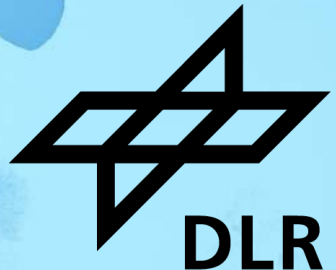


# TOWARDS A DIGITAL TWIN FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF MANUFACTURING EFFECTS ON THE STRUCTURAL PERFORMANCE OF AIRCRAFT STRUCTURES MADE FROM AUTOMATED FIBER PLACEMENT

Andreas Schuster, Jan-Timo Hesse, Dominik Delisle, and Martin Rädcl

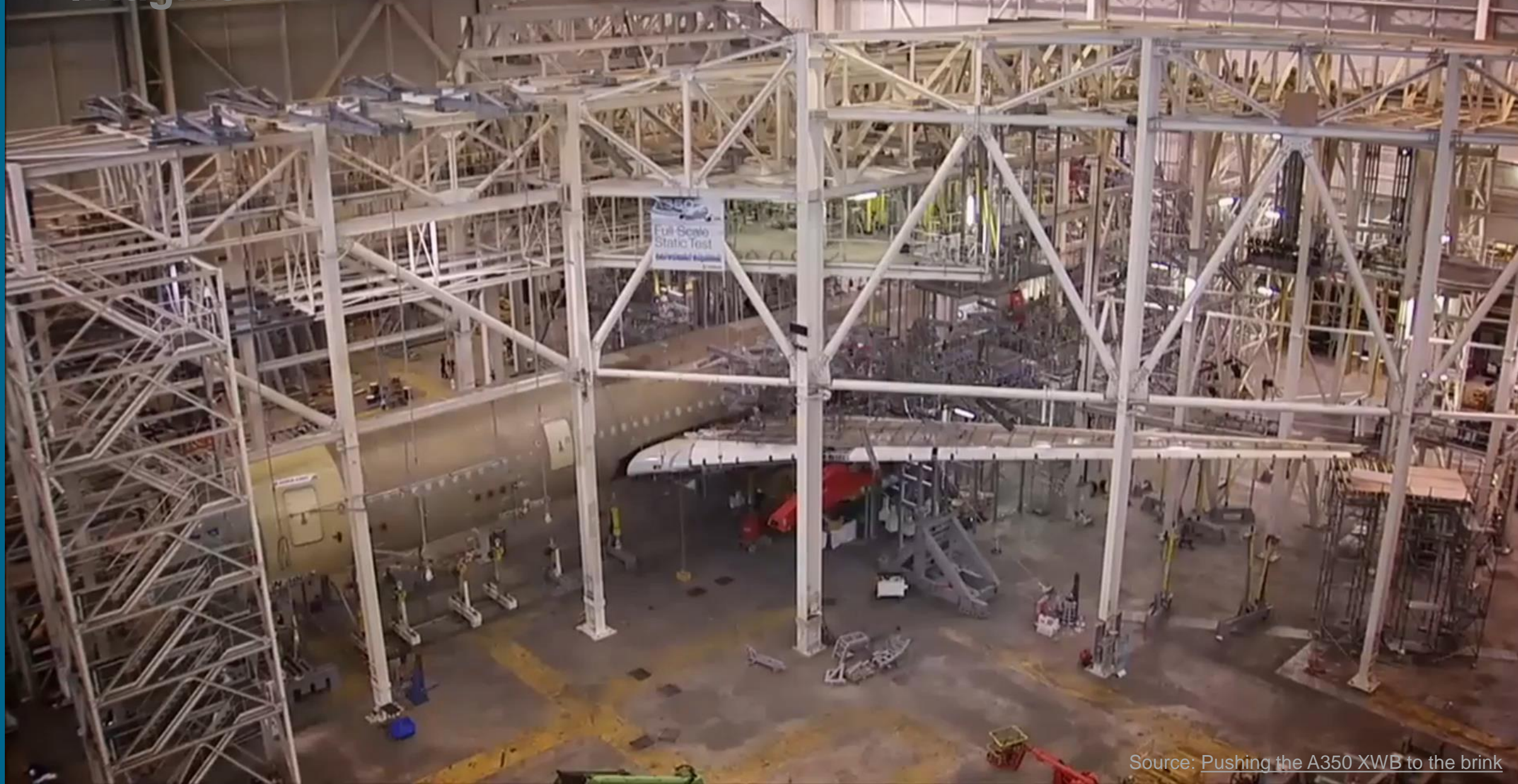
DLR Institut für Systemleichtbau, Abteilung Strukturmechanik & Produktionstechnologien





2X10T

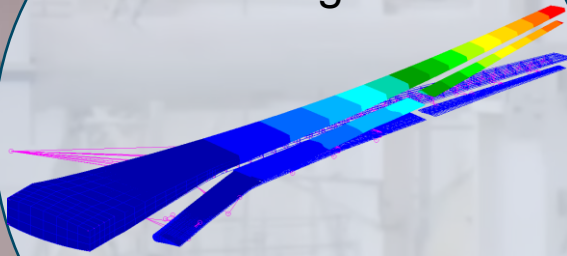
Imagine...



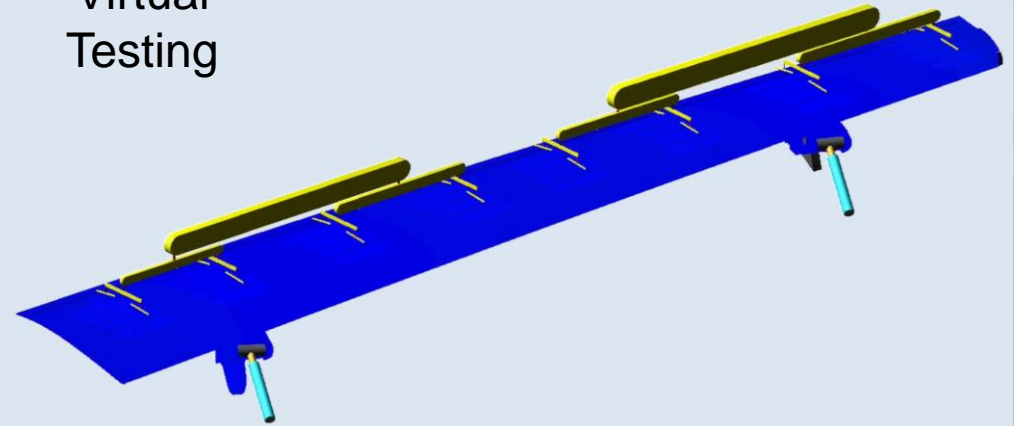
Source: [Pushing the A350 XWB to the brink](#)



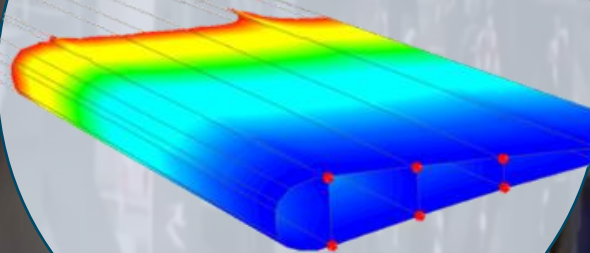
Digital  
Design



Virtual  
Testing



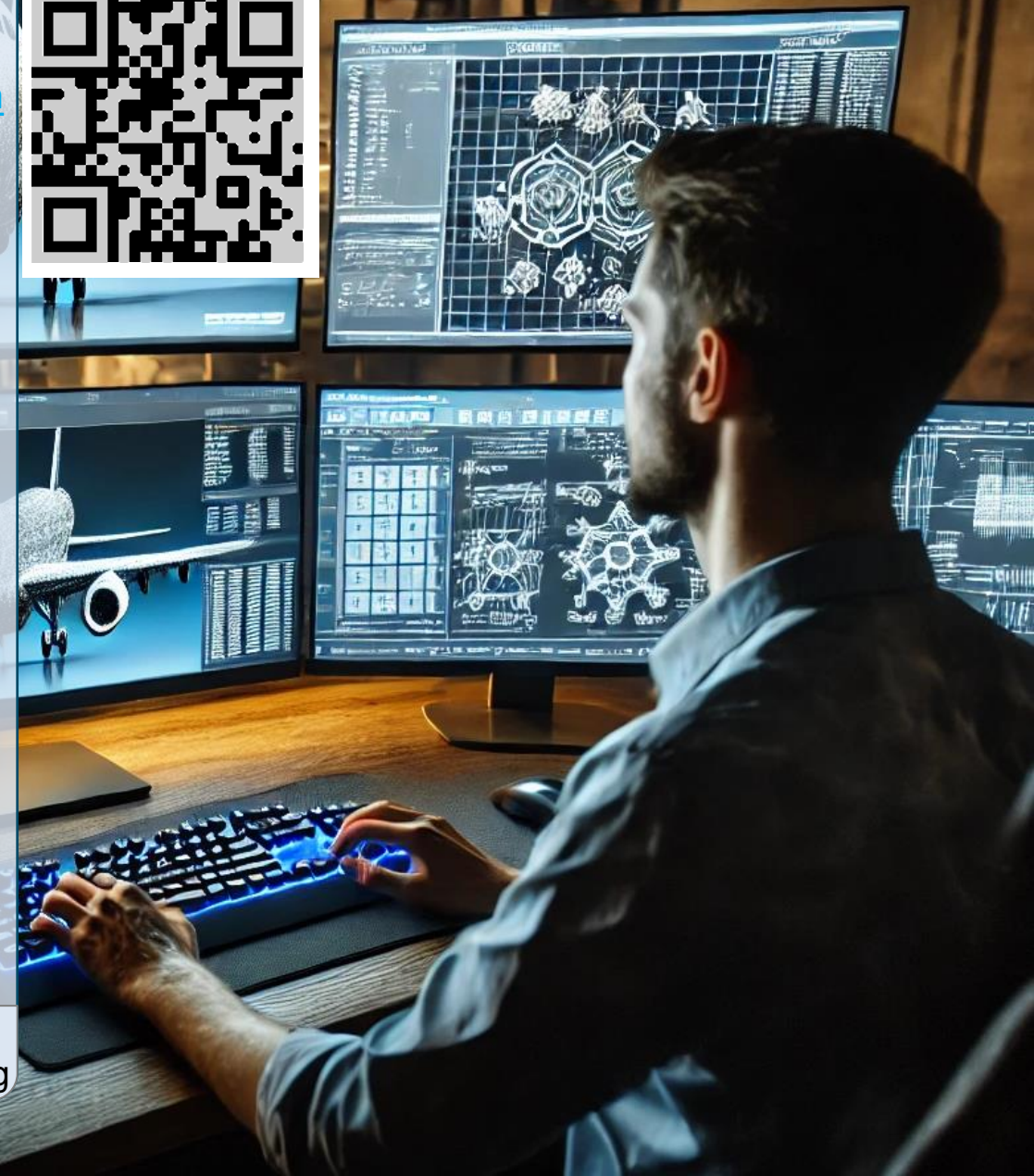
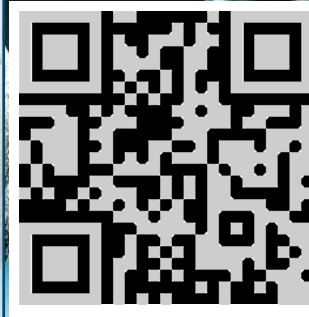
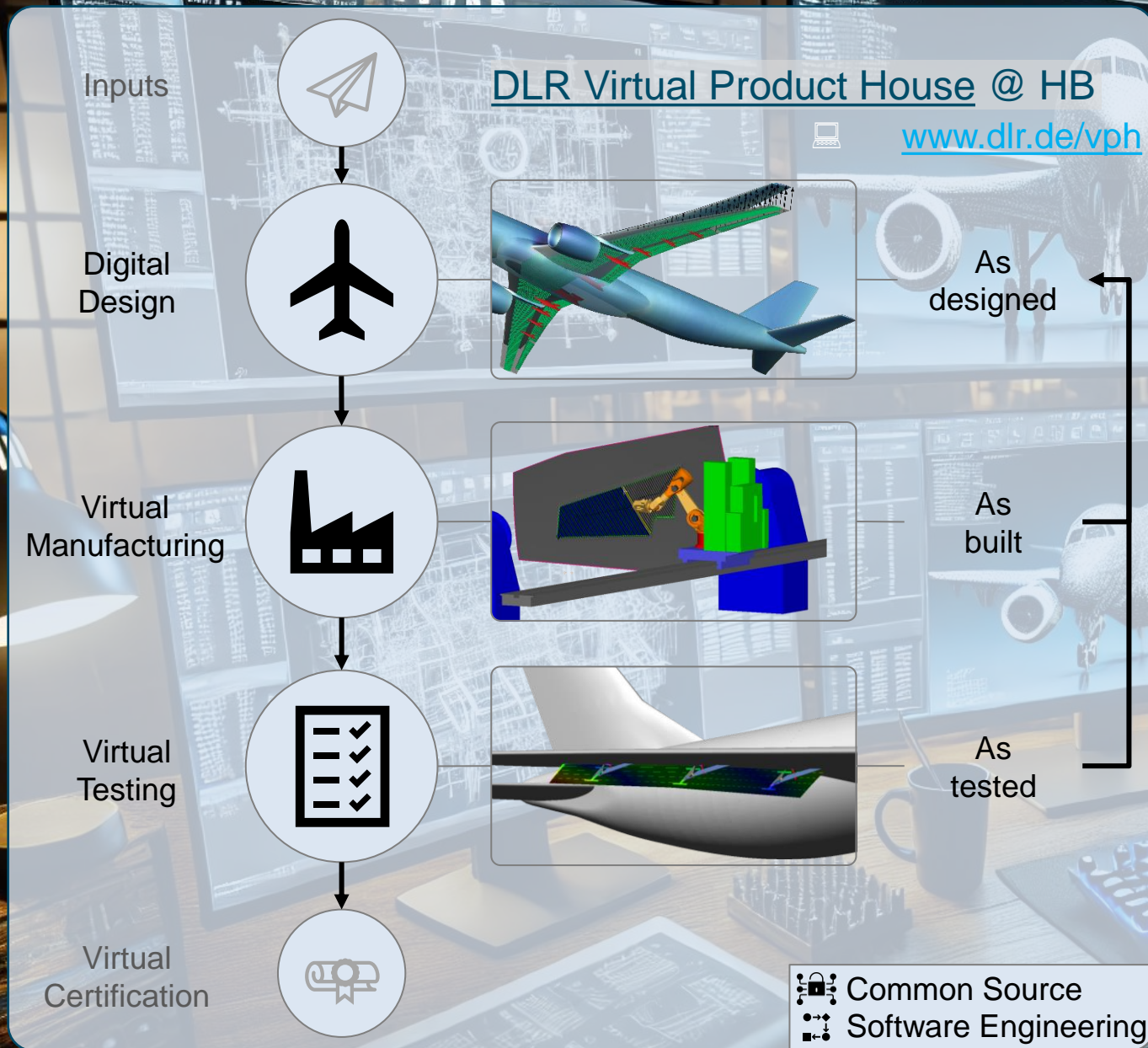
Virtual  
Manufacturing



Applications:

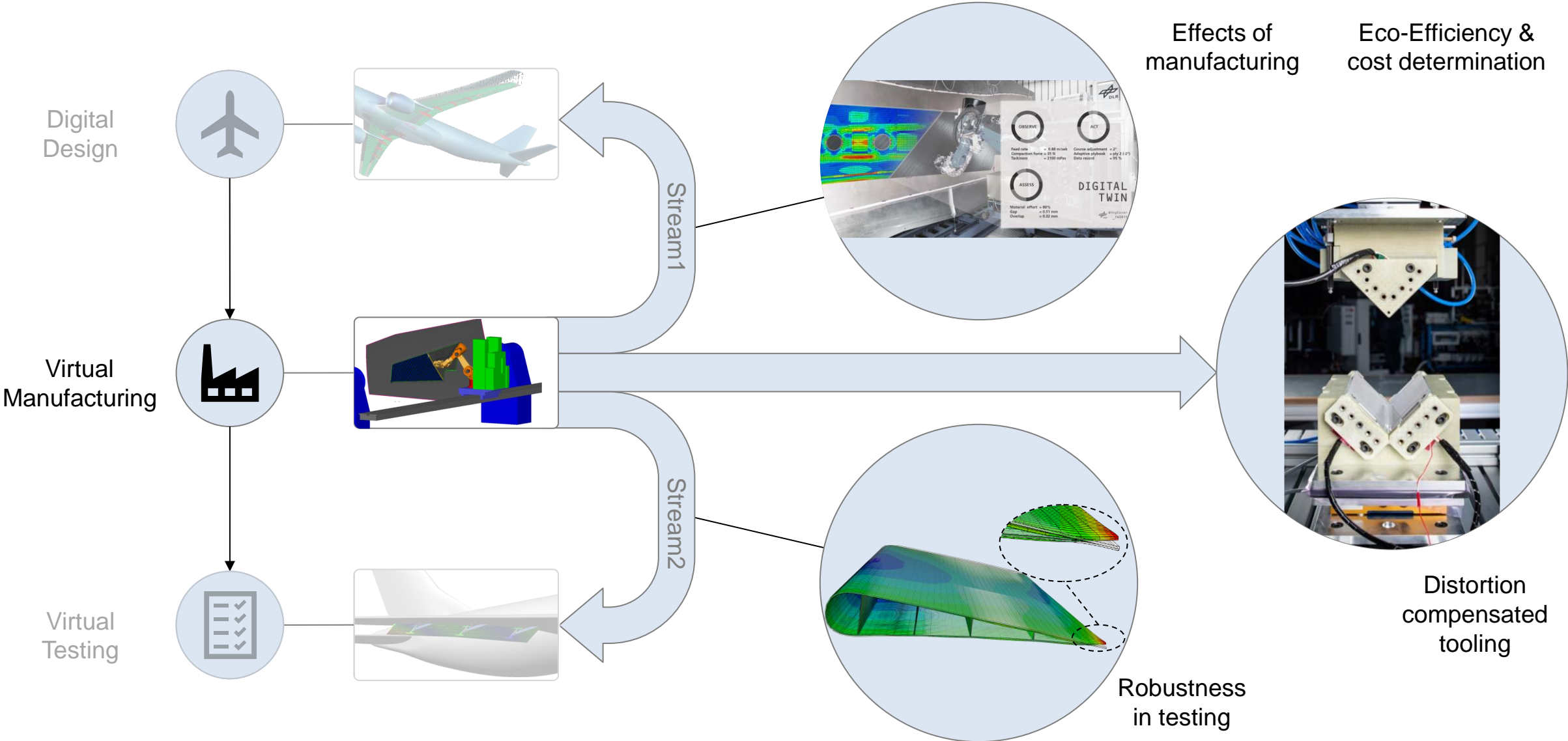
- Virtual product development
- Eco-efficiency assessment







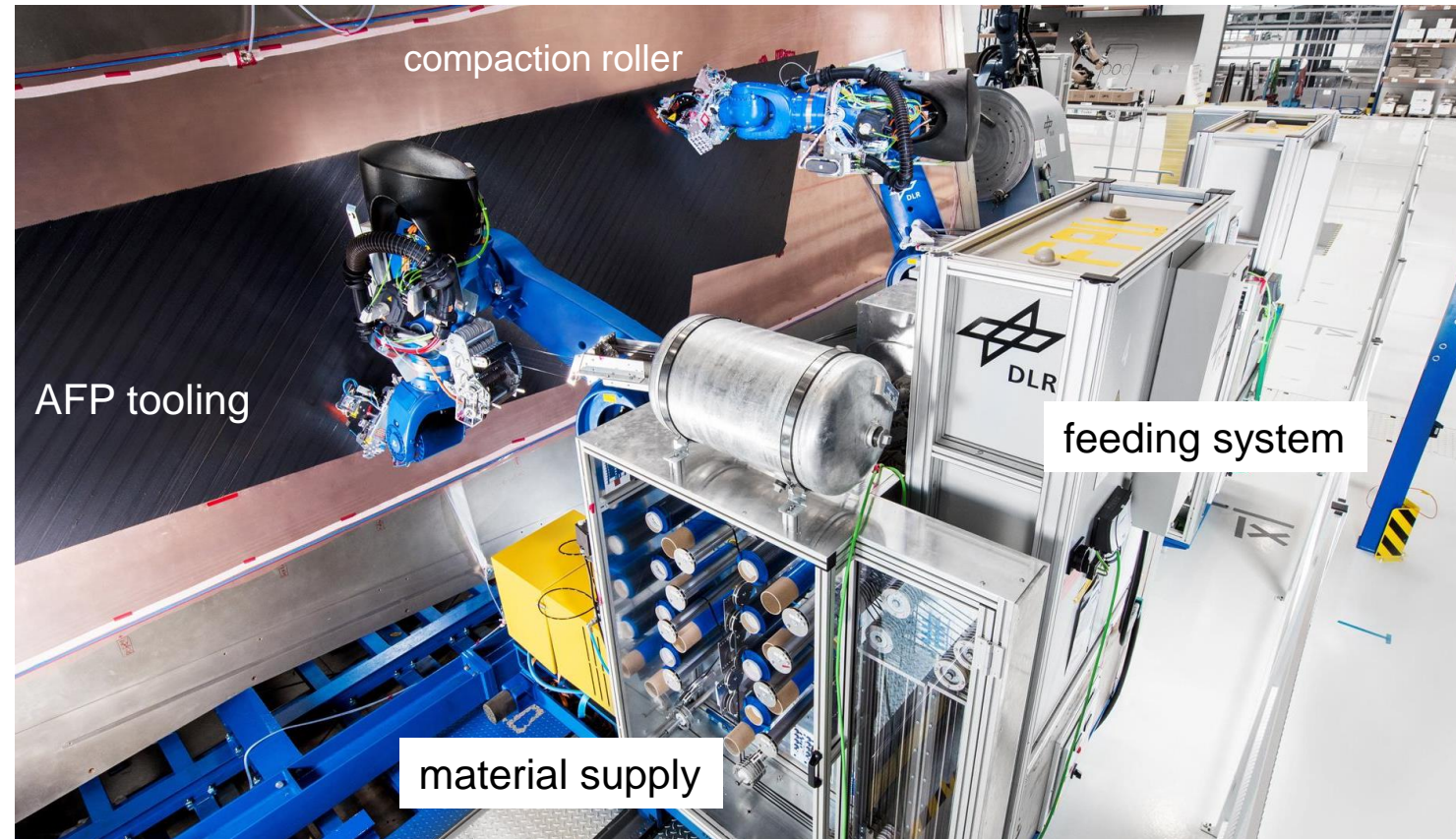
# Virtual Manufacturing Potentials



# AFP-Manufacturing

- Automated Fibre Placement (AFP) process aims to produce large aircraft structure like wing skins
- Placement of „tows“ layer per layer
- complex process favor different types of manufacturing effects

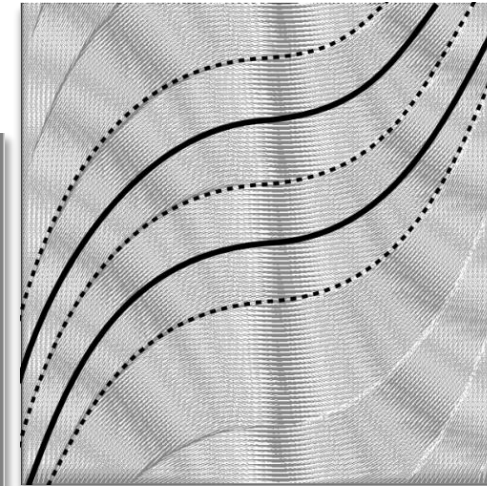
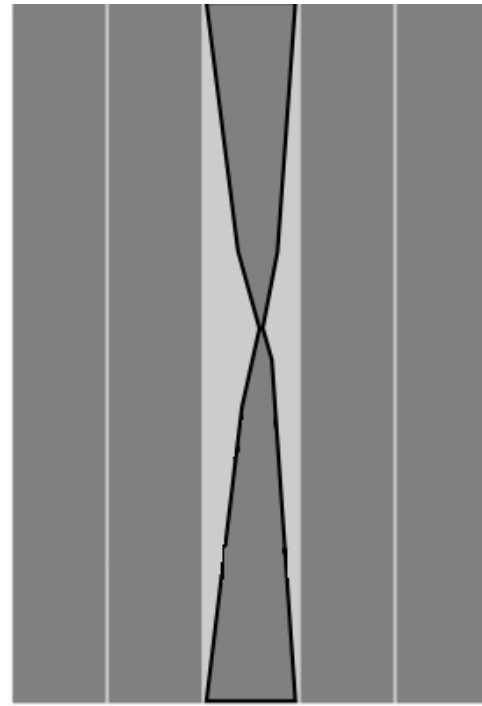
***How to handle/ predict the structural behaviour in presence of such effects?***



# AFP-Manufacturing

- Automated Fibre Placement (AFP) process aims to produce large aircraft structure like wing skins
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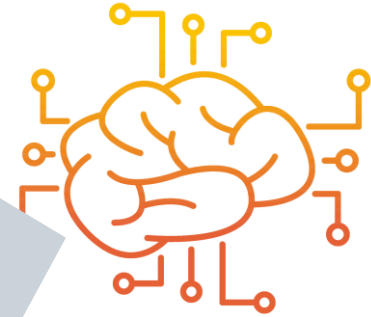
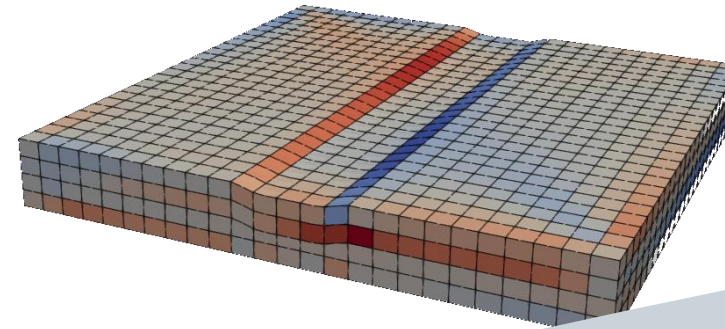
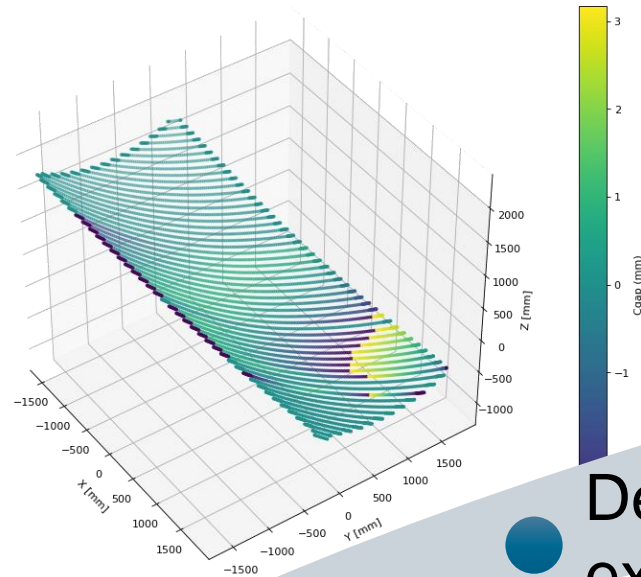
***How to handle/ predict the structural behaviour in presence of such effects?***



courtesy of the NLR



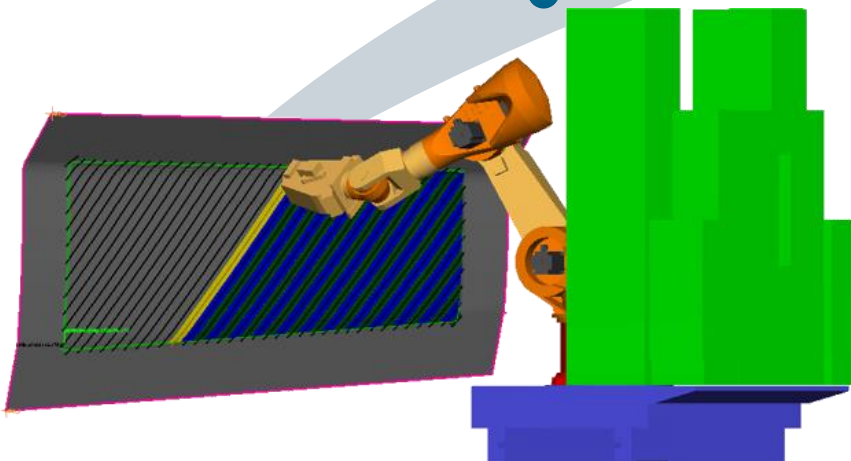
# Evaluation approach



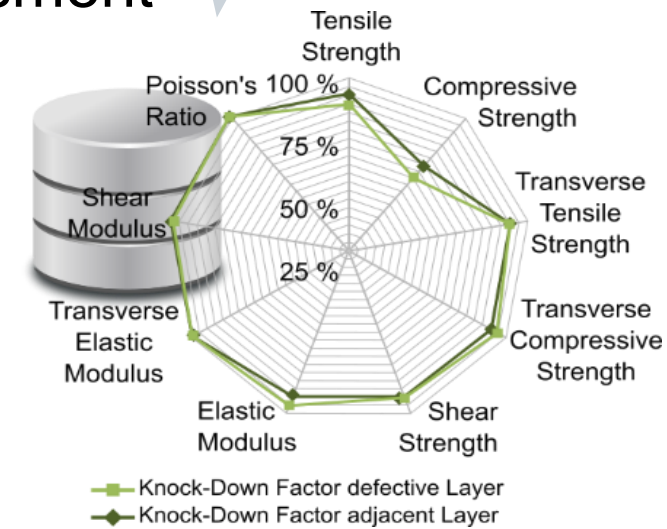
Numerical defect assessment

Defect geometry extraction

AFP Simulation



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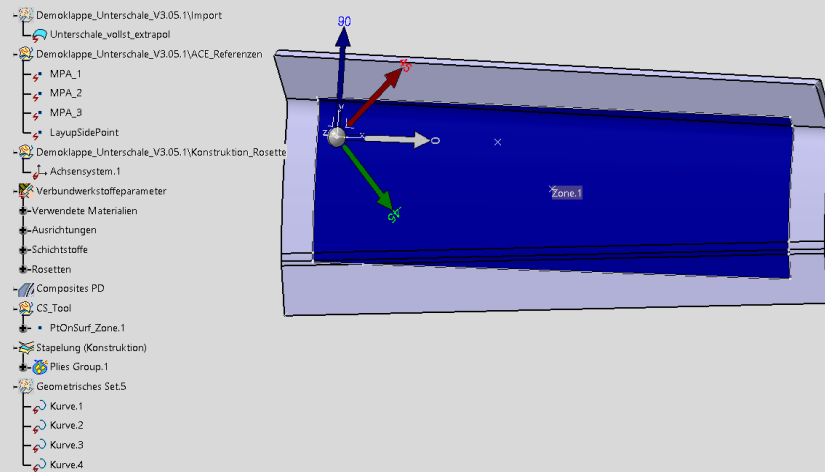




# Virtual AFP-Process

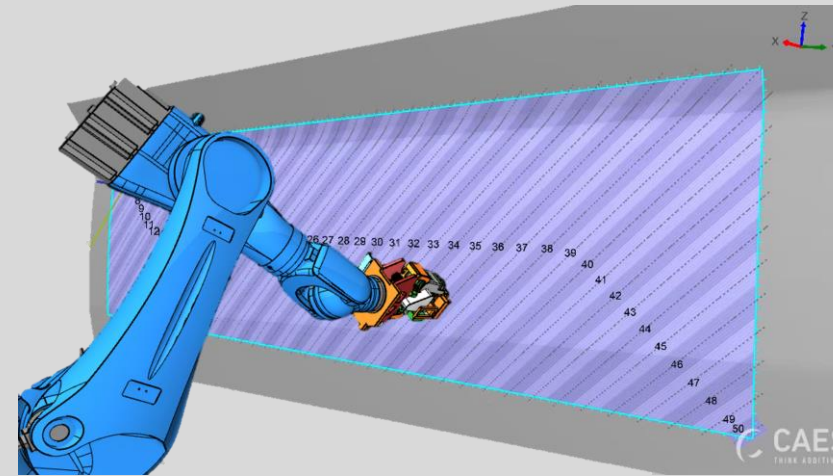
## Information chain

### CAD



- Mold | Part Geometry
- Laminate Design | Stacking
- Ply Contours
- References

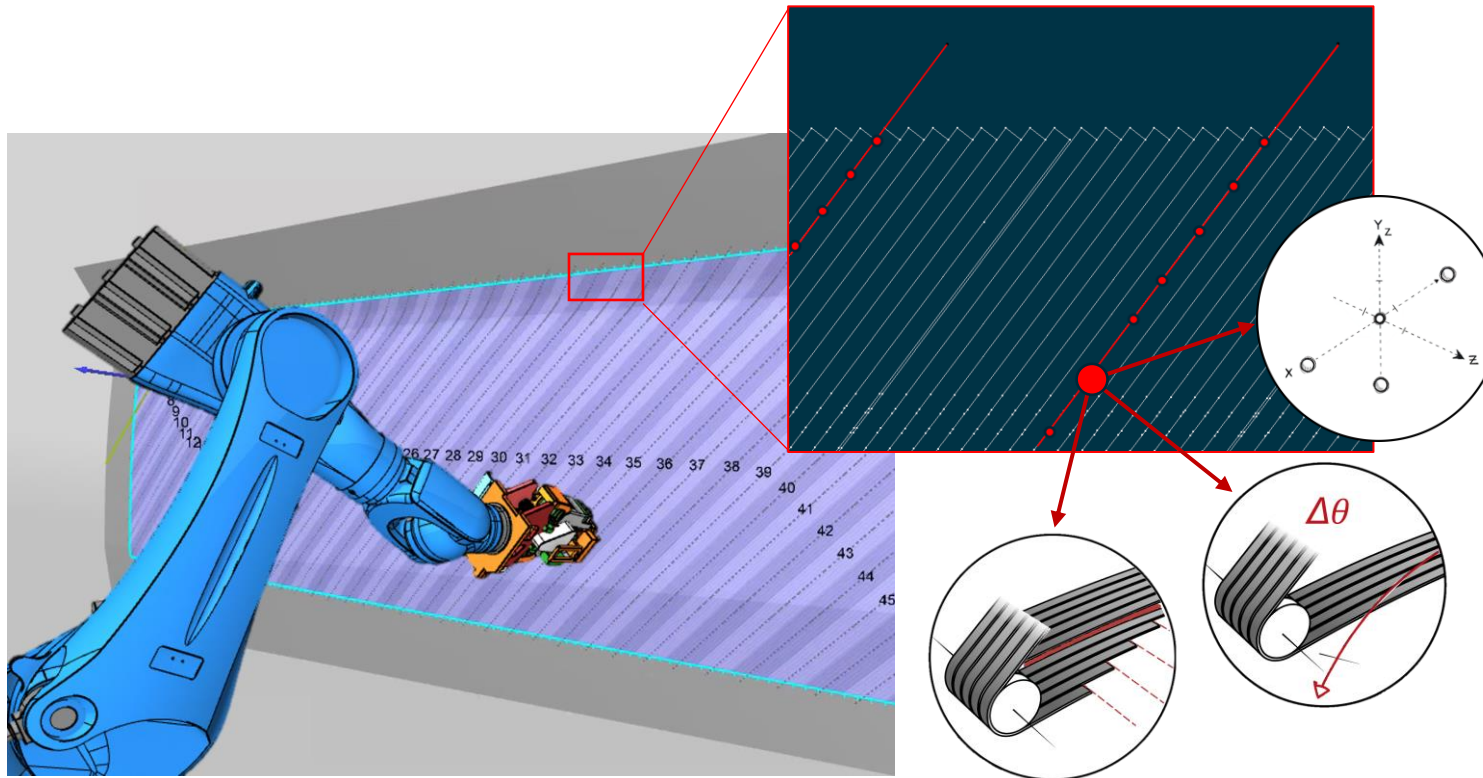
### CAM | Offline Programmierumgebung



- Layup- & Process-Parameters
- Layup Pathes
- Coverage Analysis
- Post Processing

Export

# Virtual AFP-Process



```

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<erPly xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:noNamespace
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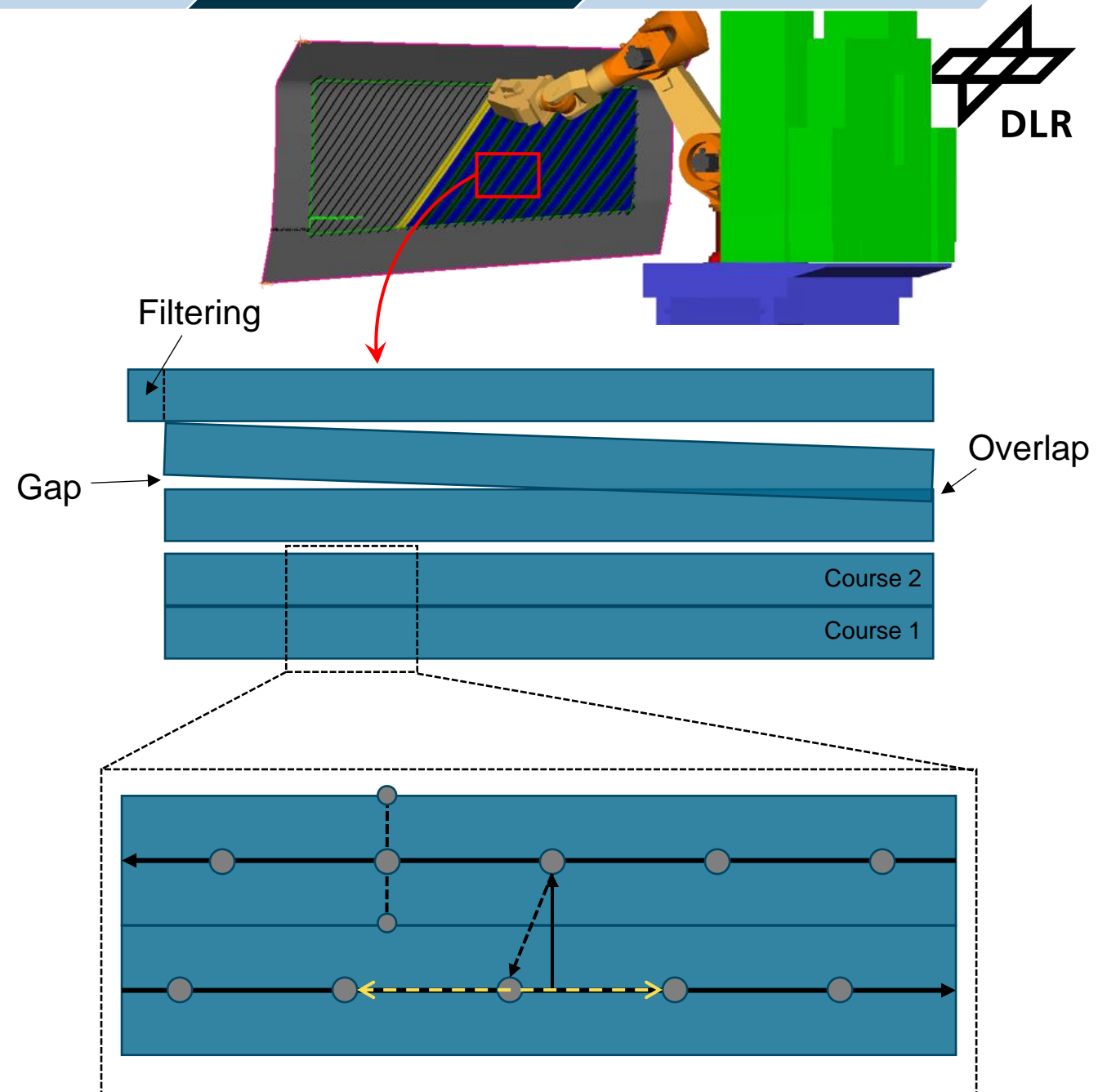
```

- **Centerline Geometry:** centerline coordinates of each material path
- **Local fiber orientation:** pointwise deviations of the deposited fiber angle from the nominal layout
- **Steering radius:** local steering radius at every point along the path
- **Edge geometry:** pointwise coordinates of both material edges corresponding to each centerline location

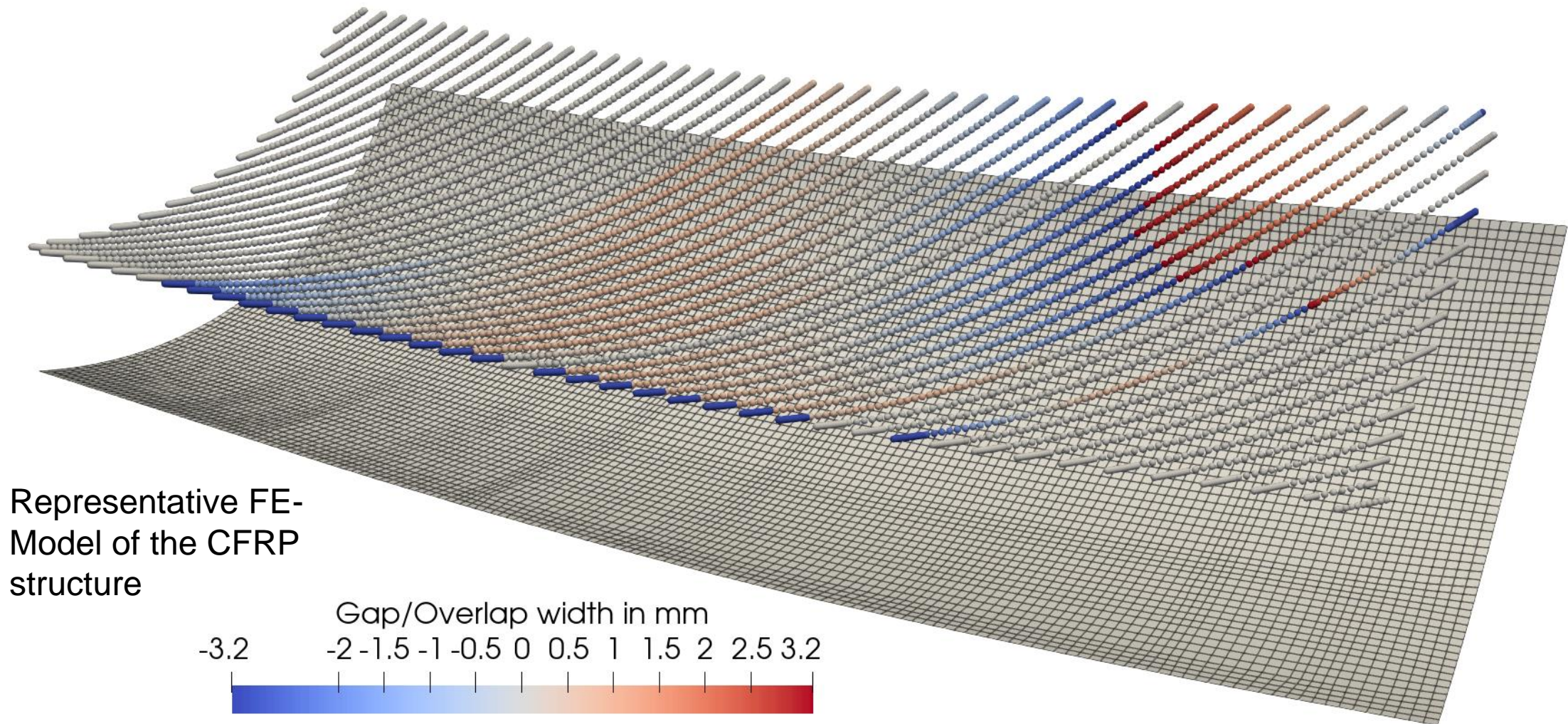


# Defect geometry extraction

- ACES simulation output read as .xml
- Retrieve discretized course points, directions and normal
- Remove out of bounds areas
- Identify nearest point on last course
- Find orthogonal and calculate distance
- Compare with allowed tolerances
- Extract defect information

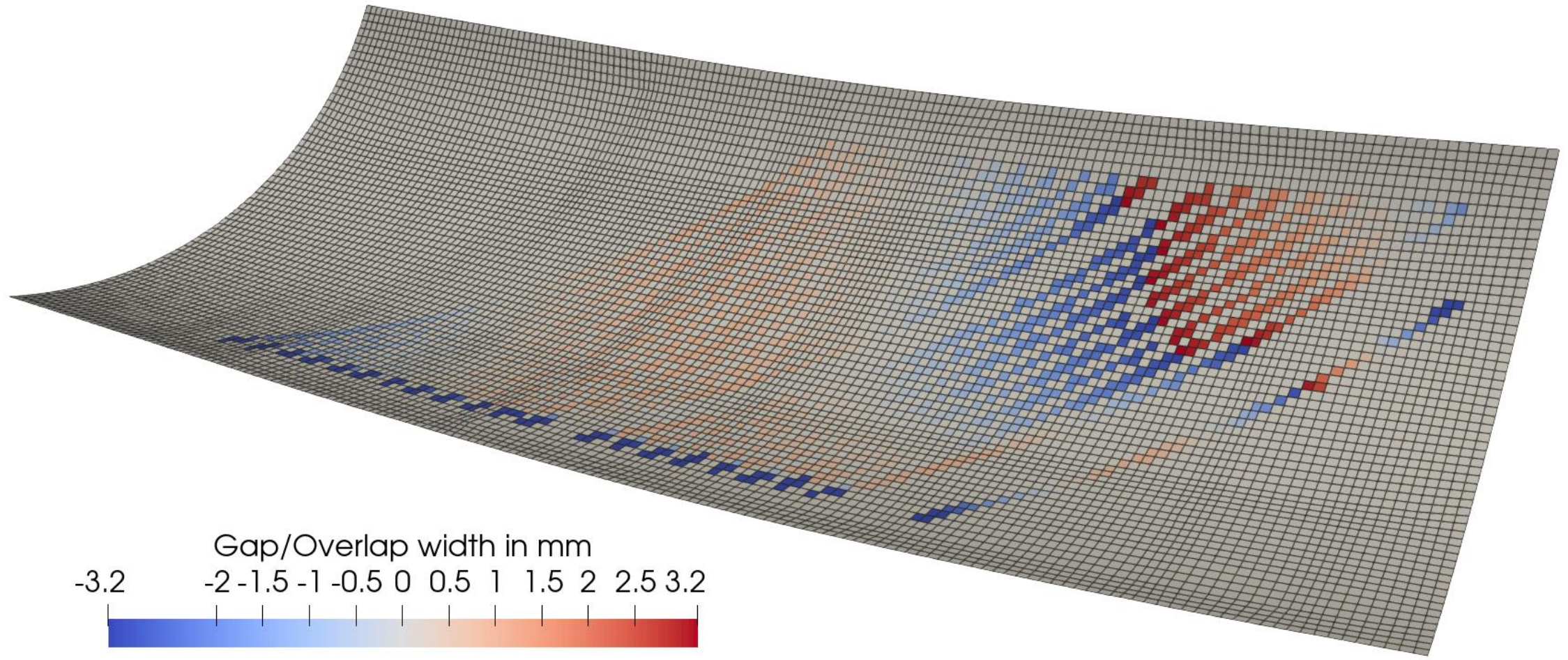


# Mapping of defect data to structural model



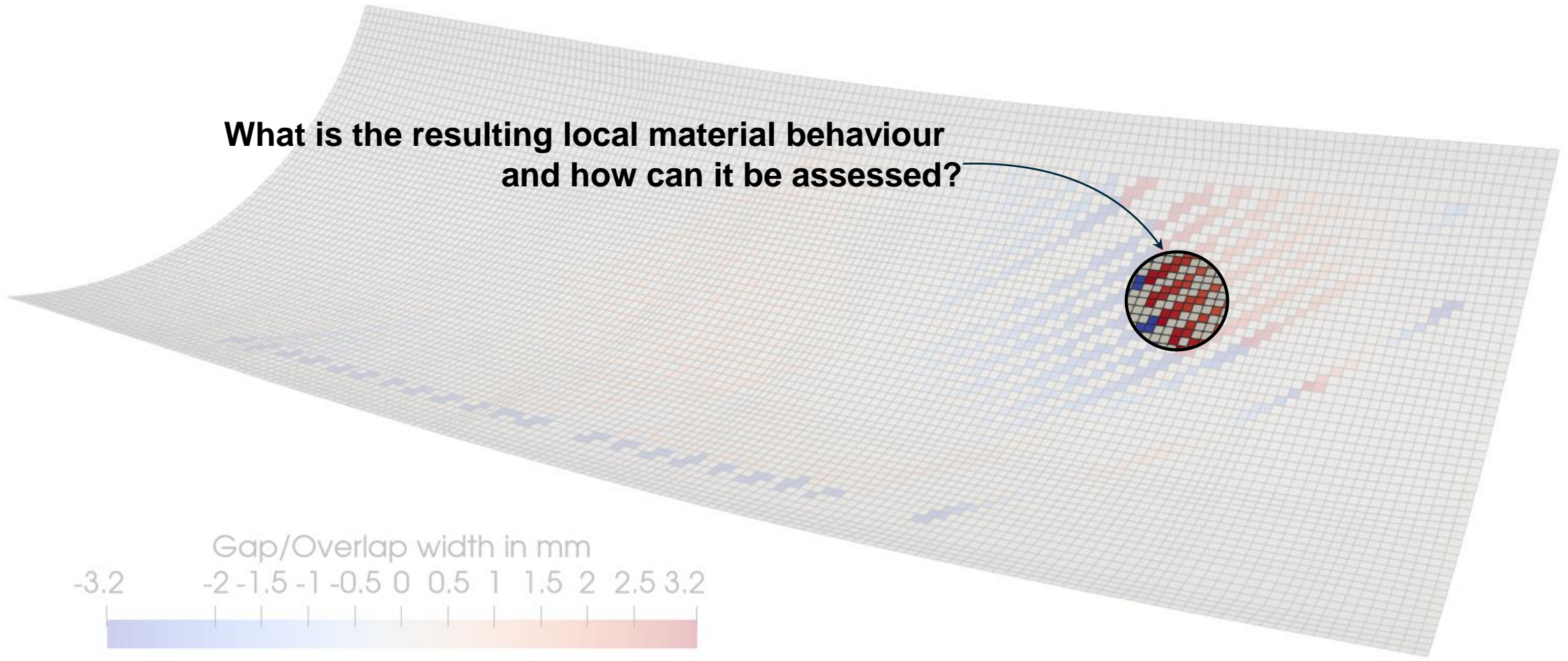


# Mapping of defect data to structural model



# Mapping of defect data to structural model

**What is the resulting local material behaviour  
and how can it be assessed?**





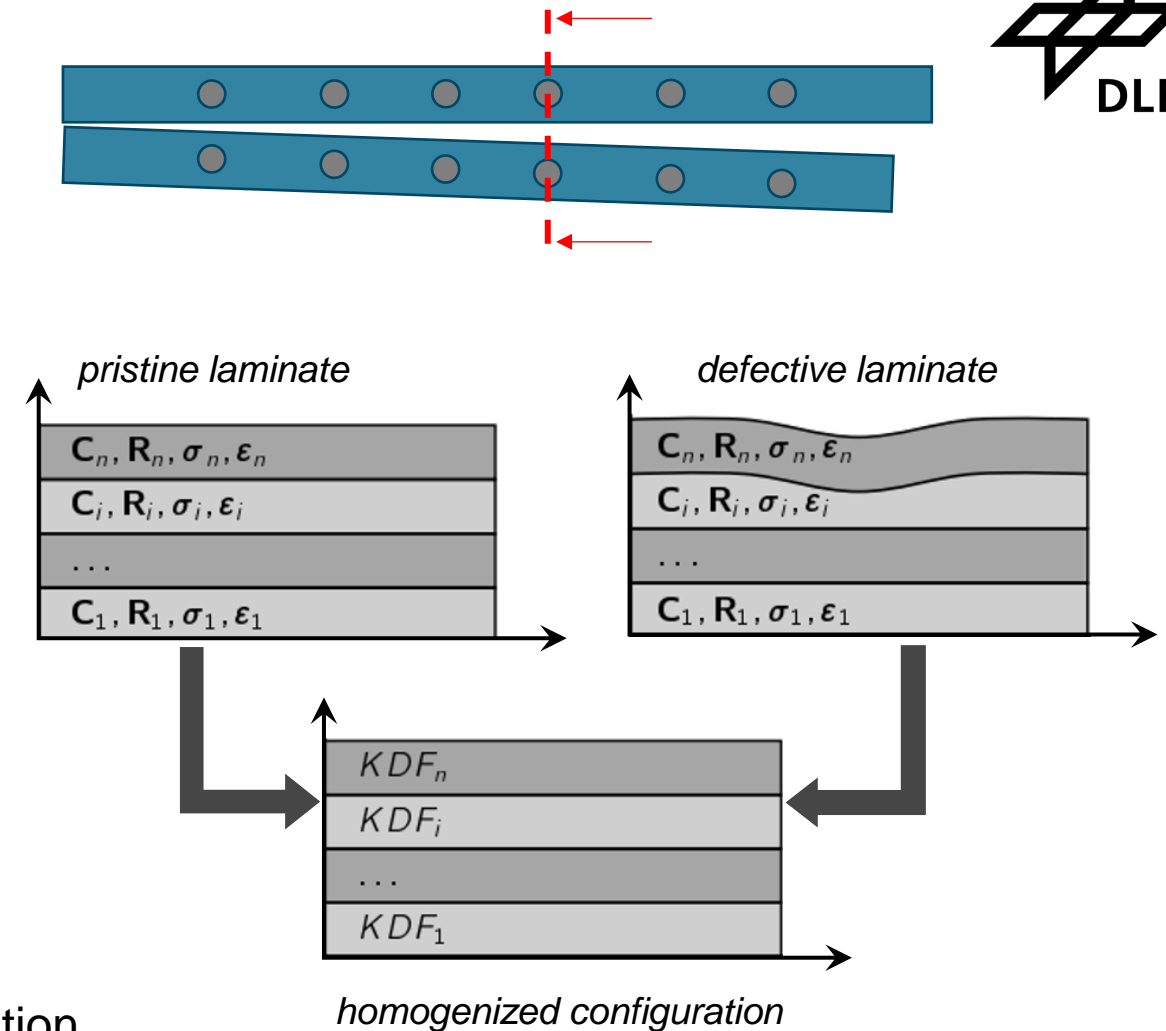
# Numerical defect assessment

- appropriate methods for strength and stiffness determination needed
- observation: imperfections often affect not only one layer but also neighboring layers (e.g. through stress localization)

analytical *accuracy issues*  $\longleftrightarrow$  vs. numerical *time-consuming*

## Presented approach :

- assessment of material degradation based on homogenization approach
- use of parametrized 3D-FE-models for determination of so-called „**K**nock-**d**own **f**actors“ (KDF)
- models on the mesoscale (laminate) level provide the homogenized structural response from boundary conditions applied on the macroscale (structural level)



# Numerical defect assessment

## Strength assessment

- Linear-elastic material model
- effect of defects estimated using elaborated failure criteria

$$f(\sigma, \mathbf{R}) = FI$$

$FI$  ... Versagensindex  
 $\sigma$  ... Spannungszustand  
 $\mathbf{R}$  ... nominelle Festigkeit

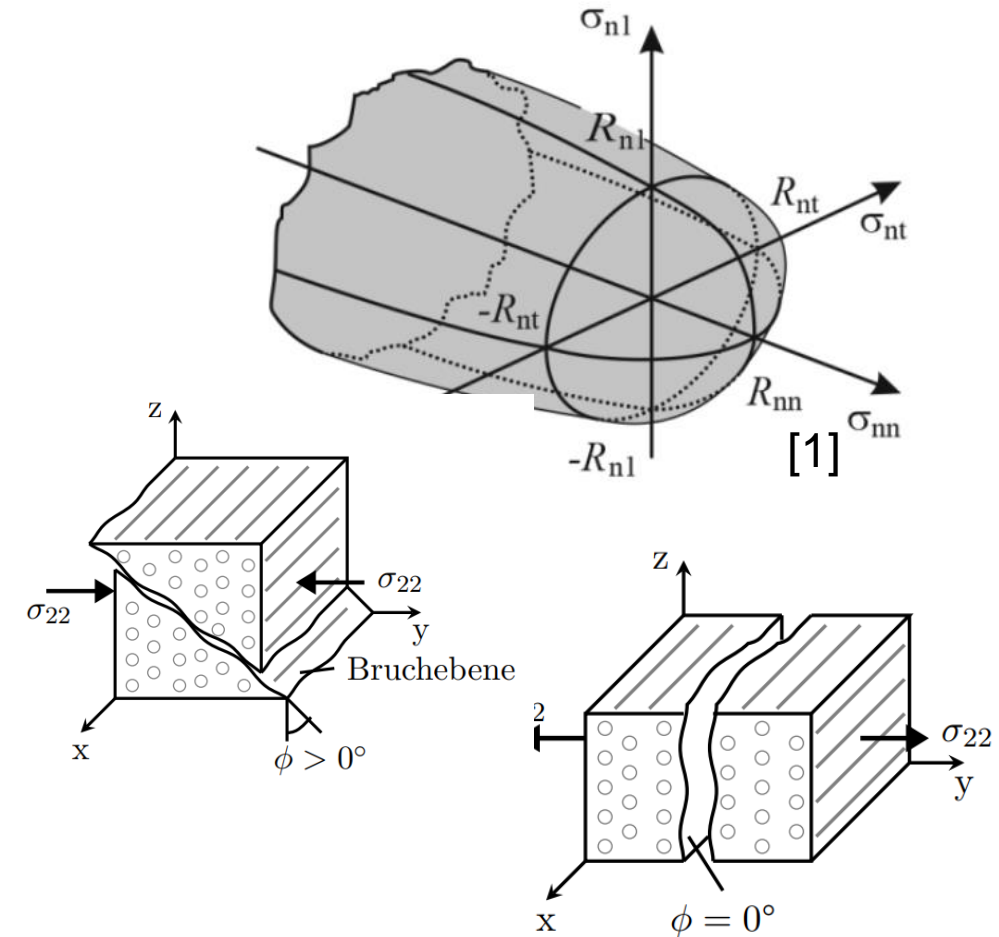
- in case of  $FI = 1 \rightarrow$  damage initiation
- For each stress vector there is a scalar  $f_R(\sigma)$ :

$$f(f_R(\sigma), \sigma, \mathbf{R}) = 1$$

- Due to  $f_R(\sigma) = \infty$  for  $\sigma = 0$ , inverse  $M = \frac{1}{f_R(\sigma)}$  is used

- Layerwise estimation of KDF:

$$KDF_i = \frac{M_i^{ref}}{M_i^{def}} = \frac{f_R^{def}(\sigma_i)}{f_R^{ref}(\sigma_i)}$$

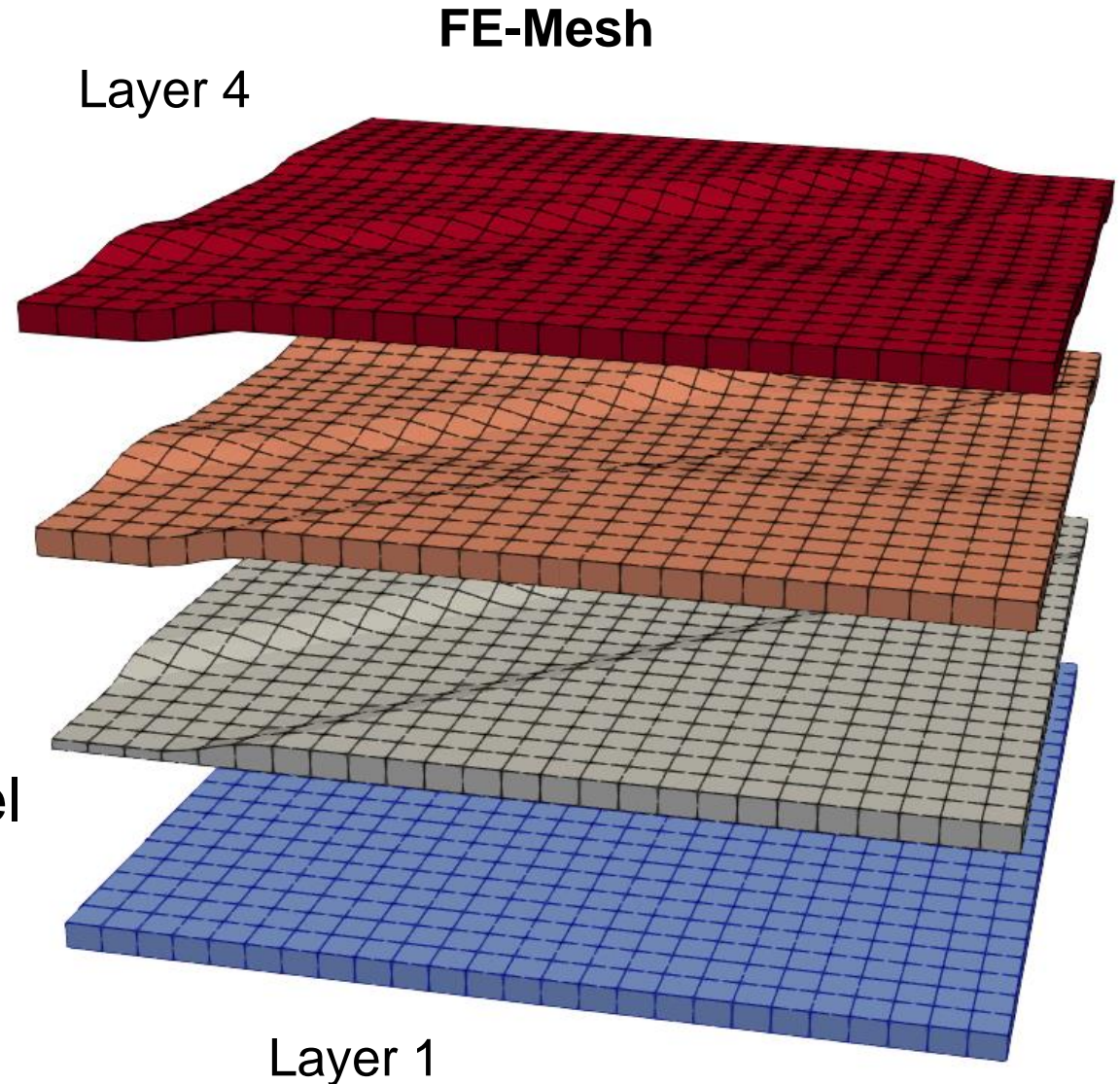




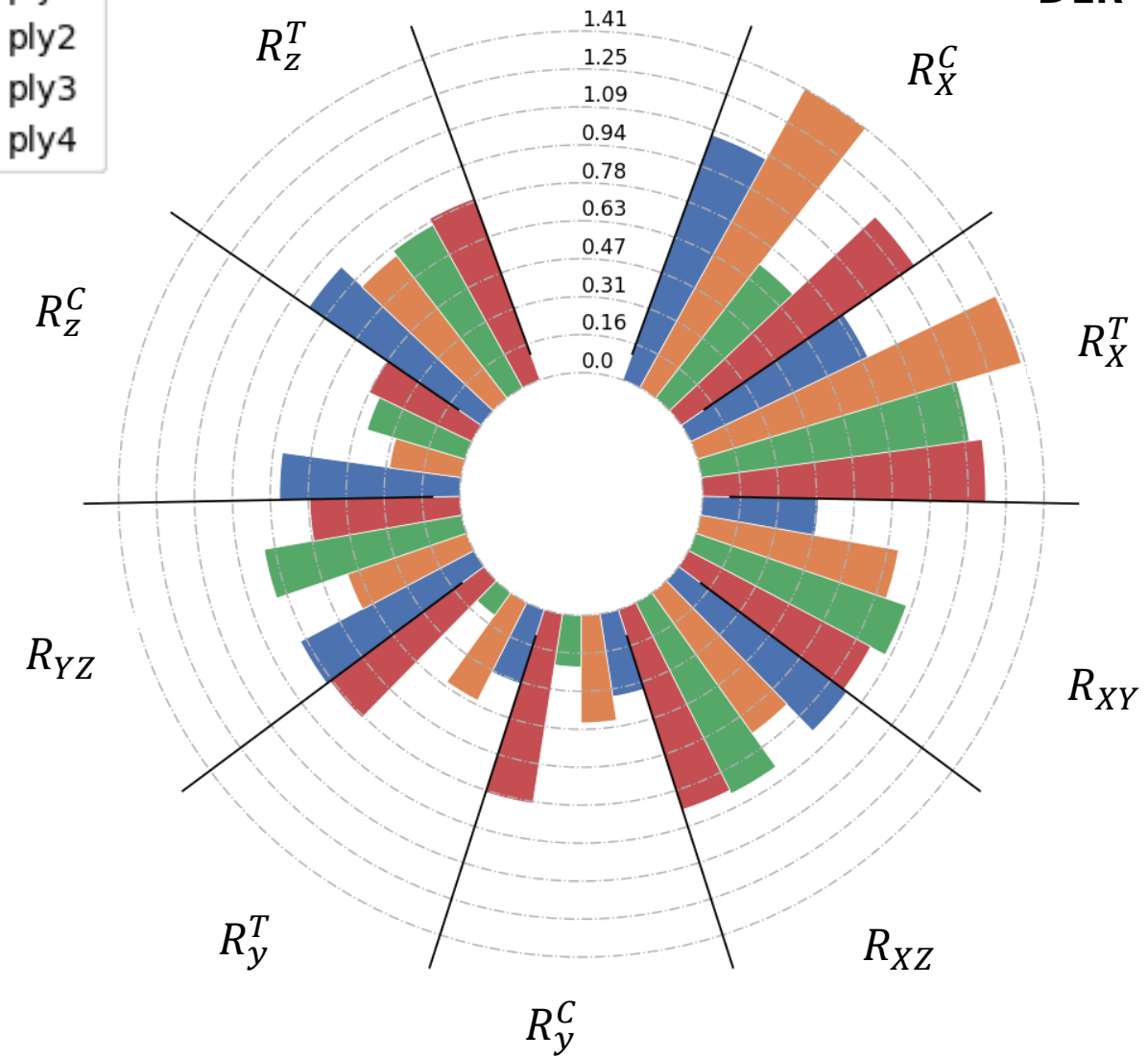
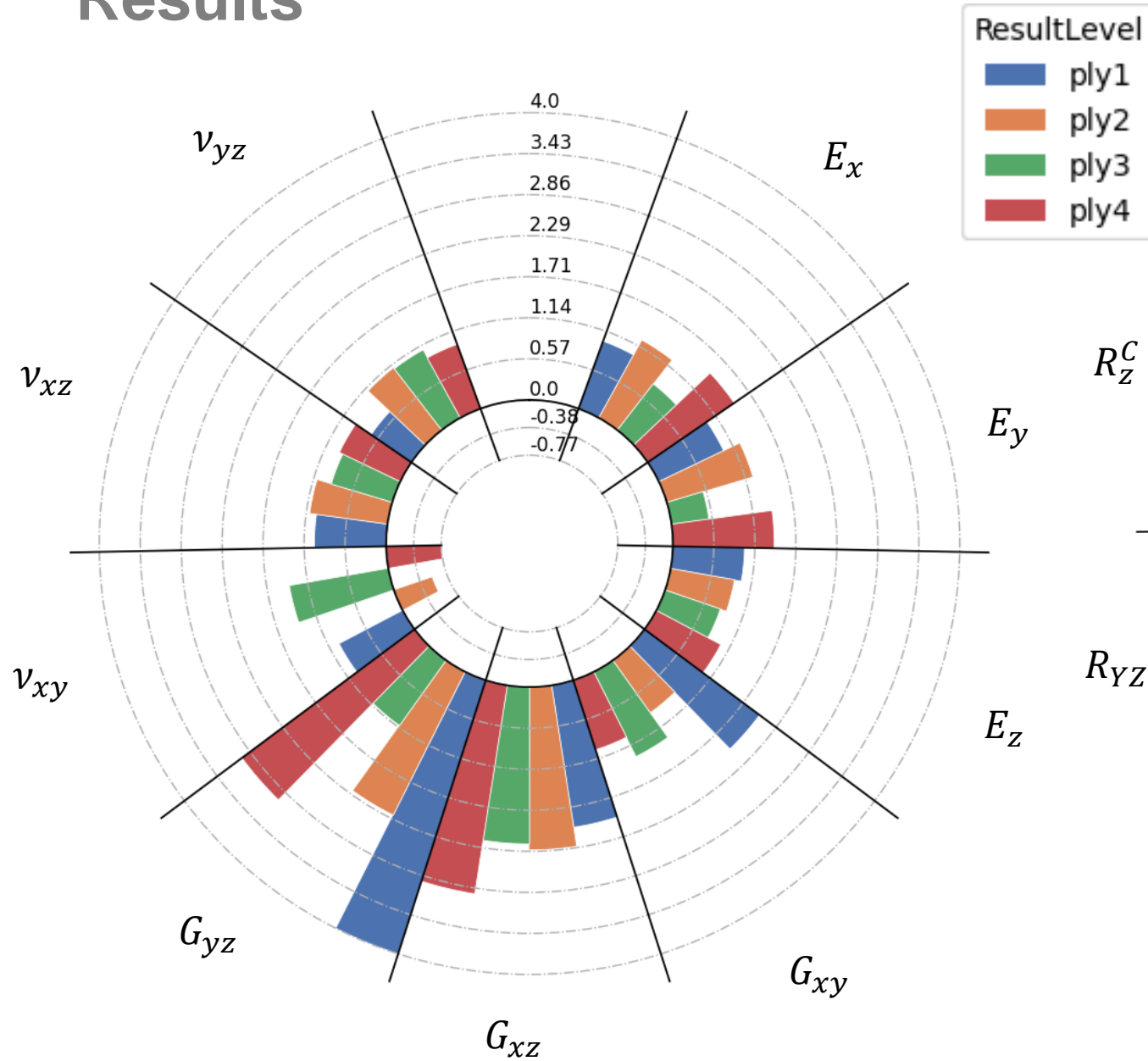
# Results

## Model description

- UD-Material: IM7/8551-7
- Layer orientations:  
[0°, 45°, 90°, -45°]
- Layer thickness: 0.3 mm
- Quadratic ansatz function in FE-Model
- Puck criterion used as strength assessment function

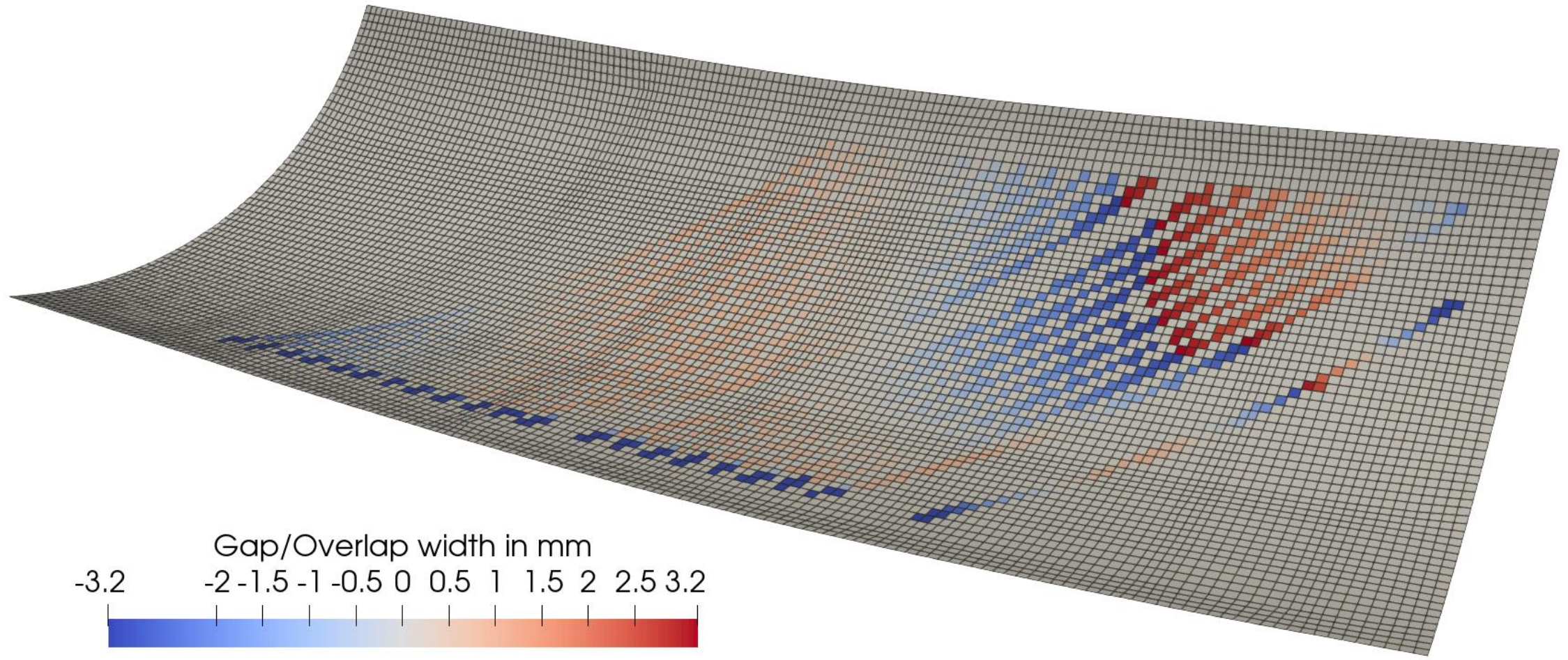


# Results



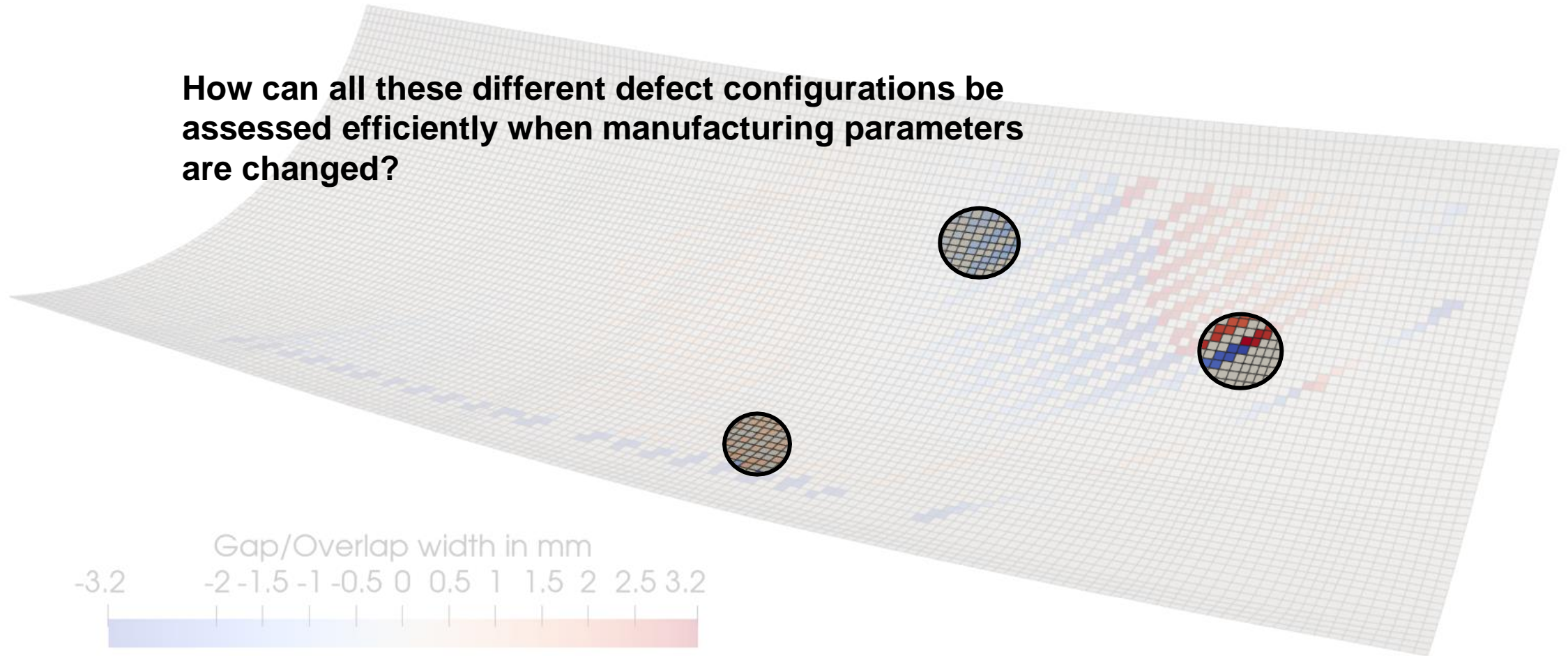


# KI-based prediction



# KI-based prediction

**How can all these different defect configurations be assessed efficiently when manufacturing parameters are changed?**





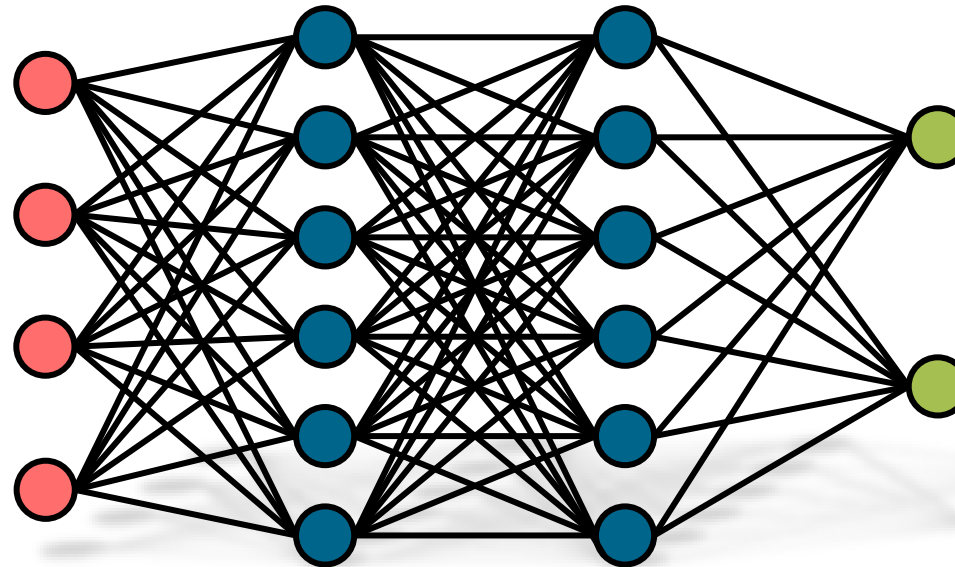
# KI-based prediction

- KDF estimation for local material deviation based on neural networks
- Model trained for fixed UD-material and number of laminate plies

**Input layer**

gap  
geometry  
parameters  
(width +  
amplitude)

**Hidden layers**



**Output layer**

KDF  
for all plies  
and material  
properties

# KI-based prediction



DeTACT

DLR KPI-VORHERSAGE

## MODELLIERUNG

### TRAININGSDATEN

WOHER KOMMEN DIE TRAININGSDATEN?

- ☒ Sampling des aktuellen Gesamtdatenbestands
- ☐ aktueller Gesamtdatenbestand
- ☐ aktuell gefilterter Datenbestand
- ☐ Import (json-Upload)

ANTEIL DER TRAININGSDATEN

0,8

✓ TRAININGSDATEN BESTÄTIGEN UND VERARBEITEN

KPI-VORHERSAGEPARAMETER

- KPI First Ply Failure RxxT KPI First Ply Failure RxxC
- KPI First Ply Failure RyyT KPI First Ply Failure RyyC
- KPI First Ply Failure RzzT KPI First Ply Failure RzzC
- KPI First Ply Failure Rxy KPI First Ply Failure Rxz
- KPI First Ply Failure Ryz

MODELLE BERECHNEN

### MODELLEVALUATION

WOHER KOMMEN DIE TESTDATEN?

- ☒ Sampling (Rest)
- ☐ Gesamtdatenbestand
- ☐ Filter-Rest
- ☐ Import (json-Upload)

✓ TESTDATEN BESTÄTIGEN, VERARBEITEN UND EVALUIEREN

MODELLE AUSWERTEN

- ☐ Fehlermaße
- ☐ KPI-Landkarte (Autoencoder-Code)
- ☒ Vorhersage-Tabelle

↓ VORHERSAGE-TABELLE HERUNTERLADEN (CSV)

Datenauswahl

Datenanalyse

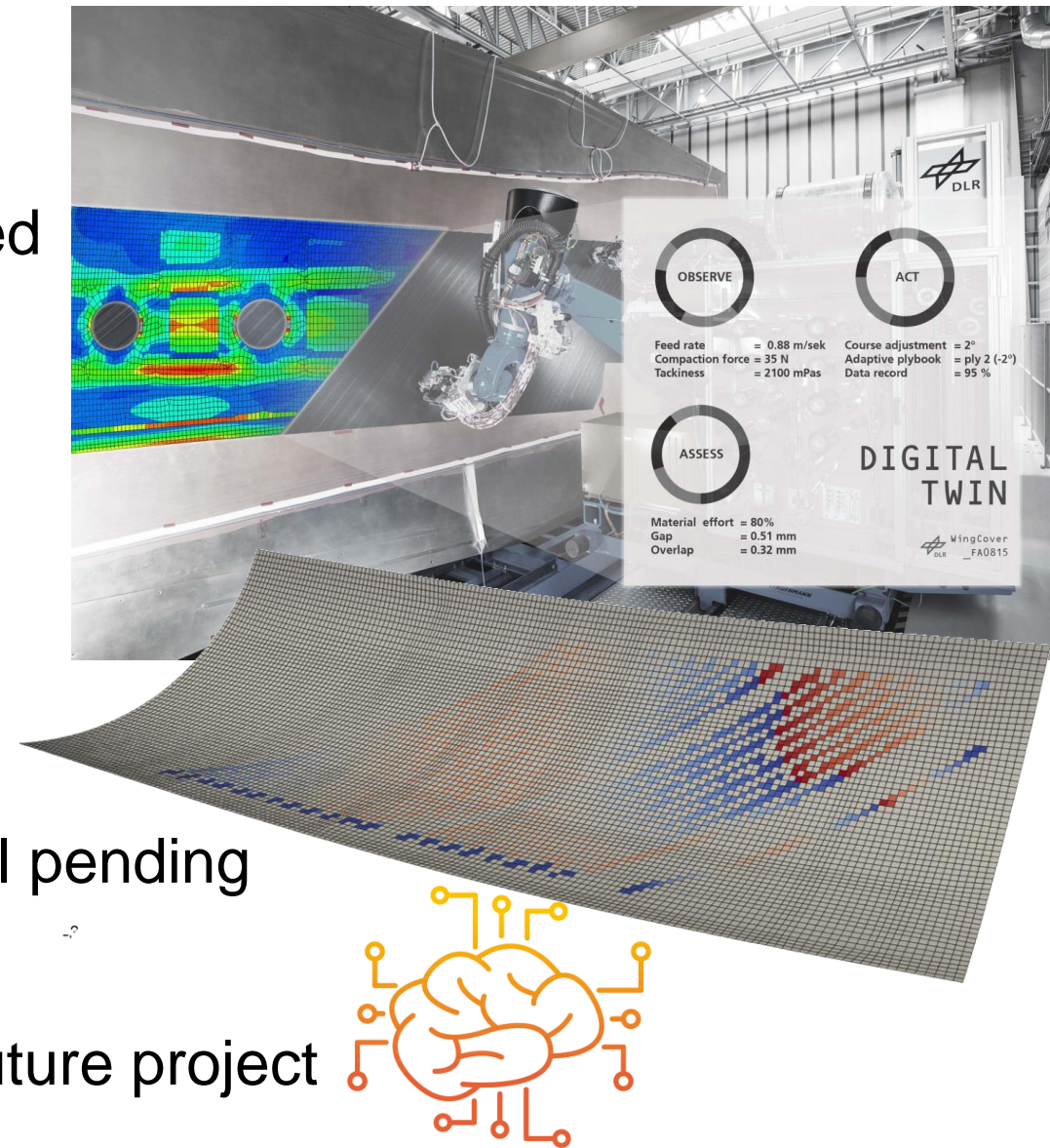
Modellierung

MODELL	ID	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RXXT	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RXXC	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RYYT	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RYYC	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RZZT	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RZZC	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RXY	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RXZ	KPI FIRST PLY FAILURE RYZ
Autoencoder mit Nachbarschaft 1	fd_1	0.98	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.97	0.94	0.97
	fd_2	0.98	1.00	0.99	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.97	0.94	0.97
	fd_3	0.89	0.94	0.98	1.00	0.99	0.96	0.93	0.89	0.95
	fd_4	0.71	0.74	0.97	1.00	0.98	0.89	0.82	0.81	0.87
	fd_5	0.71	0.74	0.97	1.00	0.98	0.89	0.82	0.81	0.87
	fd_6	1.01	1.00	0.98	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.99
	fd_7	1.01	1.00	0.98	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.99
	fd_8	1.01	1.00	0.98	0.97	1.00	1.00	0.99	0.98	0.99
	fd_9	0.36	0.59	0.94	0.86	0.95	0.23	0.87	0.50	0.69
	fd_10	0.72	0.73	0.93	0.86	0.95	0.24	0.85	0.64	0.75
	fd_11	0.72	0.73	0.93	0.86	0.95	0.24	0.85	0.64	0.75
	fd_12	0.47	0.81	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.96	0.97	0.81	0.97
	fd_13	0.45	0.68	1.06	1.06	0.94	0.94	1.04	0.84	1.01
	fd_14	0.45	0.68	1.06	1.06	0.94	0.94	1.04	0.84	1.01
	fd_15	0.37	0.28	0.37	0.28	0.79	0.22	0.27	0.66	0.66
	fd_16	0.37	0.28	0.37	0.28	0.79	0.22	0.27	0.66	0.66
	fd_17	0.91	0.94	0.86	0.75	0.96	0.76	0.87	0.94	0.90
	fd_18	0.94	0.93	0.94	0.93	0.96	0.89	0.65	0.92	0.92
	fd_19	0.98	0.99	0.38	0.82	0.96	0.44	0.81	0.88	0.88
	fd_20	0.94	0.97	0.36	0.58	0.92	0.39	0.69	0.71	0.72
	fd_21	0.94	0.97	0.36	0.58	0.92	0.39	0.69	0.71	0.72
	fd_22	1.00	0.91	0.64	0.77	0.92	0.80	0.50	0.87	0.71
	fd_23	0.81	0.98	0.97	0.90	0.97	0.97	0.88	1.02	1.02
	fd_24	0.20	0.19	0.20	0.19	0.64	0.21	0.34	0.46	0.46
	fd_25	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.65	0.20	0.29	0.60	0.60
	fd_26	0.17	0.16	0.17	0.16	0.65	0.20	0.29	0.60	0.60
	fd_27	0.87	0.83	0.88	0.83	0.90	0.87	0.85	1.02	1.01
	fd_28	0.91	0.95	0.90	1.00	0.95	0.67	0.93	0.90	0.88
	fd_29	0.77	0.85	0.80	0.76	0.91	0.47	0.79	0.75	0.86



# Summary and Outlook

- further steps towards a digital-twin for the assessment of CFRP structures manufactured by AFP processes achieved
- Focus on virtual design and manufacturing, easily adoptable for quality assurance issue in production phases
- Assessment of AFP effects on structural level pending
- further efforts on AI assisted evaluation in future project





A large white commercial airliner is shown from a low angle, flying upwards against a blue sky with light clouds. The aircraft is overlaid with a complex, semi-transparent blue wireframe mesh representing a computational fluid dynamics (CFD) simulation. Red and yellow streamlines are visible trailing from the wing and tail, indicating flow patterns. The DLR logo is visible on the fuselage and the tail. A dark blue horizontal band spans the width of the image, containing the text "THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION" in white capital letters.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION



## Contact

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 +49 (0)531 295-2778

 [andreas.schuster@dlr.de](mailto:andreas.schuster@dlr.de)

 [www.dlr.de/sy](http://www.dlr.de/sy)

Thema: Towards a digital twin for the assessment of manufacturing effects on the structural performance of aircraft structures made from automated fibre placement

Datum: 2025-25-09

Autor: Andreas Schuster et. al.

Institut: DLR Institut für Systemleichtbau

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