ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation

Workshop 03: Tool Compensation

Release 2021 R1







Workshop Overview

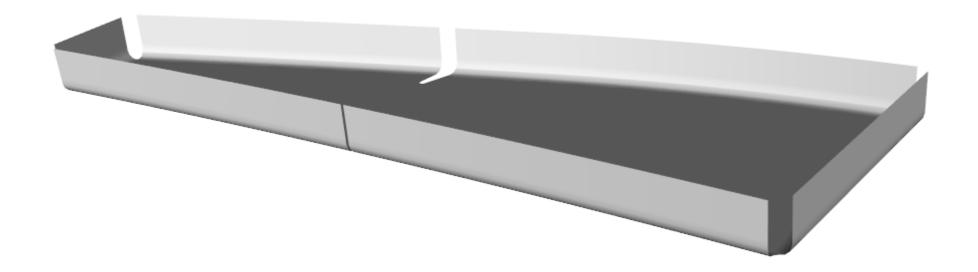
- In this workshop you will first learn the usage of ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation to capture the thermal-chemical reactions during composite manufacturing, to optimize the curing process (responsible for an exothermic peak) and how to design the heating and cooling system
- You will predict the development of residual stresses and process induced distortions.
- You will understand how to compensate the tooling geometry to meet the required geometrical tolerances, resulting in an assembly process with the minimal built-in stresses





Workshop Overview

A composite frame will be used in this workshop to illustrate the usage of ACCS to predict
the curing process and the methodology to compensate for associated process induced
distortions



Overview to Process Induced Distortions







Process Induced Distortions Overview

Process-induced distortions are a major concern when manufacturing with composite materials







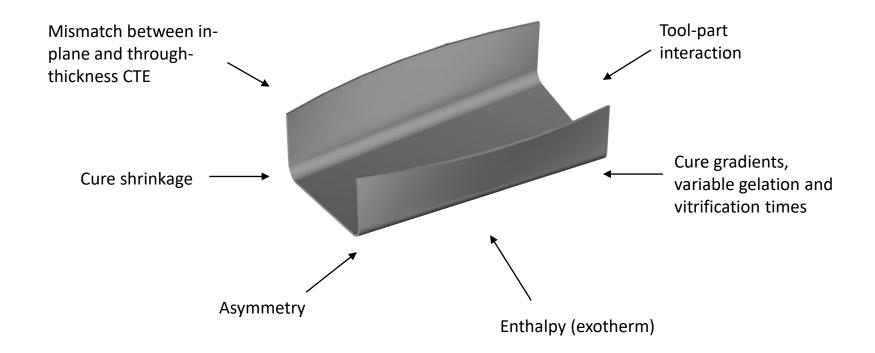






Causes of Process Induced Distortions and Failures

Residual stresses that develop during cure result in distorted composite components

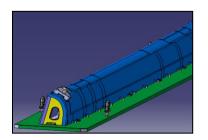






Impact of the PID in the industry

The traditional trial-and-error approach can work for simple geometries, but composite
parts with complex shapes require more sophisticated models.



Aerospace: certification requires very tight tolerances. Subsequent corrections of the tooling to compensate PID are very expensive and can turn a profitable project into a deficit one.



Imaging: the relative alignment of the lenses is negatively affected by PID of the casing what reduces the accuracy of high performance optical systems.



Wind energy: the join between the blade and generator is very sensitive in terms of PID. An accurate prediction of the PID based on simulation saves time and money.



Automotive industry: initial crack due to residual stresses, for instance in ignition coils, is a phenomena that can cause high waste and reduces the lifetime of a product.

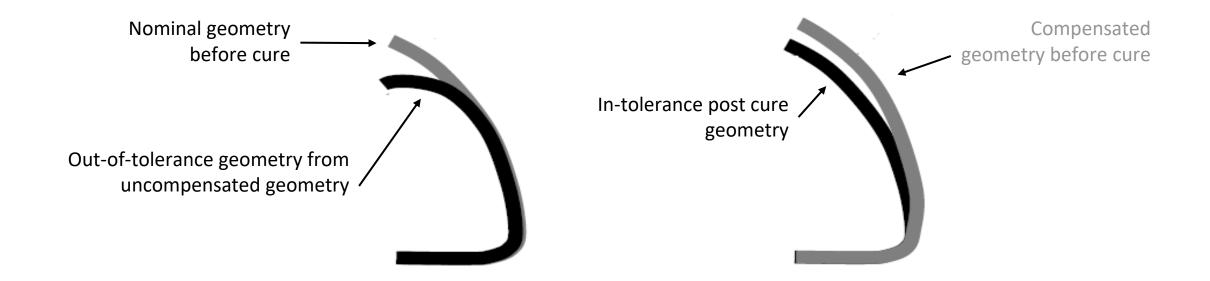






Compensation of PID

 Prediction of Process Induced Distortions after a curing process allows us to design a compensated geometry for our part to be closer to the nominal desired shape



Workshop

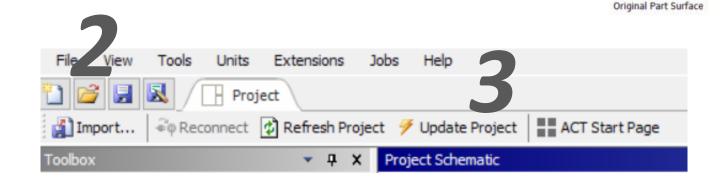
Generating the Solid Model in ACP



Laminate Definition

Workshop 03: Tool Compensation

1. Start ANSYS Workbench



2. Open the archive

ACCS _<Release>_WS03_Rib_with_Tool_Compensation.wbpz

- 3. Update the Workbench project
- 4. Edit Setup of the ACP Pre system to open ACP

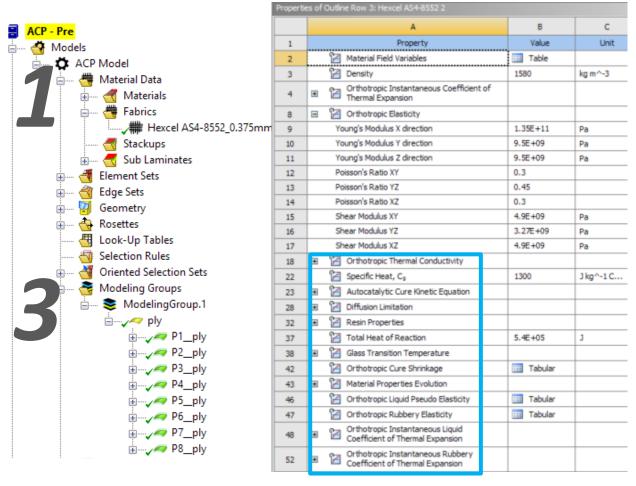
Engineering Data Engineering Data Engineering Data

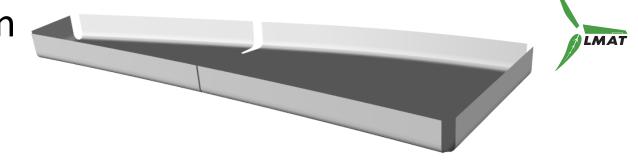
Original Mesh



Composite Laminate in ACP



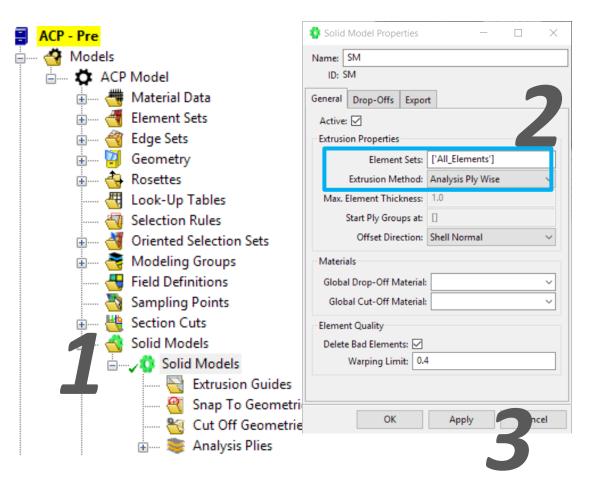


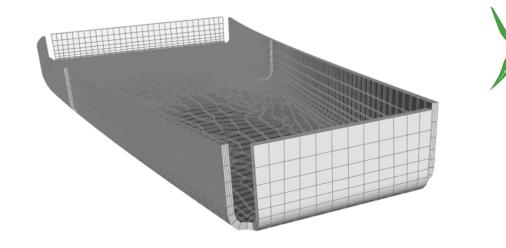


- Expand Material Data to check the fabric type present in the model
- 2. The material for the fabric specified through *Engineering Data* in the project schematic already contains all the properties required by ACCS to model the resin curing process
- 3. The laminate definition is already present in ACP. Expand the *Modeling Groups* tab to check the plies applied to the part



Create a Solid Model in ACP







- Select All Elements in element sets and extrusion method to Analysis Ply Wise
- Press Apply to create the solid model by extrusion and return to the project schematic

Note: in curved composite parts, it is recommended to use about 5 elements through the thickness in order to get accurate results.



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Workshop

Setting up the Transient Thermal Analysis



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Workshop 03: Tool Compensation





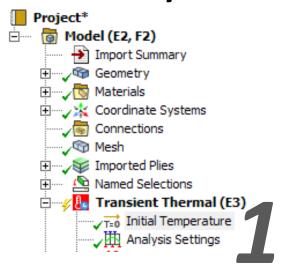
- 1. Drag and drop *Transient Thermal* onto the Project Schematic
- 2. Drag and Drop *Setup* of ACP (Pre) onto *Model* of the new *Transient Thermal* cell (select Transfer Solid Composite Data)
- 3. Rename the new analysis system as Curing Simulation
- 4. Right Mouse button on $Model \rightarrow Edit$ to open Mechanical

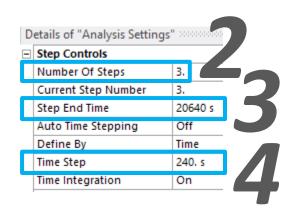






Transient Analysis Settings



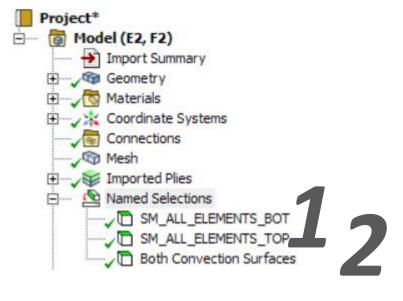


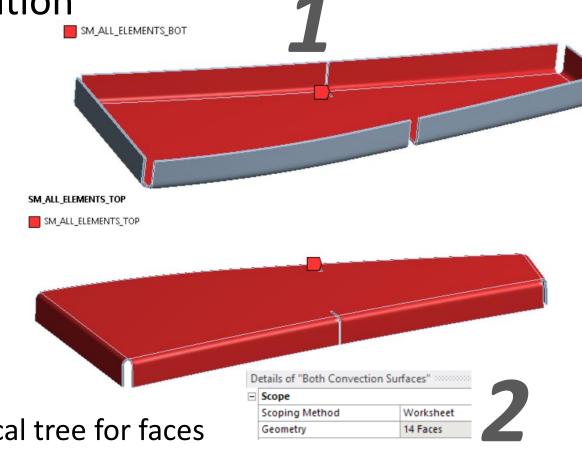
- 1. Select Analysis Settings in the Mechanical tree
- 2. Choose three as the *Number Of Steps*
- 3. By selecting the appropriate *Current Step Number*, adjust the *Step End Time* to 15600s, 20300s and 20640s for each step of thermal cycle specified later
- 4. A Time Step of 240s is appropriate for solving this transient thermal analysis



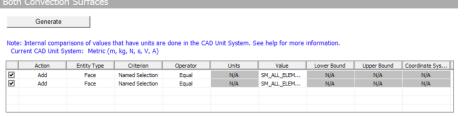


Create Named Selections





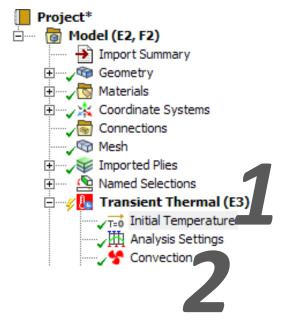
- Add named selections in the mechanical tree for faces at the bottom and top of the composite frame
- 2. Combine the previous named selections using a *Worksheet*

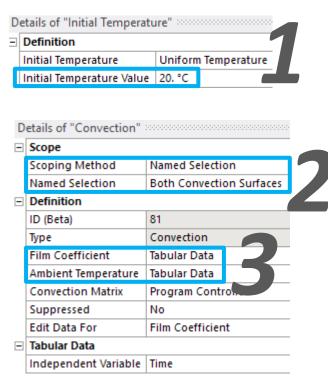


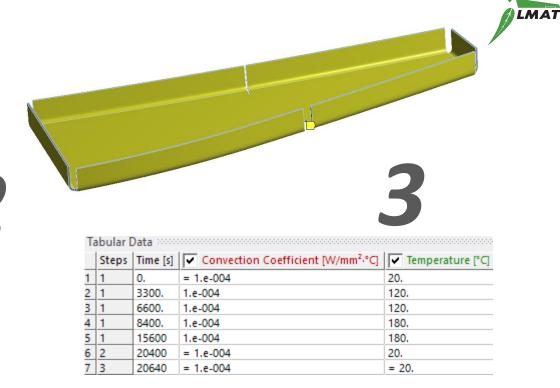


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Set the Thermal Cycle







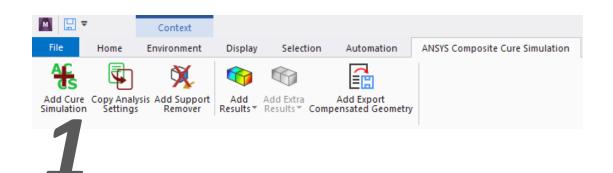
- 1. Select Initial Temperature in the Mechanical tree and specify a starting temperature of 20°C
- 2. Add a Convection boundary condition to the named selection previously defined
- 3. Specify the *Convection Coefficient* and the ambient *Temperature* using a tabular data to set the thermal cycle for the curing process







Run the Curing Simulation





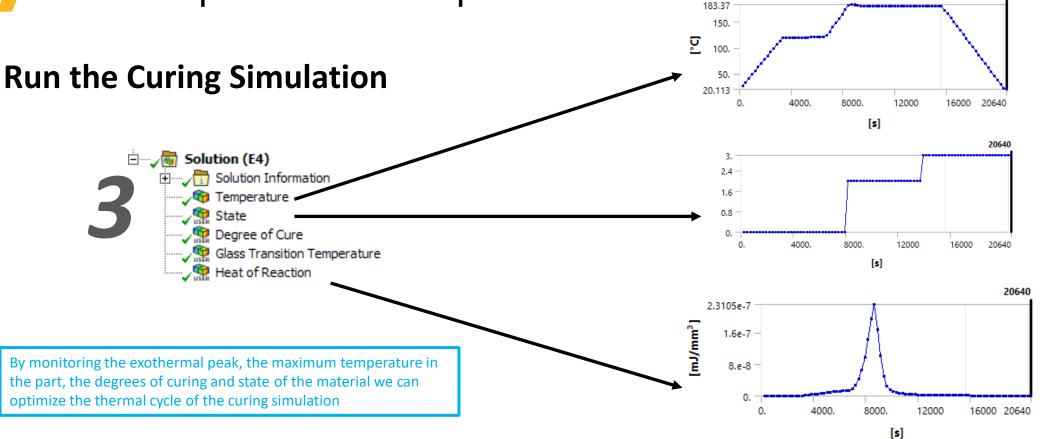
- 1. Use the ribbon bar to enable the chemical-thermal solver by adding the ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation object to the analysis and to add results of interests
- Solve the model







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1. When the model is solved, examine the maximum temperature recorded on the composite part during the curing process, the transition state (liquid = 0, rubbery = 2, and glassy = 3), and the heat released during the reaction

Workshop

Setting up the Static Structural









- 1. Go back to the Workbench project schematic and a drag and drop onto the *Thermal Analysis* a *Static Structural* cell
- 2. Rename the Static Structural cell as Uncompensated Springback
- 3. Return to Mechanical to evaluate the deformation induced on the composite part by the curing process

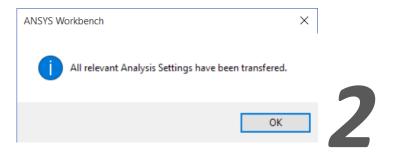






Copy Analysis Settings





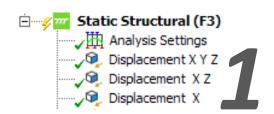
- 1. In the main menu tab, go to ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation and select "Copy Analysis Settings". This allows the user to copy the relevant analysis settings between the two analyses.
- 2. Click on "Copy Settings" and then "OK" in the notification that pops up.

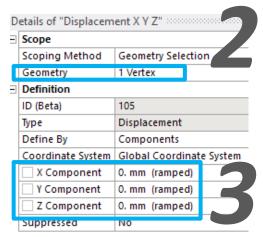


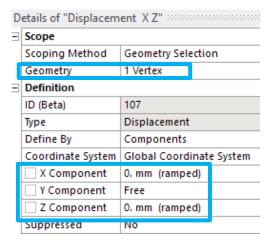


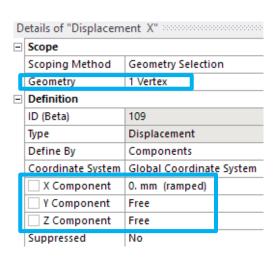


Restrain Arbitrary Rotations of the Part



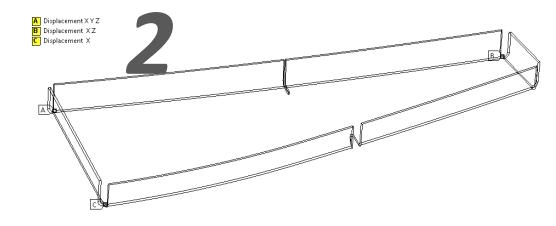






The displacement of the part must be restricted to prevent arbitrary rigid body motions:

- 1. Add displacement boundary conditions in the Mechanical tree
- 2. Select in *Scope* a different vertex for each displacement boundary condition
- Constrain all the degree of freedom of the first vertex, while progressively freeing other two degrees of freedom for the remaining vertices









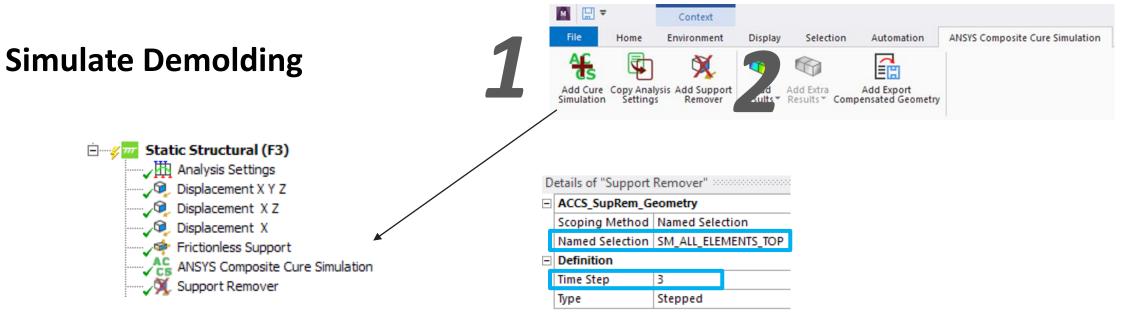
Simulate Mold Interaction



- 1. Add a *Frictionless Support* in the Mechanical tree to simulate the contact with the mold
- Apply the support to the top of the laminate, use the named selections defined previously







- 1. Use the ribbon bar to add the ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation object to the analysis
- 2. Insert in the tree a *Support Remover* object from the curing tool, to simulate the demolding of the composite part from the tooling, demolding is applied in the last step time step of curing process to those faces where the frictionless contact was previously applied to simulate contact with the mold



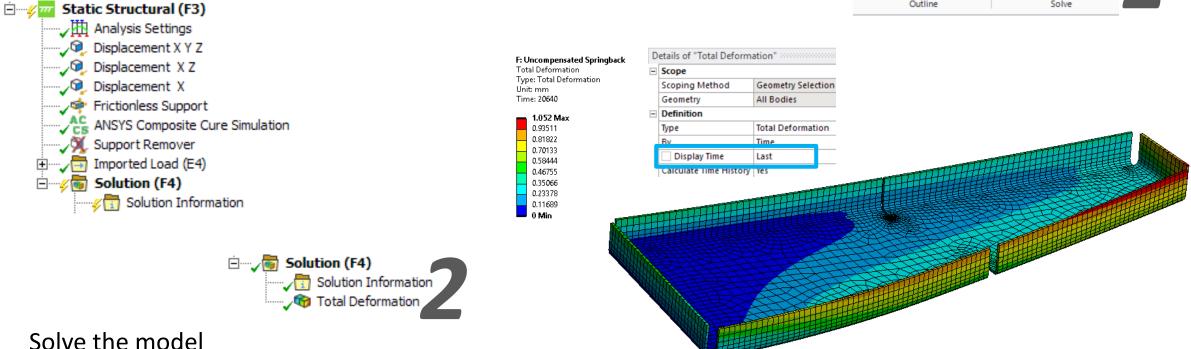
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Context Result

Display

My Computer ✓ Distributed Cores 2

Residual Deformation at the End of the Curing Process



- When the model is solved, add a *Total Deformation* plot to the solution to examine the residual deformation in the part at the end of the curing process
- Go back to the project schematic in Workbench



Workshop

Compensating the Tool Geometry





Create a Compensated Mesh of the Tool

Springback)

pensated Springback)

ANSYS Viewer File (AVZ)

STL File

npensated Springback)

pensated Springback)

pensated Springback)

Preview

Export...

Rename

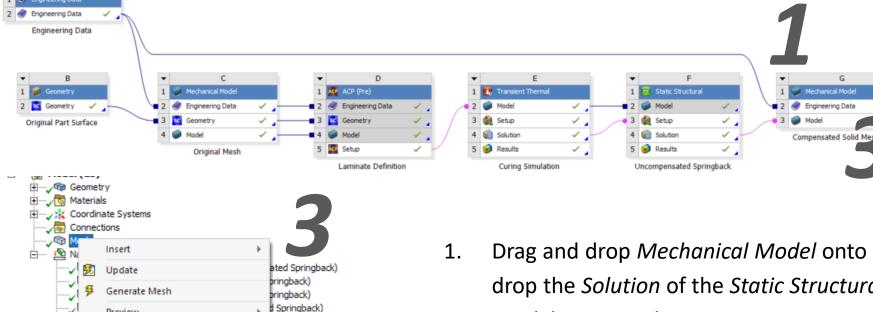
Group All Similar Children

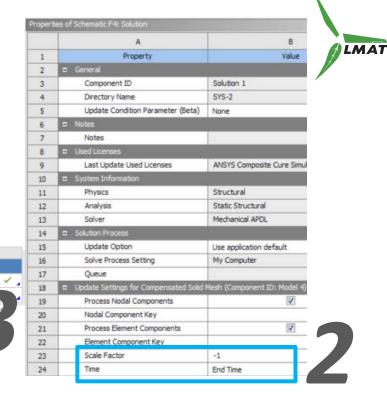
Force Update Mesh State (Beta)

_CM_EXT_SEC_0(Uncompensated Springback)

SM_EDGE SIZING_SEGMENT_5_WALL(Uncompensated Springback)

Show





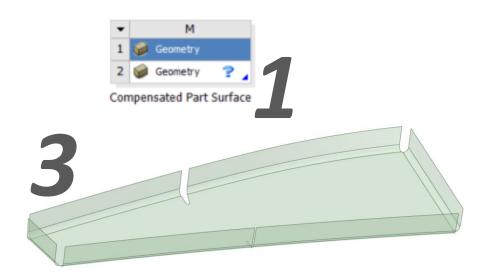
- Drag and drop Mechanical Model onto the project schematic and drag and drop the Solution of the Static Structural onto Model of the new Mechanical Model, rename the system as Compensated Solid Mesh
- 2. Change the Scale factor of the Solution of the Static Structural system to "-1": this will transfer the compensated geometry to the *Mechanical Model*
- 3. Right Mouse button on $Model \rightarrow$ Edit to open a new Mechanical environment where you can export the compensated mesh in STL format

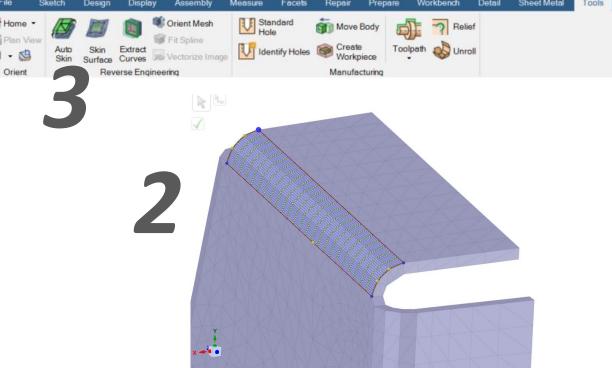






Prepare the Compensated Geometry



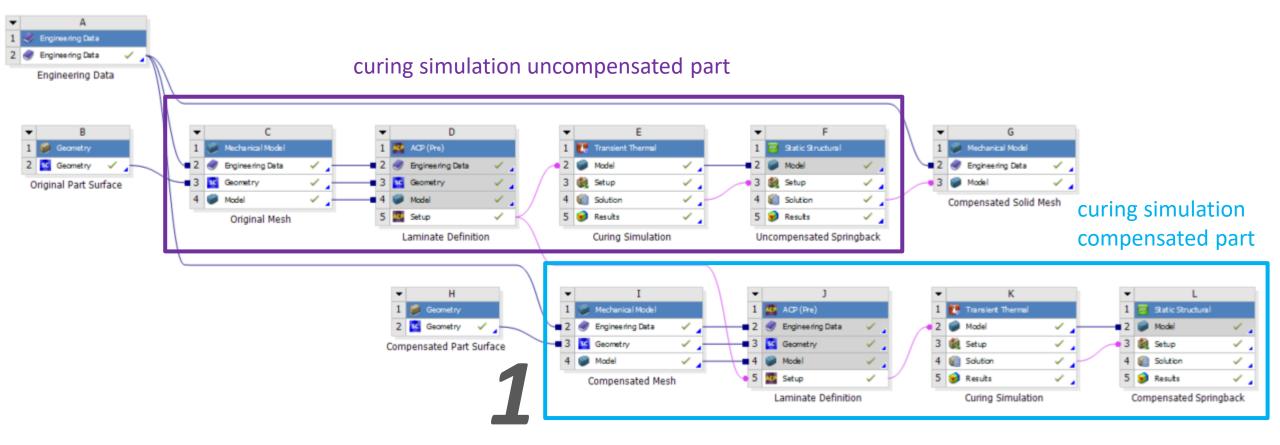


- 1. Drag and drop a new *Geometry* system in the project schematic, RMB on *Geometry* and select to edit geometry in SpaceClaim
- 2. Load the compensated mesh in STL format
- 3. Use Skin Surface among the Reverse Engineering tools on the SpaceClaim ribbon bar to create a new surface using the mesh as a reference. Refer to SpaceClaim training material for additional details on the usage of Skin Surface

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Workshop 03: Tool Compensation

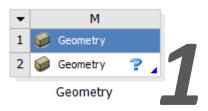


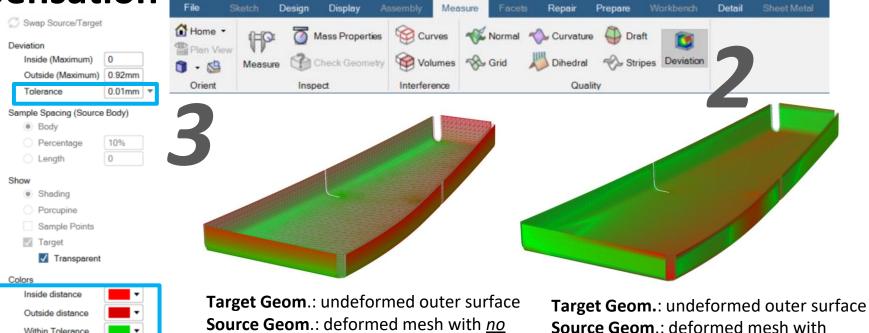


1. Go back to the project schematic and repeat the same steps of this workshop to realize a new curing simulation with the compensated geometry, the laminate information and material properties can be transferred directly from the previous analysis



Validate the Compensation





compensation

- 1. Drag and drop a new *Geometry* system in the project schematic, RMB on *Geometry* and select to edit geometry in SpaceClaim
- 2. Use *Deviation* among the *Quality* tools of the SpaceClaim ribbon bar to compare the original undeformed surface used for the first curing simulation to the deformed shapes obtained at the end of curing with and without compensation

compensation

3. The visualization and tolerance value of the deviation options can be adjusted: curing with a compensated geometry results in a final shape closer to nominal shape sought for the frame



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Workshop Summary

- In this workshop you have learnt the usage of ANSYS Composite Cure Simulation to capture and monitor the thermal-chemical reactions during composite manufacturing, you can use this information to control and optimize your curing process
- You saw how to predict the development process induced distortions
- You understood the process to compensate the tooling geometry to meet the required geometrical tolerances, resulting in an assembly process with the minimal built-in stresses



End of presentation

