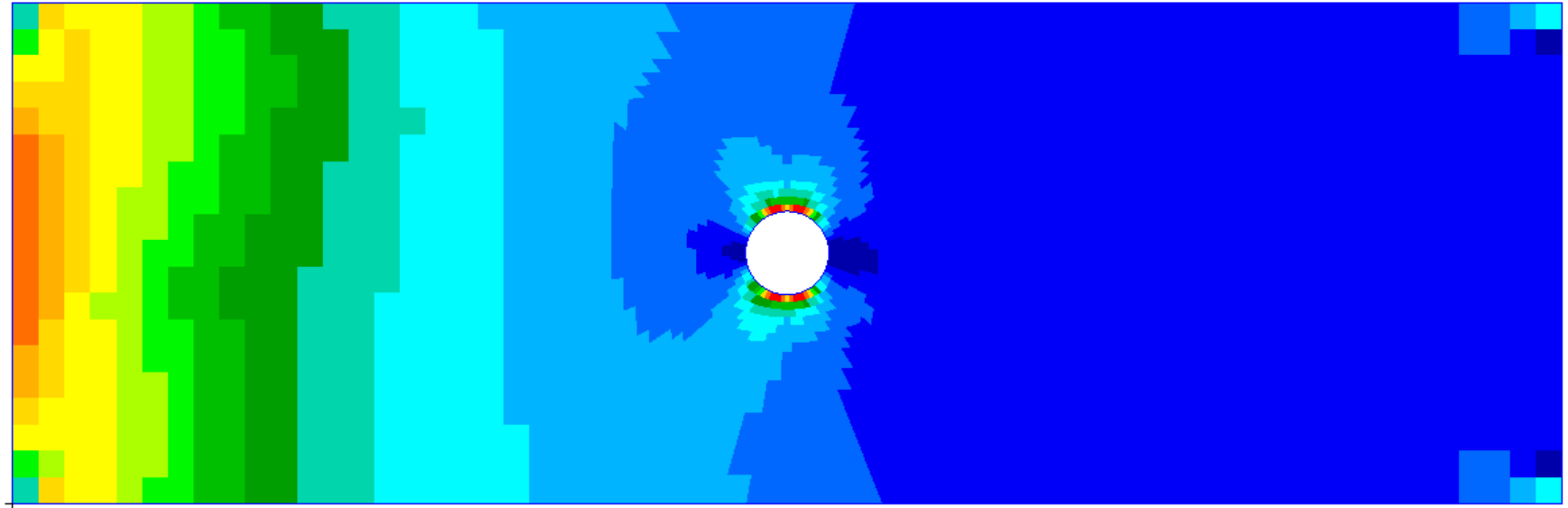
After



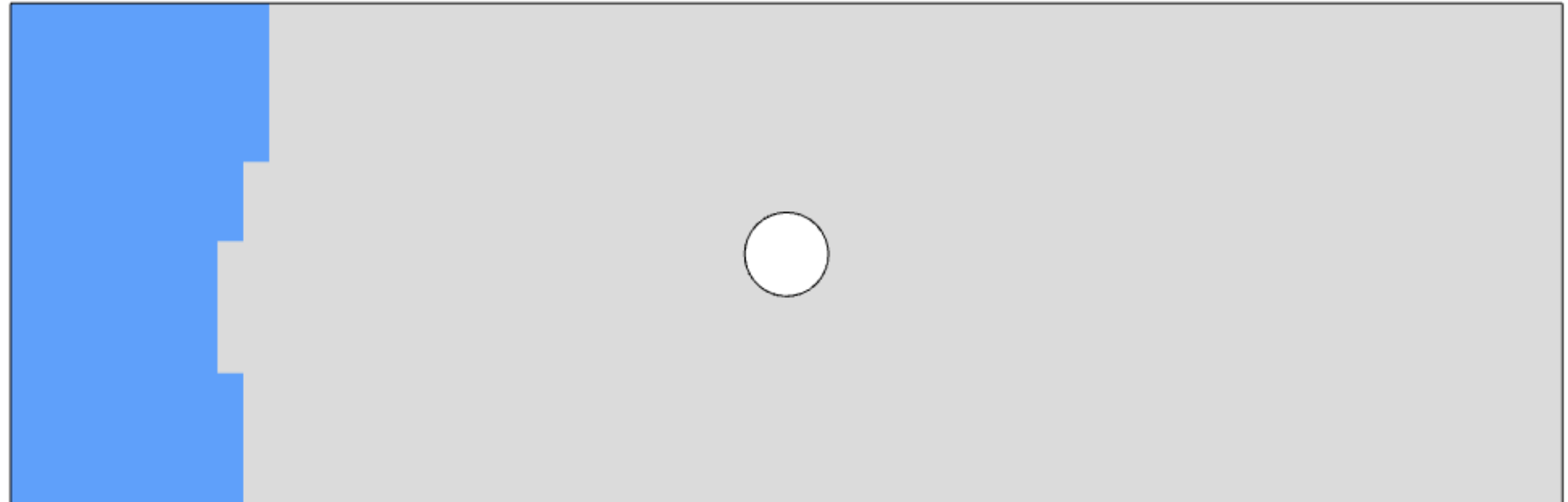
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 45°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of +45° and -45° plies

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 45°

1. Click the indicated icon
2. A red sphere appears and moves with mouse cursor. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the indicated region.
3. Click Clean Ply Shape

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For access, visit

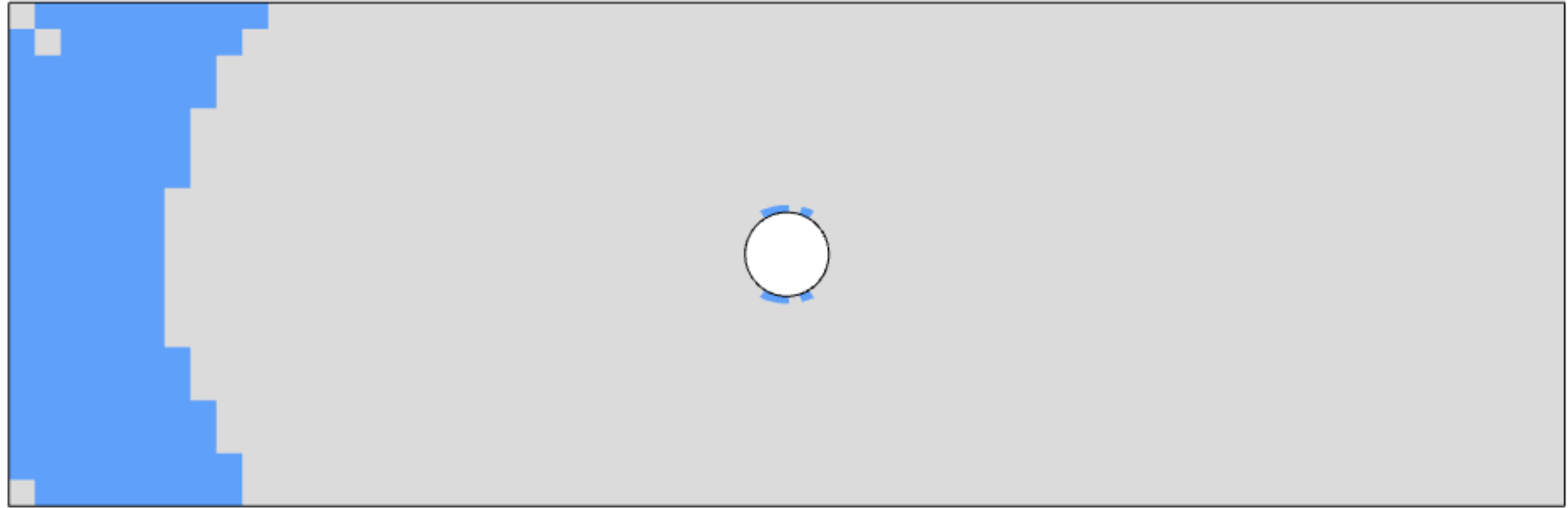
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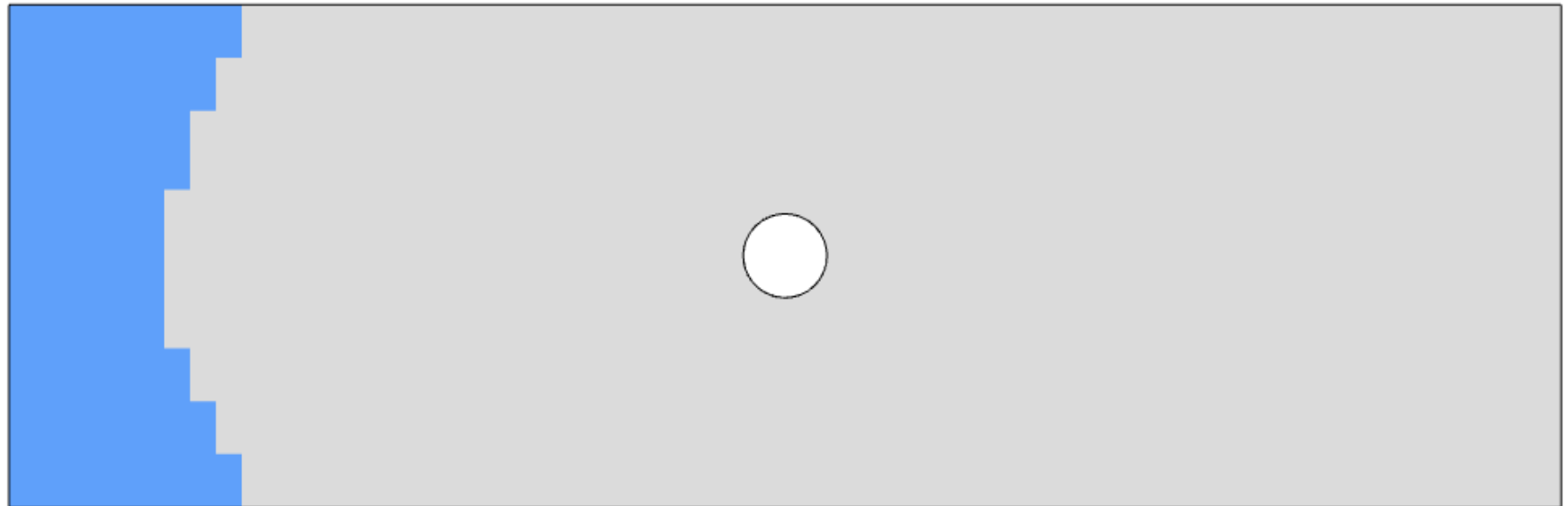
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Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 0°

Before



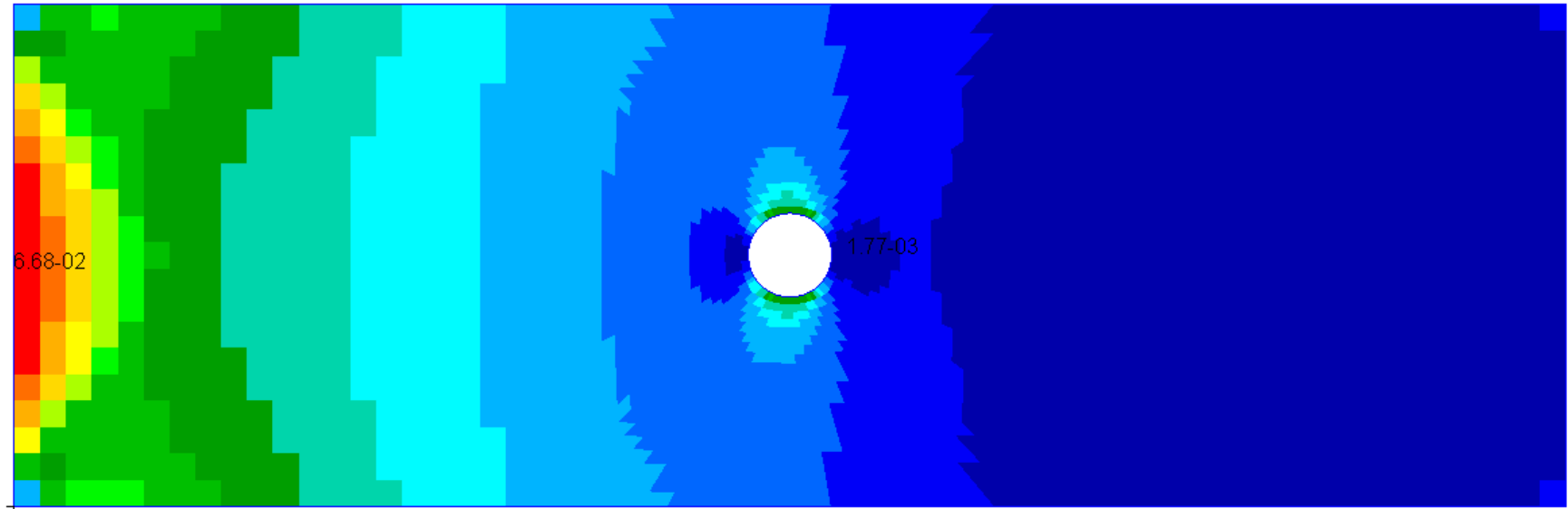
After



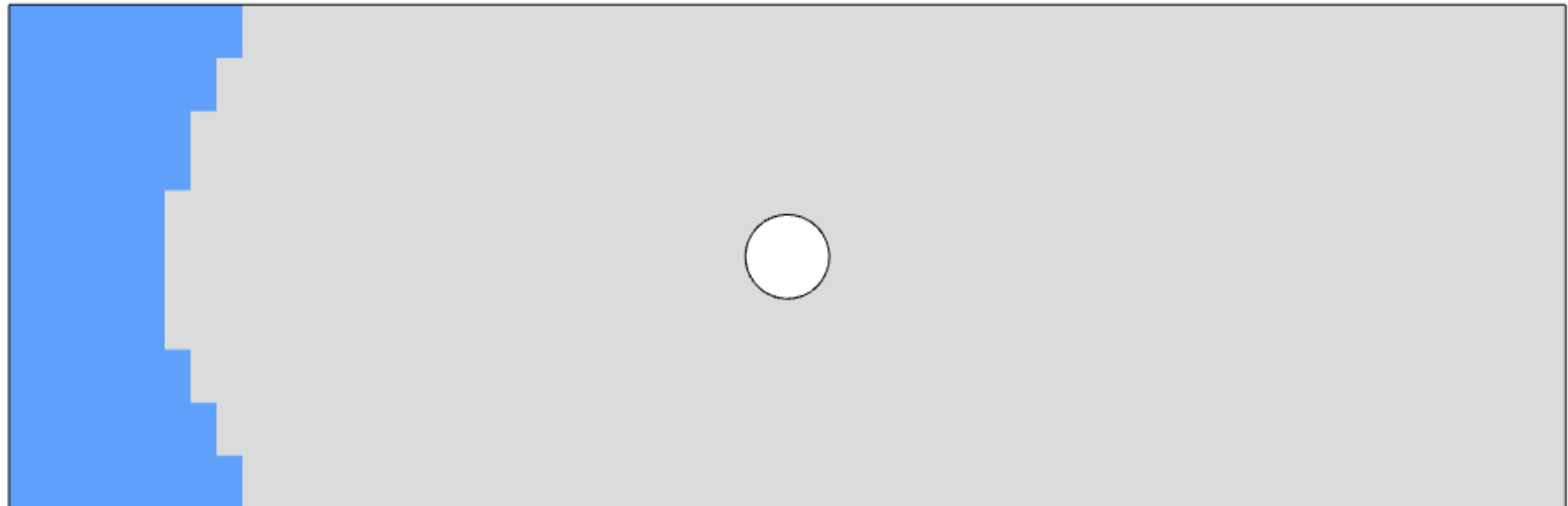
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 0°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of the 0° ply

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 2 for 0°

1. Click the indicated icon
2. A red sphere appears and moves with mouse cursor. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the indicated region.
3. Click Clean Ply Shape 3 times

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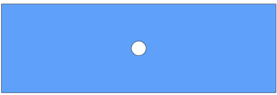

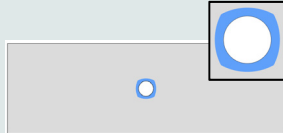
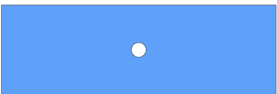

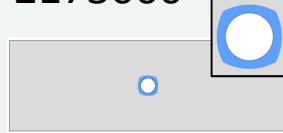

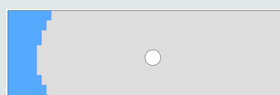
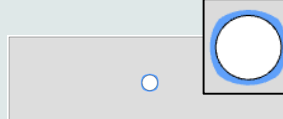
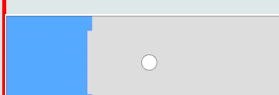
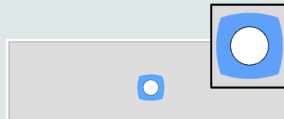
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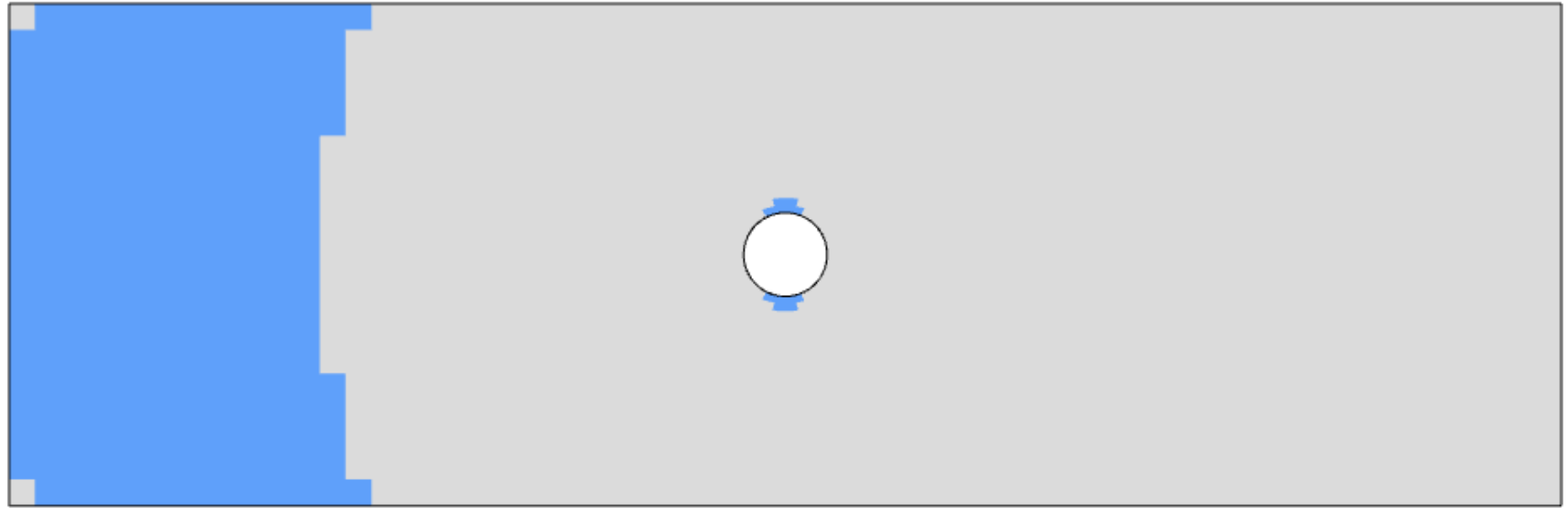
Ply Shape Candidates Creation

1. The indicated ply shape candidates will be created

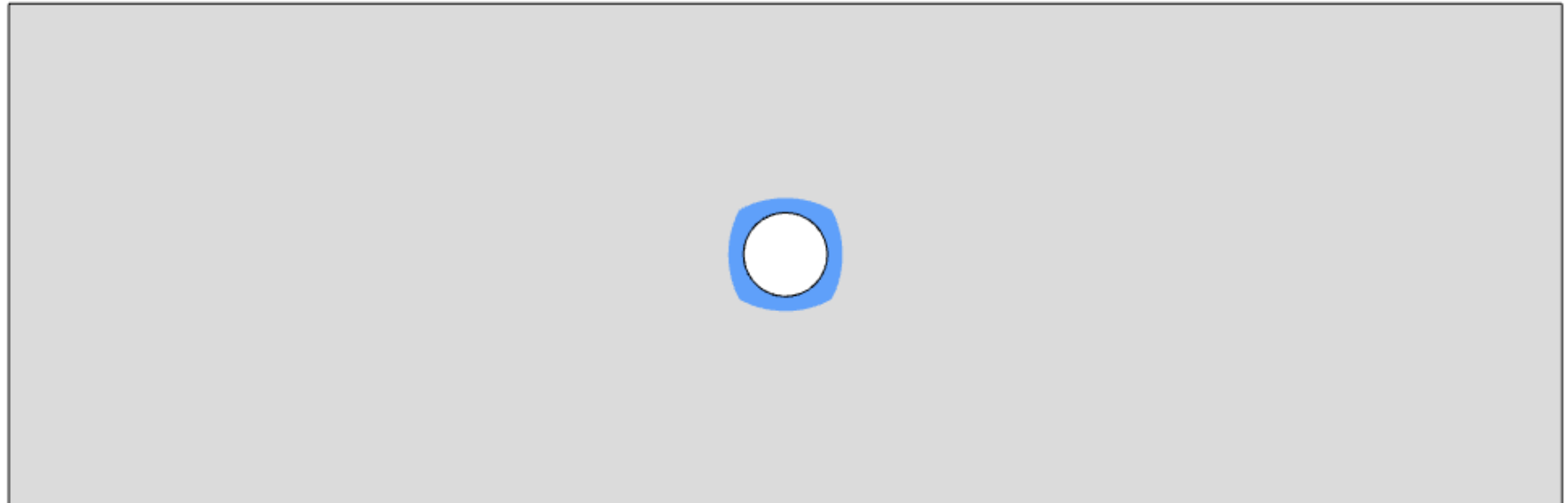
Layer, Theta	Ply Shape Candidate 1	Ply Shape Candidate 2	Ply Shape Candidate 3	Ply Shape Candidate 4	Ply Shape Candidate 5
5 90°	151000, 2151000 	152000, 2152000 	153000, 2153000 		
6, 7 ±45°	161000, 2161000 171000, 2171000 	162000, 2162000 172000, 2172000 	163000, 2163000 173000, 2173000 		
8 0°	181000, 2181000 	182000, 2182000 	183000, 2183000 	184000, 2184000 	185000, 2185000 

Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 90°

Before

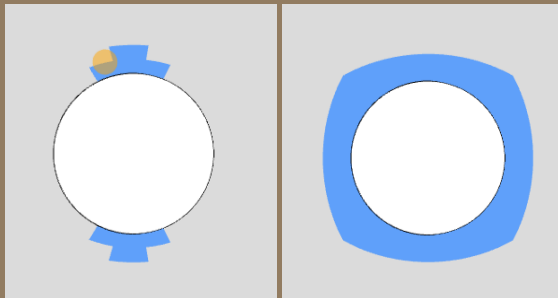


After

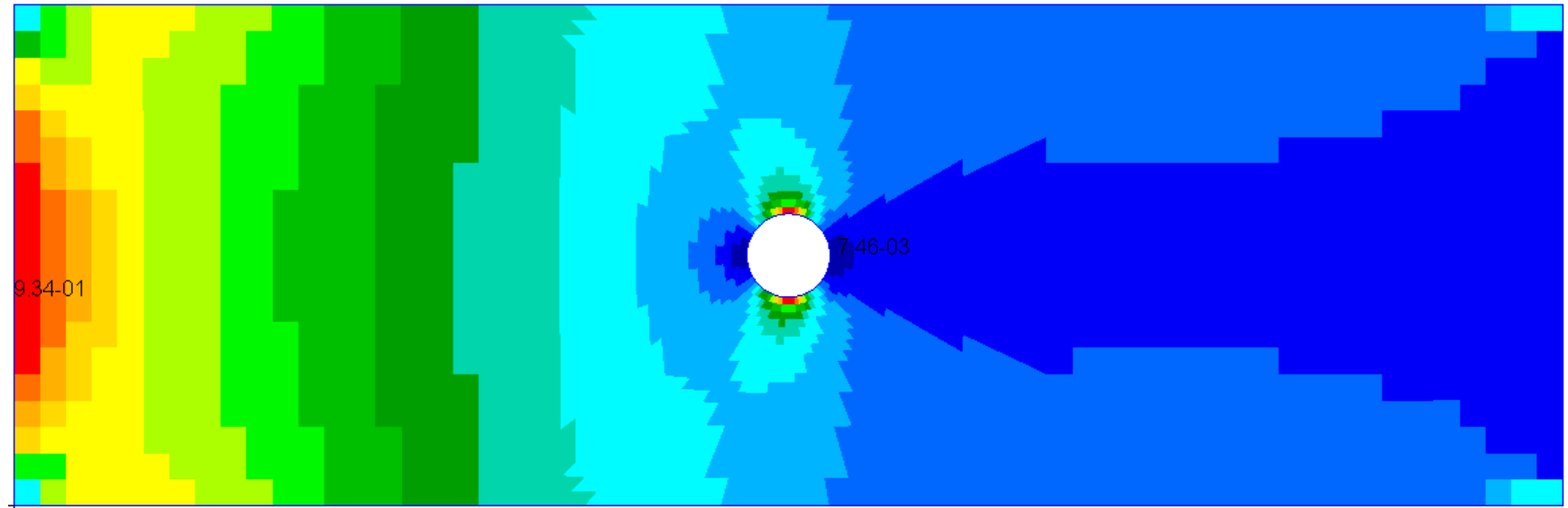


Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 90°

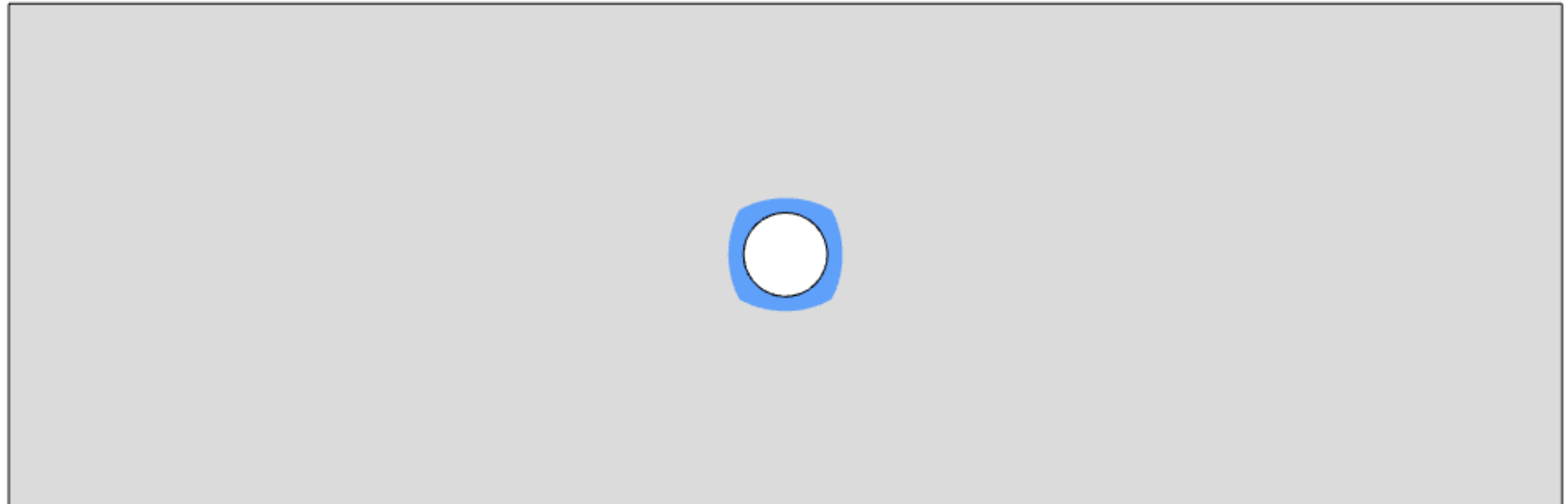
- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- Below are possible candidate shapes. The shape in the bottom left follows the contours of the failure index but is difficult to manufacture. The shape in the bottom right is more manufacturable and overlaps the same region region.



Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: 90°, Candidate 3

1. Click the indicated icon
2. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 9 .
3. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the left side.

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Ply Shape Editing: 90°, Candidate 3

1. Use the scroll wheel on the mouse to zoom in to the hole
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A yellow sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to 0.5 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the mouse to move the sphere and add the ply around the hole.

- If a ply shape is spread over the wrong element, use the erase option (red sphere) to remove the ply shape from unwanted regions.

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For access, visit

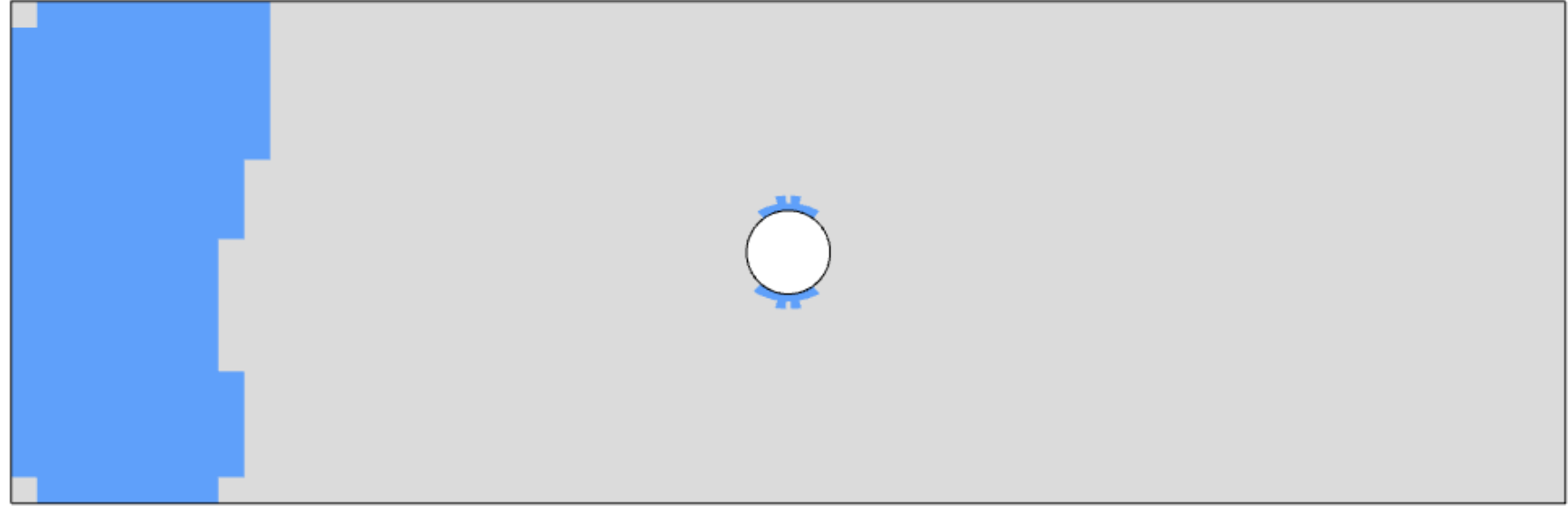
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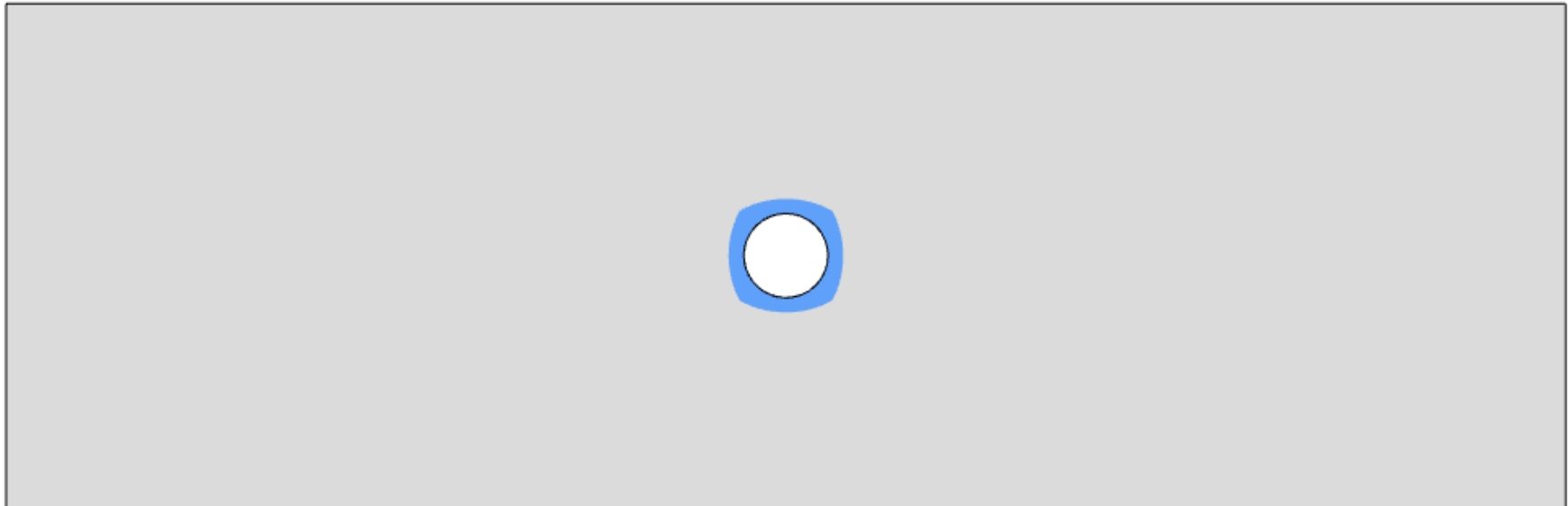
[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 45°

Before



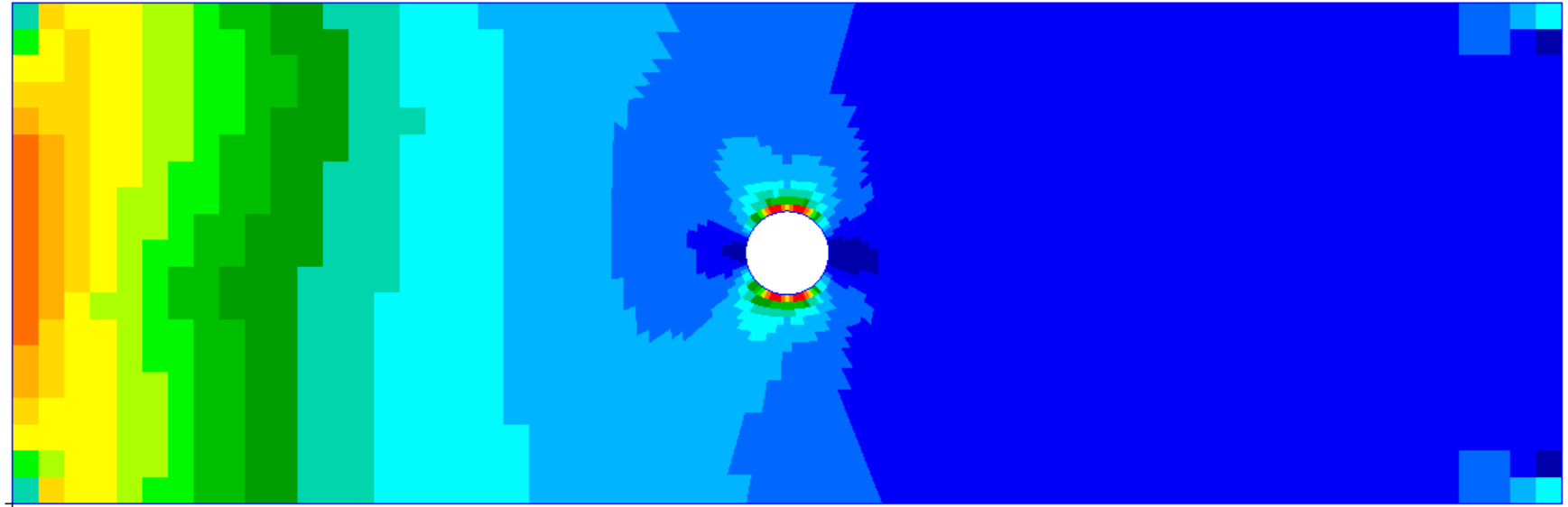
After



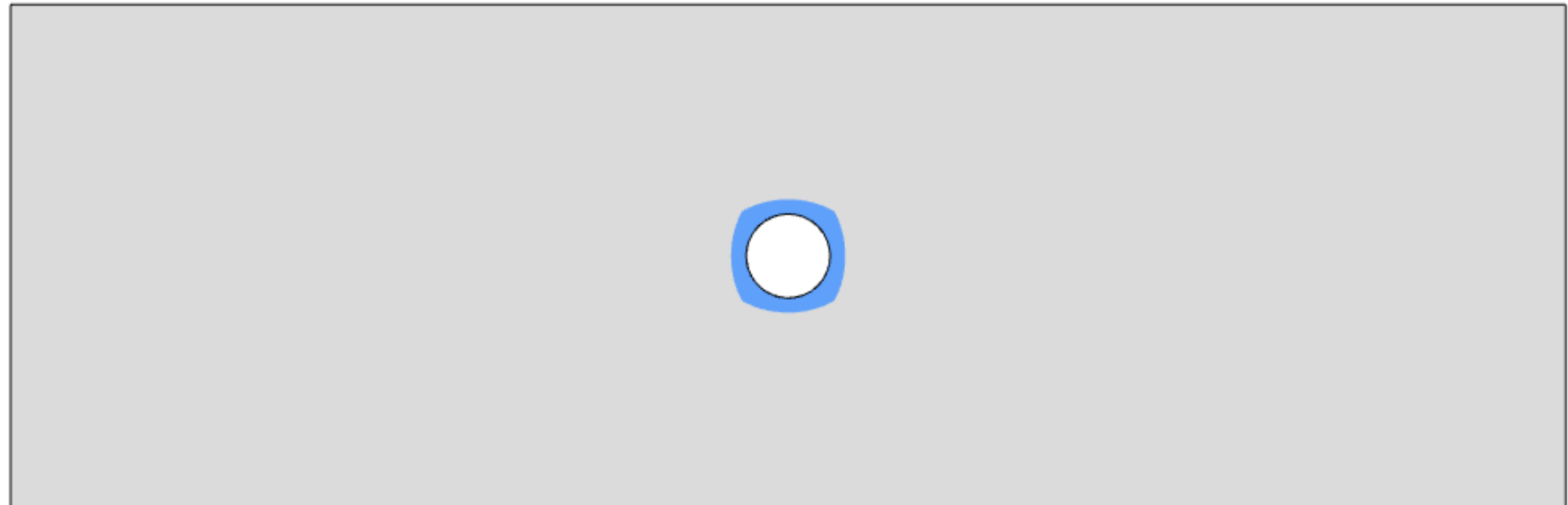
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 45°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of +45° and -45°

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: 45°, Candidate 3

1. Click Fit Model to view the full model (not shown)
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 9 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the left side.

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Ply Shape Editing: 45°, Candidate 3

1. Use the scroll wheel on the mouse to zoom in to the hole
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A yellow sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to 0.5 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the mouse to move the sphere and add the ply around the hole.

- If a ply shape is spread over the wrong element, use the erase option (red sphere) to remove the ply shape from unwanted regions.

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For access, visit

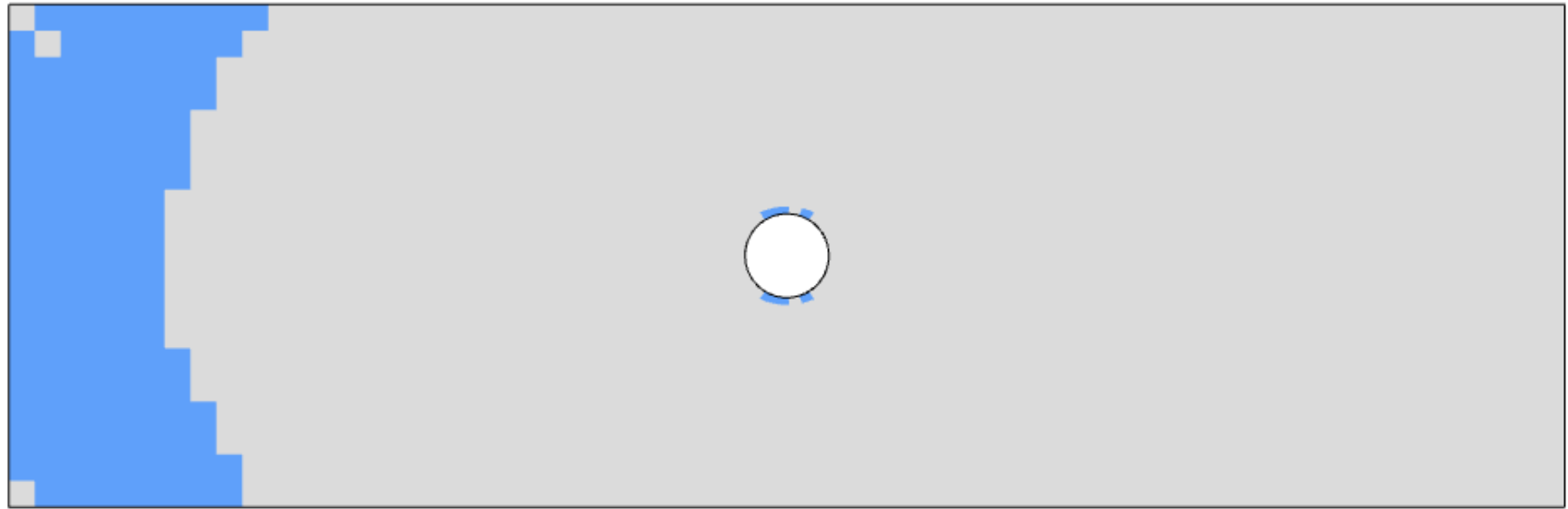
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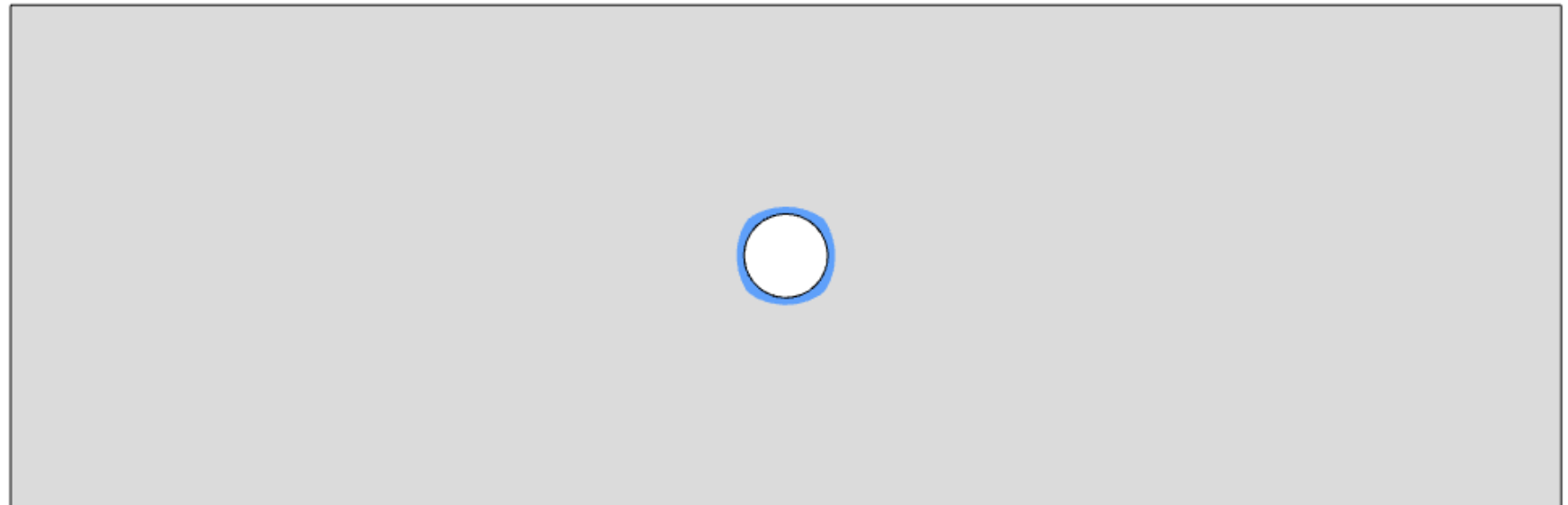
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Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 0°

Before



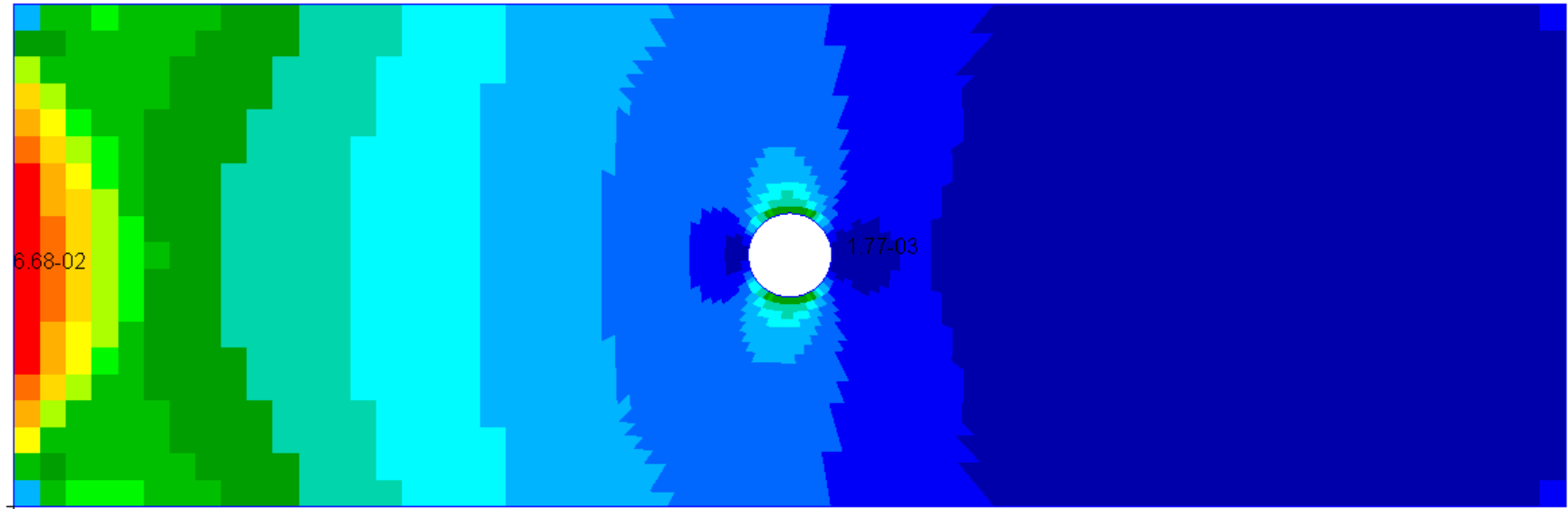
After



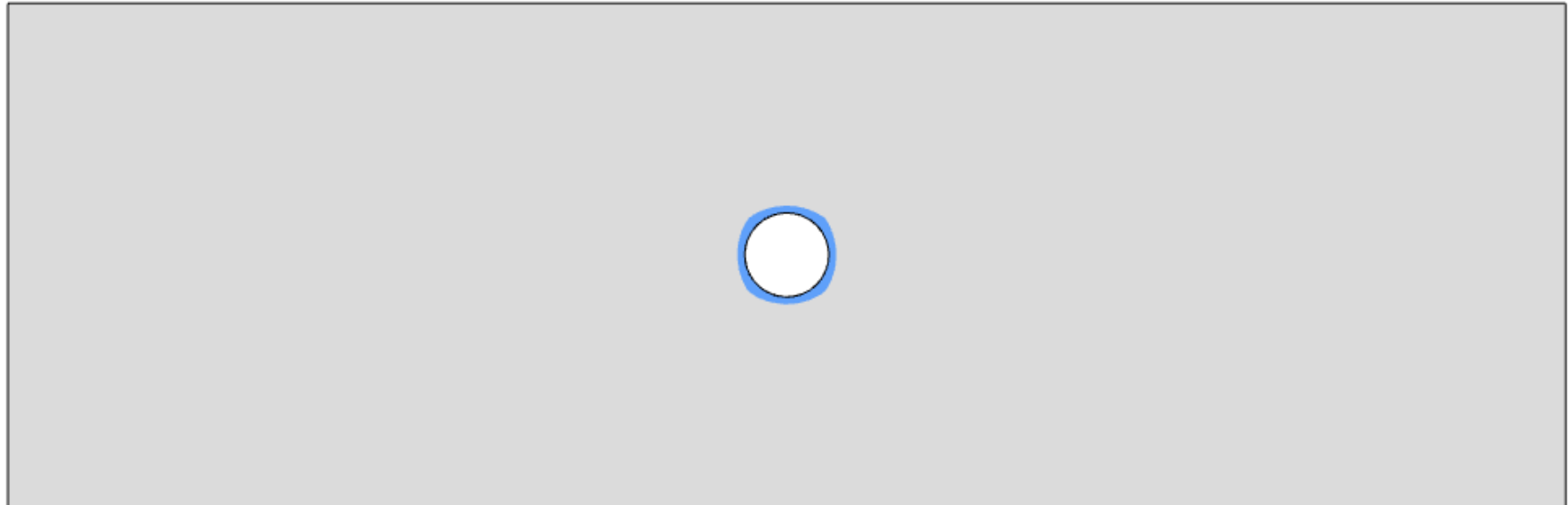
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 3 for 0°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of the 0° ply

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: 0°, Candidate 3

1. Click Fit Model to view the full model (not shown)
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 9 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the left side.

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Ply Shape Editing: 0°, Candidate 3

1. Use the scroll wheel on the mouse to zoom in to the hole
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A yellow sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to 0.2 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the mouse to move the sphere and add the ply around the hole.

- If a ply shape is spread over the wrong element, use the erase option (red sphere) to remove the ply shape from unwanted regions.

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For access, visit

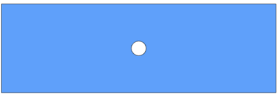

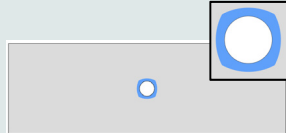
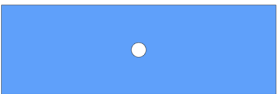

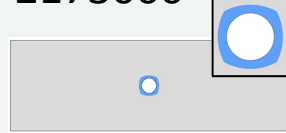

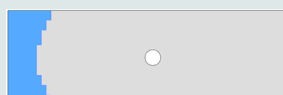
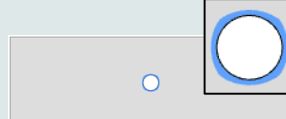


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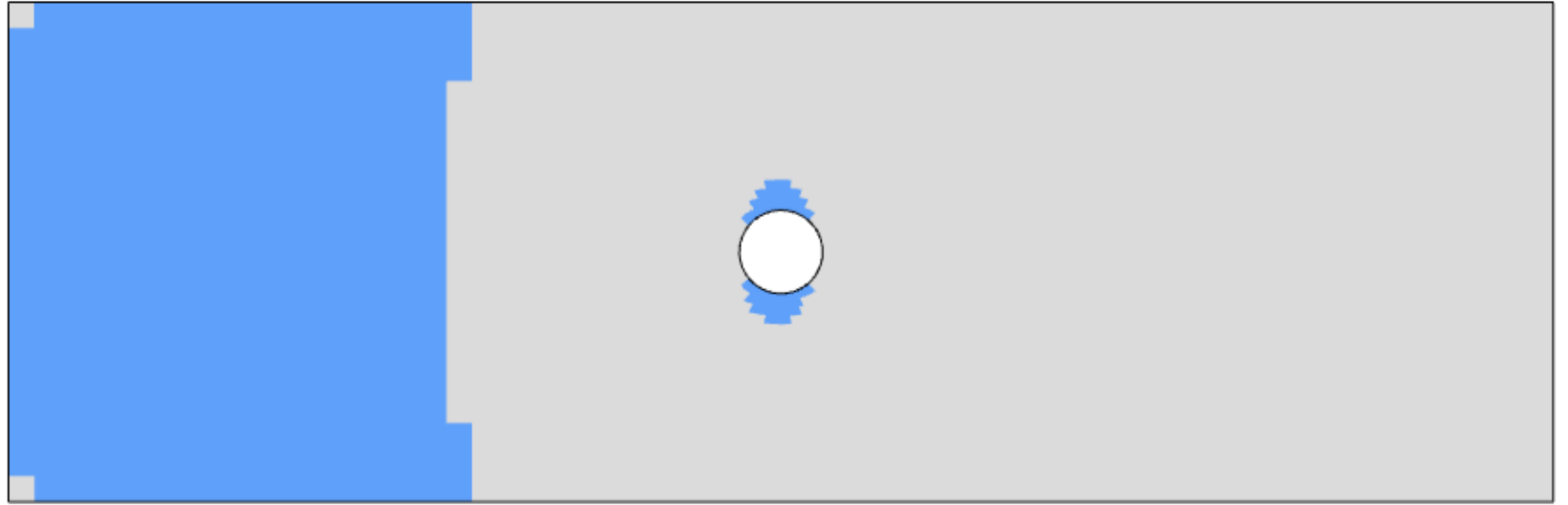
Ply Shape Candidates Creation

1. The indicated ply shape candidates will be created

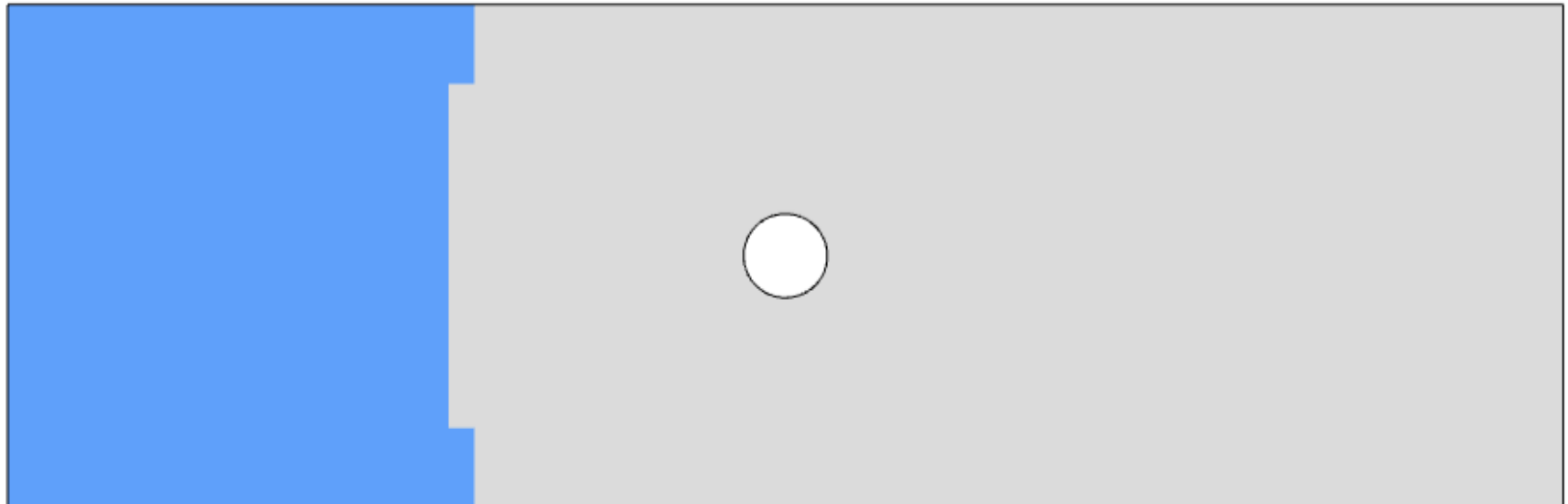
Layer, Theta	Ply Shape Candidate 1	Ply Shape Candidate 2	Ply Shape Candidate 3	Ply Shape Candidate 4	Ply Shape Candidate 5
5 90°	151000, 2151000 	152000, 2152000 	153000, 2153000 		
6, 7 ±45°	161000, 2161000 171000, 2171000 	162000, 2162000 172000, 2172000 	163000, 2163000 173000, 2173000 		
8 0°	181000, 2181000 	182000, 2182000 	183000, 2183000 	184000, 2184000 	185000, 2185000 

Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 4 for 0°

Before



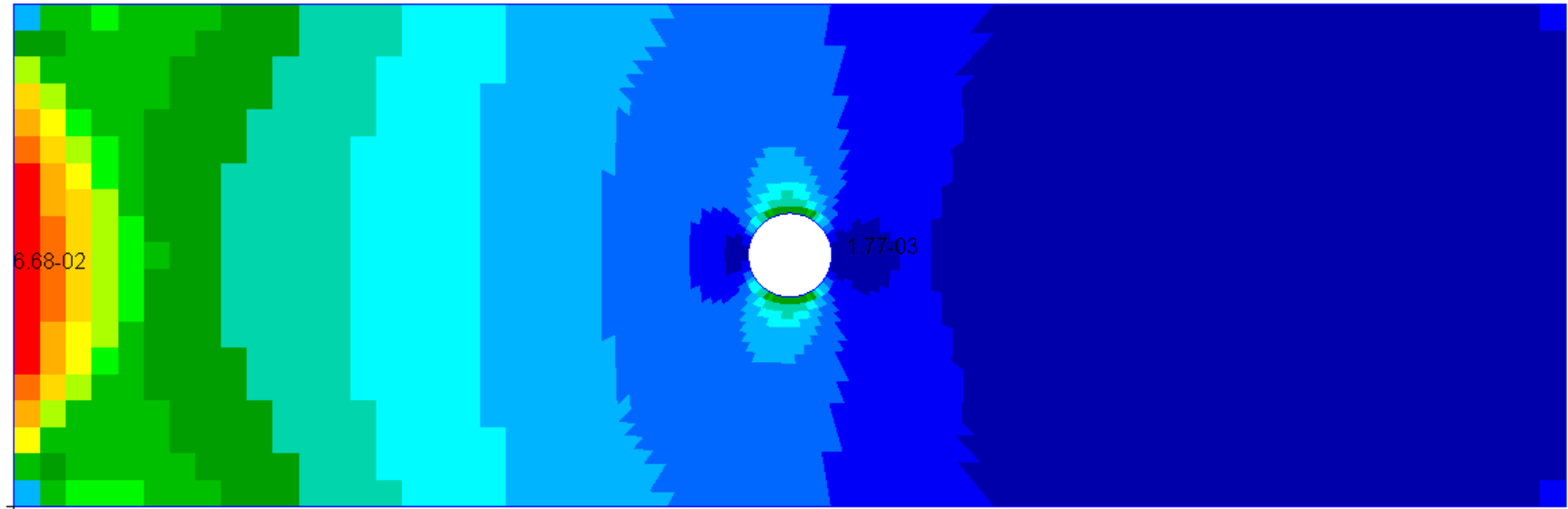
After



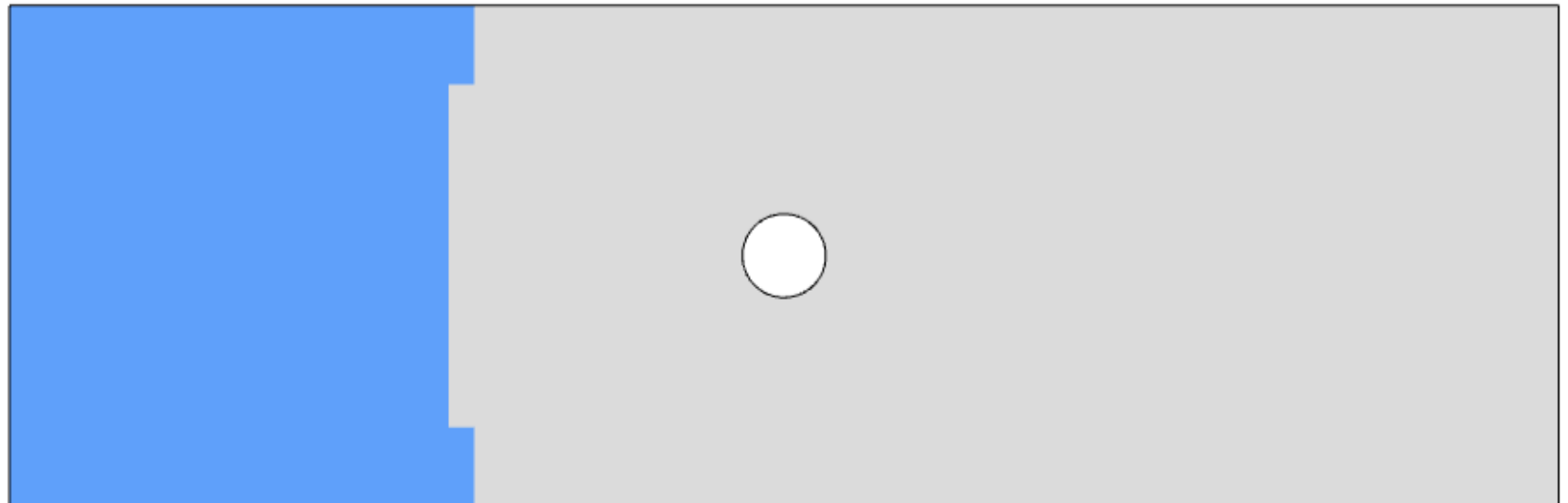
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 4 for 0°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of the 0° ply

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 4 for 0°

1. Click Fit Model to view the full model (not shown)
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 3 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the indicated region.
5. Click Clean Ply Shape

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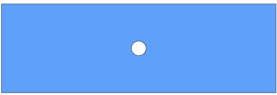

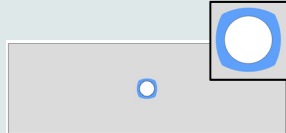

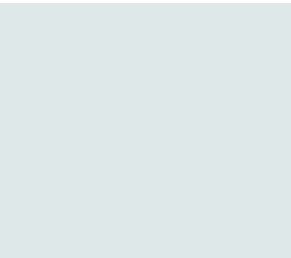
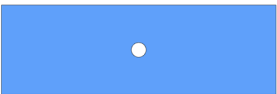

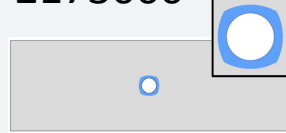
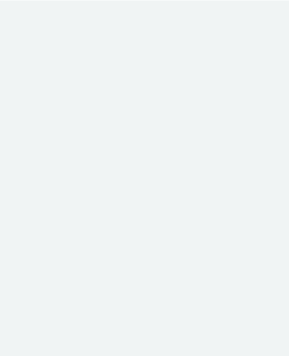
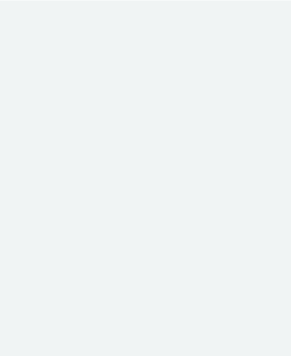

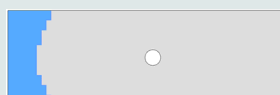
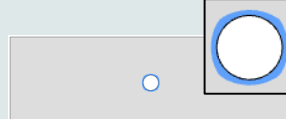
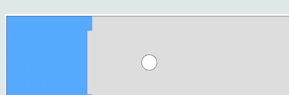
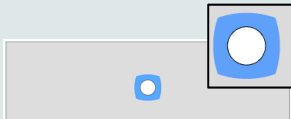
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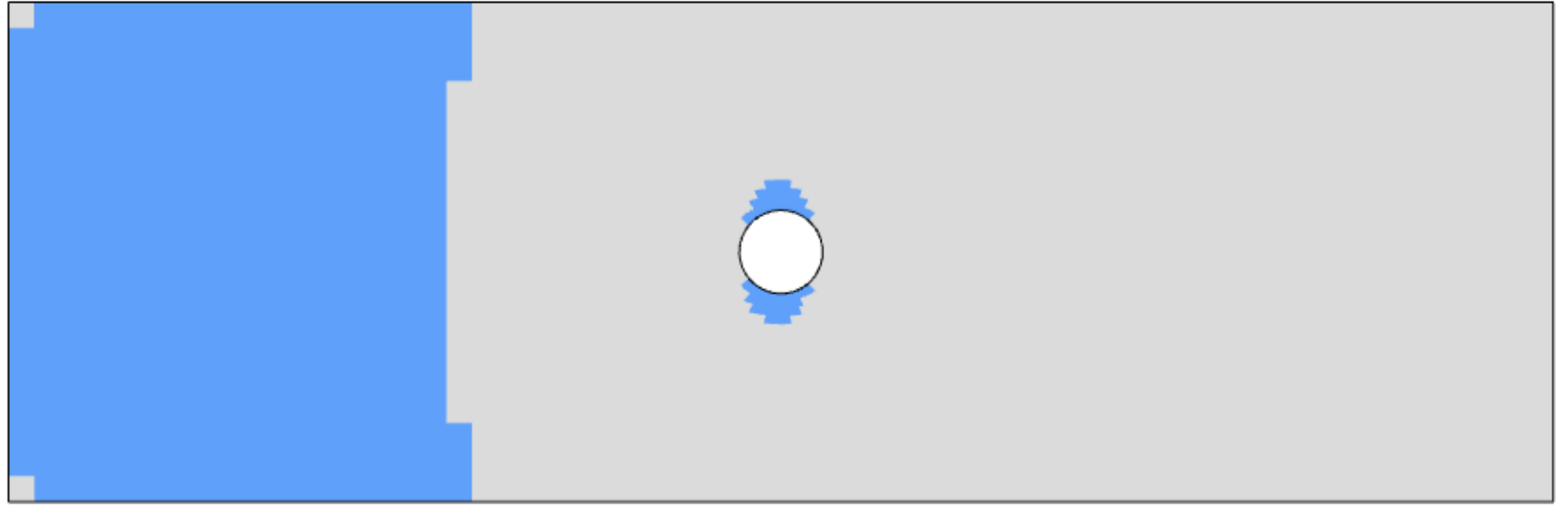
Ply Shape Candidates Creation

1. The indicated ply shape candidates will be created

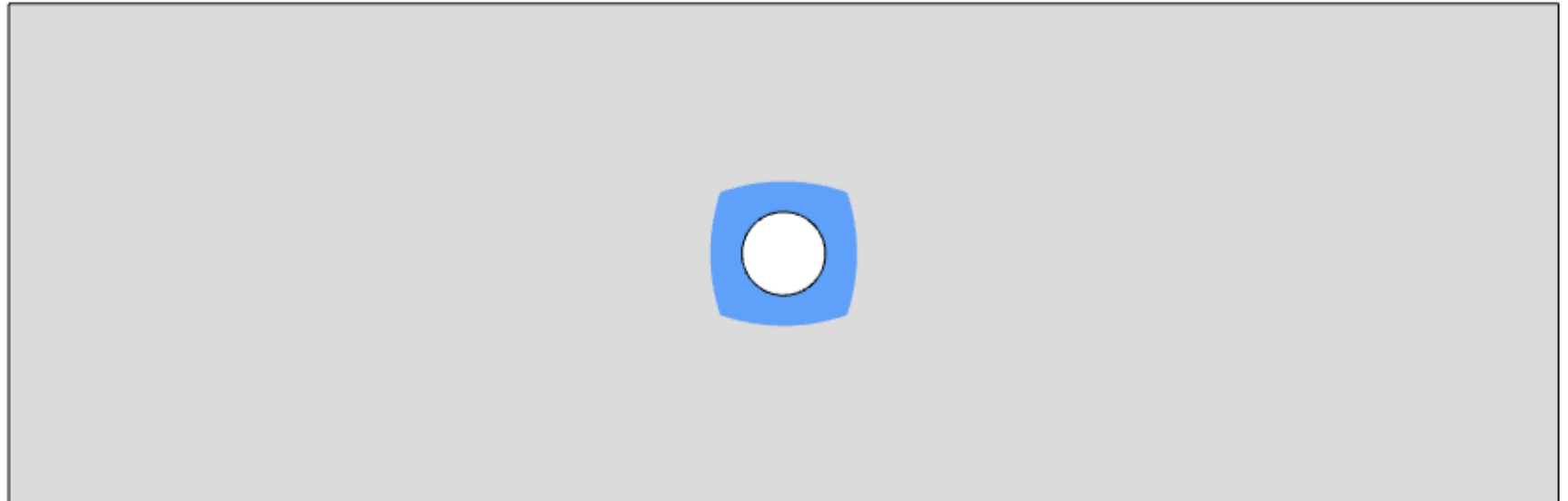
Layer, Theta	Ply Shape Candidate 1	Ply Shape Candidate 2	Ply Shape Candidate 3	Ply Shape Candidate 4	Ply Shape Candidate 5
5 90°	151000, 2151000 	152000, 2152000 	153000, 2153000 	1 	
6, 7 ±45°	161000, 2161000 171000, 2171000 	162000, 2162000 172000, 2172000 	163000, 2163000 173000, 2173000 		
8 0°	181000, 2181000 	182000, 2182000 	183000, 2183000 	184000, 2184000 	185000, 2185000 

Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 5 for 0°

Before



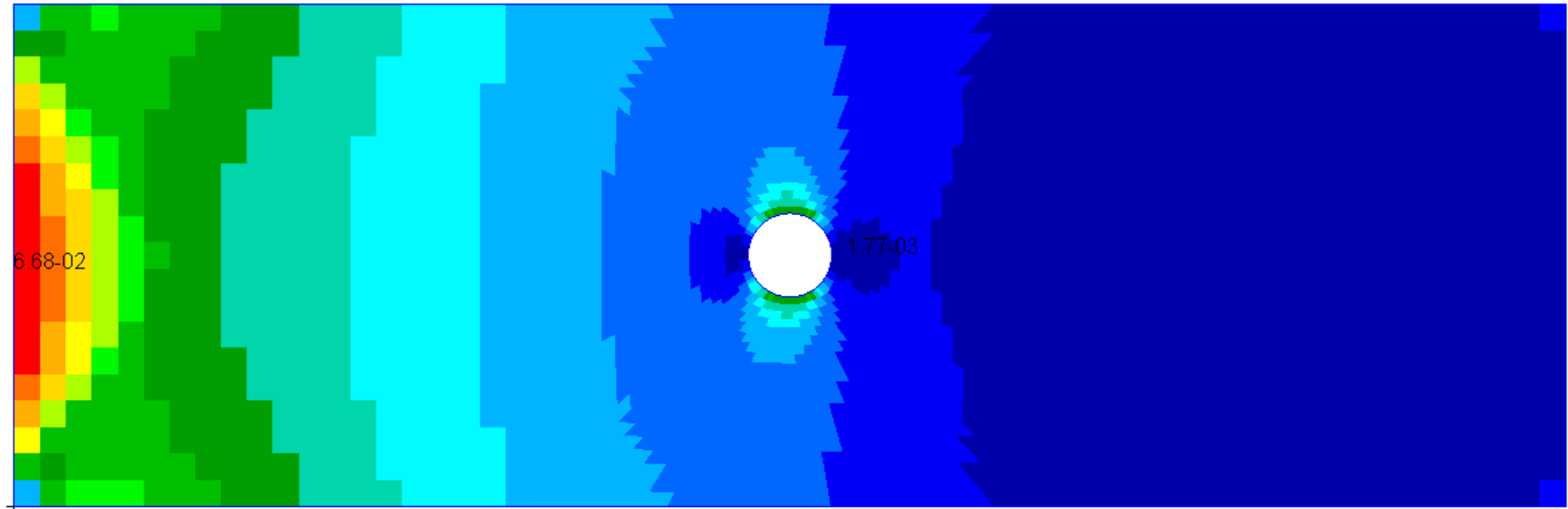
After



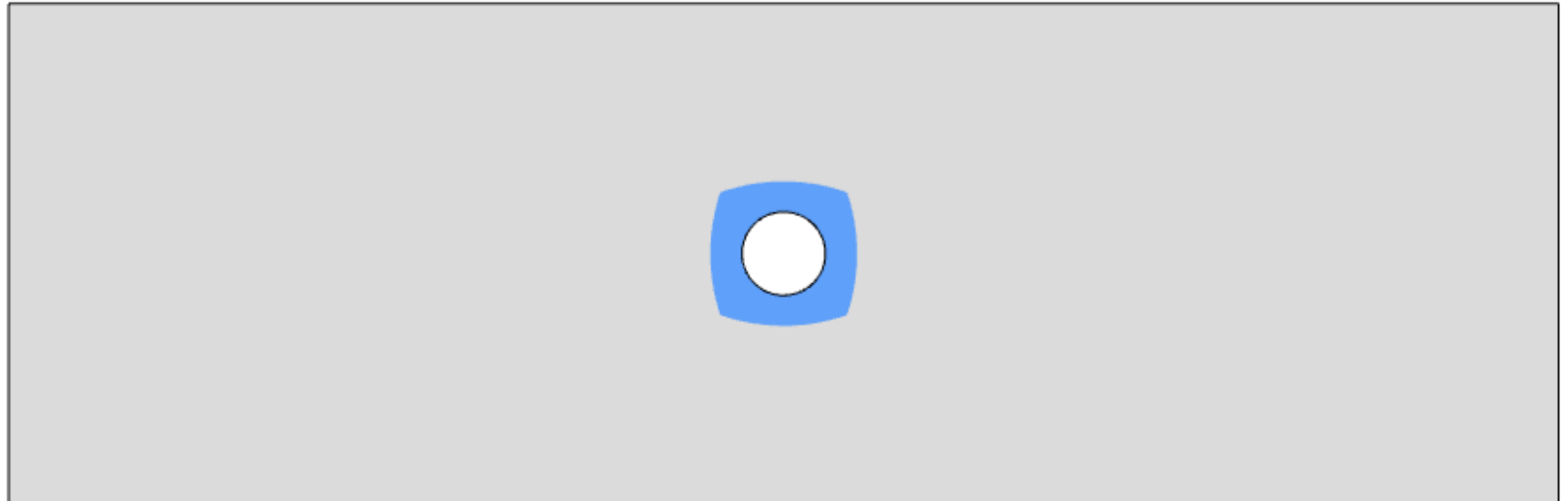
Ply Shape Editing: Candidate 5 for 0°

- The ply shape candidate takes a form that aligns with the contour of the maximum failure index plot
- The values used are the maximum failure indices of the 0° ply

Maximum Failure Index



Ply Shape Candidate 2



Ply Shape Editing: 0°, Candidate 5

1. Click Fit Model to view the full model (not shown)
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A red sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to approximately 9 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the sphere to remove the ply from the left side.

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Ply Shape Editing: 0°, Candidate 5

1. Use the scroll wheel on the mouse to zoom in to the hole
2. Click the indicated icon
3. A yellow sphere appears. The size of the sphere is adjusted. Set Picking Sphere Radius to 1 .
4. Press and hold the left mouse button, and drag the mouse to move the sphere and add the ply around the hole.

- If a ply shape is spread over the wrong element, use the erase option (red sphere) to remove the ply shape from unwanted regions.

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Ply Shape Consolidation

1. Use the mouse scroll wheel to zoom out
2. Click View PCOMPG Zones
3. Click the indicated icon to display the Ply Shape Consolidation section
4. Click Update Consolidation Information

- Refer to the appendix, section PCOMPG Zones, for more information regarding PCOMPG zones.

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Ply Shape Consolidation

1. Move the slider to level 4
2. Note that the slider controls which checkboxes are marked. These checkboxes indicate which ply shapes are included in the final composite (PCOMPG entries).
3. The model is updated with different PCOMPG zones.

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Ply Shape Consolidation

1. Move the slider back to level 1
2. Note all the checkboxes are marked and will be included in the final PCOMPG entries
3. Ensure the PCOMPG zones are similar to what is shown
4. Click the indicated icon

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Confirm Ply Number Optimization Configuration

1. Click View PCOMPG Zones to hide the PCOMPG Zones window
2. Navigate to section Ply Number Optimization Configuration

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Confirm Ply Number Optimization Configuration

1. Ensure the ply thickness is blank for the outer plies
2. For the indicated rows, ensure the upper bound of the failure index is set to .95

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Confirm Ply Number Optimization Configuration

Do the following for ply shape candidates with
GPLY ID: 151000, 152000, 153000, 161000,
162000, 163000, 171000, 172000, 173000,
181000, 182000, 183000, 184000, 185000
(rows 5-18 of the table)

1. For the indicated rows, ensure the ply thickness is set to .125 mm
2. For the indicated rows, ensure the upper bound of the failure index is set to .95
3. The ply thickness is not necessary for the -45° layers because the -45° layers are linked to the +45° layers (not shown). During the ply number optimization, one ply number variable controls the +45° and -45° plies.

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Confirm Ply Number Optimization Configuration

1. Recall the core is neither optimized, nor constrained. The input boxes for the core are left blank.

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Consider Additional Optimization Options

1. Scroll to section Additional Optimization Options. There are additional options to adjust the ply number optimization.

Refer to the appendix for more information about these options.

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Save New Entries

1. Navigate to section Respective PCOMP/PCOMPG Entries
2. The newest entries are displayed. There are approximately 8 new PCOMPG entries (PCOMPG 2-9) and multiple SOL 200 entries (DESVAR, DVPREL1, etc.)
3. Click Save New Entries
4. A checkbox confirm the entries has been saved.

Always be sure to click Save New Entries to commit any changes to the final downloaded BDF files.

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Save New Entries

1. Click New Entries
2. All the newest bulk data entries are displayed. These entries will be added to the downloaded BDF files.

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Consideration for Multiple PCOMPs

1. Click Select a PCOMP
2. If TOMVAR entries were defined for multiple PCOMP entries, ply shapes may be defined for each PCOMP. Use the Select a PCOMP section to switch between the different PCOMPs.

- Optimal ply shapes may be constructed for other layers in different PCOMPs as long as the following conditions are met.
 1. A TOMVAR entry is created for that layer
 2. A PLY000i file is created for that layer

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Download

1. Click Download
2. Click Download BDF Files
3. A reminder is displayed. The downloaded BDF files require additional configuration. Click the indicated link to open the Optimization web app.

Content only available to professional engineers and students.

For access, visit

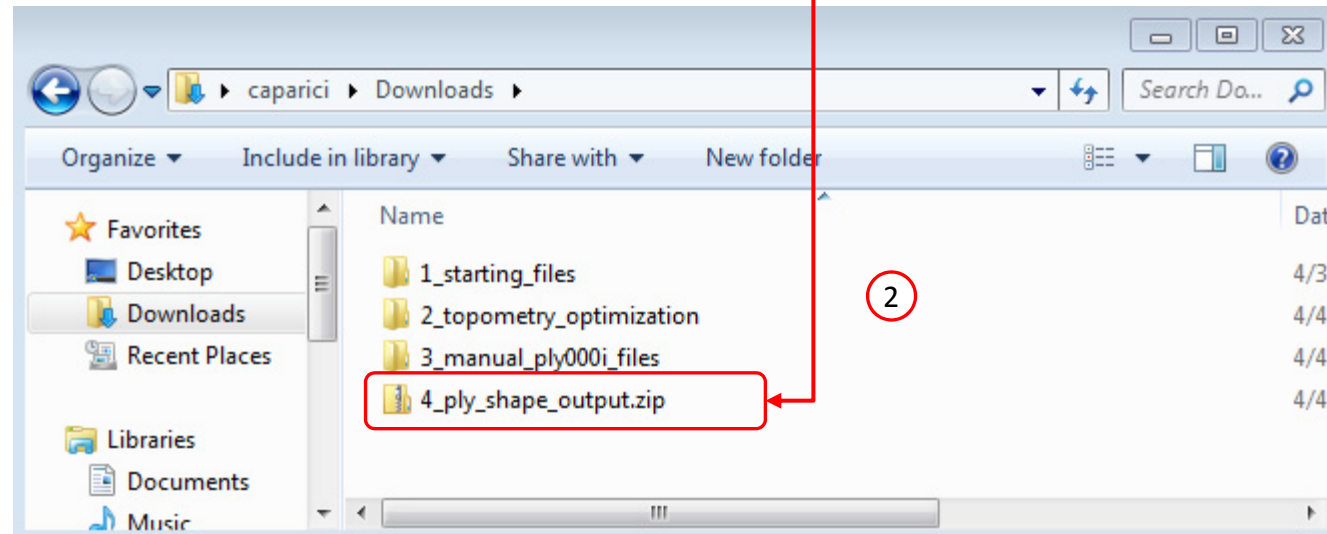
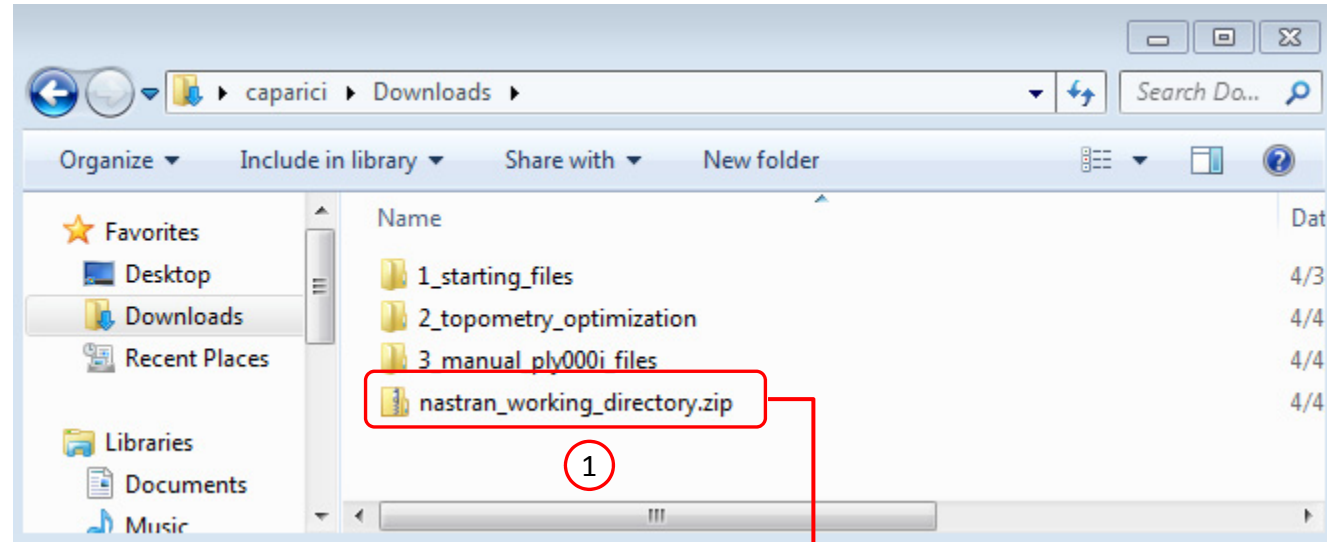
the-engineering-lab.com

or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Rename ZIP File

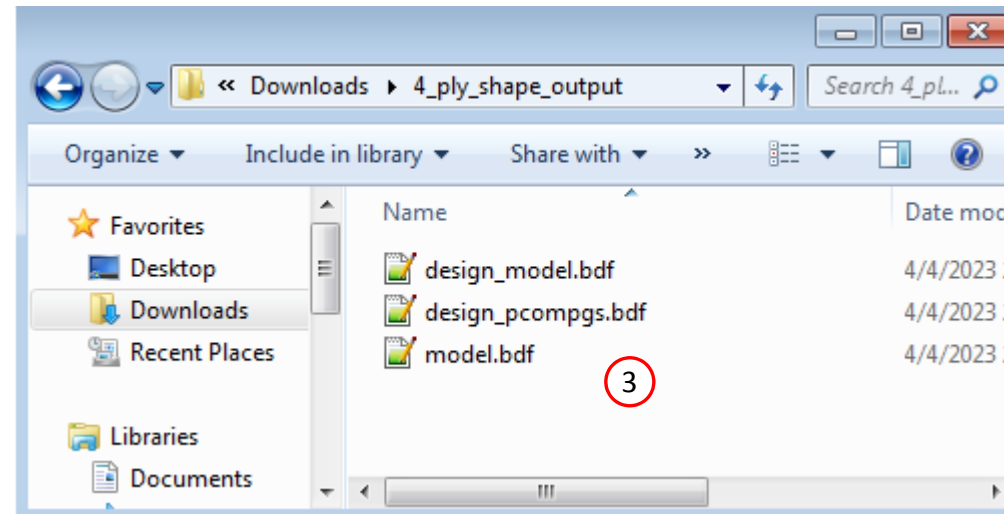
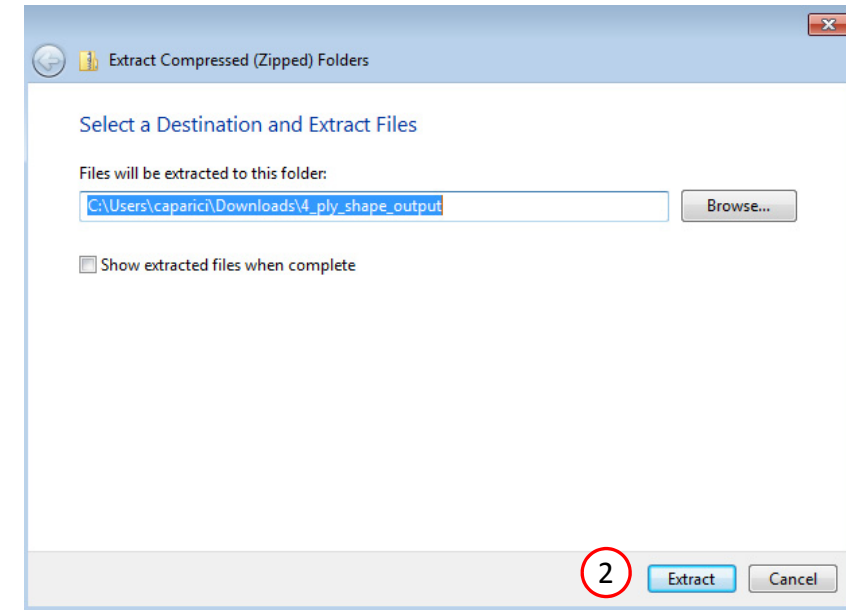
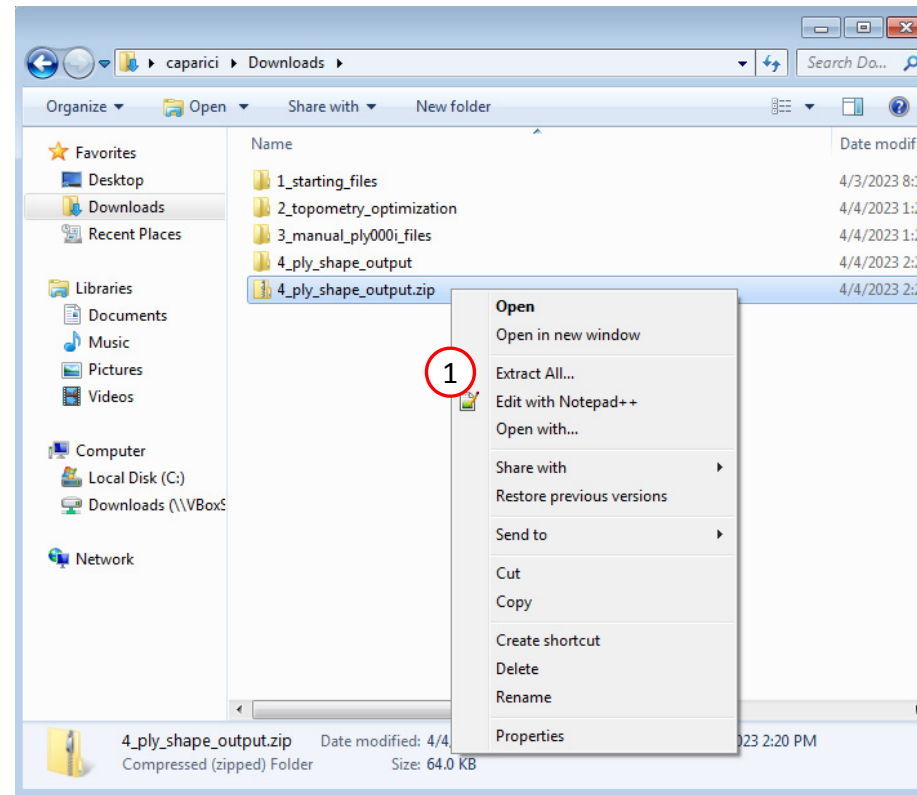
1. A new ZIP file has been downloaded
2. Rename the downloaded ZIP file to 4_ply_shape_output.zip



Part 2 – Ply Number Optimization

Extract the ZIP File

1. Right click on the ZIP file and click Extract All
2. Click Extract
3. A new folder with the new BDF files has been created



Upload BDF Files

1. Switch to the Optimization web app
2. Click Select files
3. Navigate to directory 4_ply_shape_output
4. Select the indicated files
5. Click Open
6. Click Upload files

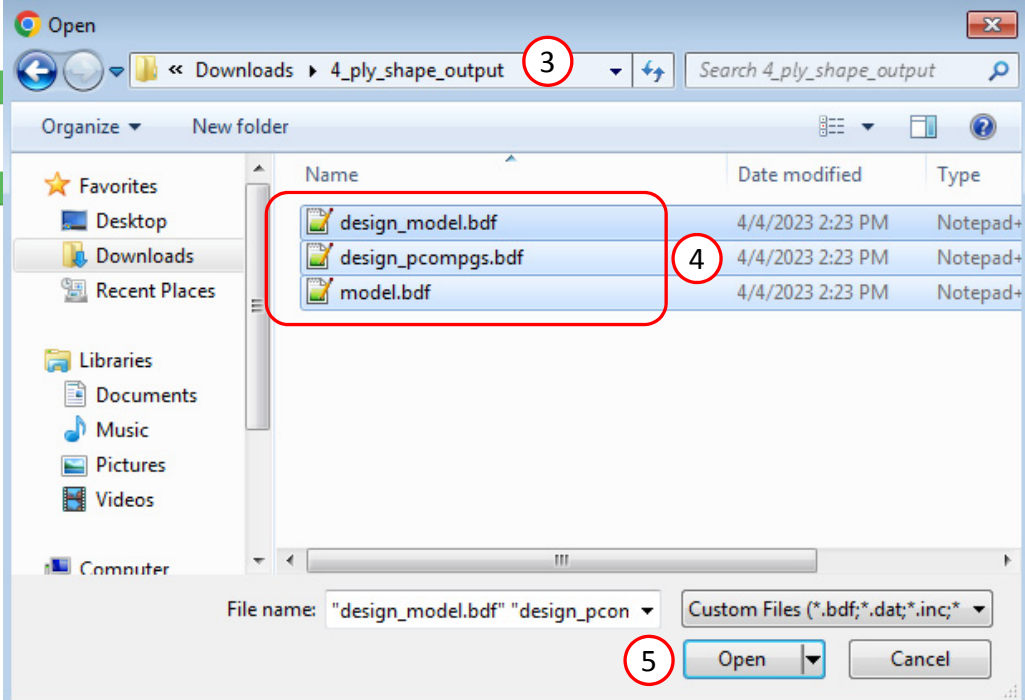
Step 1 - Upload .BDF Files

1. Select files 3 files selected

Inspecting: 100%

2. Upload files

☐ List of Selected Files



The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window titled 'Open' with the address bar set to 'Downloads > 4_ply_shape_output'. The left sidebar shows 'Downloads' as the active location. The main pane displays a table of files:

Name	Date modified	Type
design_model.bdf	4/4/2023 2:23 PM	Notepad+
design_pcompgs.bdf	4/4/2023 2:23 PM	Notepad+
model.bdf	4/4/2023 2:23 PM	Notepad+

The three files are selected and highlighted with a red box. The 'File name' field at the bottom shows 'design_model.bdf' and 'design_pcon'. The file type is set to 'Custom Files (*.bdf;*.dat;*.inc;*)'. The 'Open' button is visible at the bottom right.

Variables

1. Click Variables
2. Navigate to section Step 4 – Adjust design variables
3. Click the indicated icon 3 times to expand the width of the variables section
4. Click +Options
5. Mark the checkbox for Label Comments
6. Click 20 to display at most 20 rows in the table
7. All the ply number variables are displayed

- When defining new ply shapes in the Viewer web app, a ply thickness was defined. By providing ply thickness values, ply number variables have been automatically created. On this page, those ply number variables are inspected.
- From experience, it has been found that if the initial number of plies is high, e.g. 60, 50 or 40 plies, the optimization converges to a sub-optimal solution. If the initial number of plies starts at a very fractional values, e.g. 0.01 plies, the converged solution is more optimal.
- The ply number variables (y1, y2, ..., y11) will take on discrete values of 1, 2, 3, 4, etc. Also, small fractional values are purposely used to determine negligible plies.

SOL 200 Web App - Optimization Upload **Variables** Objective Constraints Subcases Exporter Results Settings Match Other User's Guide Home

Size Topology Topometry Topography

Step 4 - Adjust design variables

+ Options **4**

☒ Label Comments **5**

+ Create Variable

CSV Export **Export**

CSV Import **Select files** Select a CSV File **Import**

	Label	Status	Initial Value	Lower Bound	Upper Bound	Allowed Discrete Values	Label Comments
	<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 151000, 2151000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 152000, 2152000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 153000, 2153000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 161000, 171000, 2171000, 2161000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 162000, 172000, 2172000, 2162000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 163000, 173000, 2173000, 2163000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 181000, 2181000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 182000, 2182000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 183000, 2183000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 184000, 2184000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	y11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	.01	.0001	100.0	.01, .02, .03, .04, .05, .06, .07, .08, .09, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, THRU, 100.0, BY, 1.0	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 185000, 2185000

5 10 **20** 30 40 50 **6**

BDF Output - Design Model

Developed by The Engineering Lab

Objective

1. Click Objective
2. Click the indicated icon 3 times to minimize the width of the objective section
3. The weight is already set as an objective

- The objective was previously defined in the BDF files when the TOMVAR entries were defined. The weight objective is left as is.

SOL 200 Web App - Optimization Upload Variables **Objective** Constraints Subcases Exporter Results Settings Match Other User's Guide Home

Objective Equation Objective **1**

Step 1 - Select an objective

Select an analysis type

SOL 101 - Statics

Select a response

	Response Description	Response Type
	<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>
	Weight	WEIGHT
	Volume	VOLUME
	Displacement	DISP
	Strain	STRAIN
	Element Strain Energy	ESE

« 1 2 3 4 5 » 5 10 20 30 40 50

Step 2 - Adjust objective

+ Options

	Label	Status	Response Type	Maximize or Minimize	Property Type	ATTA	ATTB	ATTI
	r0		WEIGHT	MIN	3	3	3	

BDF Output - Design Model

```
$
$
$----- Design Objective -----
$
$
$
$
DRESP1 8000000 r0 WEIGHT 3 3
```

Developed by The Engineering Lab

1. Click Constraints
2. Navigate to section Step 2 – Adjust constraints
3. Click 10 to display at most 10 rows in the table
4. The design constraints on failure index are displayed

- When defining new ply shapes in the Viewer web app, an upper bound on the failure indices was specified and corresponding DRESP1/DCONSTR entries were created. These design constraints are inspected on this page.

Questions? Email: christian@the-engineering-lab.com

Subcases

1. Click Subcases
2. Select only SUBCASE 1 and 2
3. Click 200 to display at most 200 rows in the table
4. Click Check visible boxes
5. All the failure index constraints have been assigned to subcase 1 and 2.

- The Viewer web app automatically created ply number variables and constraints on the failure indices. The optimization web app is used to assigned the constraints to different subcases, as shown on this page.

1

Step 1 - Assign constraints to subcases

Display Columns

Global Constraints
SUBCASE 1
SUBCASE 2

2

☐ Uncheck visible boxes

☒ Check visible boxes

4

	Status	Label	Response Type	Description	SUBCASE 1	SUBCASE 2
		<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>	<input type="text" value="Search"/>		
		r1	CFAILURE	Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strains of elements associated with PCOMPG 2 for lamina...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		r2	CFAILURE	Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strains of	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		r172	CFAILURE	Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strains of elements associated with PCOMPG 9 for lamina...	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5

10 25 50 100 200

3

Settings

1. Click Settings
2. Set the maximum number of design cycles to 60
3. Set P2 to 15 – Print objective, design variables, ...

- The P2 option is used for debugging optimizations. If a topology optimization is performed, a P2 setting equal to 15 will yield a lot of variable information in the F06 file. When defining the original BDF files with TOMVAR entries, P2 was automatically set to 12, so as to leave out variable information from the F06 file. On this page, the P2 option is set back to 15 which will include the design variable information in the F06 file.

SOL 200 Web App - Optimization Upload Variables Objective Constraints Subcases Exporter Results **Settings** Match Other User's Guide Home

1

Optimization Settings

Parameter	Description	Configure
APRCOD	Approximation method to be used	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 - Mixed Method
CONV1	Relative criterion to detect convergence	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive real number
CONV2	Absolute criterion to detect convergence	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive real number
DELX	Fractional change allowed in each design variable during any optimization cycle	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive real number
DESMAX	Maximum number of design cycles to be performed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 60
DISBEG	Design cycle number for discrete variable processing initiation	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive integer
GMAX	Maximum constraint violation allowed at the converged optimum	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive real number
P1	Print items, e.g. objective, design variables, at every n-th design cycle to the .f06 file	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1
P2	Items to be printed to the .f06 file	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15 - Print objective, design variab
TCHECK	Topology Checkerboarding	<input type="checkbox"/> -1 - Automatic selection (Default)
TDMIN	Minimum diameter of members in topology optimization	<input type="checkbox"/> Enter a positive real number
TREGION	Trust Region	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 - Trust Region On

5 10 20 30 40 50

BDF Output - Design Model

```

$
$
$----- optimization Control Settings -----
$
$
DOPTPRM DESMAX 60 P1 1 P2 15

$ Parameter to create the H5 result file. Supported in MSC Nastran 2016.1 or newer.
HDLPRM HDF5 2
  
```

2

3

Export New BDF Files

1. Click on Exporter
2. Click on Download BDF Files

- When the download button is clicked a new file named "nastran_working_directory" is downloaded. If the file already exists in your local folder, the folder name is appended with a number, e.g. "nastran_working_directory (1).zip"

1

BDF Output - Model

```
assign userfile = 'optimization_results.csv', status = unknown,
form = formatted, unit = 52
$ MSC.Nastran input file created on March    08, 2023 at 12:46:53 by
$ Patran 2022.2
$ Direct Text Input for Nastran System Cell Section
$ Direct Text Input for File Management Section
$ Direct Text Input for Executive Control
$ Linear Static Analysis, Database
SOL 200
CEND

$ Direct Text Input for Global Case Control Data
ECHO = NONE
  DESOBJ(MIN) = 8000000
  $ DESGLB Slot
  $ DSAPRT(FORMATTED, EXPORT, END=SENS) = ALL
SUBCASE 1
  ANALYSIS = STATICS
  DESSUB = 40000001
  $ DRSPAN Slot
  SUBTITLE=Load Case 1
  SPC = 2
  LOAD = 2
  DISPLACEMENT(PLOT,SORT1,REAL)=ALL
  SPCFORCES(PLOT,SORT1,REAL)=ALL
  STRESS(PLOT,SORT1,REAL,VONMISES,BILIN)=ALL
$ Direct Text Input for this Subcase
SUBCASE 2
  ANALYSIS = STATICS
```

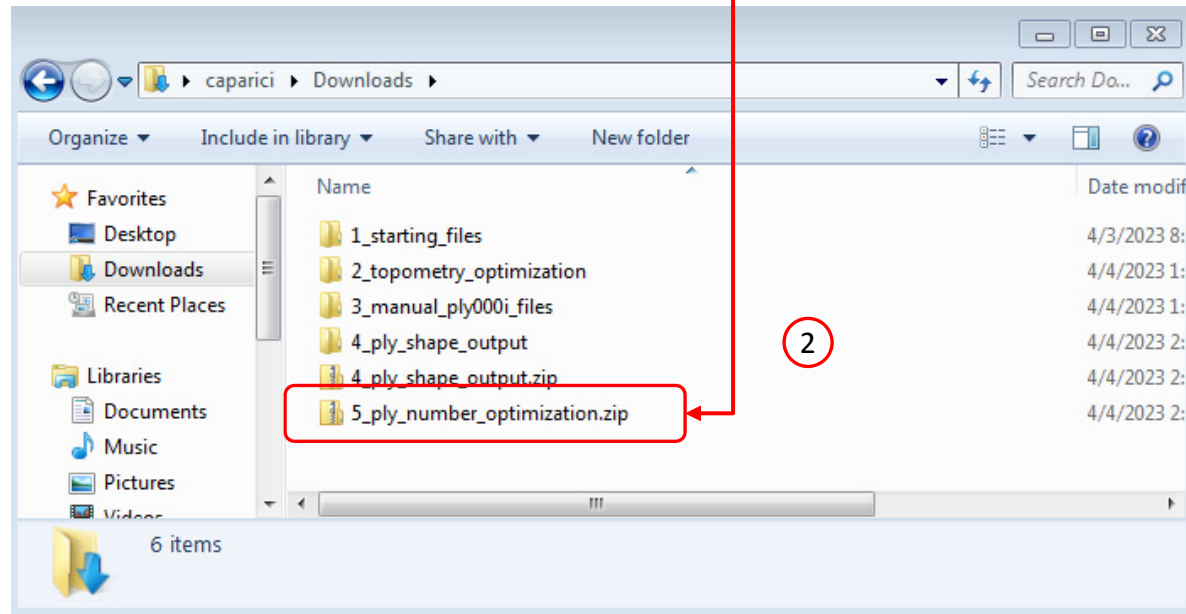
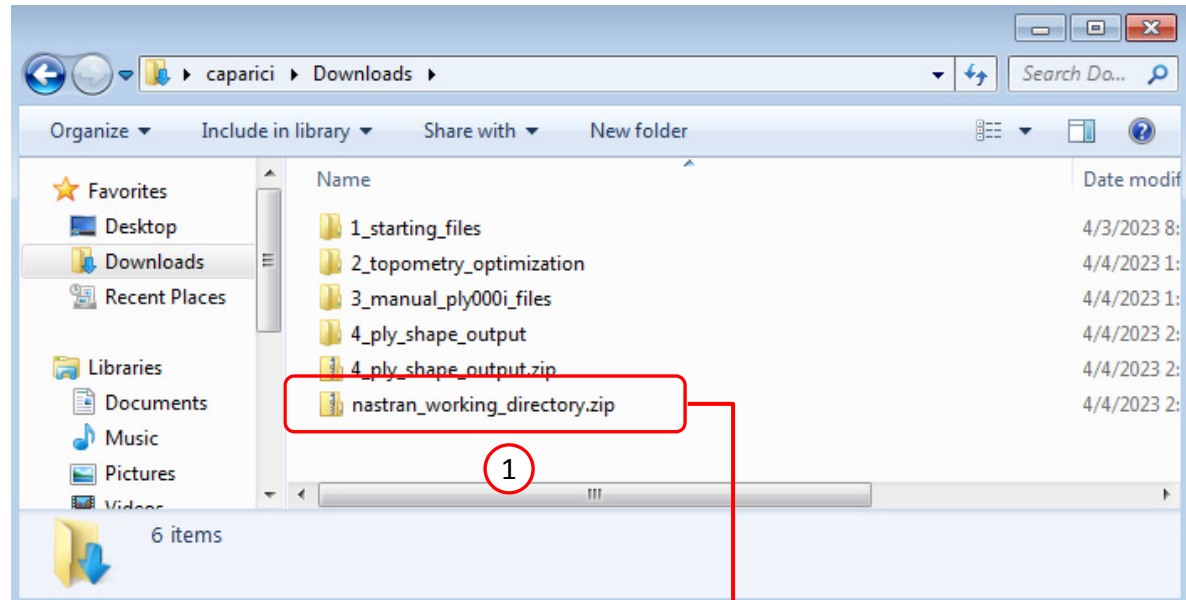
Download BDF Files

Download BDF Files

2

Rename ZIP File

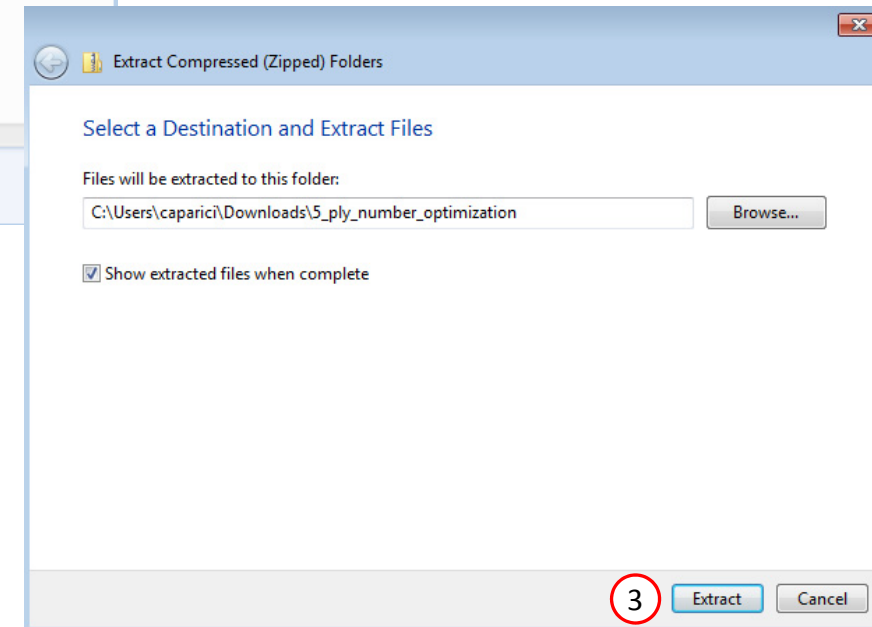
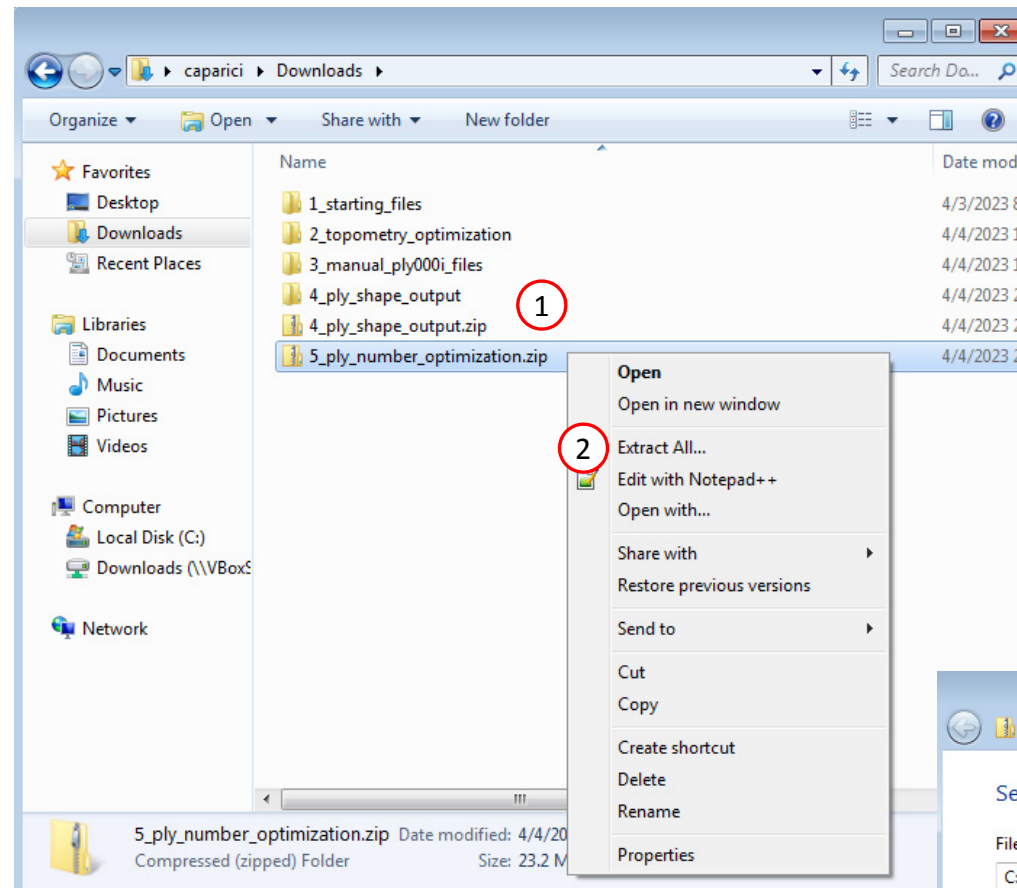
1. A new ZIP file has been downloaded
2. Rename the downloaded ZIP file to 5_ply_number_optimization.zip



Perform the Optimization with Nastran SOL 200

1. A new .zip file has been downloaded
2. Right click on the file and click Extract All
3. Click Extract on the following window

- Always extract the contents of the ZIP file to a new, empty folder.



Perform the Optimization with Nastran SOL 200

1. Inside of the new folder, double click on Start MSC Nastran
2. Click Open, Run or Allow Access on any subsequent windows
3. MSC Nastran will now start

- After a successful optimization, the results will be automatically displayed as long as the following files are present: BDF, F06 and LOG.
- One can run the Nastran job on a remote machine as follows:
 - 1) Copy the BDF files and the INCLUDE files to a remote machine.
 - 2) Run the MSC Nastran job on the remote machine.
 - 3) After completion, copy the BDF, F06, LOG, H5 files to the local machine.
 - 4) Click "Start MSC Nastran" to display the results.

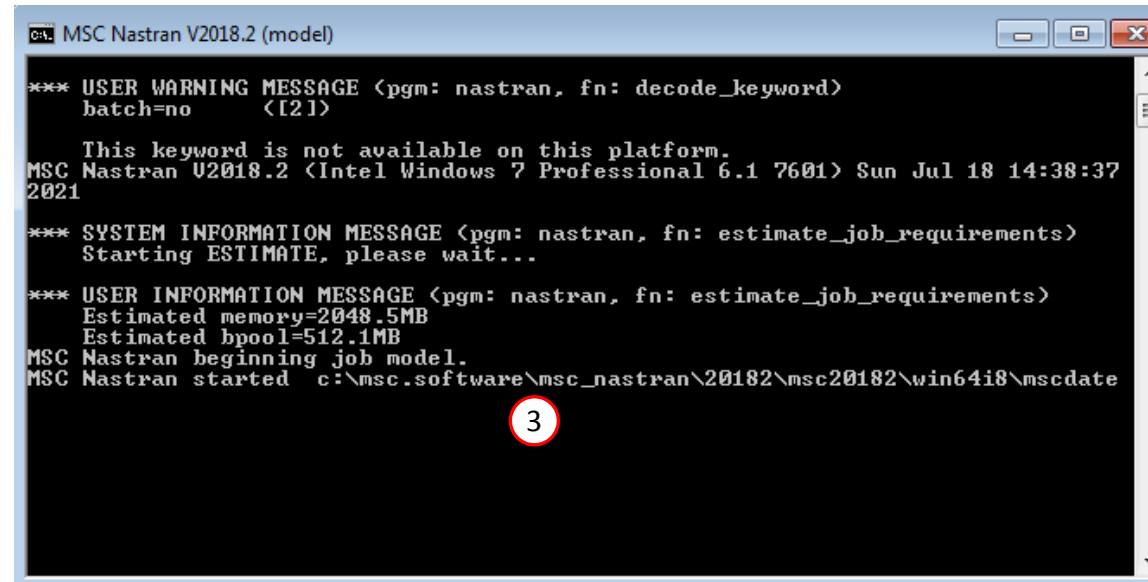
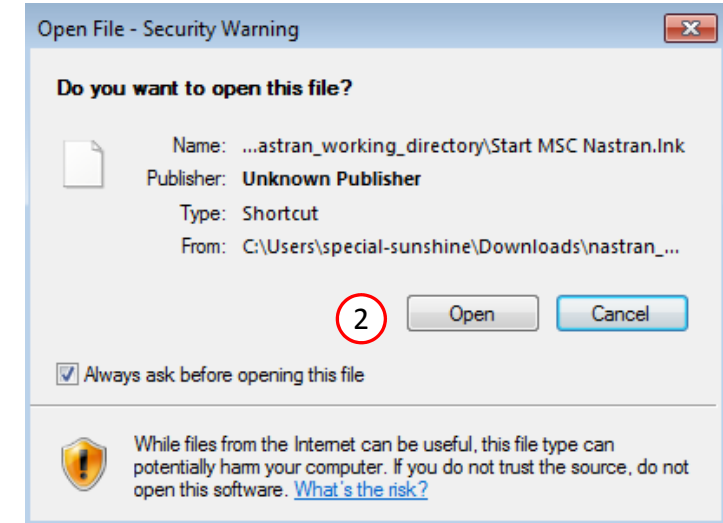
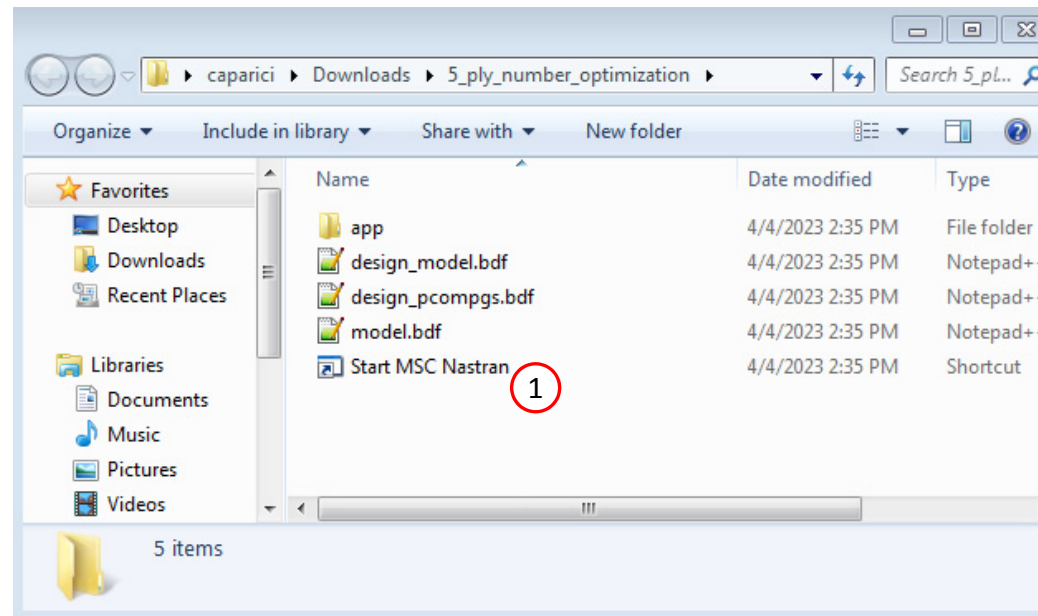
Using Linux?

Follow these instructions:

- 1) Open Terminal
- 2) Navigate to the nastran_working_directory
`cd ./nastran_working_directory`
- 3) Use this command to start the process
`./Start_MSC_Nastran.sh`

In some instances, execute permission must be granted to the directory. Use this command. This command assumes you are one folder level up.

```
sudo chmod -R u+x ./nastran_working_directory
```



Status

1. While MSC Nastran is running, a status page will show the current state of MSC Nastran

- The status of the MSC Nastran job is reported on the Status page. Note that Windows 7 users will experience a delay in the status updates. All other users of Windows 10 and Red Hat Linux will see immediate status updates.

SOL 200 Web App - Status

 Python  MSC Nastran

Status

Name	Status of Job	Design Cycle	RUN TERMINATED DUE TO
model.bdf	Running	None	

Review Optimization Results

After MSC Nastran is finished, the results will be automatically uploaded.

1. Ensure the messages shown have green checkmarks. This is indication of success. Any red icons indicate challenges.
2. The final value of objective, normalized constraints (not shown) and design variables can be reviewed.

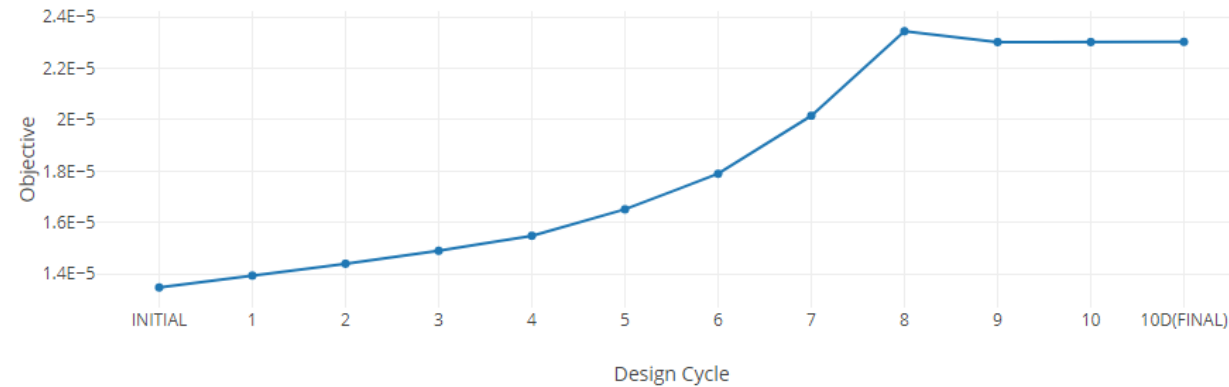
- After an optimization, the results will be automatically displayed as long as the following files are present: BDF, F06 and LOG.
- Note that the optimization solutions is sensitive to different system configurations. This optimization yielded an objective of 2.303103E-05 on Windows 7, but on Linux, yielded an objective of 2.305057E-05. Alternatively, the difference in the converged solution may be due to a difference in the surface area of the ply shape candidates. A difference of one 2D element may yield a different solution.
- Normalized constraint values that are positive indicate a design that violates at least one design constraint, and such designs are named infeasible designs. Negative normalized constraint values are desired and indicated the design satisfies all design constraints. Such designs are named feasible designs. The normalized constraint of the final design is negative, indicating a feasible design.

Final Message in .f06

1

✓ RUN TERMINATED DUE TO HARD CONVERGENCE TO AN OPTIMUM AT CYCLE NUMBER = 10.
✓ AND HARD FEASIBLE DISCRETE DESIGN OBTAINED

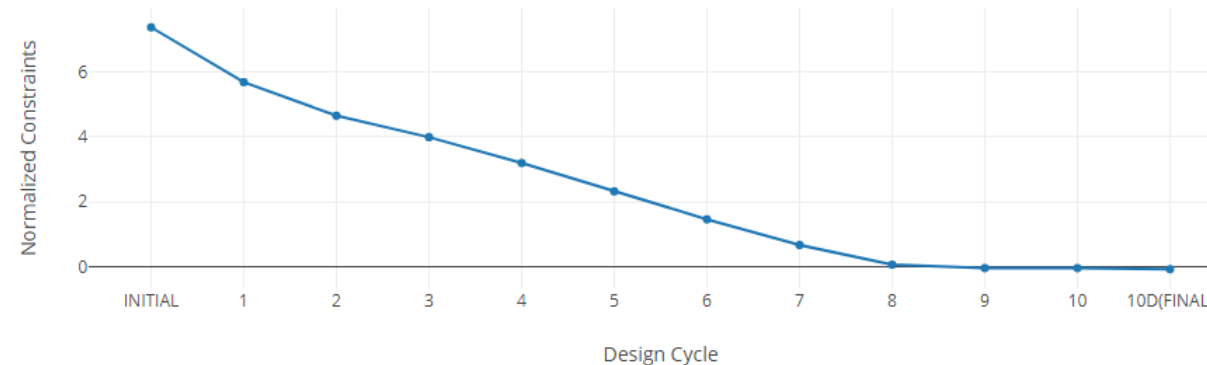
Objective



2

Normalized Constraints

[+ Info](#)



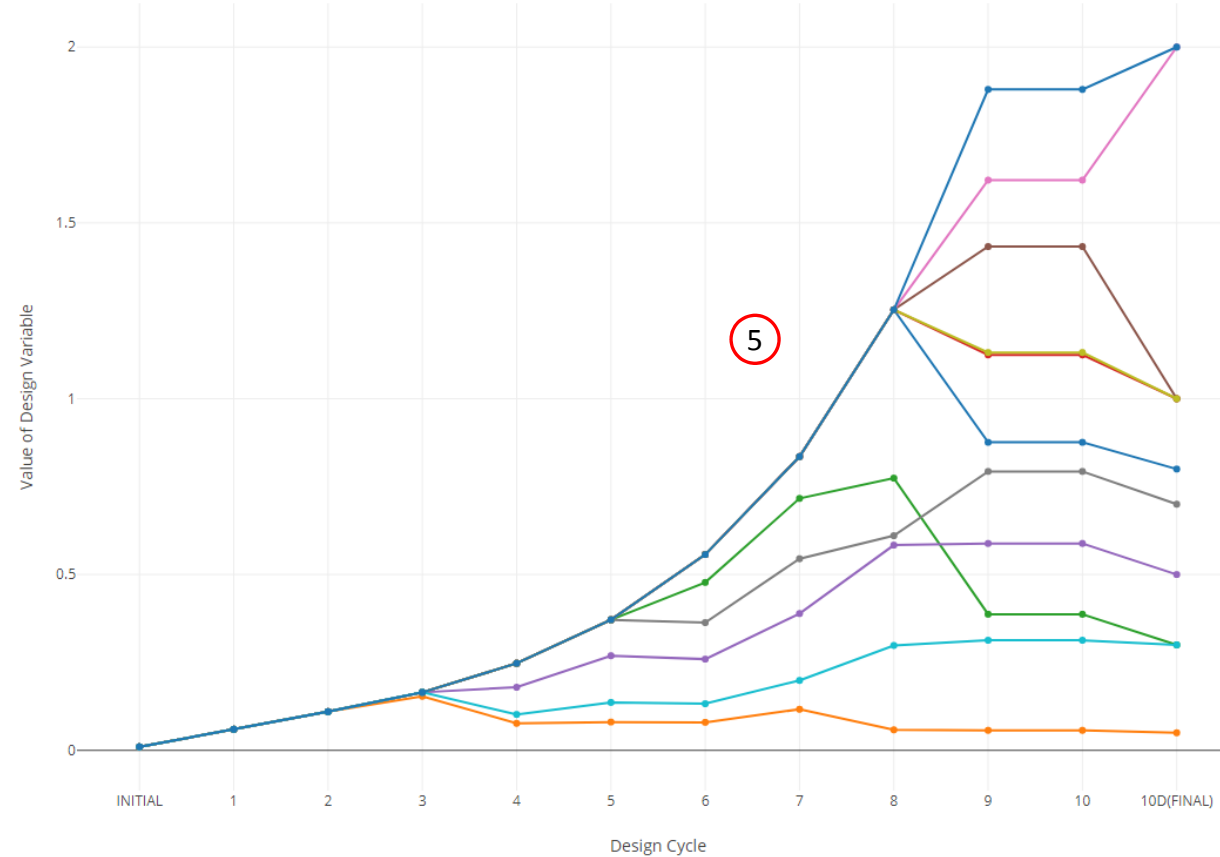
Review Optimization Results

1. Navigate to section Design Variables
2. Click Display None
3. In the search box, type y
4. Click Display All
5. Only the ply number variables, e.g. y1, y2, ..., are displayed

- All the thickness variables are linked to the ply number variables. On this page, the ply thickness variables are hidden and only the ply number variables are displayed.

SOL 200 Web App - Local Optimization Results

Design Variables **1**



Reset Table

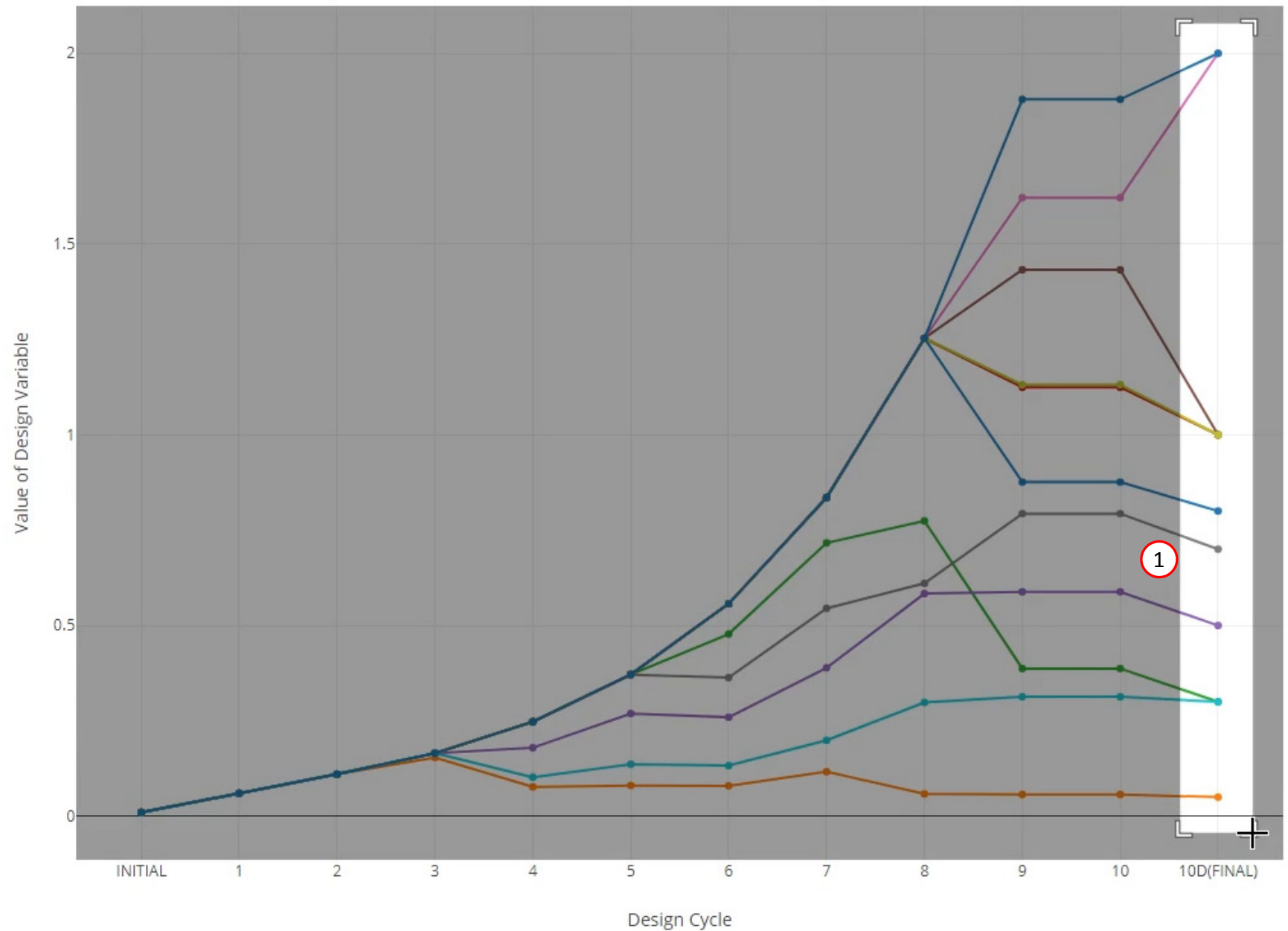
Display None ☒ Display All

Display	Color	Label	Label Comments
		y 3	Search
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Blue	y1	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 151000, 2151000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Orange	y2	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 152000, 2152000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Green	y3	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 90°, GPLY IDs: 153000, 2153000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Red	y4	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 161000, 171000, 2171000, 2161000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Purple	y5	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 162000, 172000, 2172000, 2162000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brown	y6	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 45°, GPLY IDs: 163000, 173000, 2173000, 2163000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pink	y7	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 181000, 2181000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Grey	y8	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 182000, 2182000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yellow	y9	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 183000, 2183000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cyan	y10	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 184000, 2184000
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dark Blue	y11	Parent PCOMP 1 - Number of plies for 0°, GPLY IDs: 185000, 2185000

5 10 **20** 50 100 200

Review Optimization Results

1. Use the mouse to click, hold and drag to create a rectangular zoom box. This will zoom into the selected region.

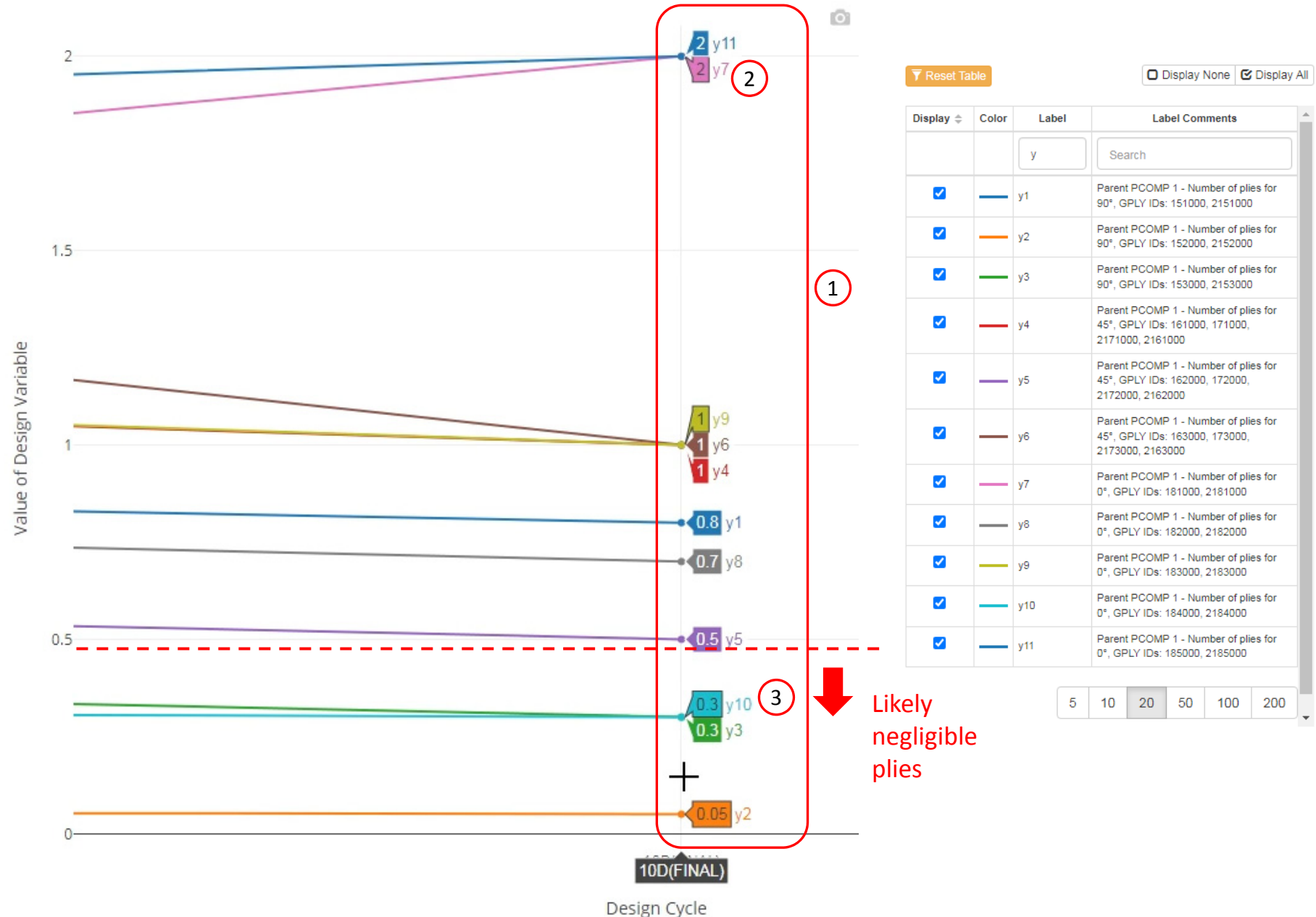


Review Optimization Results

1. Hover the mouse cursor over the points of the final design cycle and the labels will become visible.
2. Variable y7, which corresponds to GPLY ID 181000 and 2181000, has a final value of 2.
3. Variable y10, which corresponds to GPLY ID 184000 and 2184000, has a final value of 0.3.

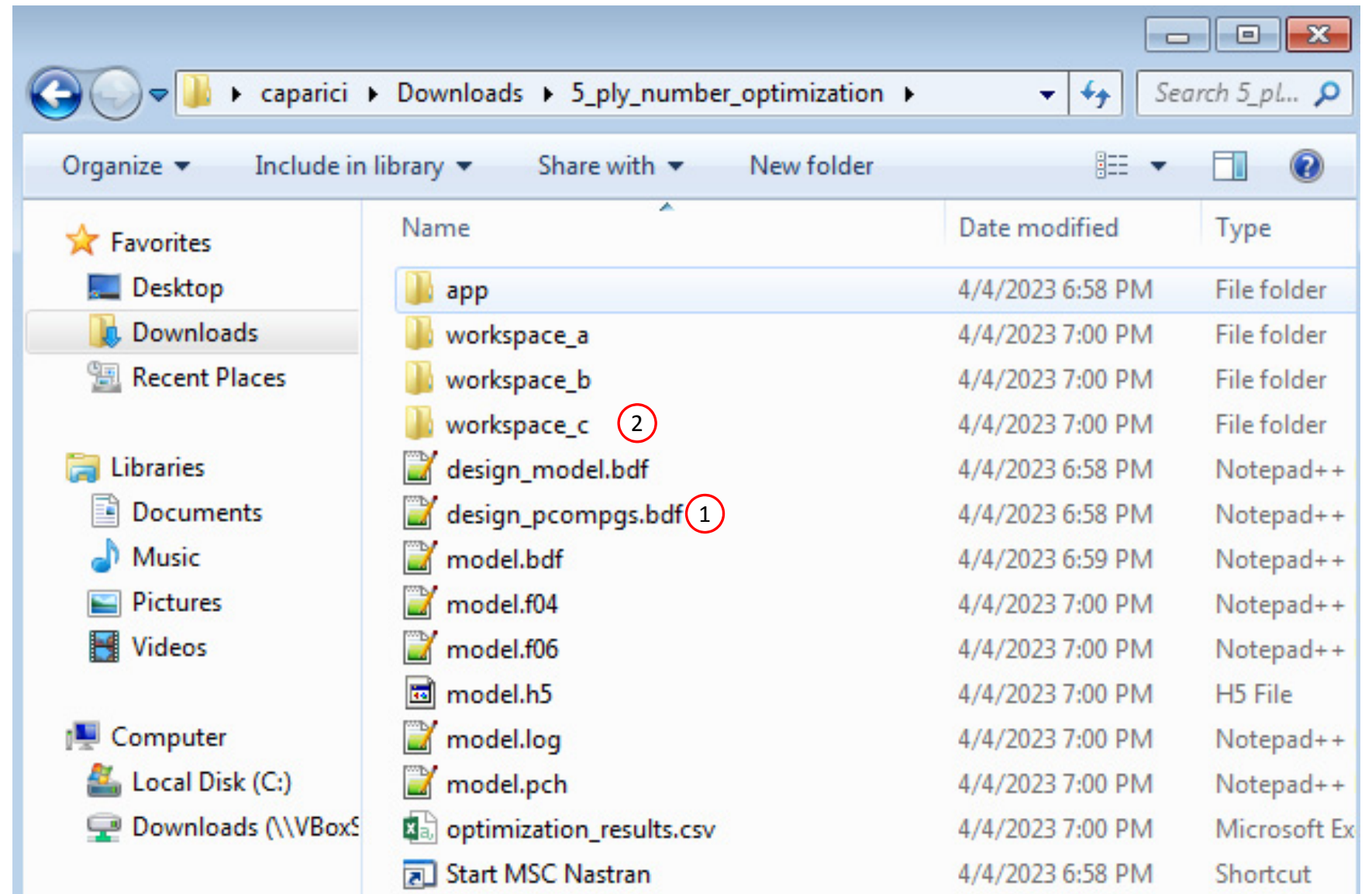
The final values are integers and correspond to the number of plies for each ply shape that was created. If the final value is a small fractional values less than 0.5, the ply shape is deemed negligible and is automatically removed from the final BDF files in workspace_c.

- For design cycle 10, the ply number variables took on fraction values. For example, ply number variable y5 had a value of approximately .58831 in design cycle 10. When discrete values are desired for a variable, a discrete design cycle is performed, which adjusts the fractional value to an approximate discrete value. For ply number variable y5, the value of .58831 is adjusted to 0.5 in design cycle 10D, where the letter D stands for discrete.
- The optimization yielded a mass of 2.303103E-05, but this was with number variables less than 1.0. After the negligible plies are removed, e.g. y10 (184000 2184000), and the other values are rounded up to 1.0, e.g. 0.8 and 0.7 are rounded to 1.0, the final mass is actually 2.356787E-05.



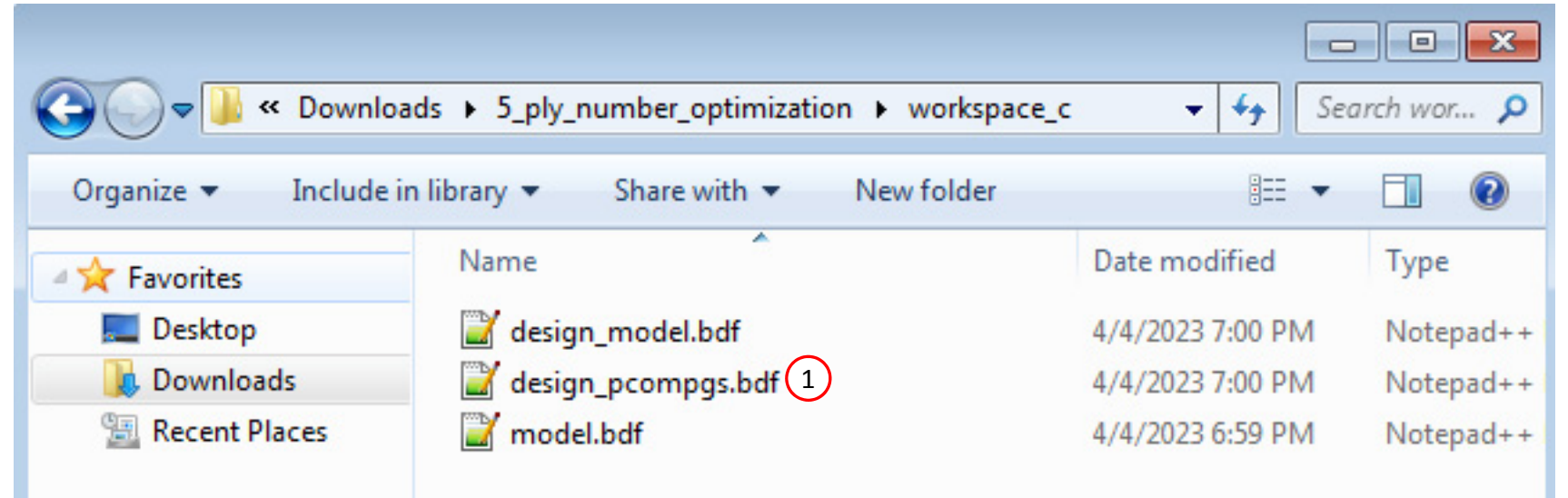
Review Optimization Results

1. Open file design_pcompgs.bdf in a text editor. A comparison will be made.
2. A new directory workspace_c has been created. Open this directory.



Review Optimization Results

1. Inside of workspace_c, open file design_pcompgs.bdf in a text editor.



Review Optimization Results

Recall the following variable results.

- Variable y7, which corresponds to GPLY ID 181000 and 2181000, has a final value of 2.
- Variable y10, which corresponds to GPLY ID 184000 and 21840000, has a final value of 0.3. Such a small ply number variable suggests the ply shape is negligible.

The following changes have been made in the BDF files found in workspace_c

- Refer to PCOMPG 3 in both files
- Ply shape 181000 is repeated 2 times as GPLY ID 181001 and 181002.
- Since the composite is symmetric, the same ply shapes are mirrored as 2181001 and 2181002.
- Ply shape 184000 and 21840000 were found to be negligible and have been removed from the final BDF files workspace_c\design_pcompgs.bdf.

The BDF files in workspace_c will be used in a future stacking sequence optimization.

.\5_ply_number_optimization\design_pcompgs.bdf

21	PCOMPG	3	1		90.	HILL
22		111000	101	.125	90.	YES
23		121000	101	.125	45.	YES
24		131000	101	.125	-45.	YES
25		141000	101	.125	0.	YES
26		151000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
27		152000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
28		161000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
29		162000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
30		171000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
31		172000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
32		181000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
33		182000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
34		184000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
35		191000	501	3.175	0.	YES
36		2191000	501	3.175	0.	YES
37		2184000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
38		2182000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
39		2181000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
40		2172000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
41		2171000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
42		2162000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
43		2161000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
44		2152000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
45		2151000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
46		2141000	101	.125	0.	YES
47		2131000	101	.125	-45.	YES
48		2121000	101	.125	45.	YES
49		2111000	101	.125	90.	YES

.\5_ply_number_optimization\workspace_c\design_pcompgs.bdf

23	PCOMPG	3		0.0	90.	HILL
24		111000	101	.125	90.	YES
25		121000	101	.125	45.	YES
26		131000	101	.125	-45.	YES
27		141000	101	.125	0.0	YES
28		151001	101	.125	90.	YES
29		161001	101	.125	45.	YES
30		162001	101	.125	45.	YES
31		171001	101	.125	-45.	YES
32		172001	101	.125	-45.	YES
33		181001	101	.125	0.0	YES
34		181002	101	.125	0.0	YES
35		182001	101	.125	0.0	YES
36		191000	501	3.175	0.0	YES
37		2191000	501	3.175	0.0	YES
38		2182001	101	.125	0.0	YES
39		2181002	101	.125	0.0	YES
40		2181001	101	.125	0.0	YES
41		2172001	101	.125	-45.	YES
42		2171001	101	.125	-45.	YES
43		2162001	101	.125	45.	YES
44		2161001	101	.125	45.	YES
45		2151001	101	.125	90.	YES
46		2141000	101	.125	0.0	YES
47		2131000	101	.125	-45.	YES
48		2121000	101	.125	45.	YES
49		2111000	101	.125	90.	YES
50	PCOMPG	4		0.0	90.	HILL
51		111000	101	.125	90.	YES

Part 3 – View New Plies

Open the Correct Page

1. Click on the indicated link

- MSC Nastran can perform many optimization types. The SOL 200 Web App includes dedicated web apps for the following:
 - Optimization for SOL 200 (Size, Topology, Topometry, Topography, Local Optimization, Sensitivity Analysis and Global Optimization)
 - Multi Model Optimization
 - Machine Learning
- The web app also features the HDF5 Explorer, a web application to extract results from the H5 file type.

SOL 200 Web App

Select a web app to begin

Optimization for SOL 200

Multi Model Optimization

Machine Learning | Parameter Study

HDF5 Explorer

Remote Execution

Tutorials and User's Guide

1 Full list of web apps

Open the Viewer

1. Navigate to the Composites section
2. Click Viewer

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the-engineering-lab.com

or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Upload BDF Files

1. Click Upload BDF
2. Click Select files
3. Navigate to directory workspace_c
4. Select the indicated files
5. Click Open
6. Click Upload files
7. Click Background Color (Optional)

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For access, visit

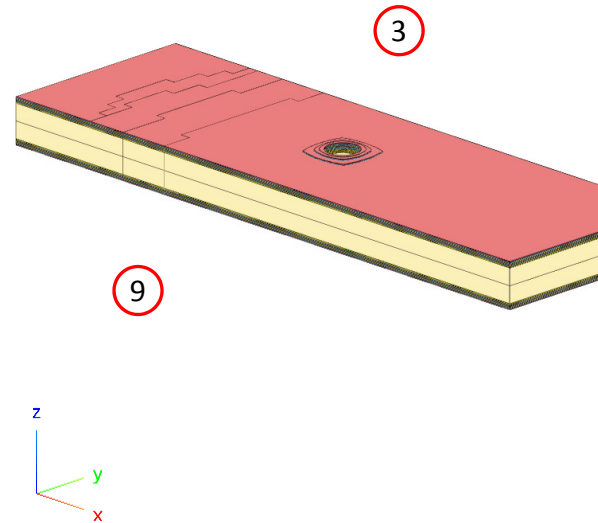
the-engineering-lab.com

or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Display PCOMPGs

1. Click Model Display Panel
2. Click Iso 3
3. Right click and hold the right mouse button, and move the mouse to translate the model into view.
4. In the search box, type: pcomp
5. Click the indicated icon
6. Click the indicated icon
7. If an update message appears, wait until the update is complete, then continue
8. Click the indicated icon to recolor the plies
9. The ply thickness is now displayed



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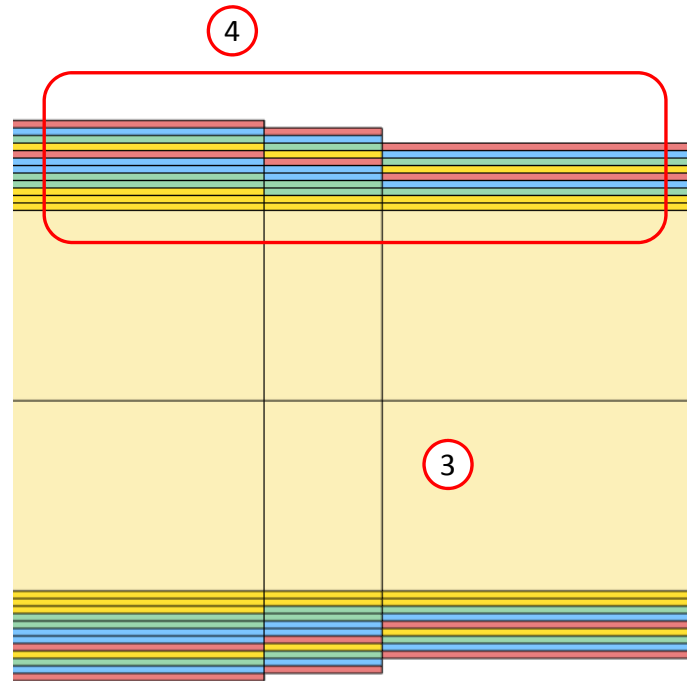
the-engineering-lab.com

or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Display PCOMPGs

1. Click Top
2. Click Fit Model
3. Use the mouse scroll wheel to zoom in
4. The ply thickness varies throughout the composite. The current view is a literal view of the PCOMPG entries.



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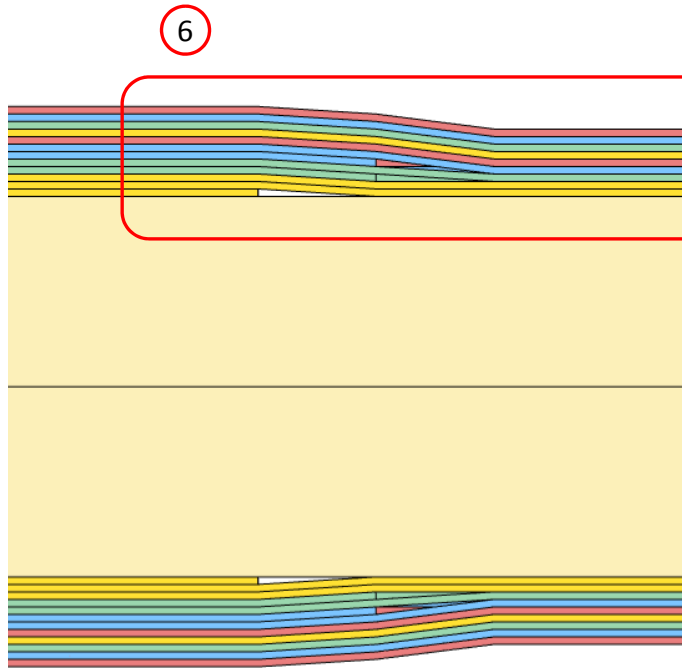
or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

Display GPLYs

1. Click the indicated icons
2. Click Reset Table
3. In the search box, type: gply
4. Click the indicated icons
5. Click the indicated icon 2 times
6. A more realistic view of the plies is displayed

- Alternate between the literal and realistic views to gain a good understanding of how the plies are distributed across the model.



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Summary of Optimized Designs

A comparison is made between the starting and final composite designs from phase D. Observe the following:

1. ~21% mass savings. The mass of the plies was reduced from 2.229851E-05 to 1.76E-05.
2. For the final composite, after stacking sequence optimization, the maximum failure index is .838 and is well under the upper allowed limit of .95.

The ply shape and ply number optimization has been a success.

	Starting Design	Design After Ply Shape and Ply Number Optimization	Design After Stacking Sequence Optimization
	Tutorial Phase B	Tutorial Phase D	Tutorial Phase E
Total Mass	2.825148E-05	2.356787E-05	2.356787E-05
Mass of Non-design Region (Core)	5.952966E-06	5.952966E-06	5.952966E-06
Mass of Design Region (Plies)	2.229851E-05	1.76E-05	1.76E-05
Max Failure Index , Subcase 1	.905 (OK)	.838 (OK)	.838 (OK)
Max Failure Index, Subcase 2	.934 (OK)	.856 (OK)	.654 (OK)

End of Tutorial

Appendix

Appendix Contents

- What filter values to use?
- PCOMPG Zones
- Options for Ply Number Optimization
- GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC000)
- Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Uniaxial Loading
- Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Bending

What filter values to use?

What filter values to use?

In this exercise, certain values were used for the threshold. How were these values obtained?

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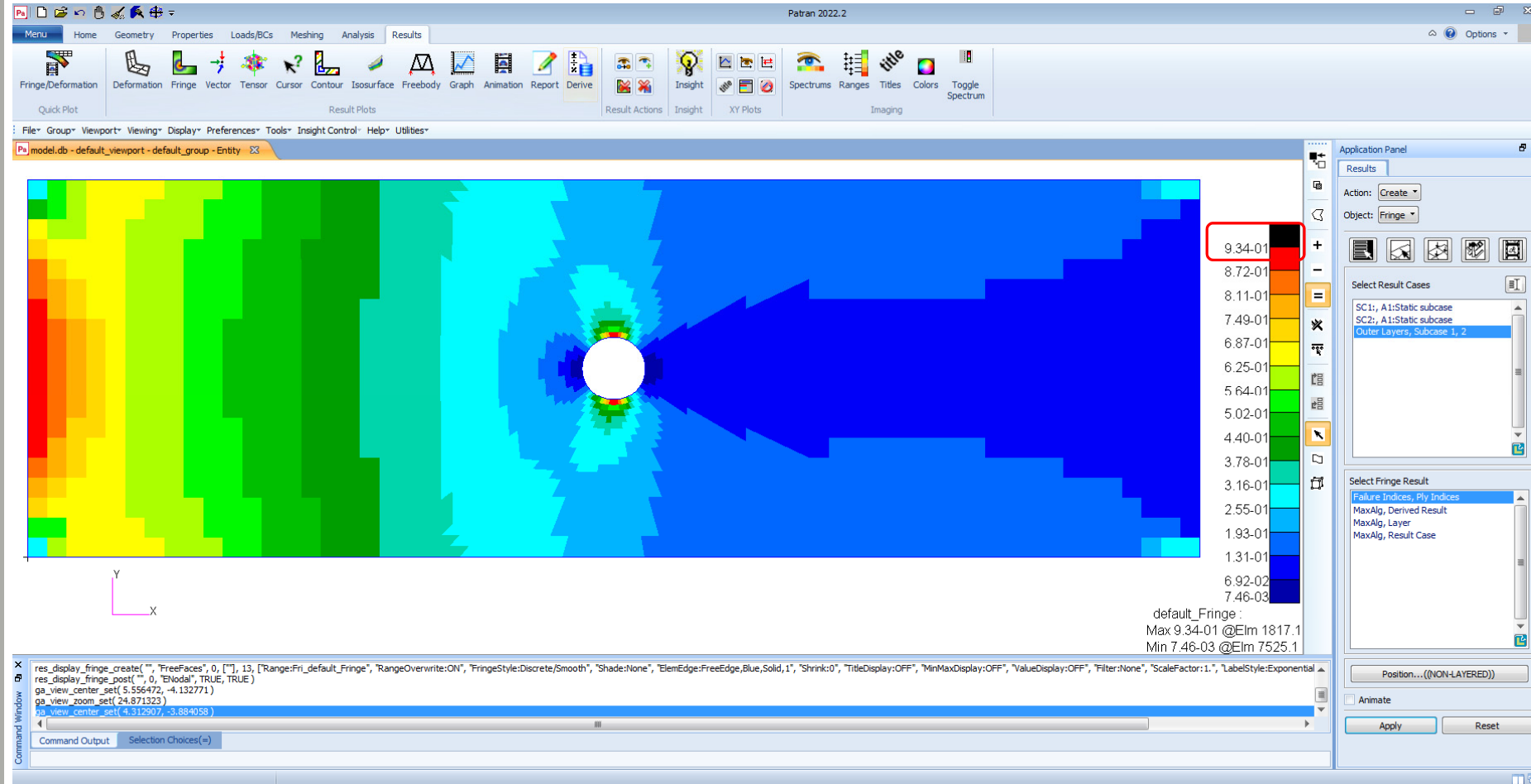
or contact

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What filter values to use?

Recall that the maximum failure index of the outer 90° plies was originally determined and stored in file model.ply0005. Ply shape candidates were created based on the failure index values.

1. The maximum failure index was found to be 0.934.



What filter values to use?

- The value 0.934 was divided by 2 (50%) to yield 0.47.
- If more ply shape candidates are desired, additional ply shapes may be constructed with different threshold values, e.g. 10%, 20%, 30% or other percentages.

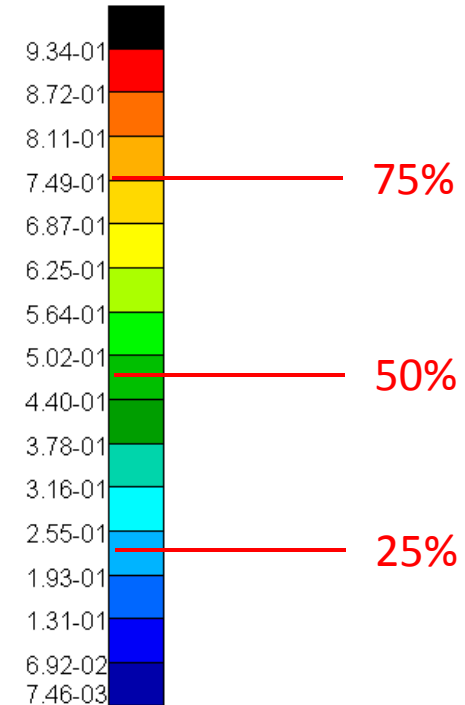
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What filter values to use?

1. A similar procedure was done for the +45°, -45° and 0° plies.
2. In the case of the 0° plies, whose values are stored in file model.ply0008, the maximum value was found to be .0668. Taking 50% and 25% of the maximum value yields .03 and .02.

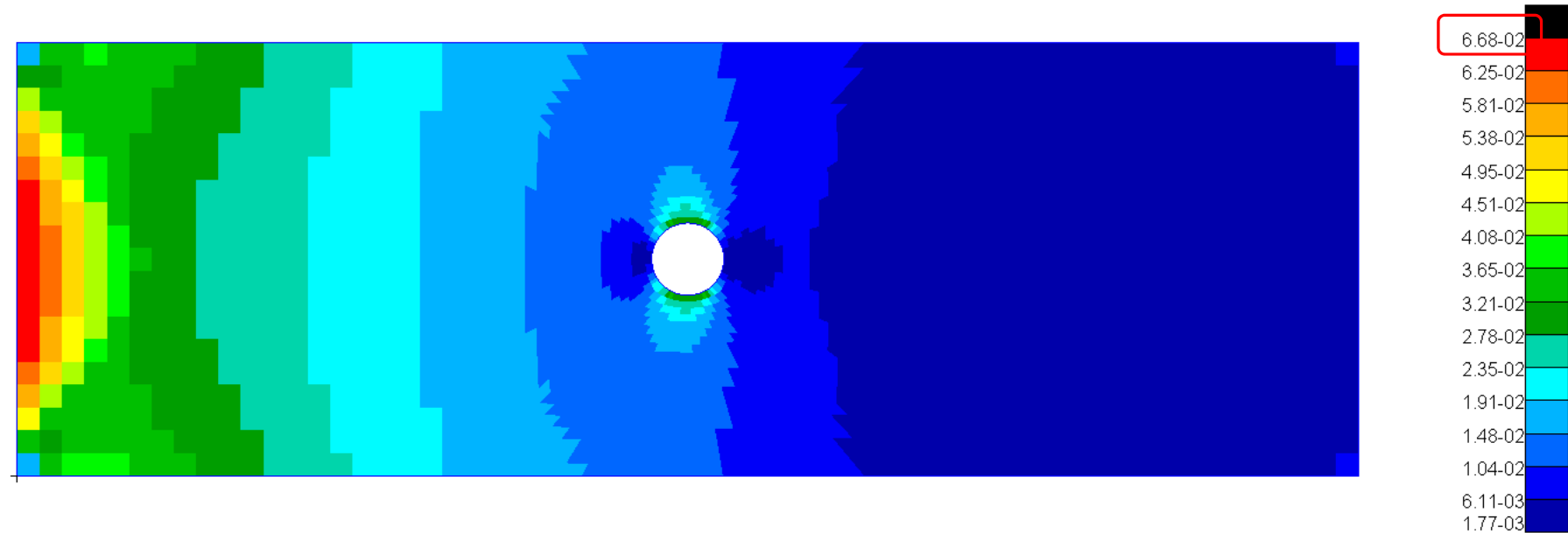
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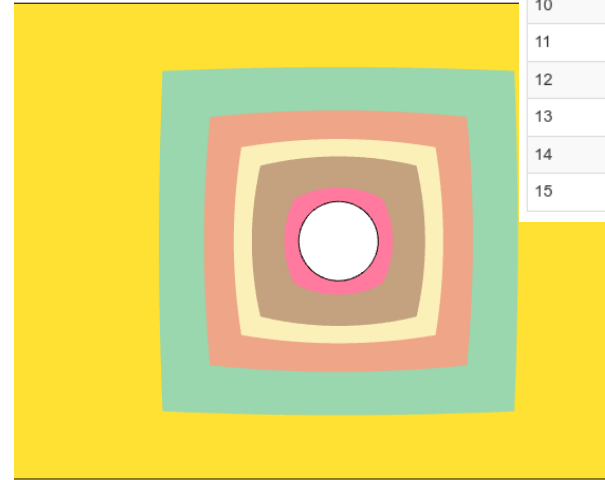


PCOMPG Zones

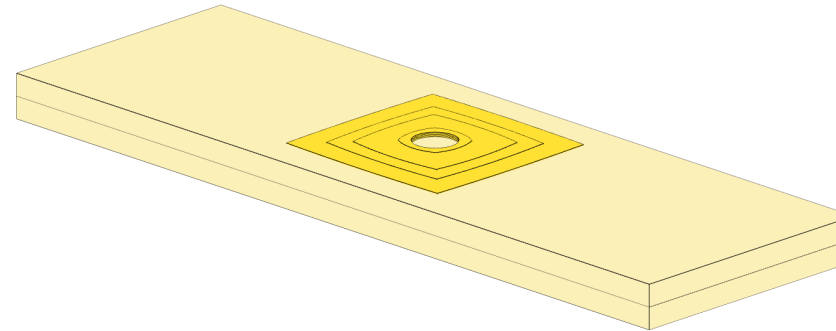
PCOMPG Zones

The ply shapes in the final composite may be controlled. When ply shapes are included or excluded, the PCOMPG zones will vary. Inspect the PCOMPG zones since these zones indicate what the final composite will look like.

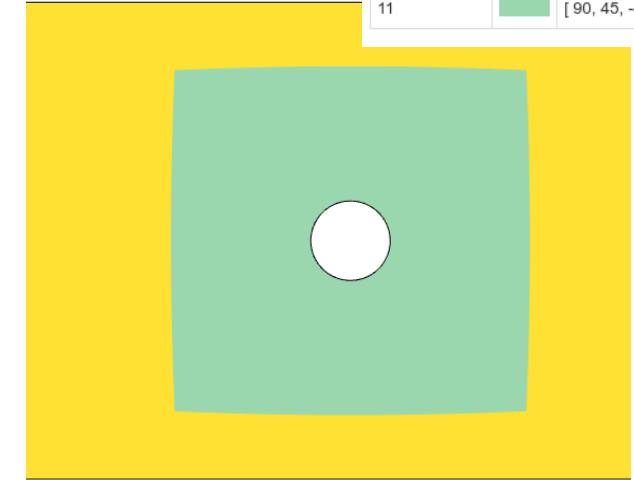
More Ply Shapes



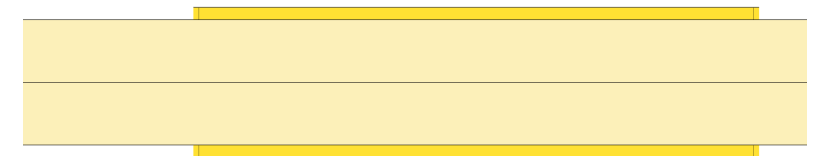
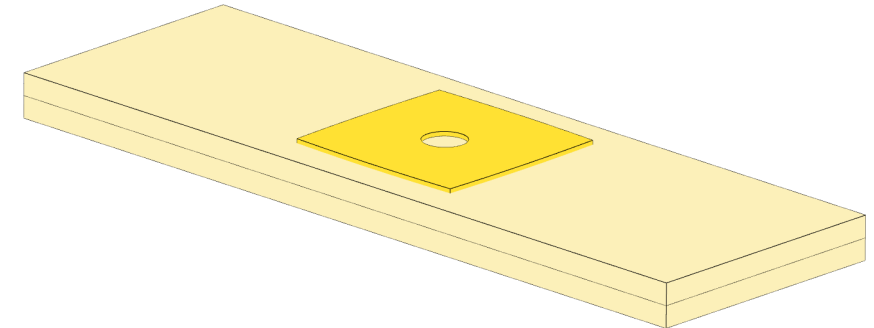
PCOMPG ID	Color	Stack
10	Yellow	[90, 45, -45, 0, 0 _{Core}]S
11	Green	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₂ , 0 _{Core}]S
12	Orange	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₃ , 0 _{Core}]S
13	Light Yellow	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₄ , 0 _{Core}]S
14	Brown	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₅ , 0 _{Core}]S
15	Pink	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₆ , 0 _{Core}]S



Fewer Ply Shapes

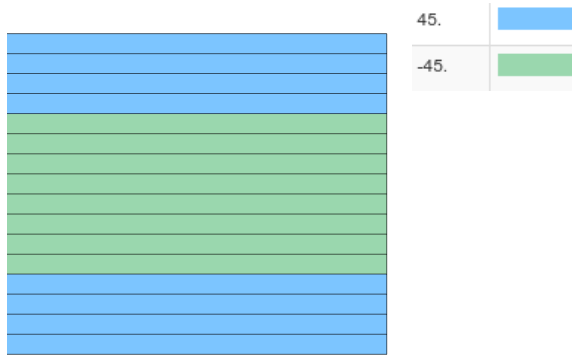


PCOMPG ID	Color	Stack
10	Yellow	[90, 45, -45, 0, 0 _{Core}]S
11	Green	[90, 45, -45, 0 ₂ , 0 _{Core}]S

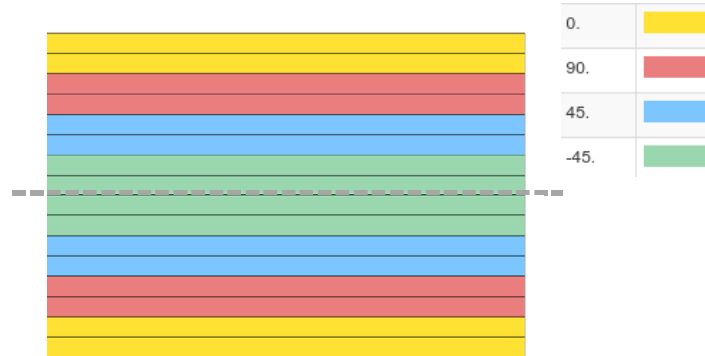


Options for Ply Number Optimization

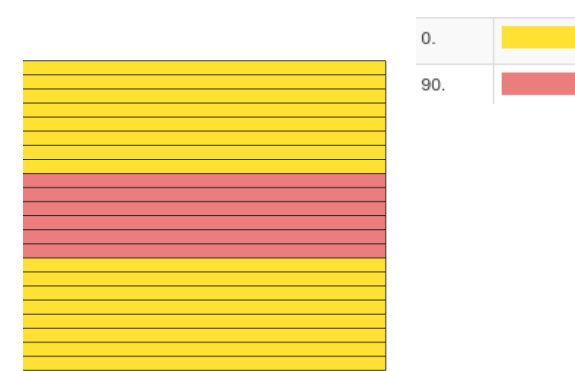
Options for Ply Number Optimization



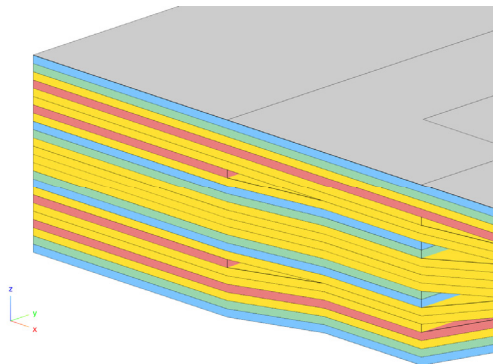
Balance



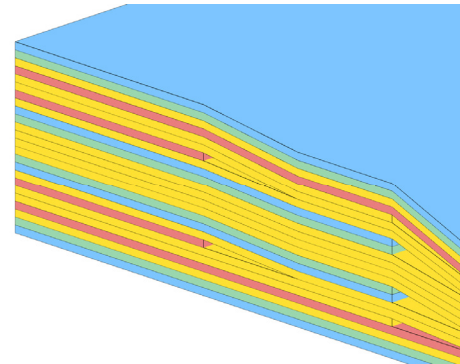
Symmetry



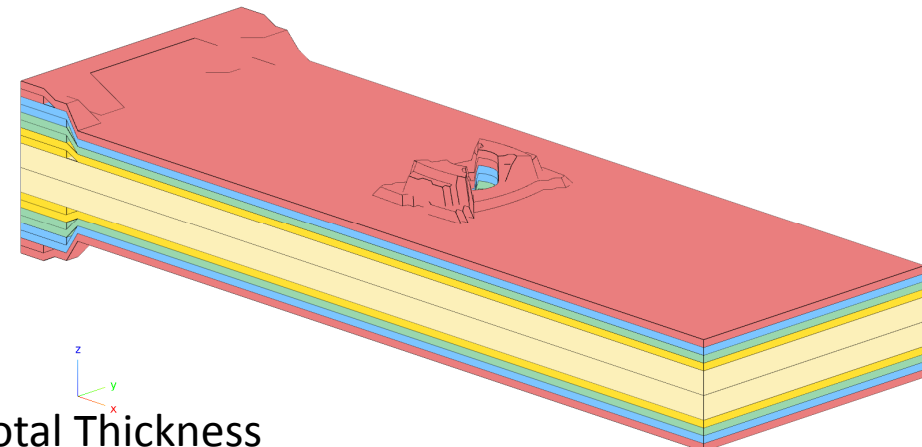
X% Design Rule



Z0 Offset



Total Thickness



Options for Ply Number Optimization

Constraints on Responses

Constraints on Responses

- Ply Stress
- Ply Strain
- Failure Index
- Strength Ratio
- And more

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Options for Ply Number Optimization

Constraints on Responses

Response	Stress	Strain
Normal-1	σ_1	ε_1
Normal-2	σ_2	ε_2
Shear-12	τ_{12}	γ_{12}
Shear-1Z	τ_{xz}	γ_{xz}
Shear-2Z	τ_{yz}	γ_{yz}
Shear Angle	θ_p	θ_p
Major Principal	σ_{max}	ε_{max}
Minor Principal	σ_{min}	ε_{min}
Maximum shear	τ_{max}	γ_{max}
Failure Index(FP) for direct stresses/strains	FP	
Failure Index(FB) for interlaminar shear-stress	FB	
Strength Ratio(SP) for direct stresses/strains	SP	
Strength Ratio(SB) for interlaminar shear-stress	SB	

Options for Ply Number Optimization

Responses in F06 File

S T R E S S E S I N L A Y E R E D C O M P O S I T E E L E M E N T S (Q U A D 4)											
ELEMENT	PLY	STRESSES IN FIBER AND MATRIX DIRECTIONS				INTER-LAMINAR	STRESSES	PRINCIPAL STRESSES (ZERO SHEAR)			MAX
ID	ID	NORMAL-1	NORMAL-2	SHEAR-12		SHEAR XZ-MAT	SHEAR YZ-MAT	ANGLE	MAJOR	MINOR	SHEAR
0	8264	1	1.78751E+01	-1.68306E+01	2.41331E+00	4.82031E-02	-1.05478E-01	3.96	1.80421E+01	-1.69976E+01	1.75198E+01
0	8264	2	-4.22498E+01	-6.36100E+00	1.10039E+01	1.43883E-01	-1.50335E-01	74.24	-3.25576E+00	-4.53551E+01	2.10497E+01
0	8264	3	-2.06818E+01	-9.60743E+00	-1.06974E+01	2.36897E-01	-1.93942E-01	-58.68	-3.09908E+00	-2.71901E+01	1.20455E+01
			σ_1	σ_2	τ_{12}	τ_{xz}	τ_{yz}	θ_p	σ_{max}	σ_{min}	τ_{max}

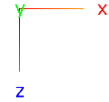
S T R A I N S I N L A Y E R E D C O M P O S I T E E L E M E N T S (Q U A D 4)											
	ELEMENT	PLY	STRAINS IN FIBER AND MATRIX DIRECTIONS			INTER-LAMINAR	STRAINS	PRINCIPAL	STRAINS (ZERO SHEAR)		MAX
	ID	ID	NORMAL-1	NORMAL-2	SHEAR-12	SHEAR XZ-MAT	SHEAR YZ-MAT	ANGLE	MAJOR	MINOR	SHEAR
0	8264	1	-3.81162E-04	1.87582E-03	2.83217E-04	0.0	0.0	86.42	1.88467E-03	-3.90012E-04	2.27468E-03
0	8264	2	6.05720E-04	8.88938E-04	-2.25698E-03	0.0	0.0	-48.58	1.88467E-03	-3.90012E-04	2.27468E-03
0	8264	3	8.88938E-04	6.05720E-04	2.25698E-03	0.0	0.0	41.42	1.88467E-03	-3.90012E-04	2.27468E-03
			ϵ_1	ϵ_2	γ_{12}	γ_{xz}	γ_{yz}	θ_p	ϵ_{max}	ϵ_{min}	γ_{max}



F A I L U R E I N D I C E S F O R L A Y E R E D					C O M P O S I T E E L E M E N T S (Q U A D 4)			FLAG
ELEMENT	FAILURE	PLY	FP=FAILURE INDEX FOR PLY		FB=FAILURE INDEX FOR BONDING	FAILURE INDEX FOR ELEMENT		
ID	THEORY	ID	(DIRECT STRESSES/STRAINS)		(INTER-LAMINAR STRESSES)	MAX OF FP,FB FOR ALL PLIES		
8264	HILL	1	0.0226					
					0.0012			
[...]								
		17	0.0668					
					0.0012			
		18	0.2976					
			FP		FB		0.2976	

Balance

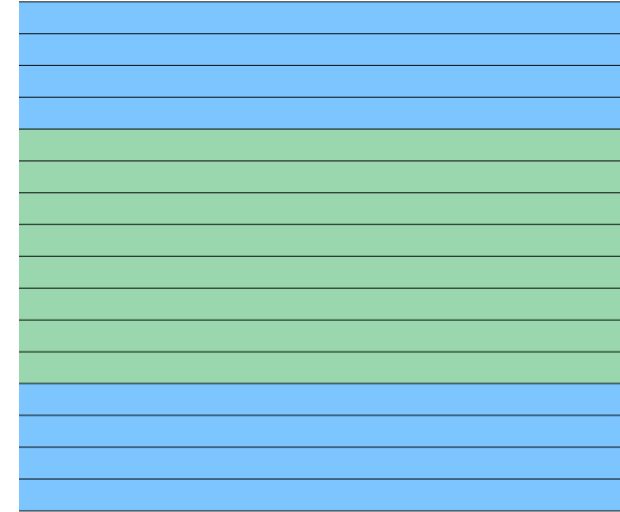
1. Ensure the starting composite has both $+\theta$ AND $-\theta$ plies, e.g. $\pm 45^\circ$, $\pm 60^\circ$, etc.
2. Use Link Plies in the web app

Not Balanced
[45°]



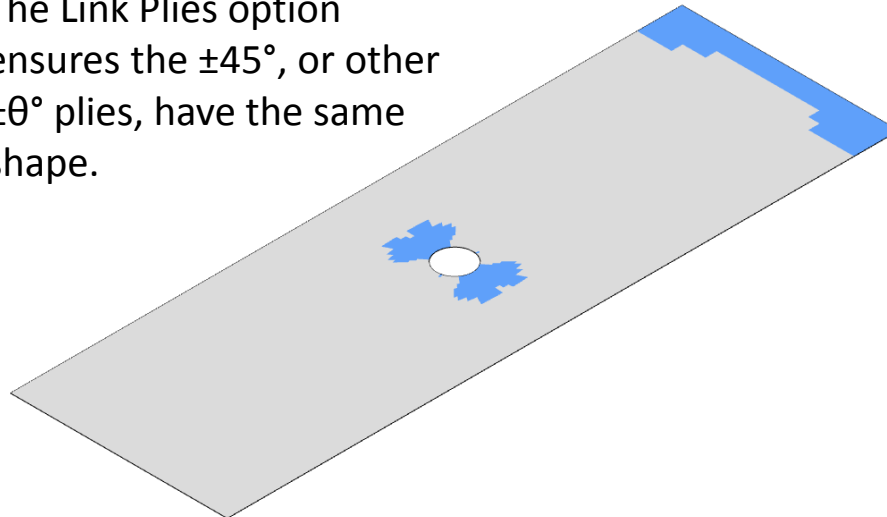
45.	
-45.	

Balanced
[45°/-45°]



①

The Link Plies option ensures the $\pm 45^\circ$, or other $\pm \theta^\circ$ plies, have the same shape.



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the-engineering-lab.com

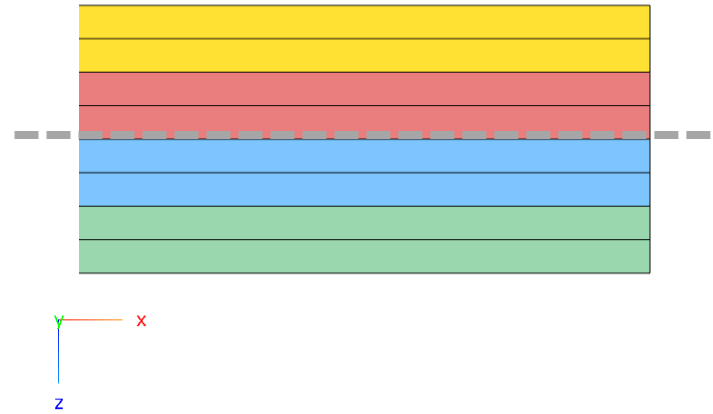
or contact

christian@the-engineering-lab.com

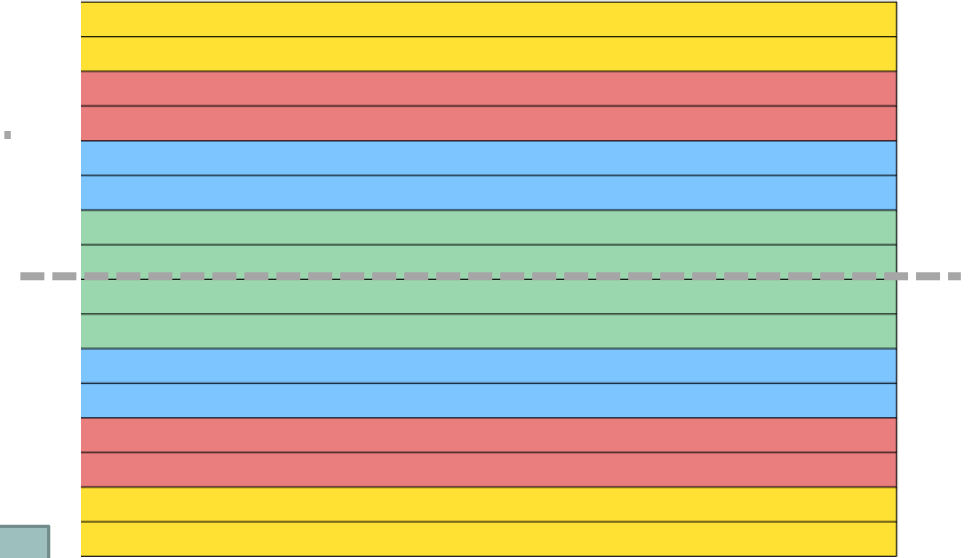
Symmetry

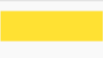
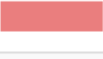
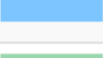

1. Set the laminate option (LAM) to symmetry (SYM)

Asymmetric



Symmetric



0.	
90.	
45.	
-45.	

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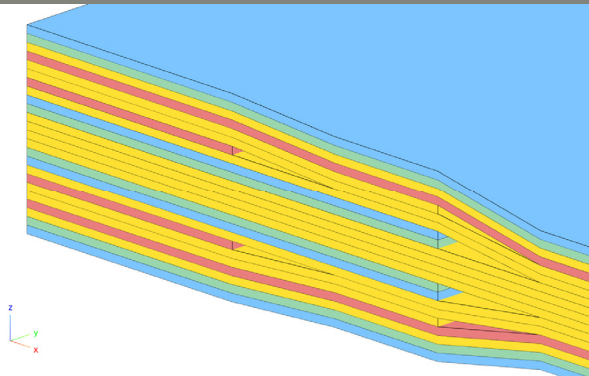
christian@the-engineering-lab.com

Offset to Outer Mold Line

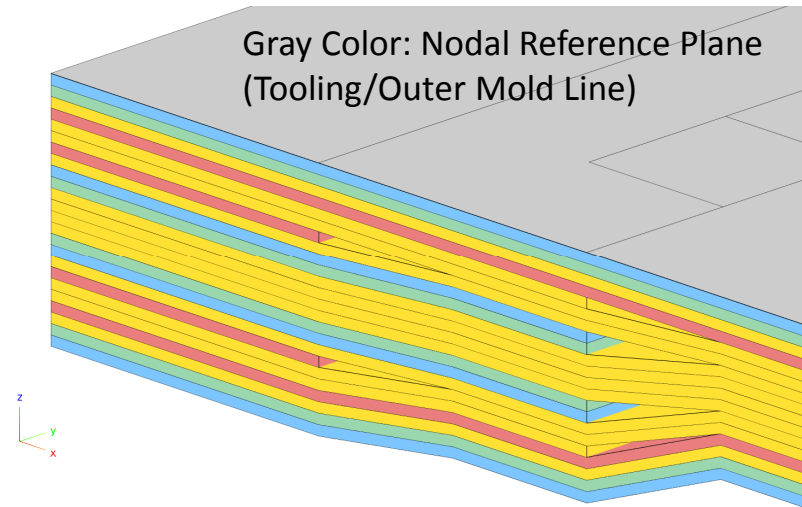
Different manufacturing methods require different offsets.

1. Use Z0 Offset Relationship to ensure the composite is offset to reflect the manufacturing tooling, e.g. outer mold line

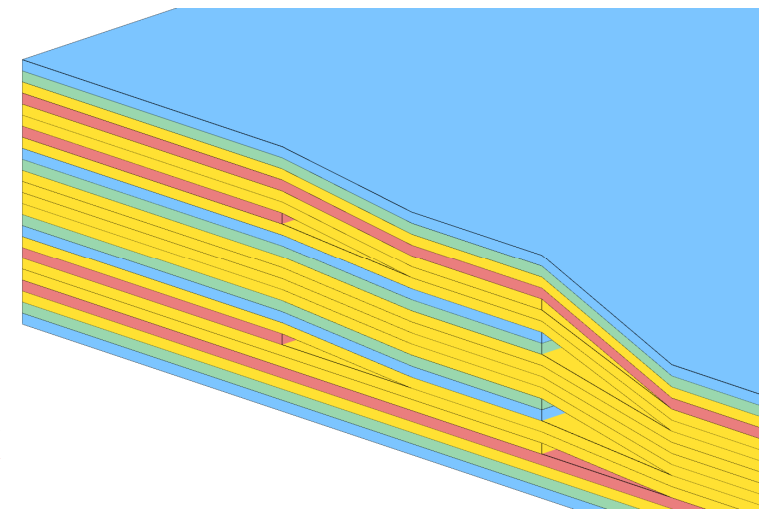
Offset Default (No Offset)



Offset Bottom



Offset Top



0.	Yellow
90.	Red
45.	Blue
-45.	Green

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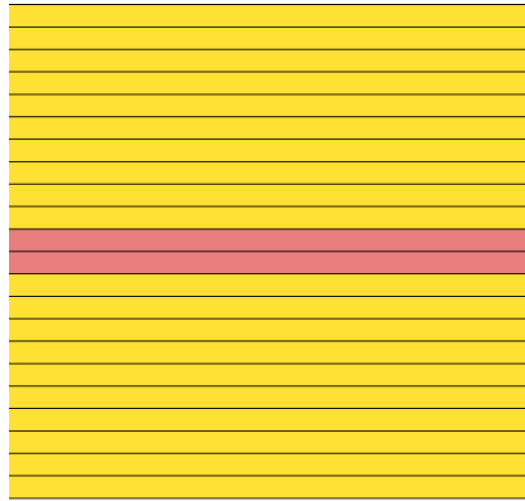
christian@the-engineering-lab.com

10% Design Rule

During optimization, there may be too few plies of a particular angle, e.g. 90°

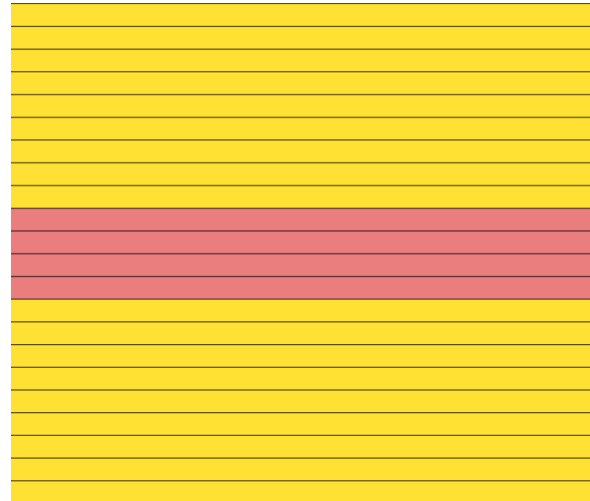
1. Use % Rule Design to put a lower bound on the percentage of specific ply angles

No percent constraint



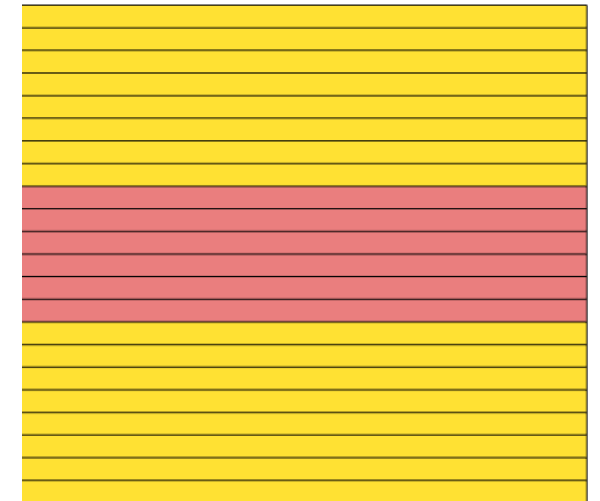
$$2 \text{ plies} / 22 \text{ plies} \times 100 = 9\%$$

Minimum of 10% of plies are 90°



$$4 \text{ plies} / 22 \text{ plies} \times 100 = 18\%$$

Minimum 20% of plies are 90°



$$6 \text{ plies} / 22 \text{ plies} \times 100 = 27\%$$

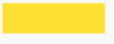
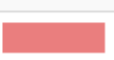
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or contact

[christian@ the-engineering-lab.com](mailto:christian@the-engineering-lab.com)

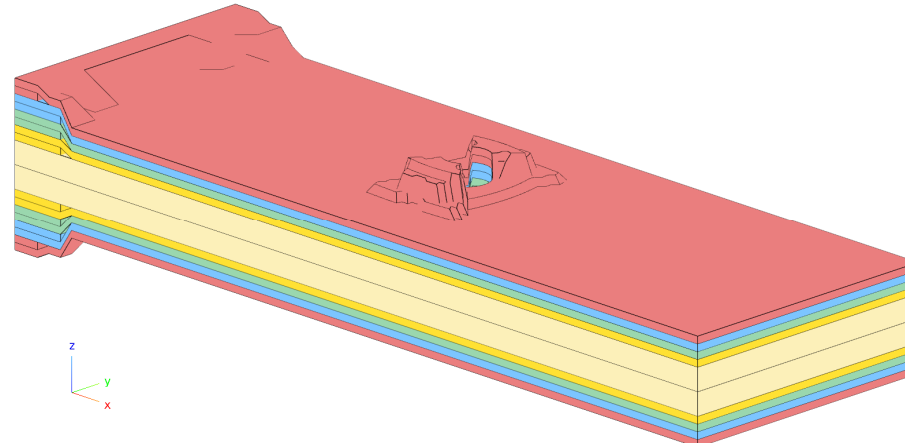
0.	
90.	

Total Thickness

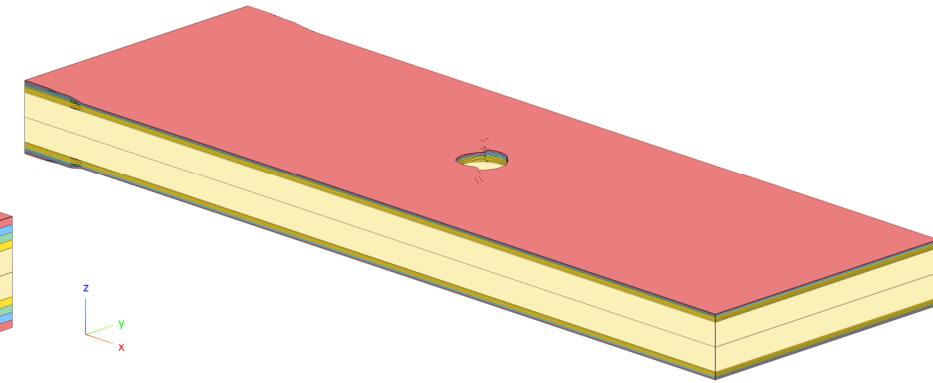
The optimizer may inadvertently produce a composite that is very thick.

1. Use the Total Thickness option to limit the total thickness of the composite

No Total Thickness Constraint



With Total Thickness Constraint



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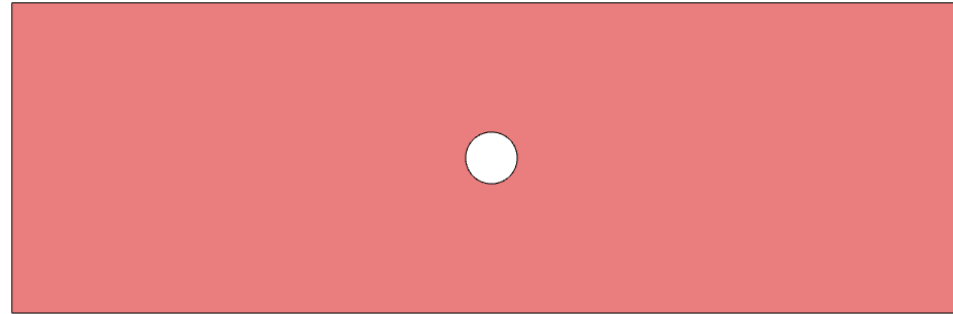
GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC000)

GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC000)

- When configuring ply shapes, the original PCOMP entry will be replaced by multiple PCOMPG entries. The original PCOMP entry is said to be the parent PCOMP and the new PCOMPG entries are said to be the child PCOMPG entries.
- A ply numbering convention is used by the web app to help identify the origin of the various new plies.

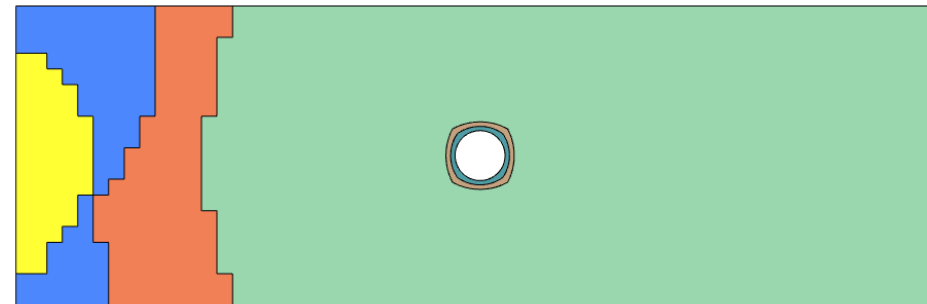
Parent PCOMP

PCOMP	1	
-------	---	---









PCOMP	8			90.
	101	.3755	90.	YES
	101	.3755	45.	YES
	101	.3755	-45.	YES
	101	.3755	0.	YES
	501	3.175	0.	YES

Child PCOMPGs



PCOMPG	2			90.	HILL
	111000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
	121000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	131000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
	141000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
	151000	501	3.175	0.	YES
	2151000	501	3.175	0.	YES
	2141000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
	2131000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
	2121000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	2111000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
PCOMPG	3			90.	HILL
	111000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
	152000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
	121000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	162000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	131000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
	132000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES

PCOMPG	2	
PCOMPG	3	
PCOMPG	4	
PCOMPG	5	
PCOMPG	6	
PCOMPG	7	

[...]

GPLY ID Numbering Convention (sPLC000)

Each ply shape candidate is assigned a GPLY ID formatted in a special numbering convention. This formatted GPLY ID is read from right to left.

- The last 3 digits 000 is a place holder used by the ply number optimization. After ply number optimization, the 3 digits 000 are replaced by 001, 002, 003, etc. and will depend on the number of plies determined by the ply number optimization.
- The next digit C indicates the candidate number of that ply shape. The Viewer web app is used to construct multiple ply shape candidates.
- The digit L indicates the layer in the original parent PCOMP.
- The digit P indicates the ID of the original parent PCOMP entry. If the original ID is long, for example 1008, the ID is reduced to a single digit.
- A leading digit of 2 indicates the ply is a mirror ply and is used when the composite is symmetric.

For example, GPLY ID 141000 indicates the ply shape candidate was constructed based on a parent PCOMP ID=1 AND the ply shape was constructed based on the model.ply0004 file (layer 4 of the parent PCOMP).

Parent PCOMP					
PCOMP	1			90.	HILL
	101	.3755	90.	YES	Layer 1
	101	.3755	45.	YES	Layer 2
	101	.3755	-45.	YES	Layer 3
	101	.3755	0.	YES	Layer 4
	501	3.175	0.	YES	Layer 5

Child PCOMPG					
PCOMPG	2			90.	HILL
	111000	101	1.00000	90.	YES
	121000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	131000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
	141000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
	151000	501	3.175	0.	YES
	2151000	501	3.175	0.	YES
	2141000	101	1.00000	0.	YES
	2131000	101	1.00000	-45.	YES
	2121000	101	1.00000	45.	YES
	2111000	101	1.00000	90.	YES

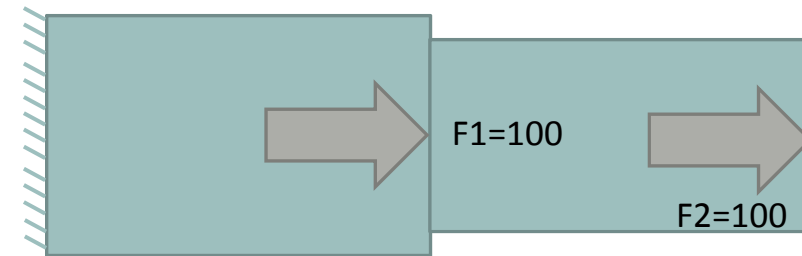
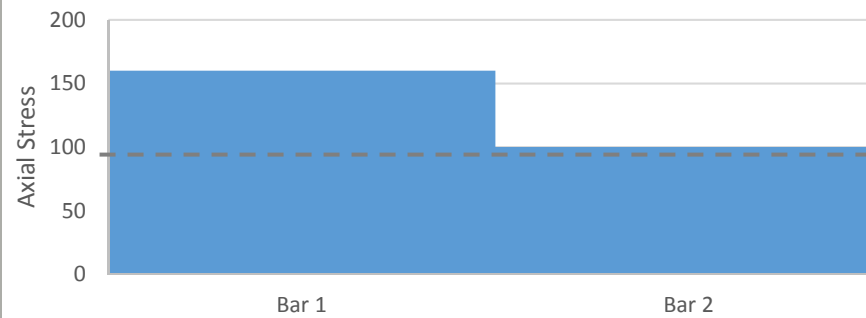
Ply Numbering Convention (sPLC000)

GPLYID=2141000					
	2	1	4	1	000
Symmetry Flag	<				
PCOMP ID P	<--				
LAYER L	<----				
Candidate C	<-----				
ith Ply 000	<-----				

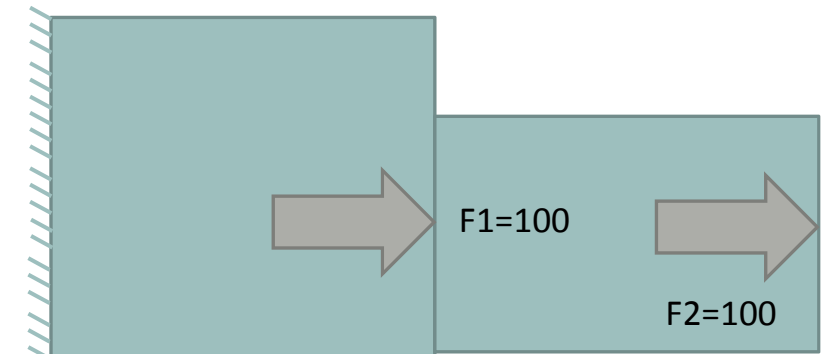
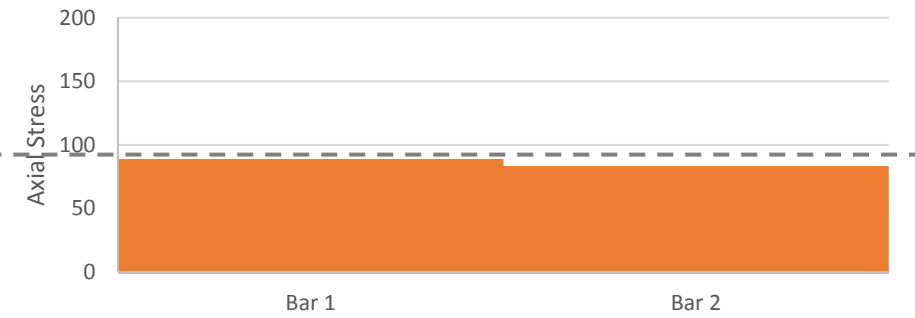
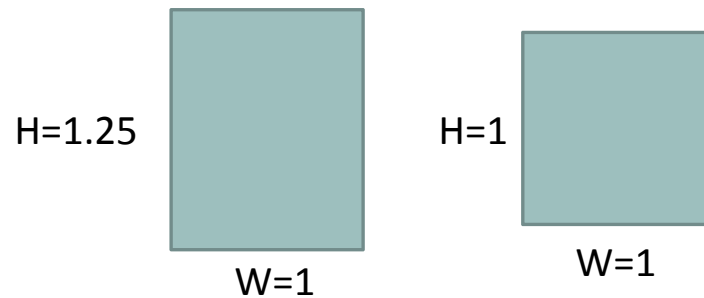
Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Uniaxial Loading

Axial Loaded Members

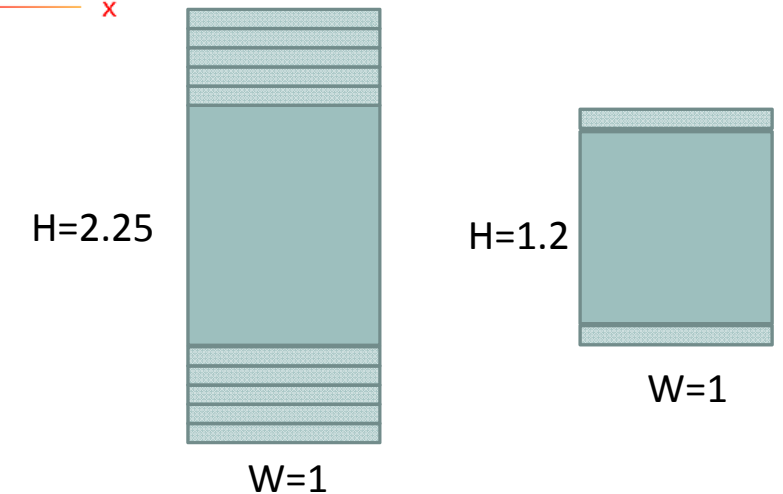
1. Consider designs A and B subjected to the indicated loading. The maximum allowed axial stress is 90. The material is linear isotropic and homogenous.
2. Design A exceeds the allowed axial stress of 90.
3. The cross sections are adjusted in design B such that the axial stress is less than 90. Design B satisfies the axial stress limit. For design B, the cross section is expanded by adding strips of area, in thickness increments of 0.1, to the height of the cross section.
 - For a laminated composite with constraints on ply stress, ply strain or failure index, a similar approach may be adopted to minimize the weight while satisfying constraints.



Design A



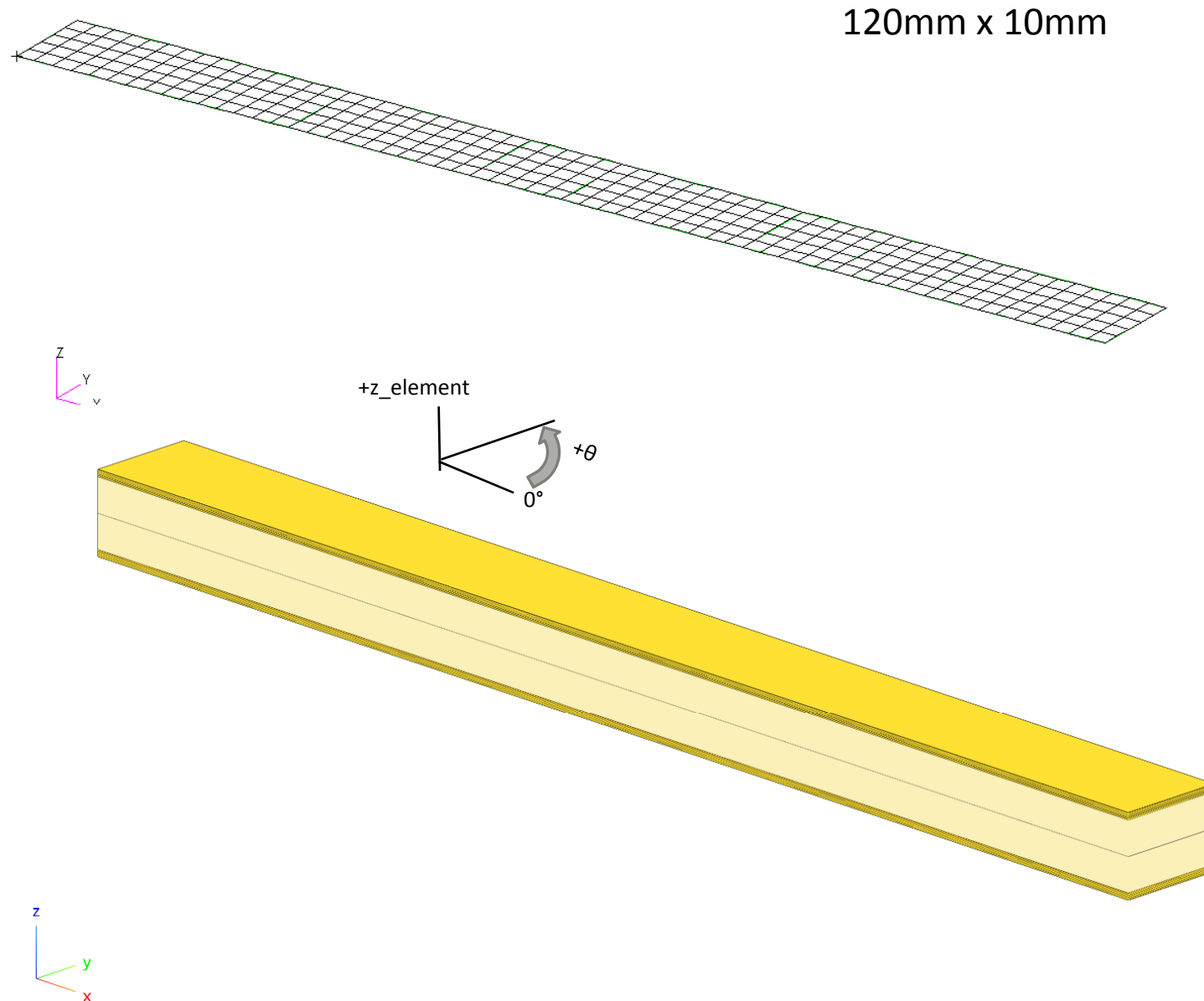
Design B



Composite Analysis Model

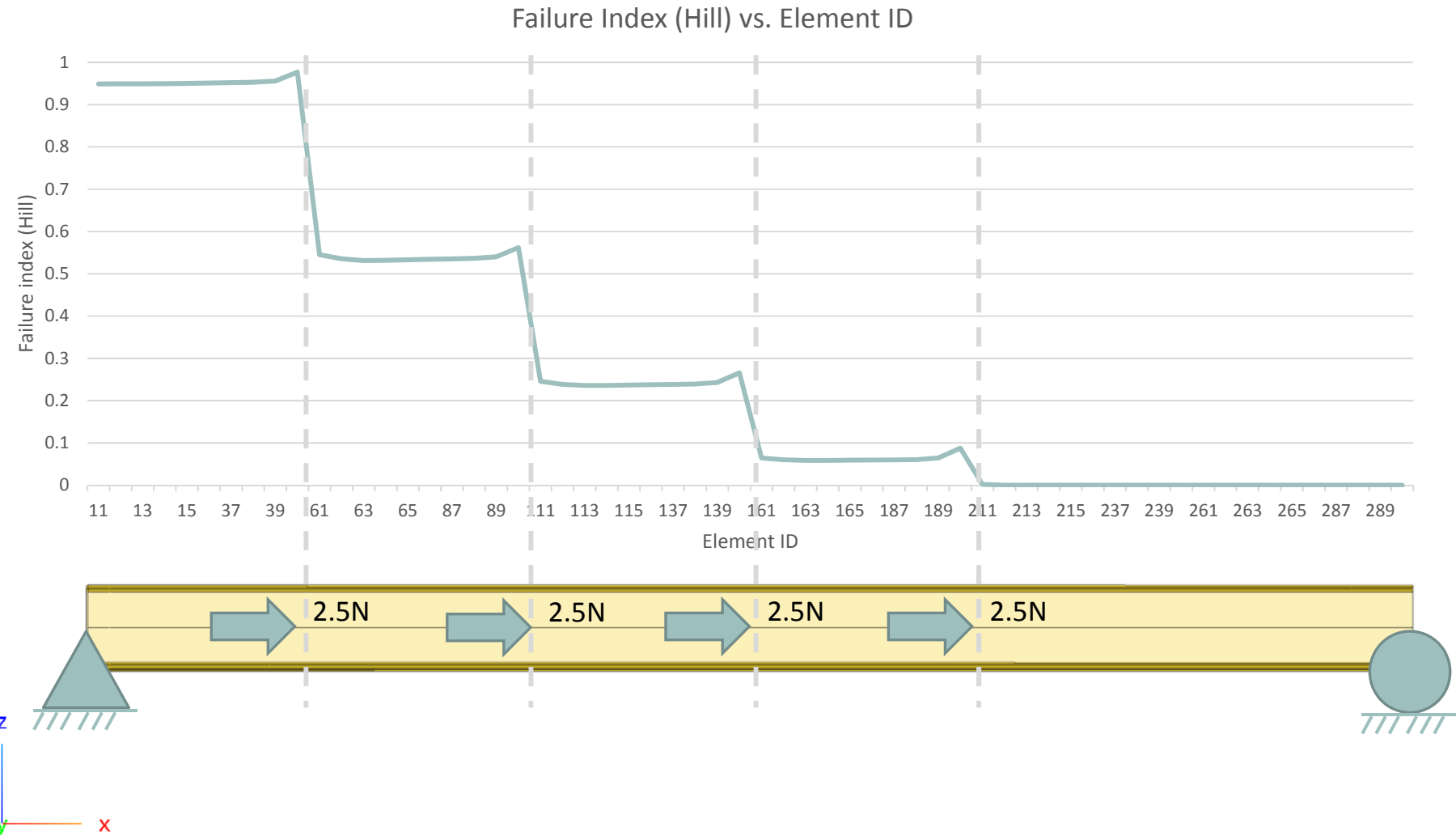
1. Consider this 120mmx10mm composite strip.
2. The ply shapes of the 0° plies will be optimized to minimize weight and satisfy failure index (Hill) constraints. The core is left untouched.

The core is 6.35mm thick and the plies are .125mm thick.



Composite Analysis Model

1. The composite strip is subjected to axial loads.
2. The maximum failure index for all plies is mapped along the length of the strip.

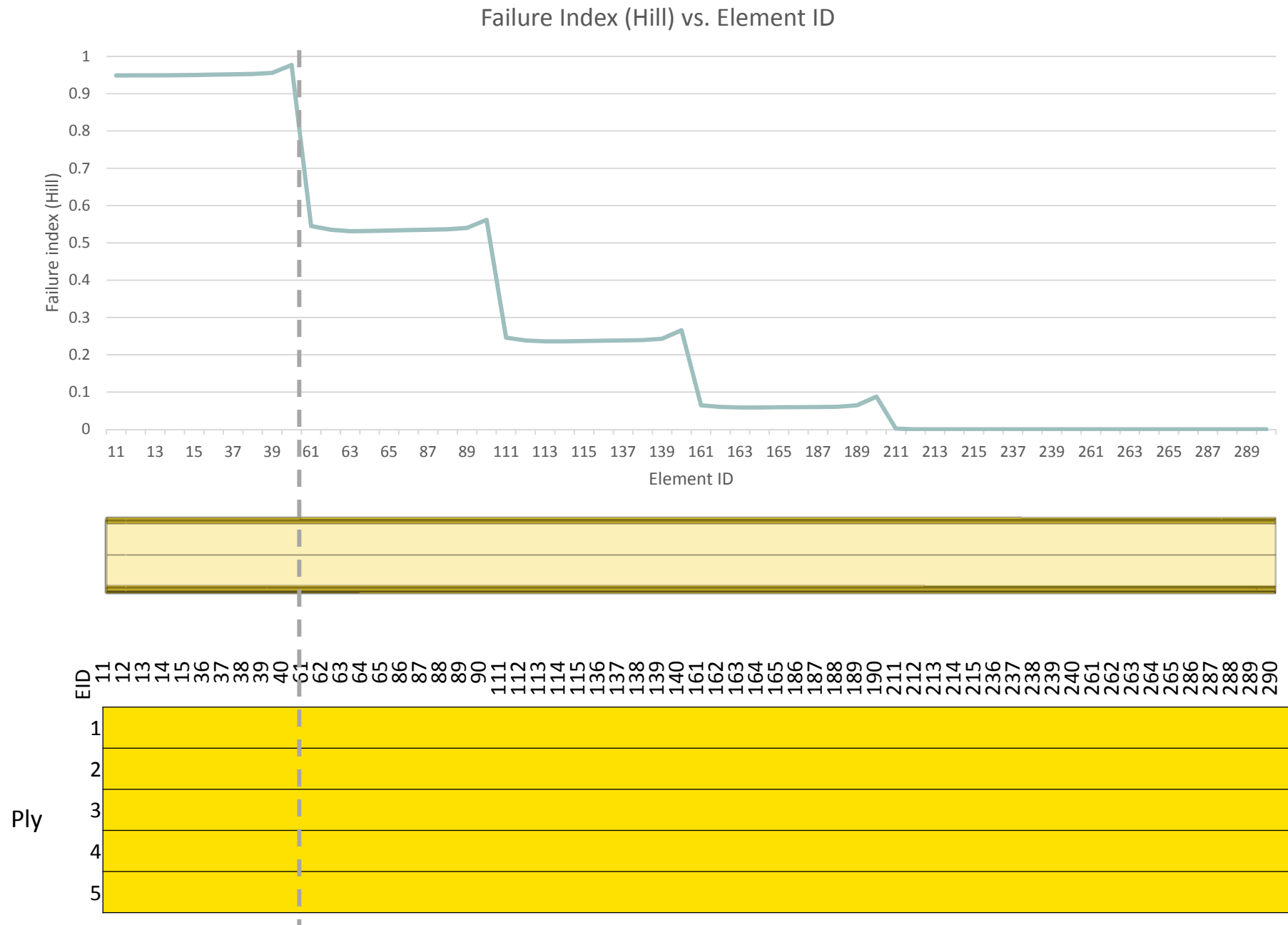


Inspection of Failure Indices

1. It is determined that 10 continuous plies yields a composite that satisfies a maximum failure index of 1.0. The top of the composite has 5 plies and the bottom has 5 plies. Only 5 piles are depicted.

Throughout this example, the maximum failure index of all plies for element i , where i is 11, 12, 13, ..., 289, 290, is plotted along the length of the composite.

- Design Model:
20230505_study_of_ply_number_optimization/0_original/model.bdf

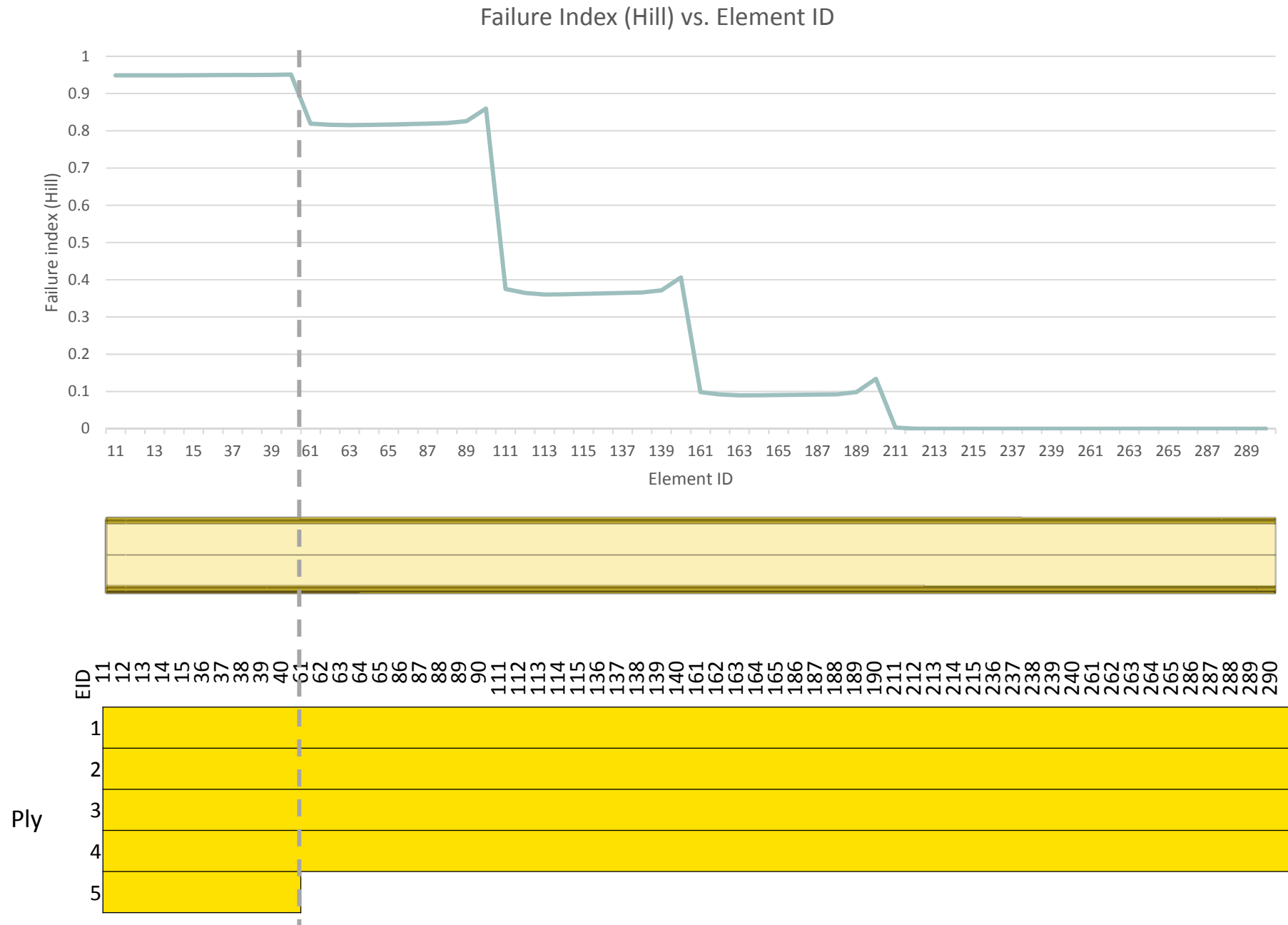


Optimizing One Ply Shape

1. Ply 5 is applied only to elements 11, 12, 13, ..., 38, 39, and 40. Ply 5 corresponds to a segment of the failure index plot.
2. For elements 61, 62, 63, ..., 289 and 290, only 4 plies are necessary.

Before, 5 plies were needed throughout the composite, but this has been reduced to 4 plies. 5 plies are needed only in the region of high failure index.

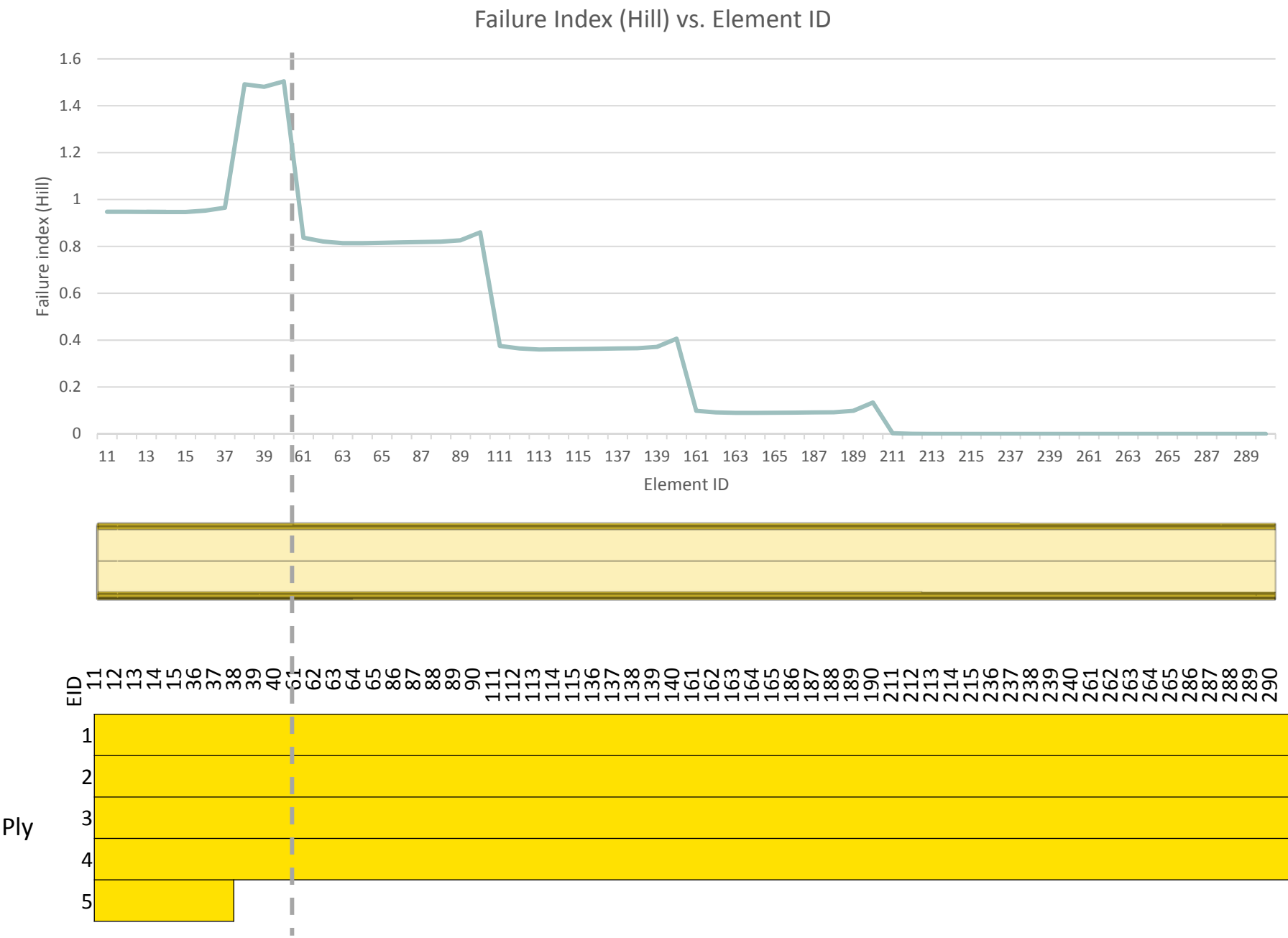
- Design Model:
20230505_study_of_ply_number_optimization/4_ply_number_optimization/works pace_c



Example of a Suboptimal Ply Shape

- 1. What happens if the ply is too small? Consider ply 5. This ply does not correspond entirely to the failure index plot. The failure index plot now shows the failure index is above 1.0, which is not OK. Ply 5 is insufficient to address the failure index.

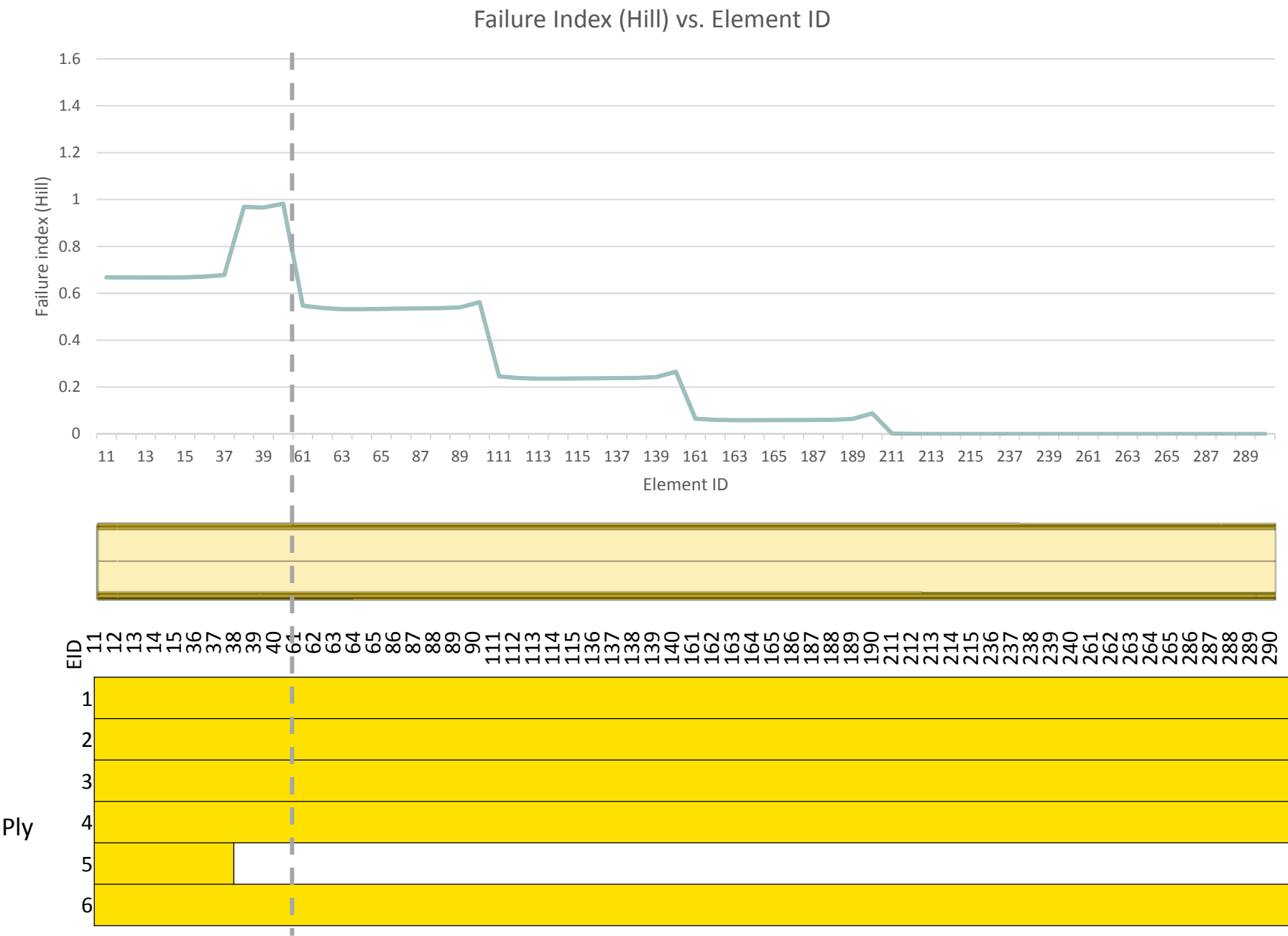
• Design Model:
20230505_study_of_ply_number_optimization/6_ply_number_optimization/works
pace_c_b



Example of a Suboptimal Ply Shape, Correction

- 1. To make up for the insufficient ply 5, a ply number optimization will determine that an additional and fully continuous ply (Ply 6) is necessary. The failure index is now less than 1.0. The composite is now OK.

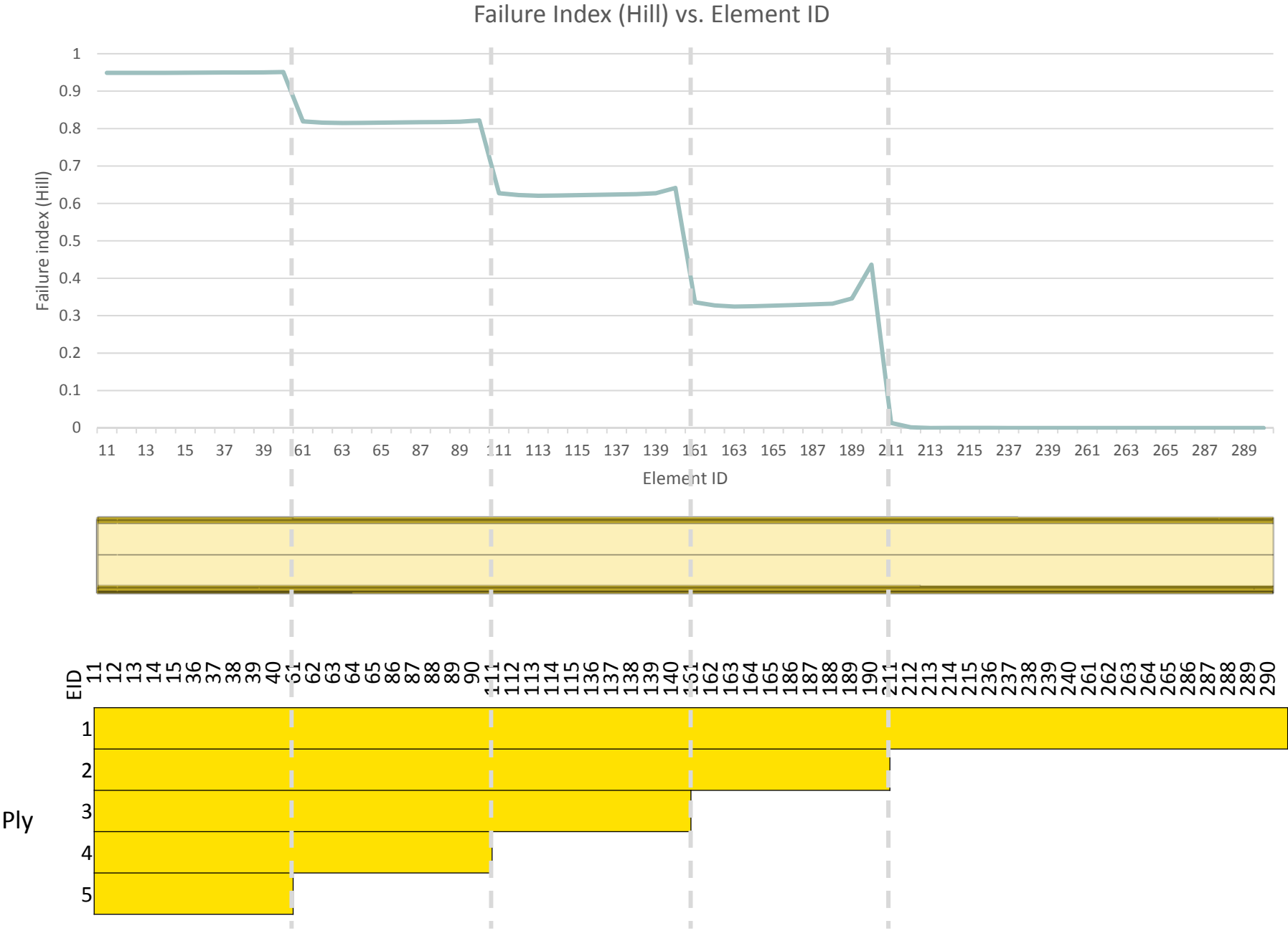
• Design Model:
20230505_study_of_ply_number_optimization/6_ply_number_optimization/works
pace_c_c_bad_ply_with_5_good_plies



Optimal Ply Shapes

- 1. Plies 2, 3, 4 and 5 correspond to different ply shapes and correspond to the failure index plot. This design is lightweight compared to the composite with 5 continuous plies.

• Design Model:
20230505_study_of_ply_number_optimization/8_ply_number_optimization/works pace_c

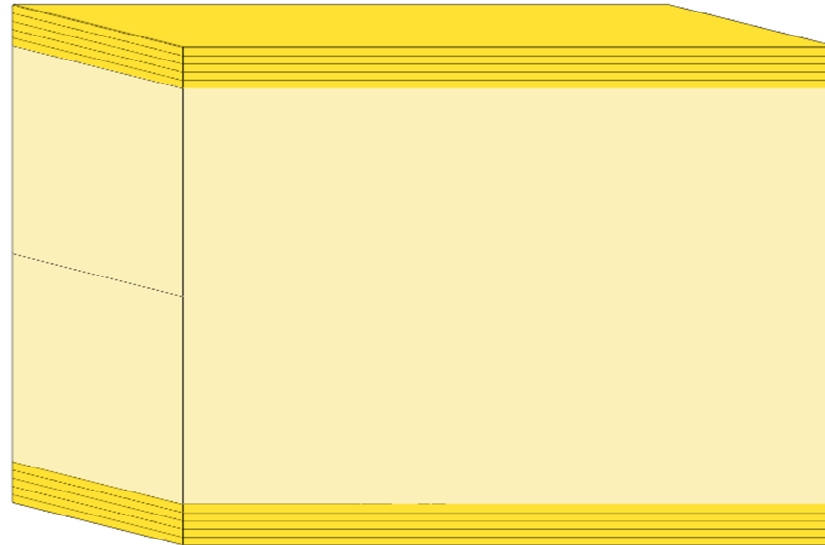


Comparison

Before

Mass: 4.097700E-06

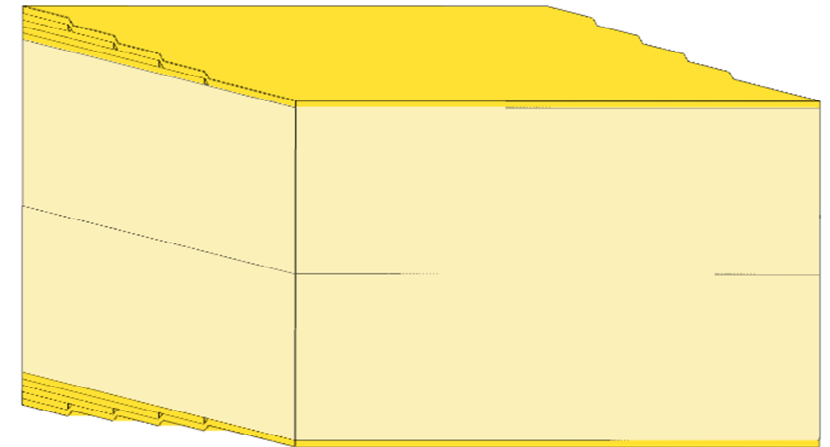
Max Failure Index: .98 (OK)



After

Mass: 2.932200E-06 **28% mass decrease**

Max Failure Index: .95 (OK)



Legend

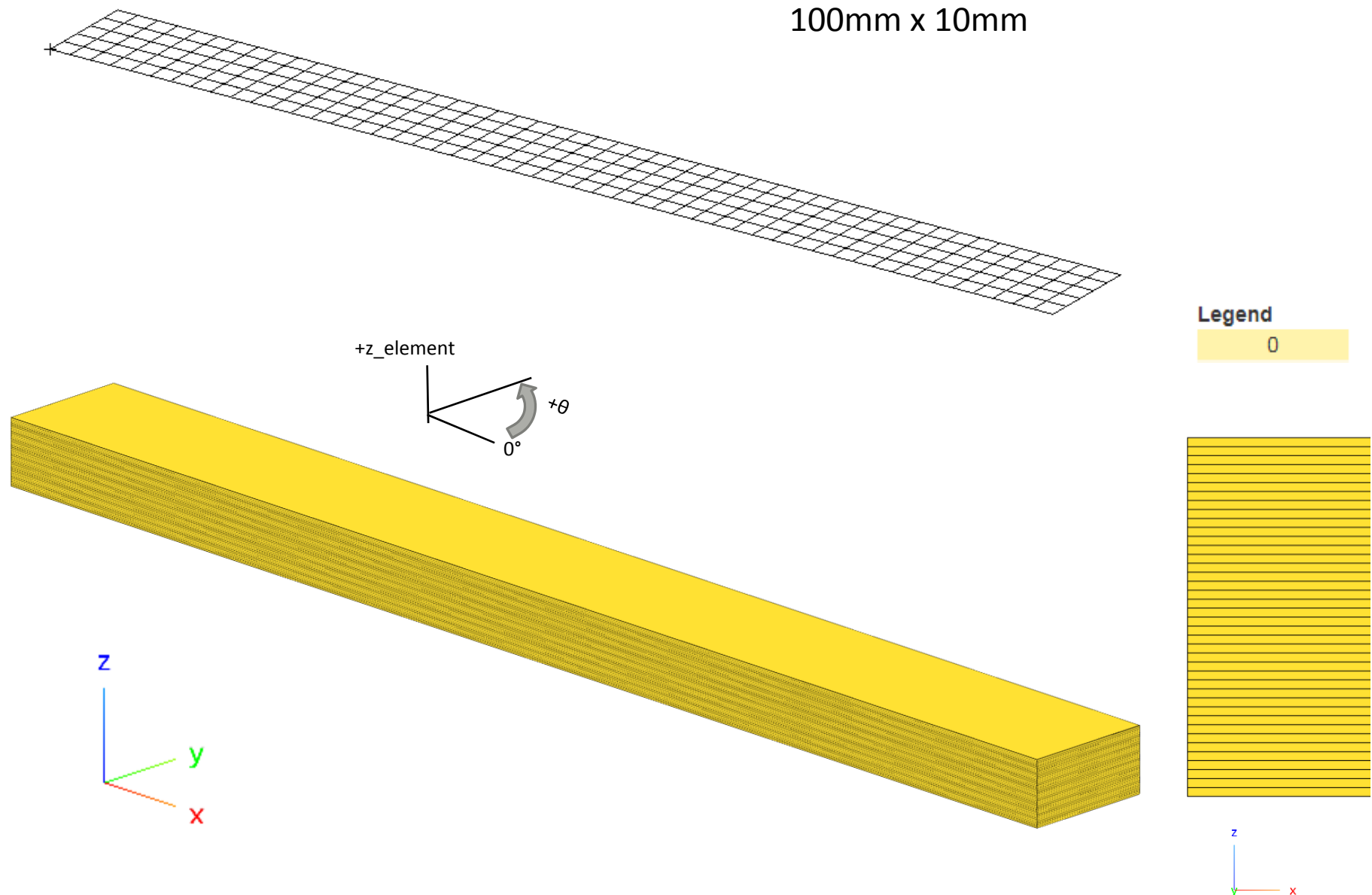
0
0 (Core)

Optimizing Composite Ply Shapes and Numbers for Bending

Composite Analysis Model

1. Consider this 100mmx10mm composite strip.
2. The ply shapes of the 0° plies will be optimized to minimize weight and satisfy failure index (Hill) constraints.

The plies are .125mm thick. A total of 40 plies are initially used to satisfy failure index constraints.

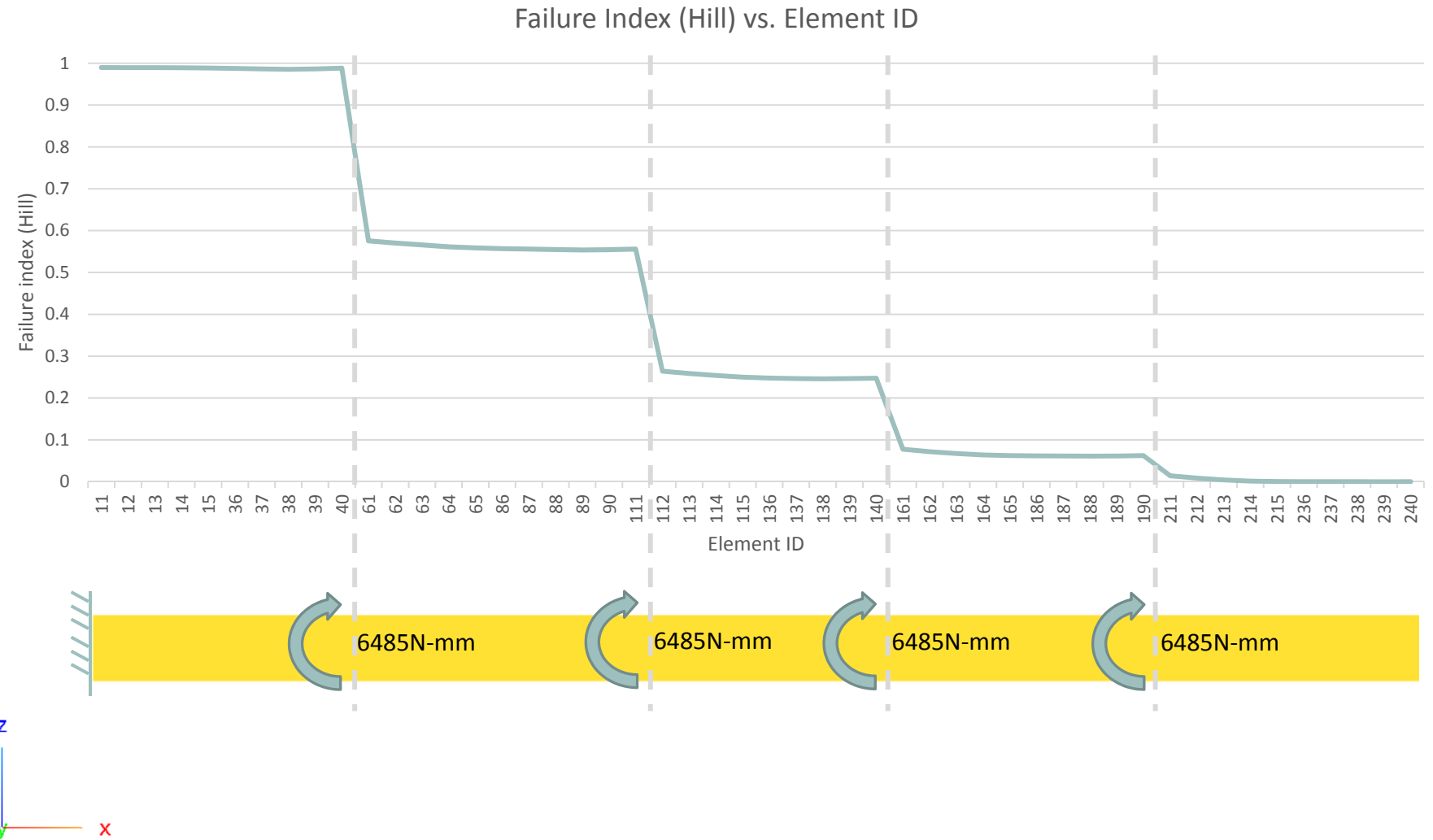


Composite Analysis Model

1. The composite strip is subjected to 4 moments.
2. The maximum failure index occurs at the outer plies. The maximum failure index of plies 1 and 40 are plotted along the length of the strip.

Acknowledgement

Some observers will realize that the maximum displacement of this model is 30mm, which exceeds the assumption of small deformations, and the moments applied are very large. This is acknowledged and done on purpose to yield maximum failure indices on the range of 0 to 1.0. The goal of this exercise is to demonstrate the procedure and focus on failure indices.

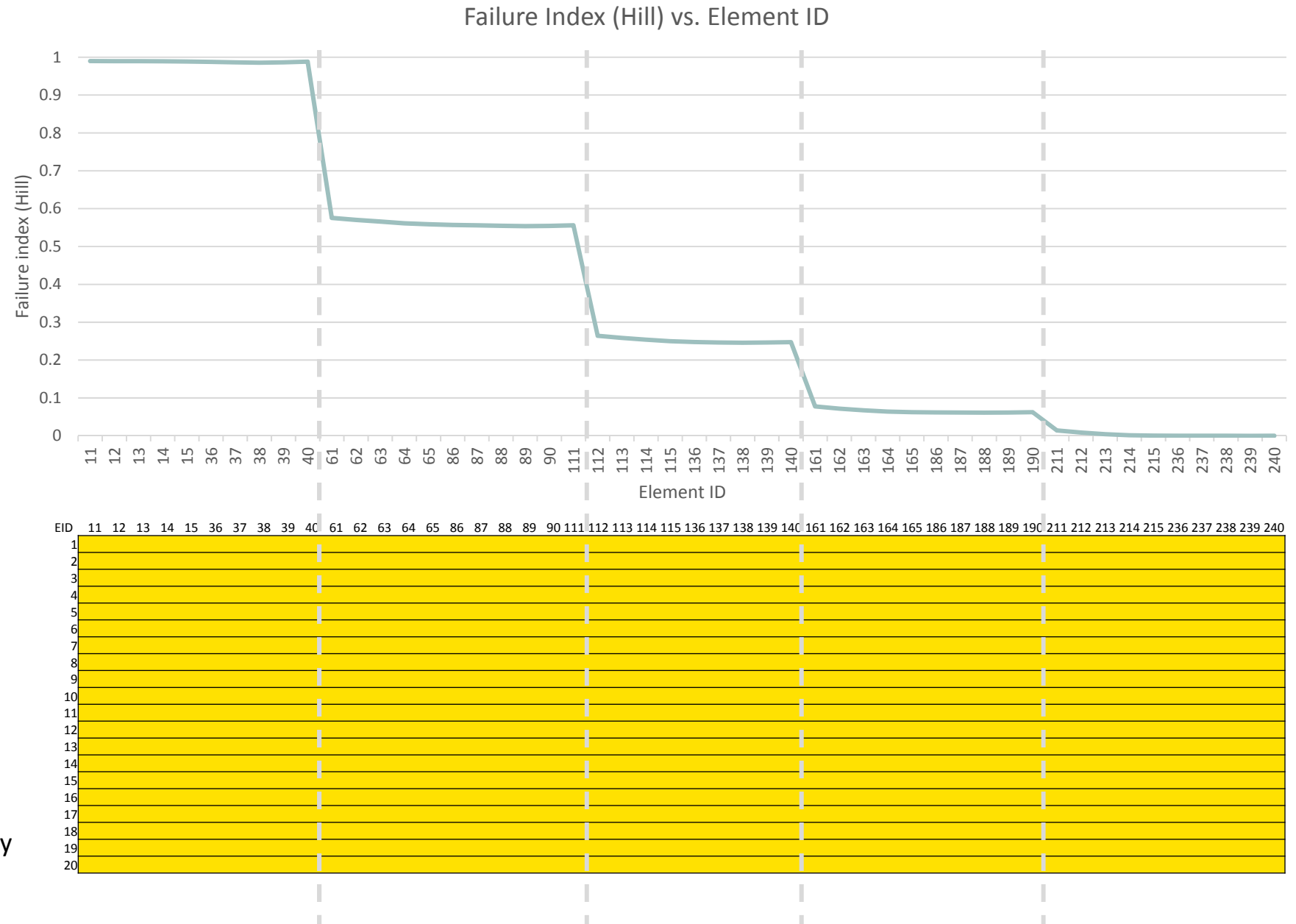


Inspection of Failure Indices

1. It is determined that 40 continuous plies yields a composite that satisfies a maximum failure index of 1.0. The top of the composite has 20 plies and the bottom has 20 plies. Only 20 piles are depicted.

Design Model:
20230506_study_of_ply_number_optimization_
bending\2_starting

Ply

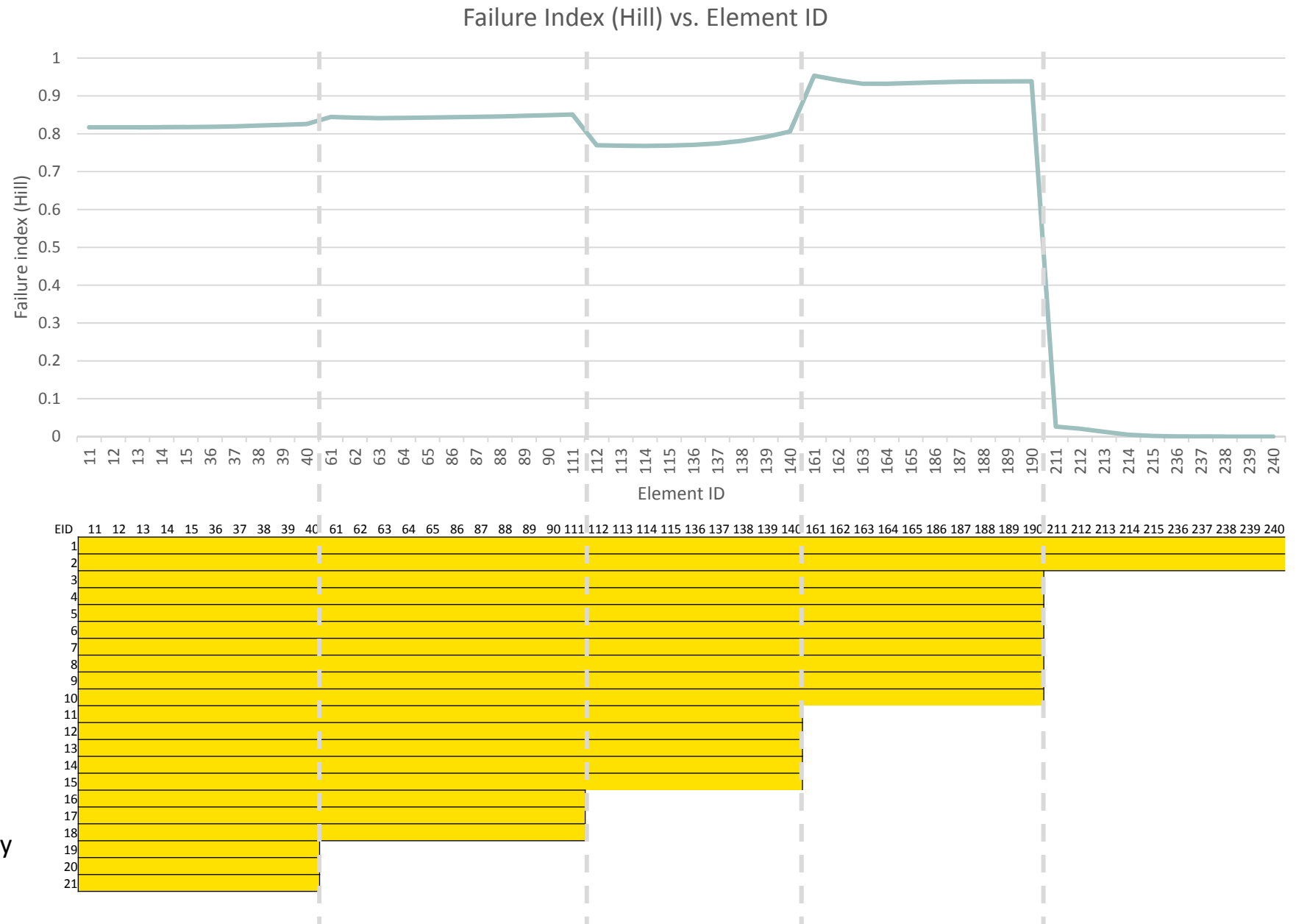


Optimal Ply Shapes

1. Various ply shapes are constructed that correspond to the different steps of the failure index plot. This yields a optimal composite.
2. Notice the failure index is closer to 1.0 throughout the composite and indicates material is being efficiently used.
3. For elements 211, 212, ..., 239, 240, the number of plies needed is 2 and the failure index is close to 0. This region is a candidate for removing part of the structure, i.e. introduce a hole or cutout.

Design Model:
20230506_study_of_ply_number_optimization_
bending\6_ply_number_optimization\workspace
_c

Ply



Comparison

1. Mass, Before: 9.990000E-06
2. Mass, After: 5.685975E-06

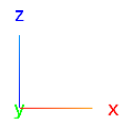
43% decrease

Max failure index = 9.5323E-01 < 1.0
(OK)

Before



After



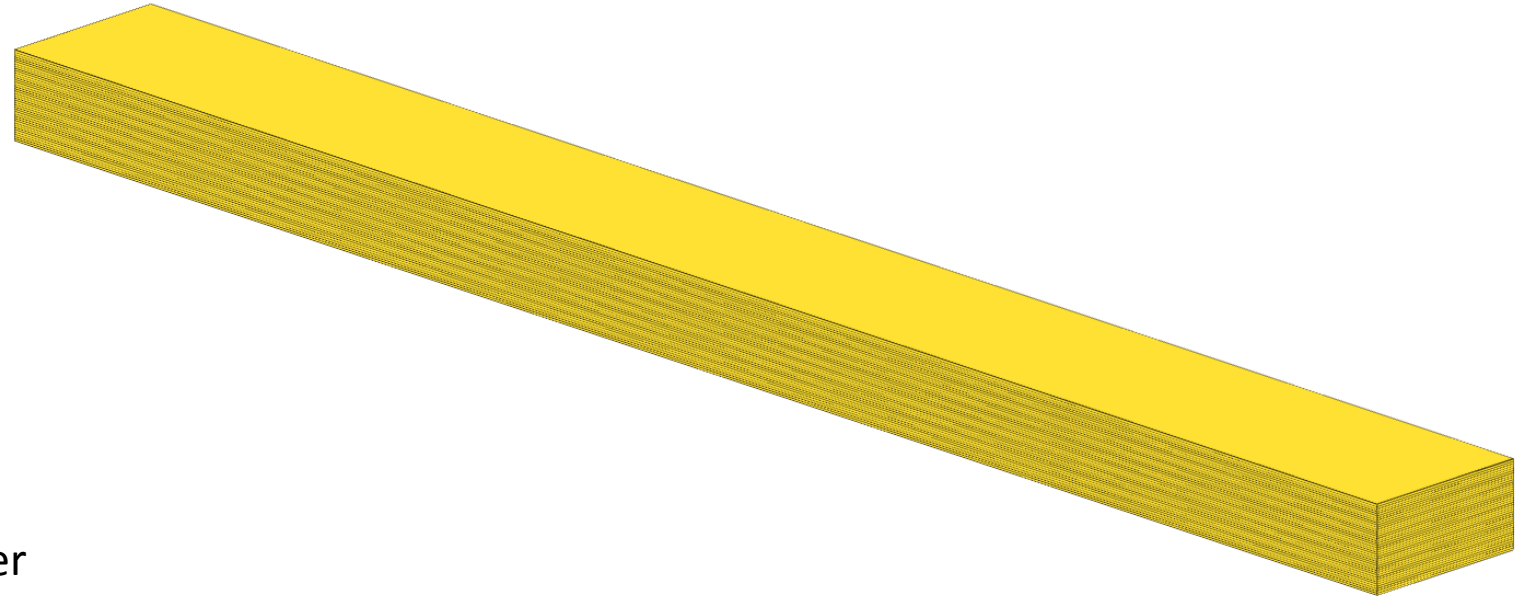
Comparison

1. Mass, Before: 9.990000E-06
2. Mass, After: 5.685975E-06

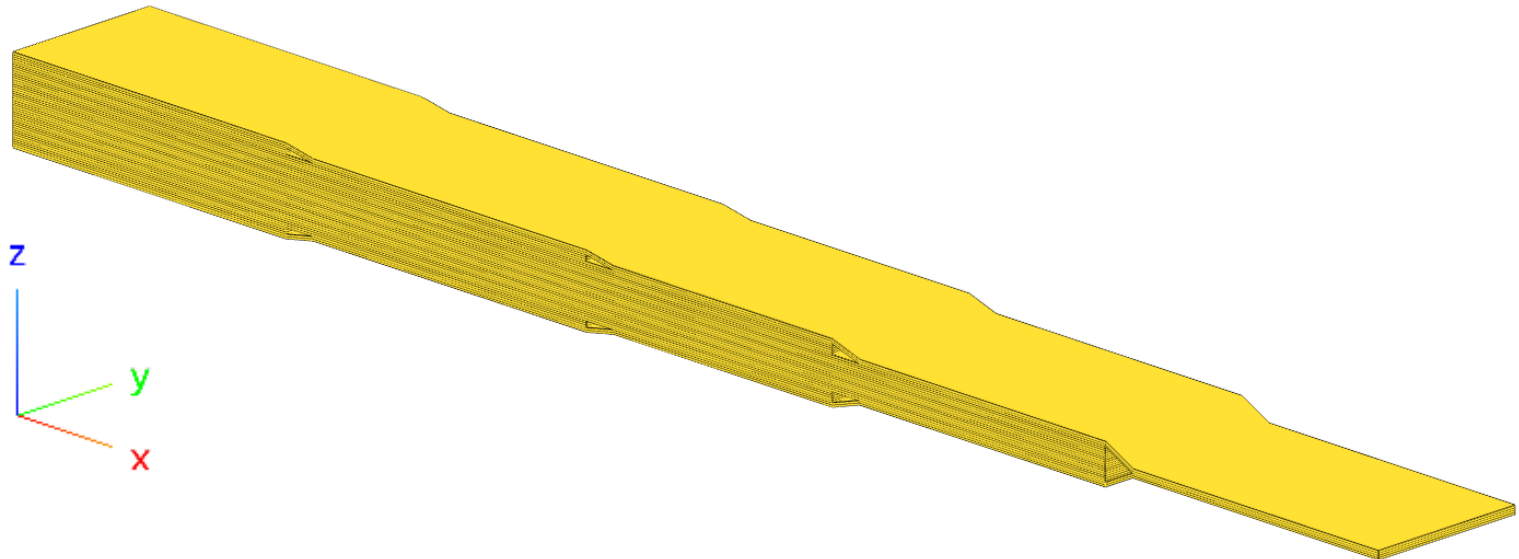
43% decrease

Max failure index = 9.5323E-01 < 1.0
(OK)

Before



After

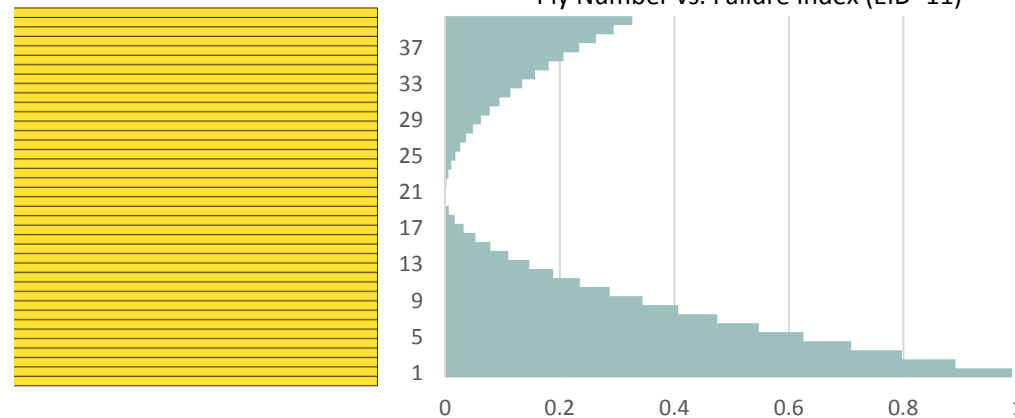


Consideration of PCOMP

- The SOL 200 Web App supports composite optimization. If bending is a primary focus, the composite configuration C should be used during the optimization process. Configuration C involves a fixed layer 1 and 4. Layer 2 and 3 is allowed to vary during the ply shape and ply number optimization.
 - Why? Consider configuration B, which has 2 layers. The failure index is computed at the midplane of each layer, but the failure index towards the outer fibers may be significantly higher. For configuration A, the failure index of layer 1 is approximately 1.0, but configuration B is reporting a failure index of ~0.2. Configuration C reports a failure index of ~1.0 for ply 1.

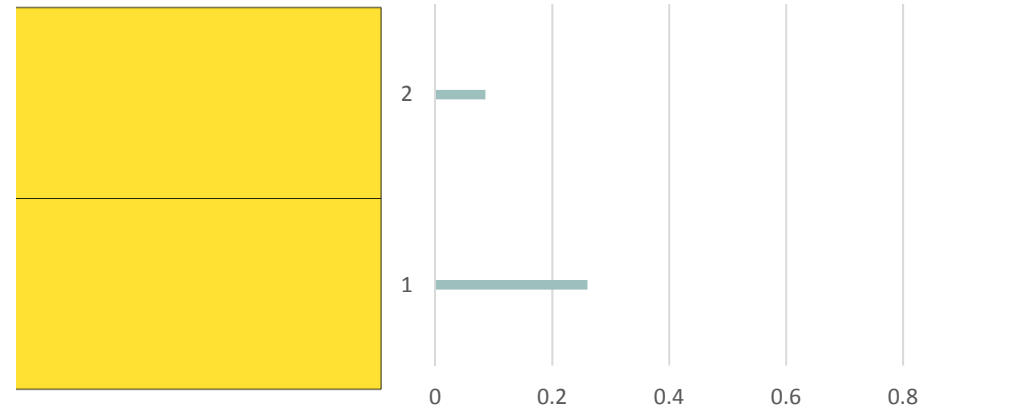
It should be noted that the composite thickness of each configuration is an equal value of 5 mm (40 plies with each ply has a thickness of .125mm). The LAM=SYM option indicates the layers listed on the PCOMP are doubled to create a symmetric composite.

A



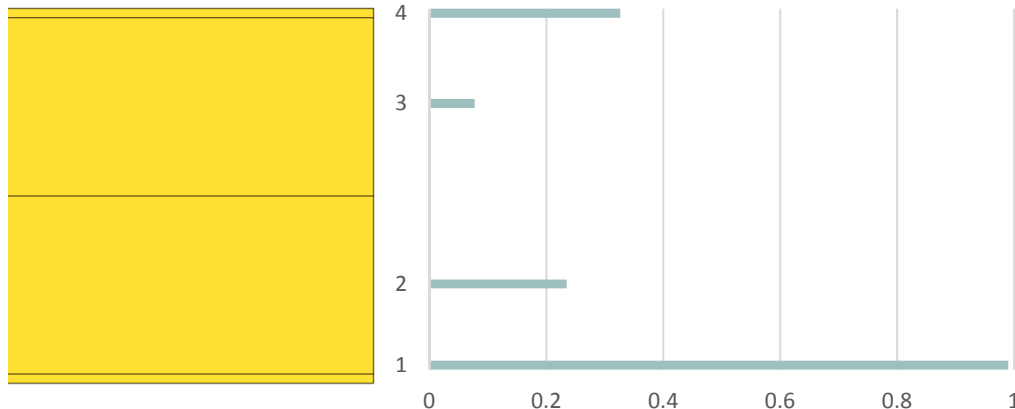
```
PCOMP, 1,,,90., HILL,,SYM
      101      .125      0.      YES
      101      .125      0.      YES
      101      .125      0.      YES
[...] A total of 20 layers are repeated
      101      .125      0.      YES
      101      .125      0.      YES
```

B



```
PCOMP, 1,,,90., HILL,,SYM
      101      2.5      0.      YES
```

C

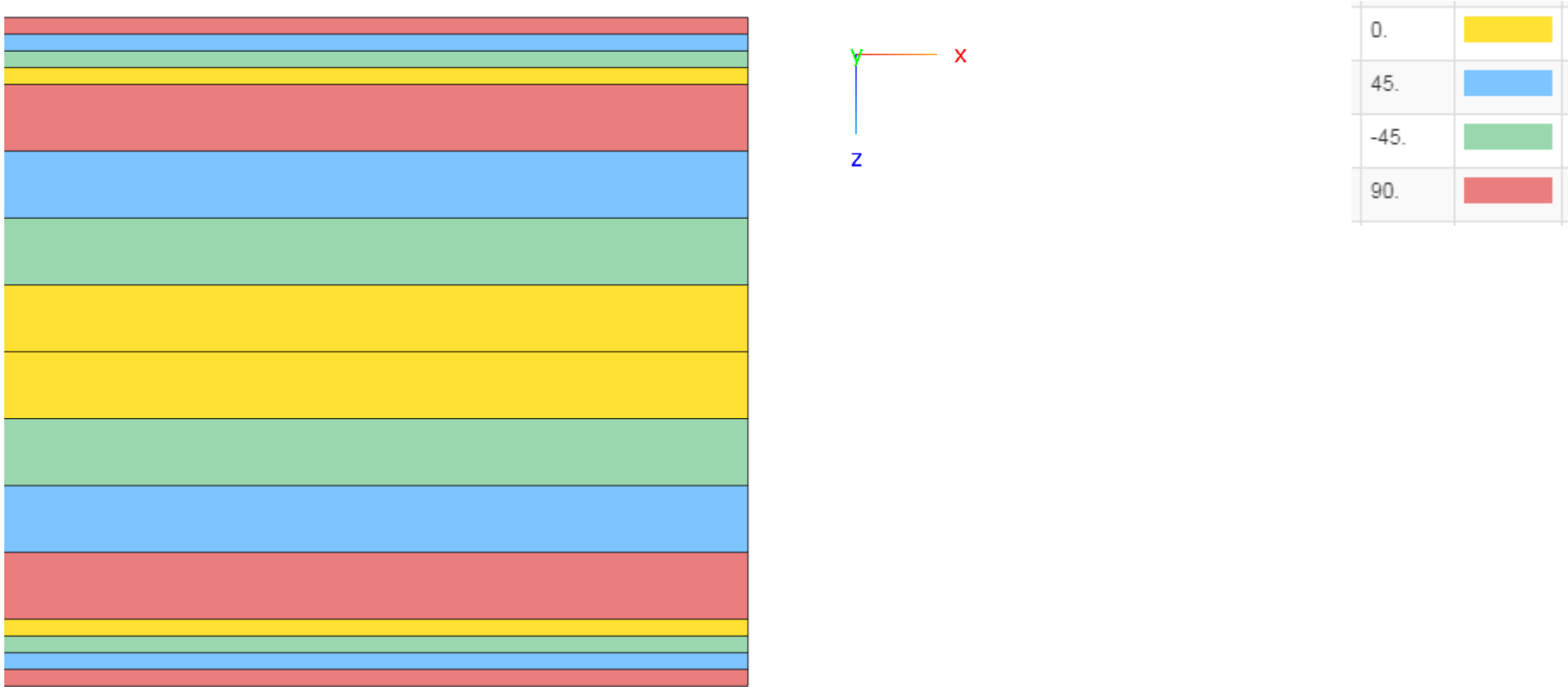


```
PCOMP, 1,,,90., HILL,,SYM
      101      .125      0.      YES
      101      2.375      0.      YES
```

Consideration of PCOMP

1. If other angles, such as 90 or 45 degrees, are considered, fix a few plies on the top and bottom of the composite.

For the example shown, angle 0, 45, -45 and 90 are used. The top has 4 fixed plies (thickness of .125mm), followed by 4 layers with thickness .5mm. The 4 layers with .5mm will vary during the optimization. The plies with .125mm will remain as is during the ply shape and ply number optimization.



PCOMP	2			90.	HILL		SYM
	101	.125	90.	YES	} These plies remain fixed throughout the entire optimization procedure.	} Monitor the failure index of each layer or constrain the failure index with DRESP1/DCONSTR entries.	
	101	.125	45.	YES			
	101	.125	-45.	YES			
	101	.125	0.	YES			
	101	.5	90.	YES	} Create TOMVAR entries for the layers and perform ply shape and ply number optimization for these layers only		
	101	.5	45.	YES			
	101	.5	-45.	YES			
	101	.5	0.	YES			