

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

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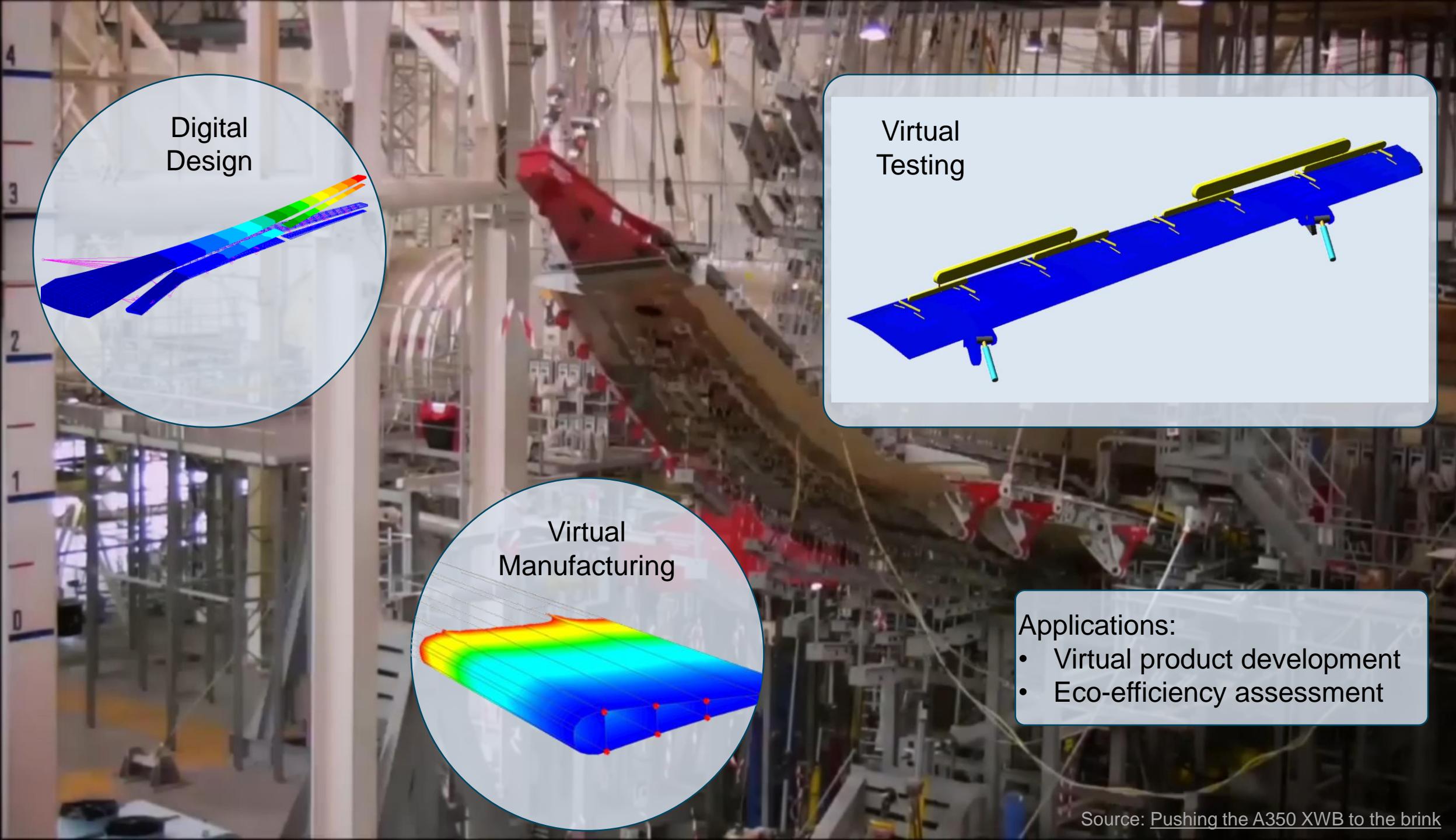


2X10T

Imagine...



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

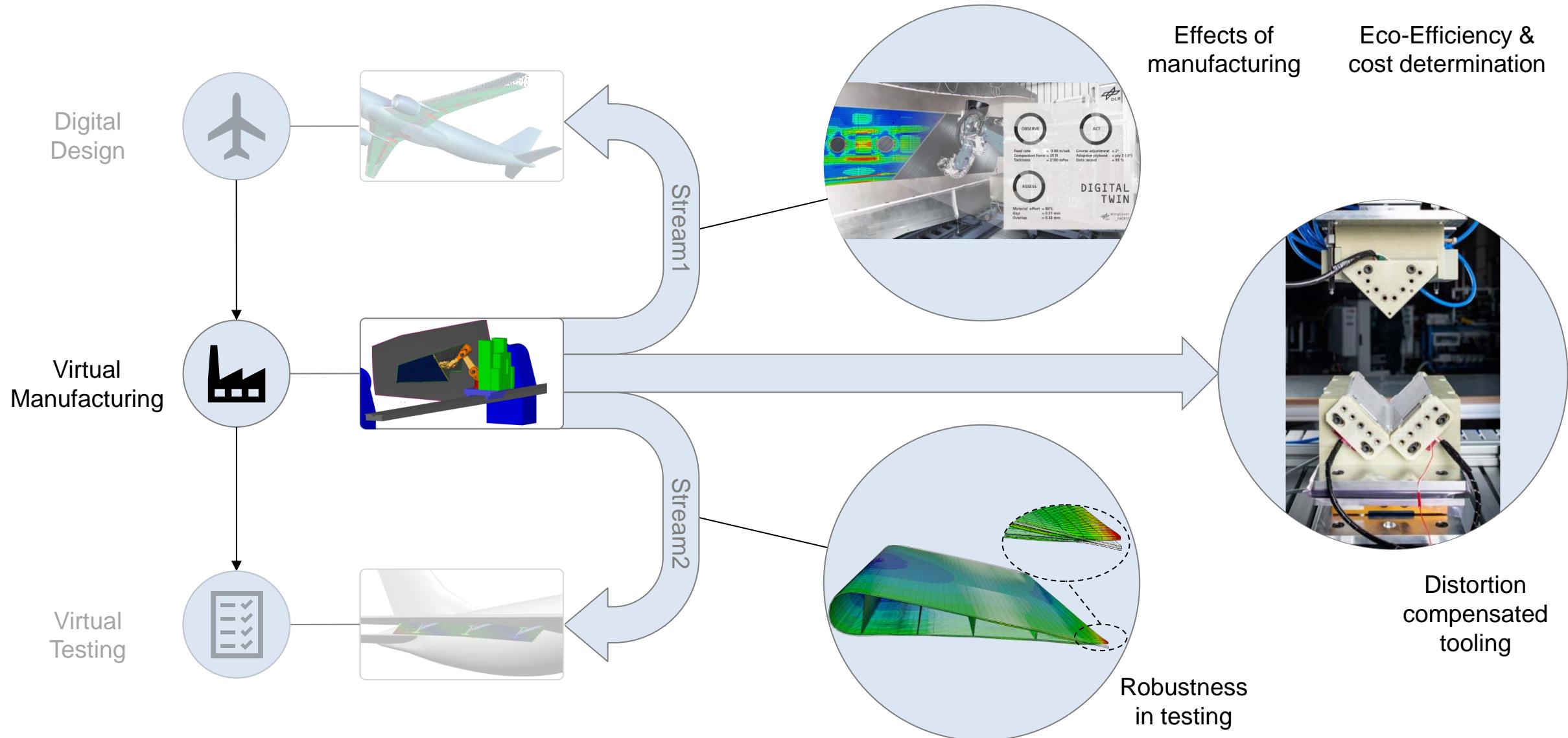


Applications:

- Virtual product development
- Eco-efficiency assessment



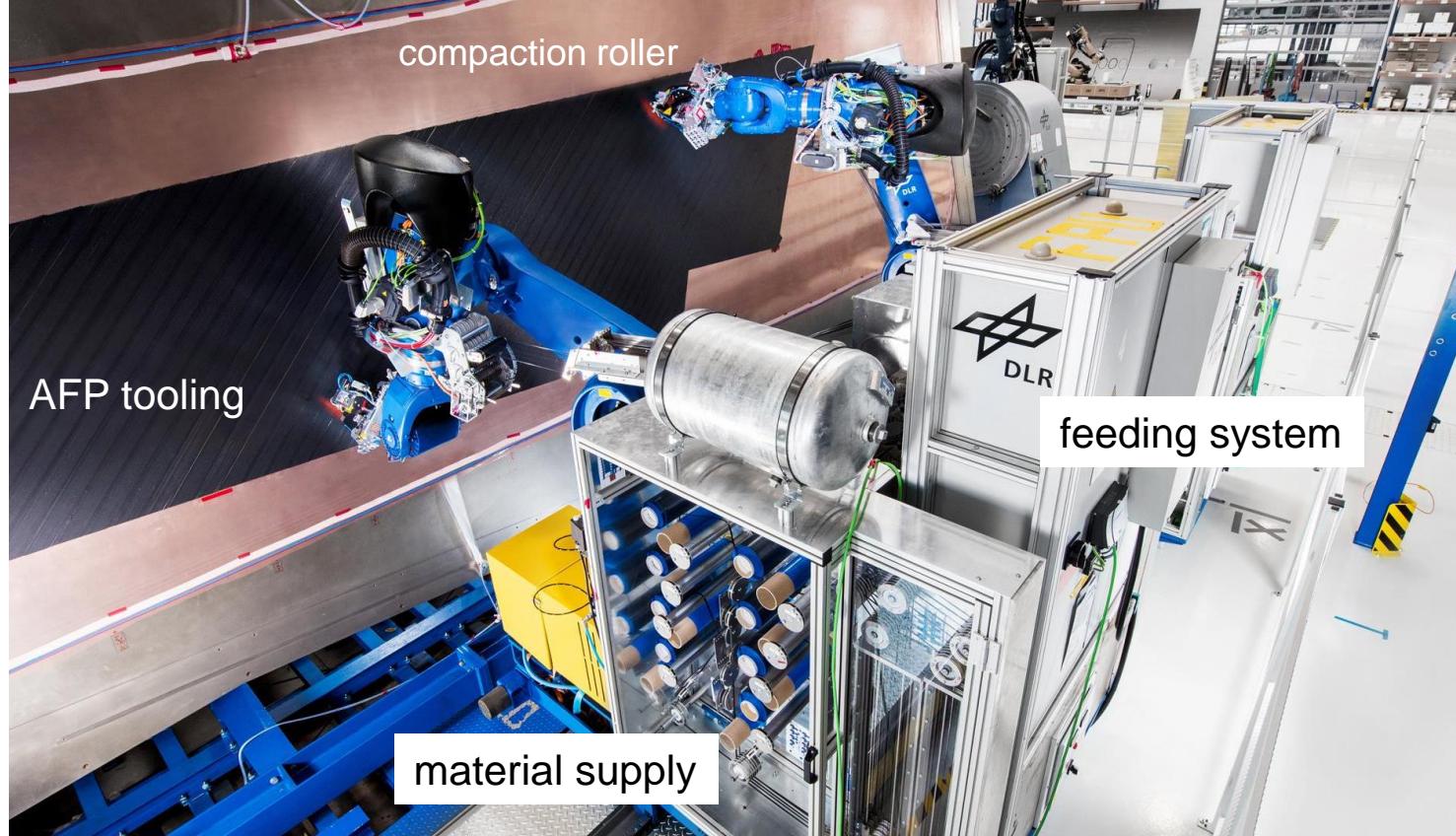
Virtual Manufacturing Potentials



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

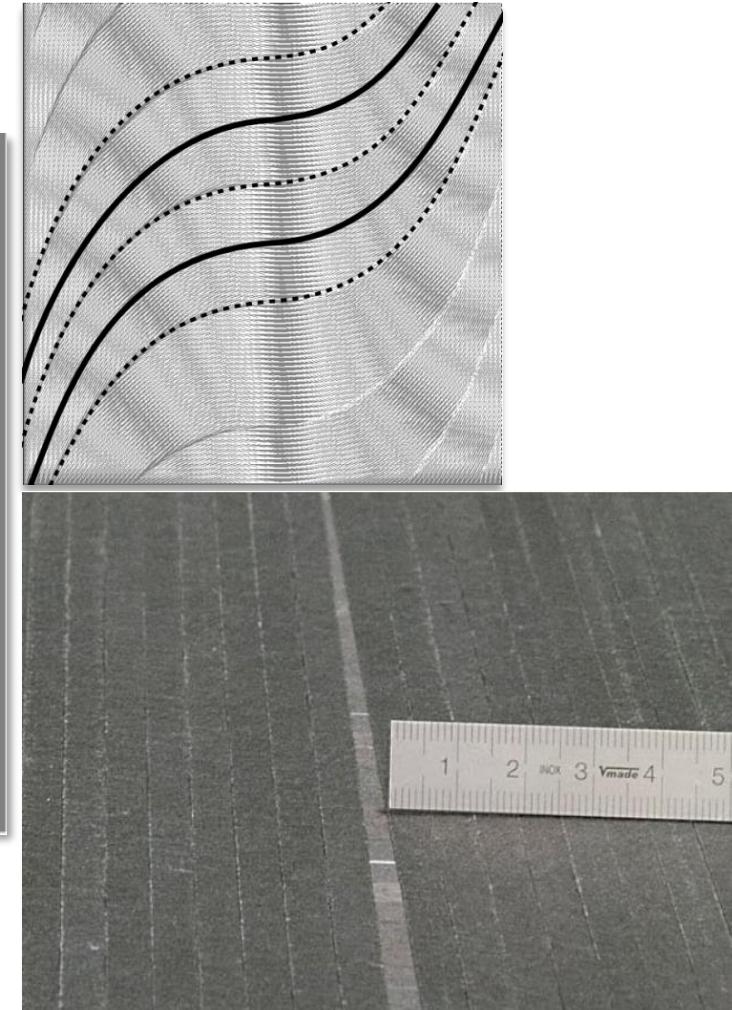
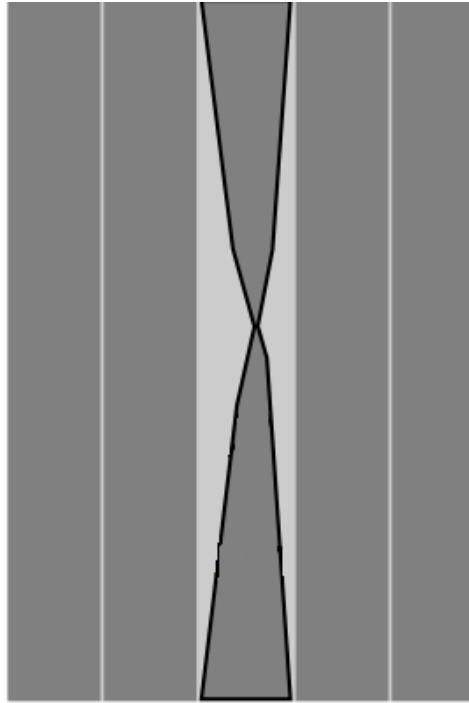
How to handle/ predict the structural behaviour in presence of such effects?



AFP-Manufacturing

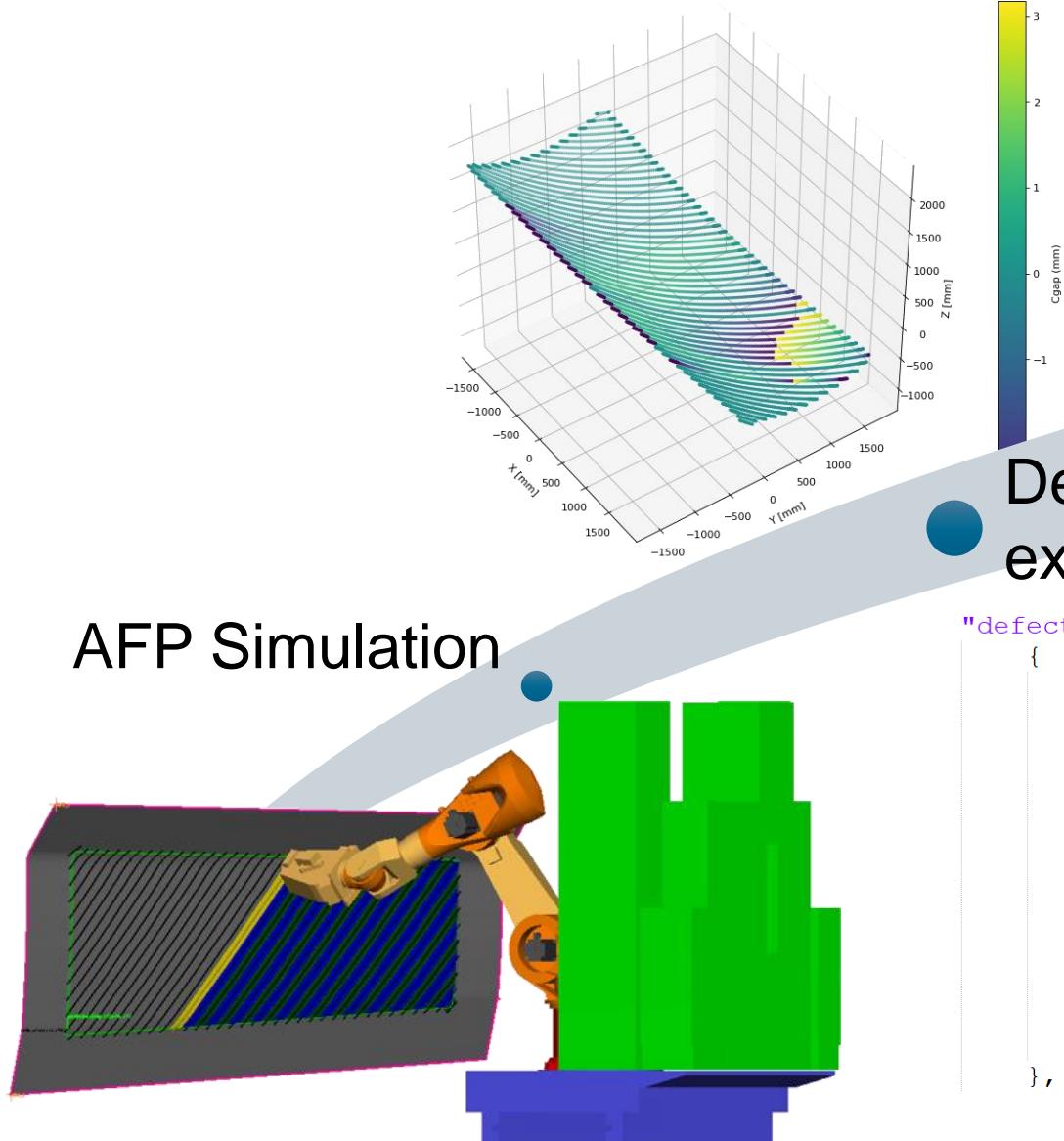
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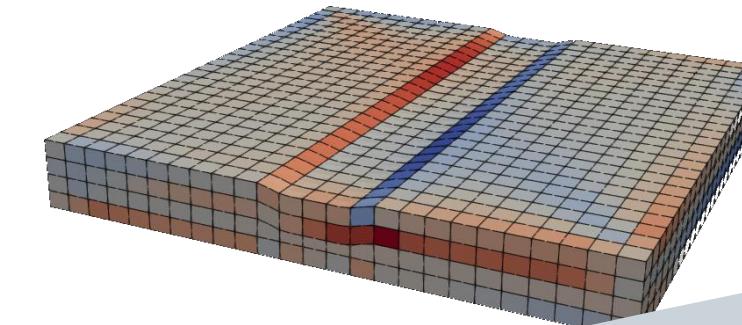


courtesy of the NLR

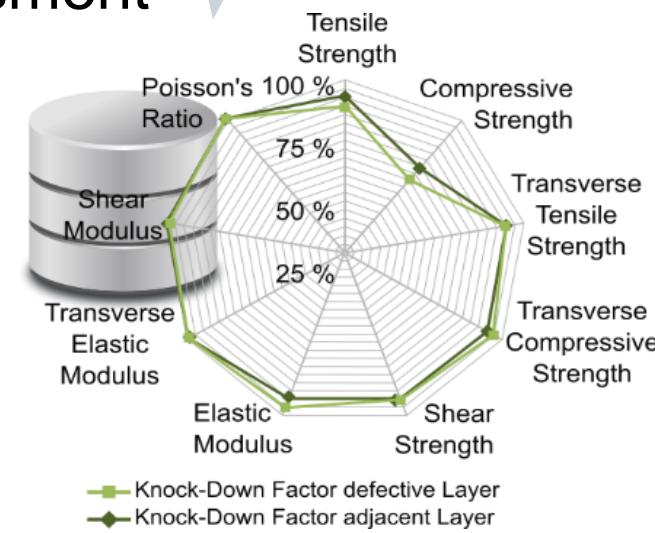
Evaluation approach



Defect geometry extraction



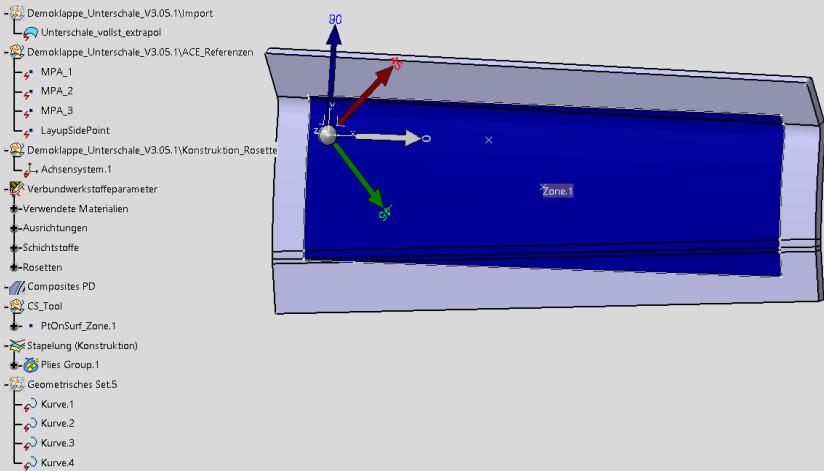
Numerical defect assessment



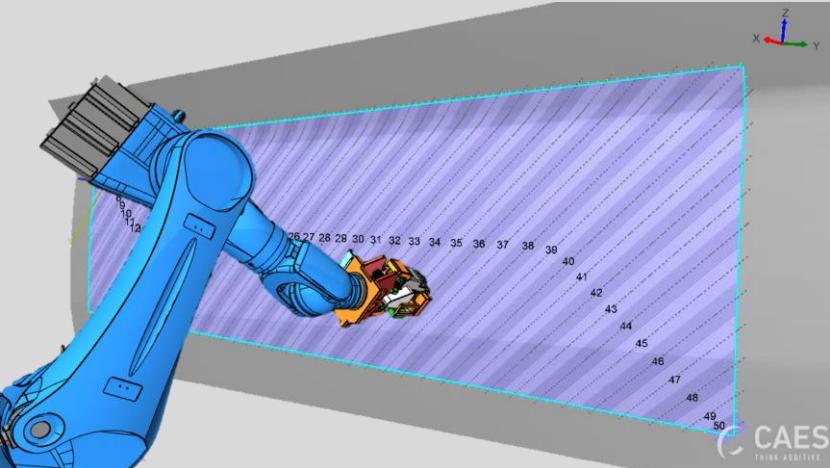
Virtual AFP-Process

Information chain

CAD



CAM | Offline Programmierumgebung

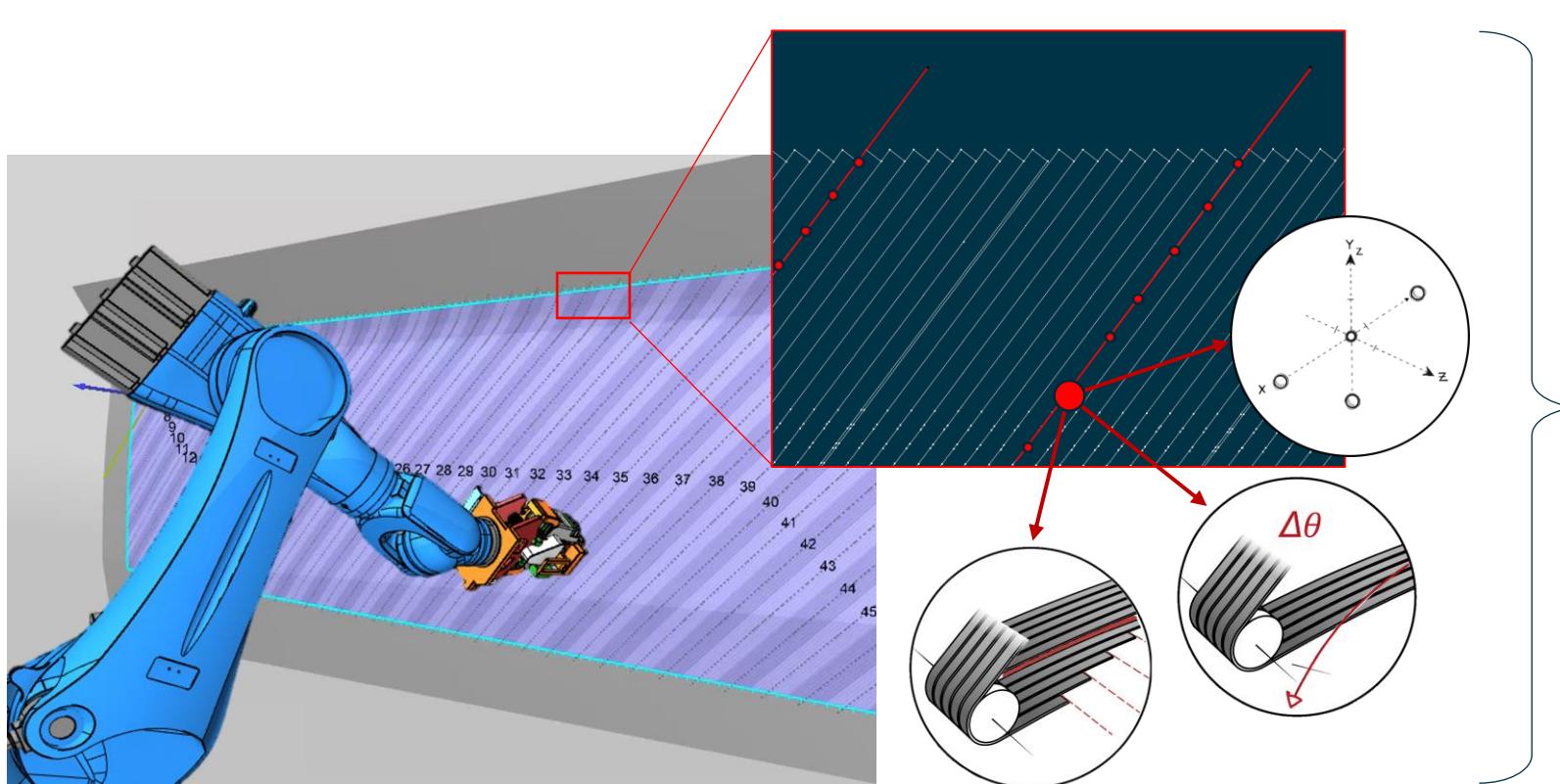


Export

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

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

Virtual AFP-Process



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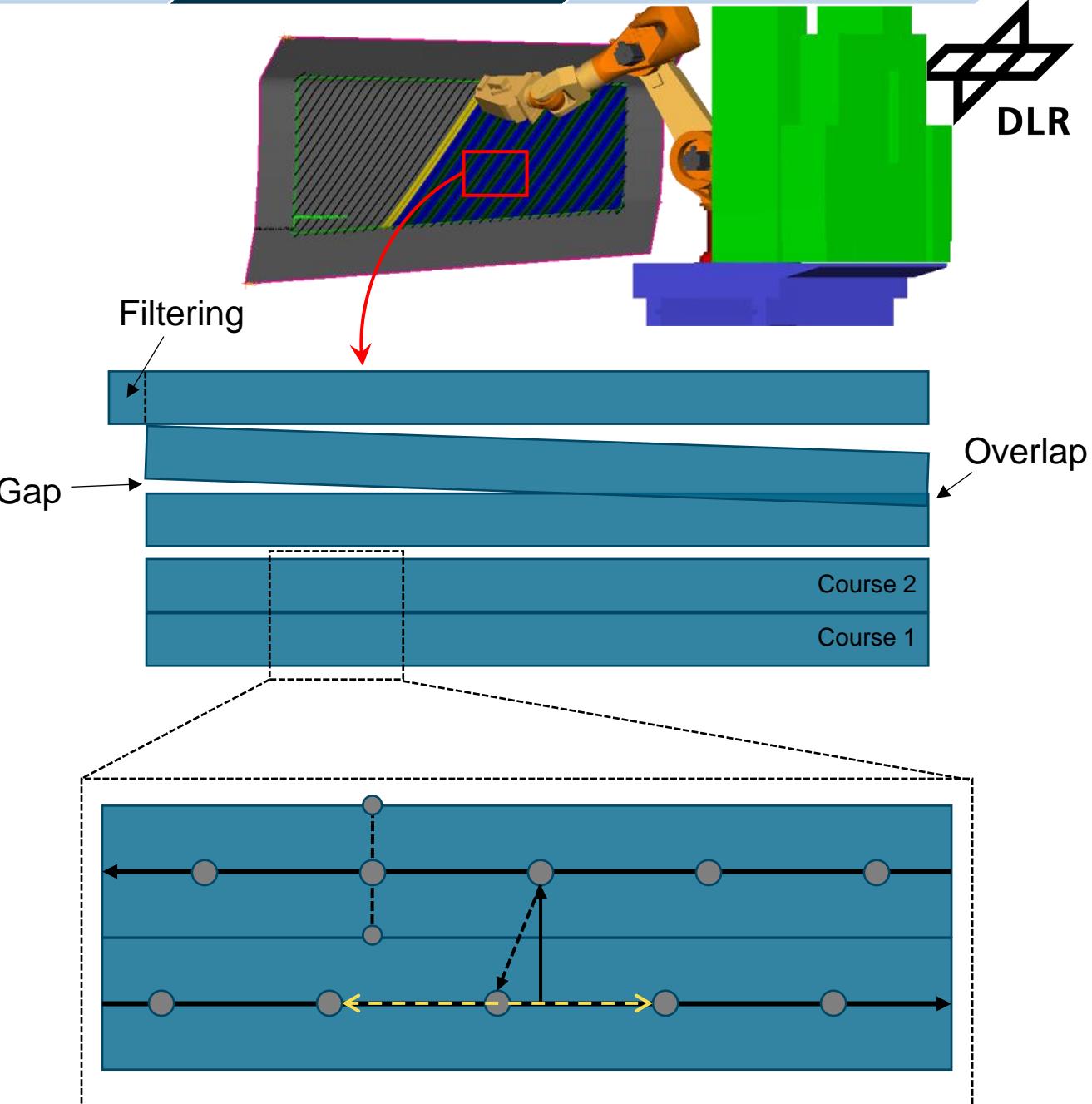
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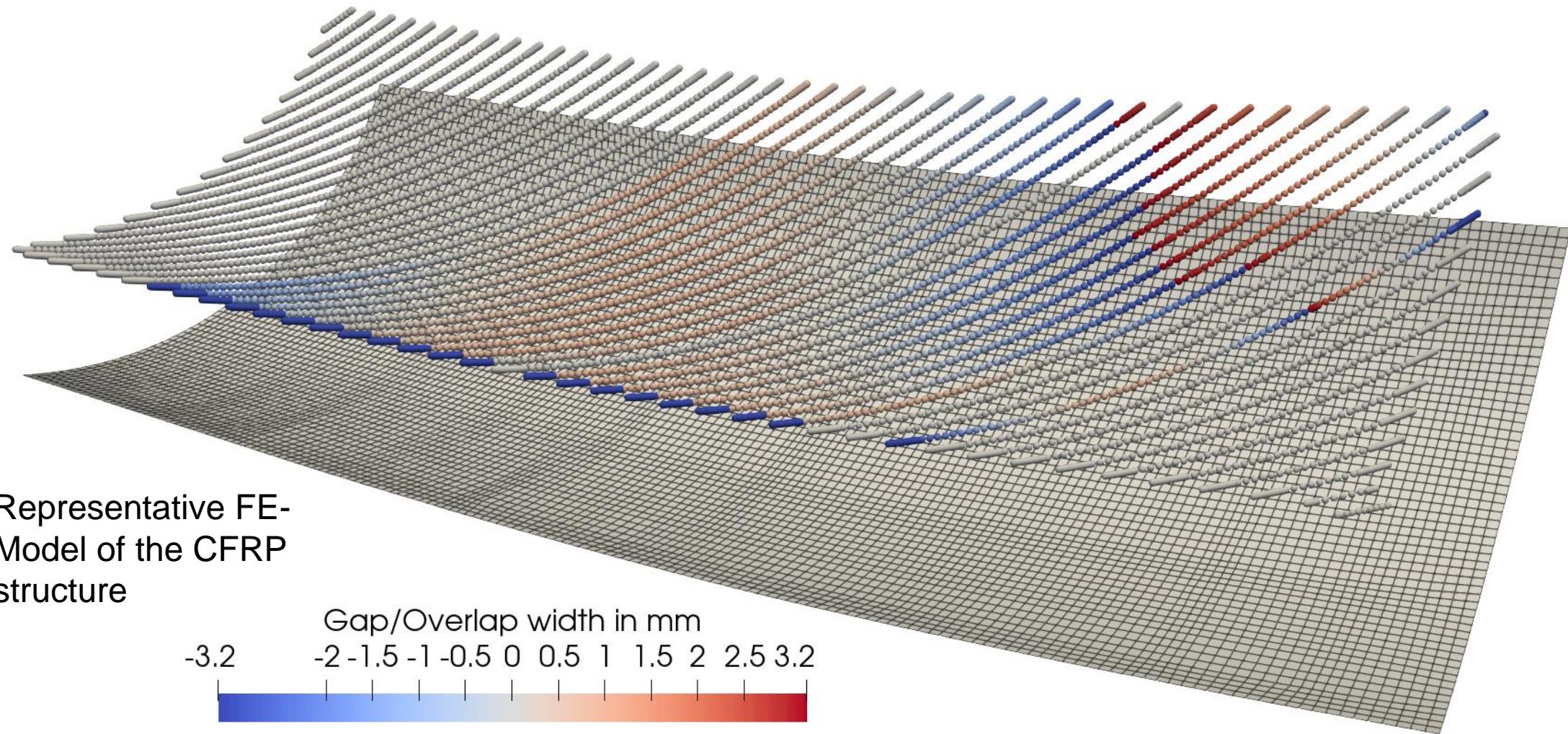
- **Centerline Geometry:** centerline coordinates of each material path
- **Local fiber orientation:** pointwise deviations of the deposited fiber angle from the nominal layup
- **Steering radius:** local steering radius at every point along the path
- **Edge geometry:** pointwise coordinates of both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

Defect geometry extraction

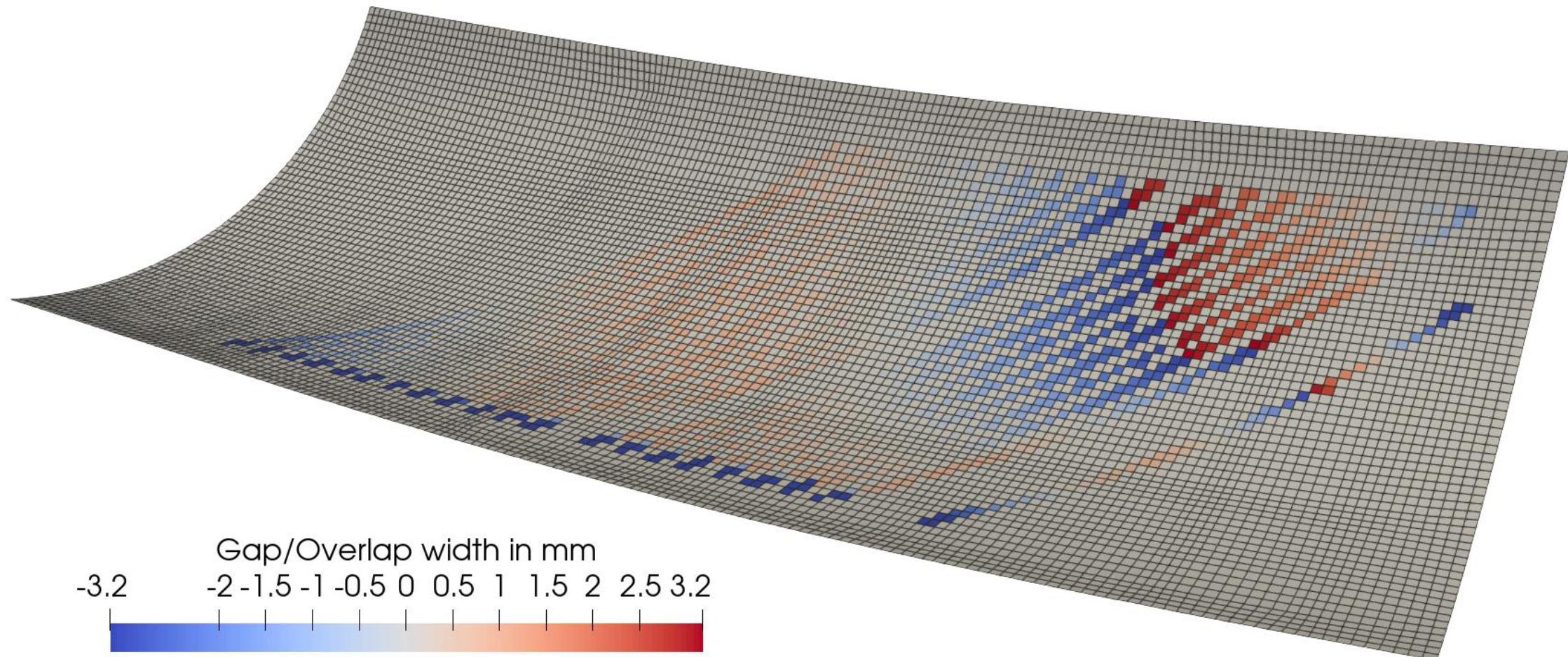
- ACES simulation output read as .xml
- Retrieve discretized course points, directions and normal
- Remove out of bounds areas
- Identify nearest point on last course
- Find orthogonal and calculate distance
- Compare with allowed tolerances
- Extract defect information



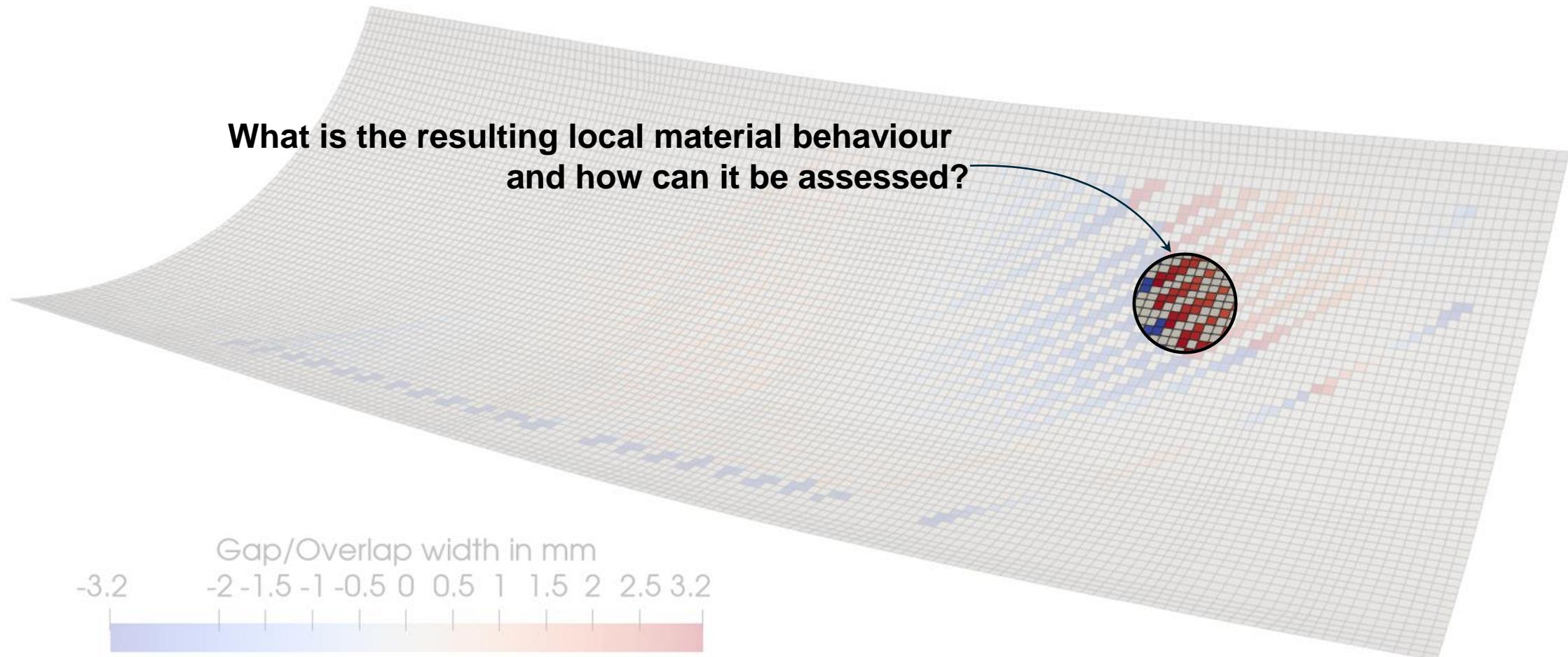
Mapping of defect data to structural model



Mapping of defect data to structural model



Mapping of defect data to structural model



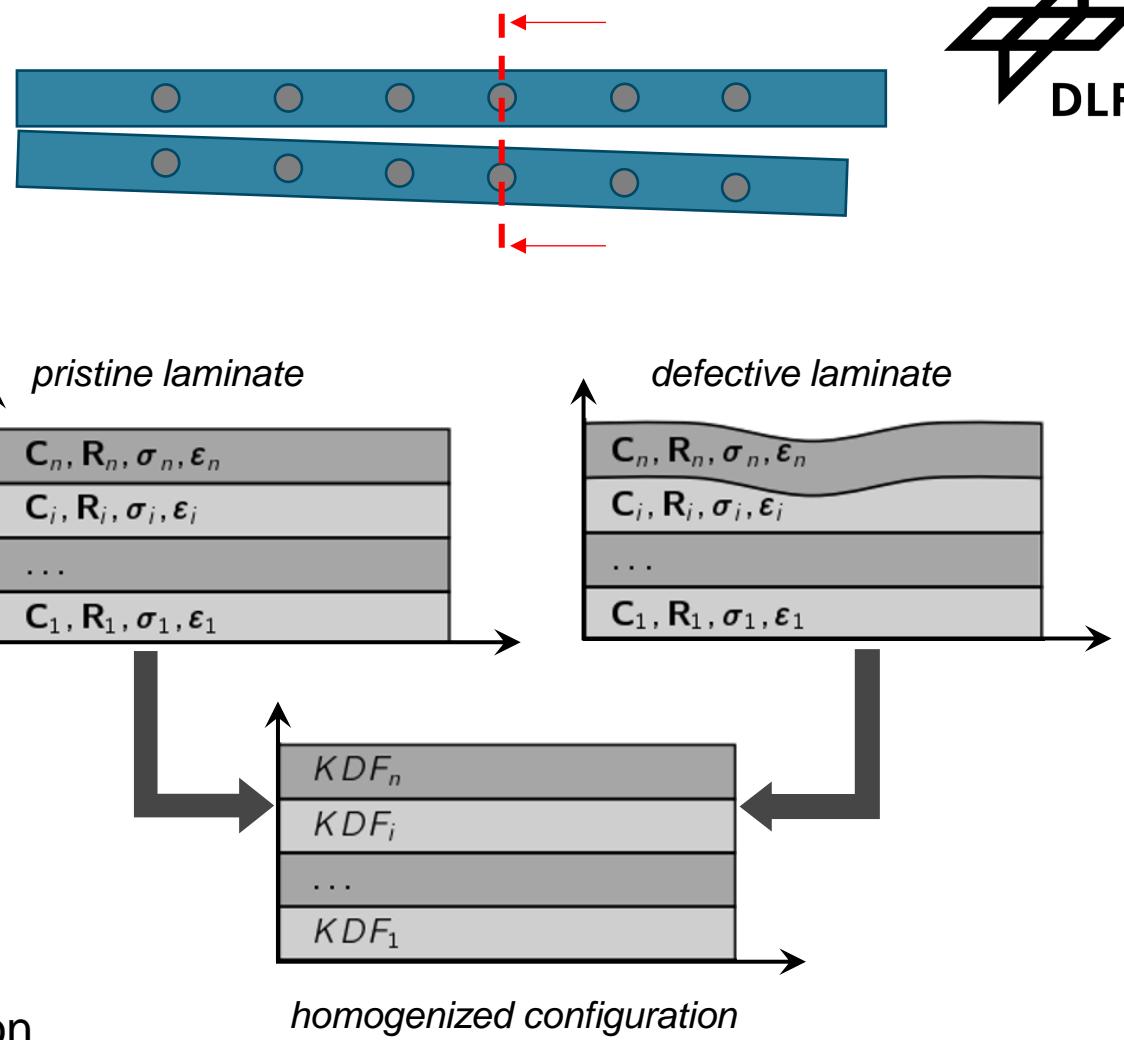
Numerical defect assessment

- 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 vs. numerical
accuracy issues *time-consuming*

Presented approach :

- assessment of material degradation based on homogenization approach
- use of parametrized 3D-FE-models for determination of so-called „Knock-down factors“ (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

$$f(\sigma, R) = FI$$

FI ... Versagensindex

σ ... Spannungszustand

R ... nominelle Festigkeit

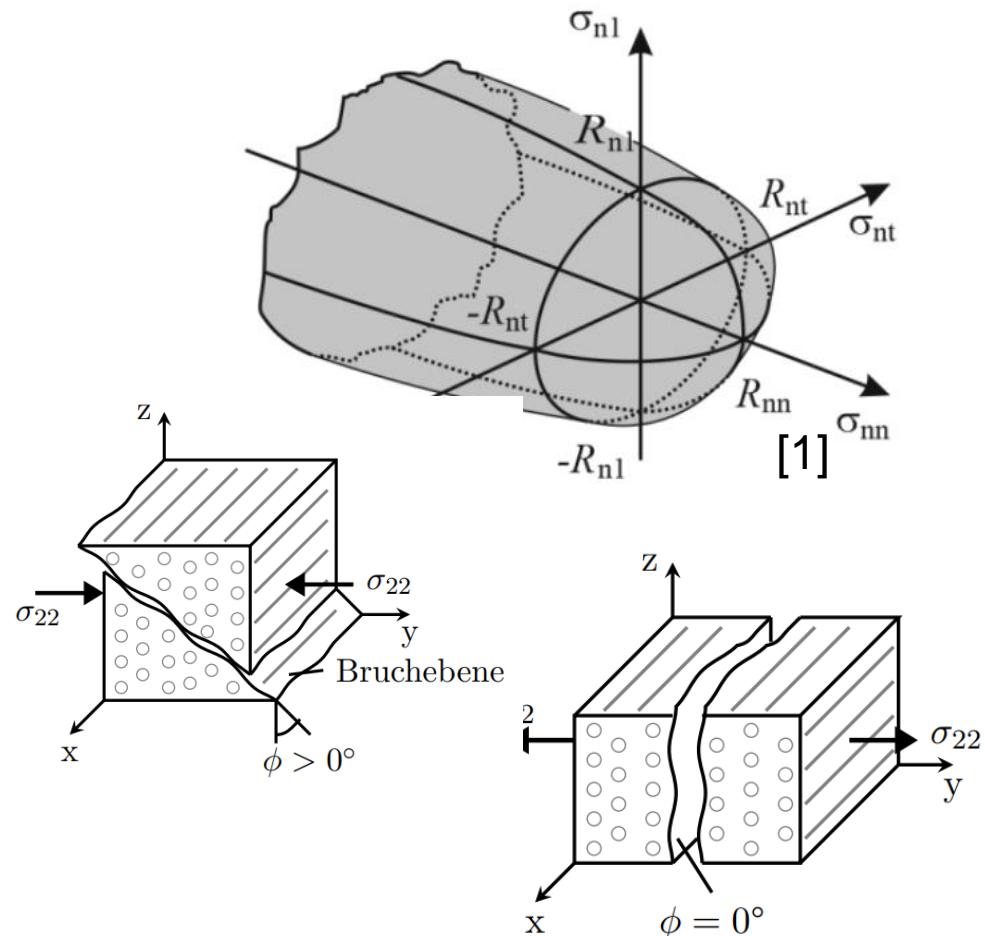
- in case of $FI = 1 \rightarrow$ damage initiation
- For each stress vector there is a scalar $f_R(\sigma)$:

$$f(f_R(\sigma), \sigma, R) = 1$$

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

- Layerwise estimation of KDF:

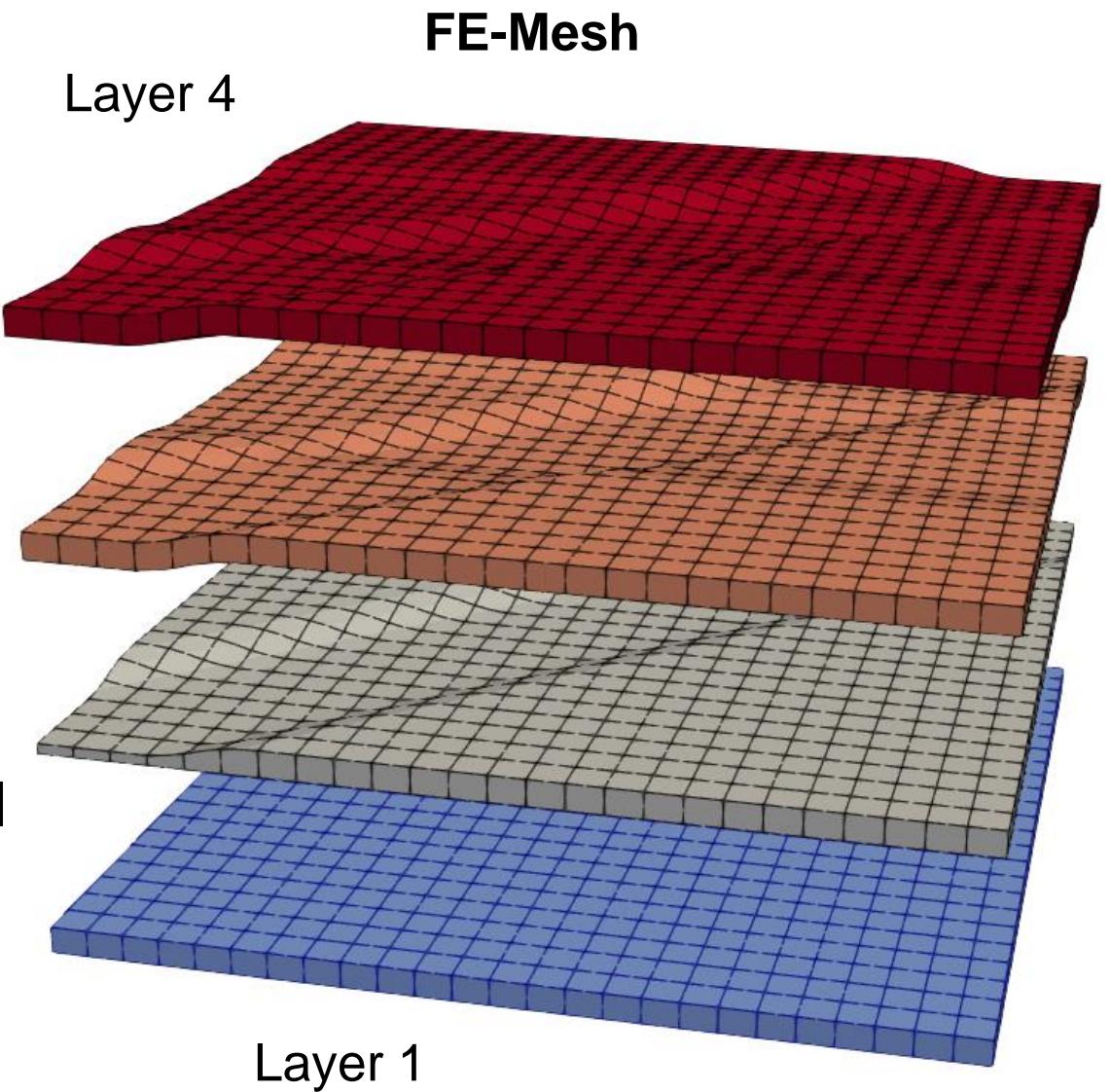
$$KDF_i = \frac{M_i^{ref}}{M_i^{def}} = \frac{f_R^{def}(\sigma_i)}{f_R^{ref}(\sigma_i)}$$



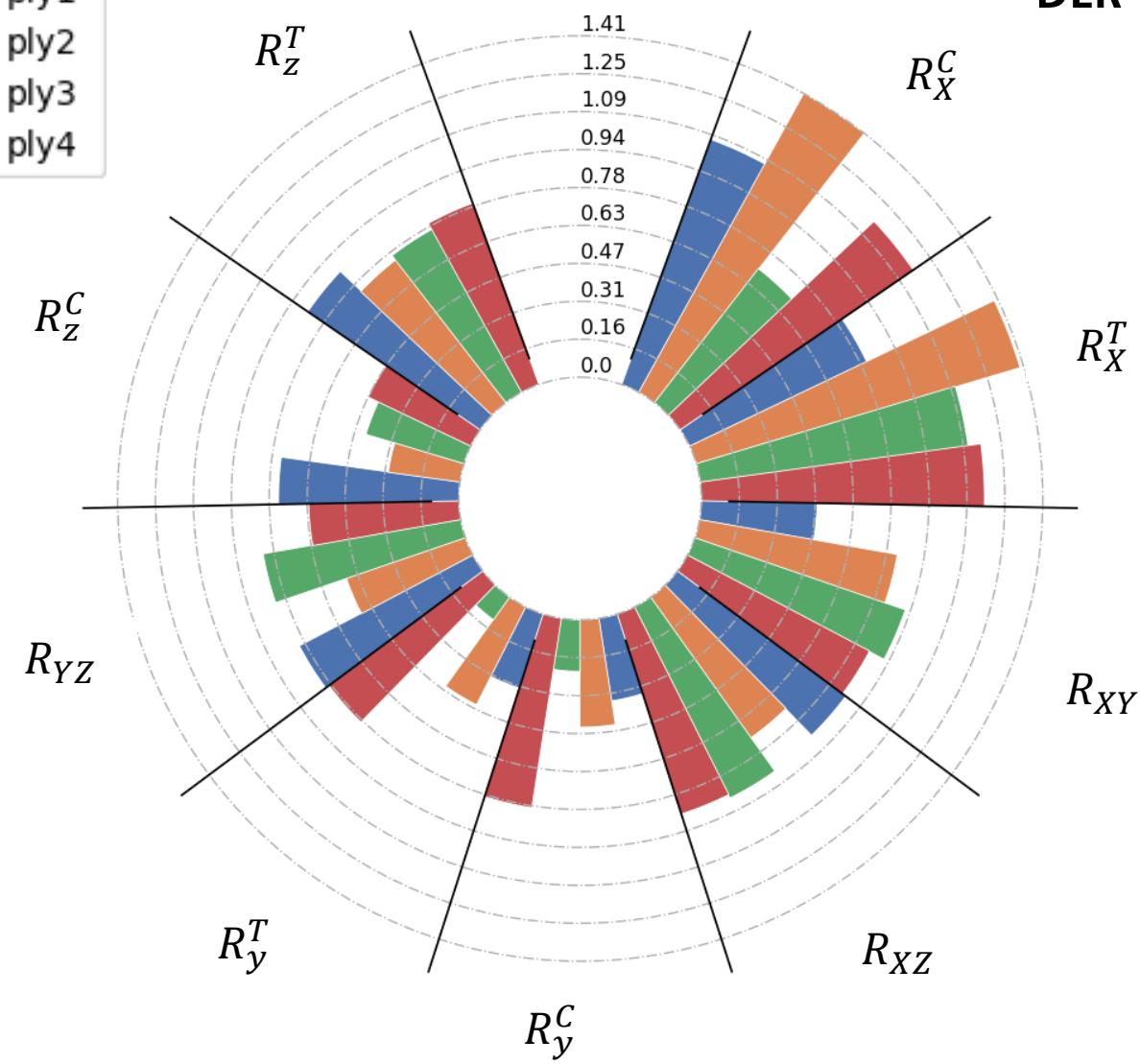
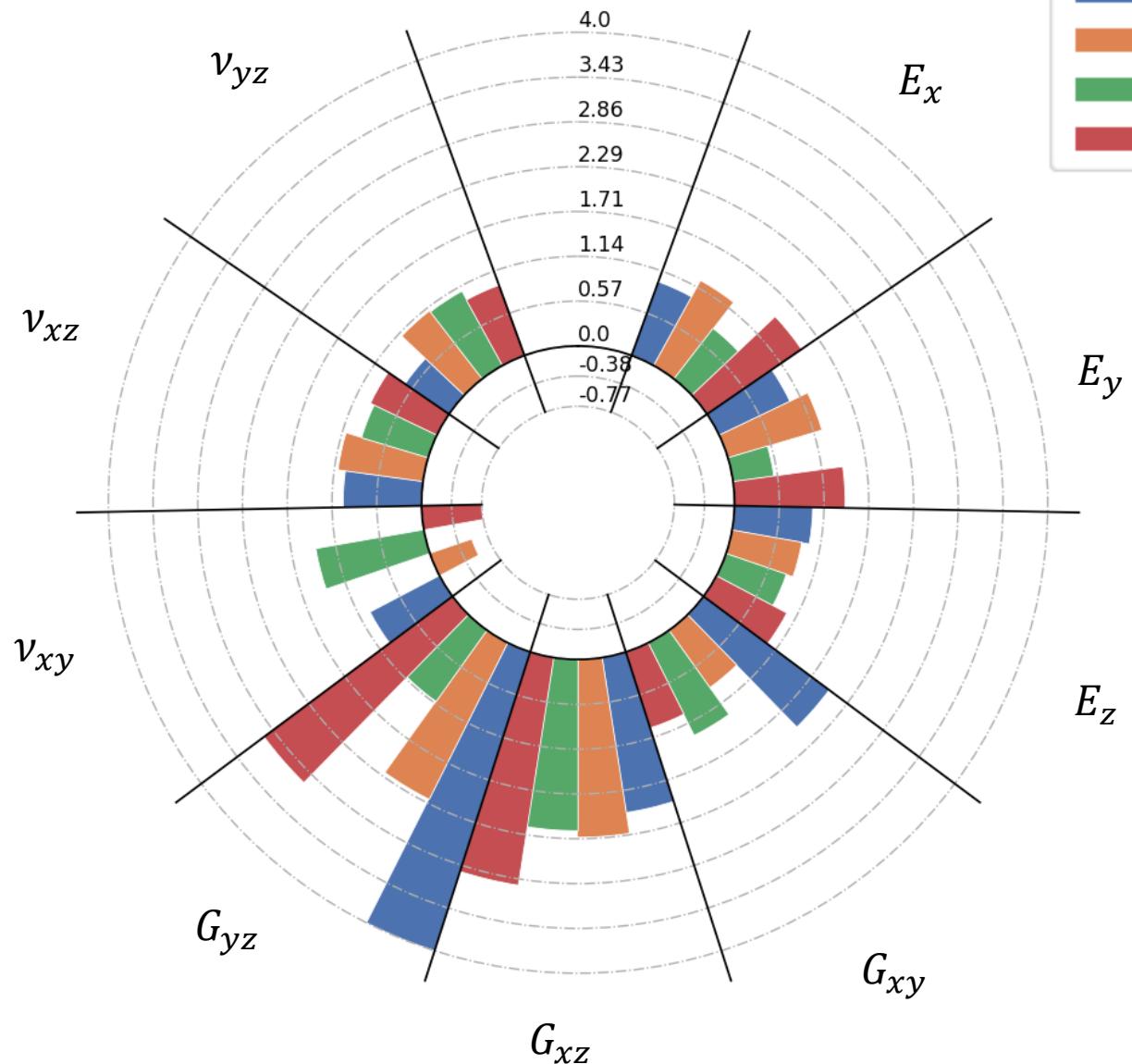
Results

Model description

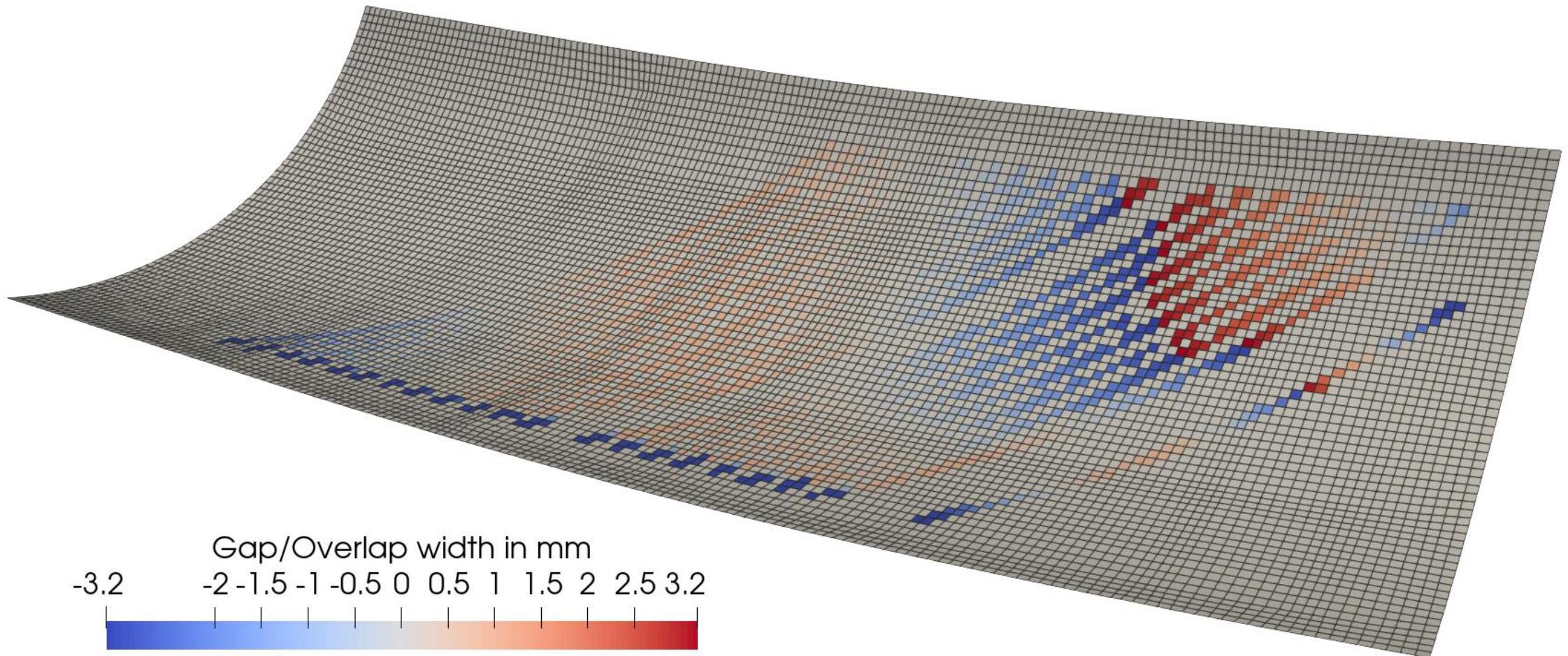
- UD-Material: IM7/8551-7
- Layer orientations:
[0° , 45° , 90° , -45°]
- Layer thickness: 0.3 mm
- Quadratic ansatz function in FE-Model
- Puck criterion used as strength assessment function



Results



KI-based prediction



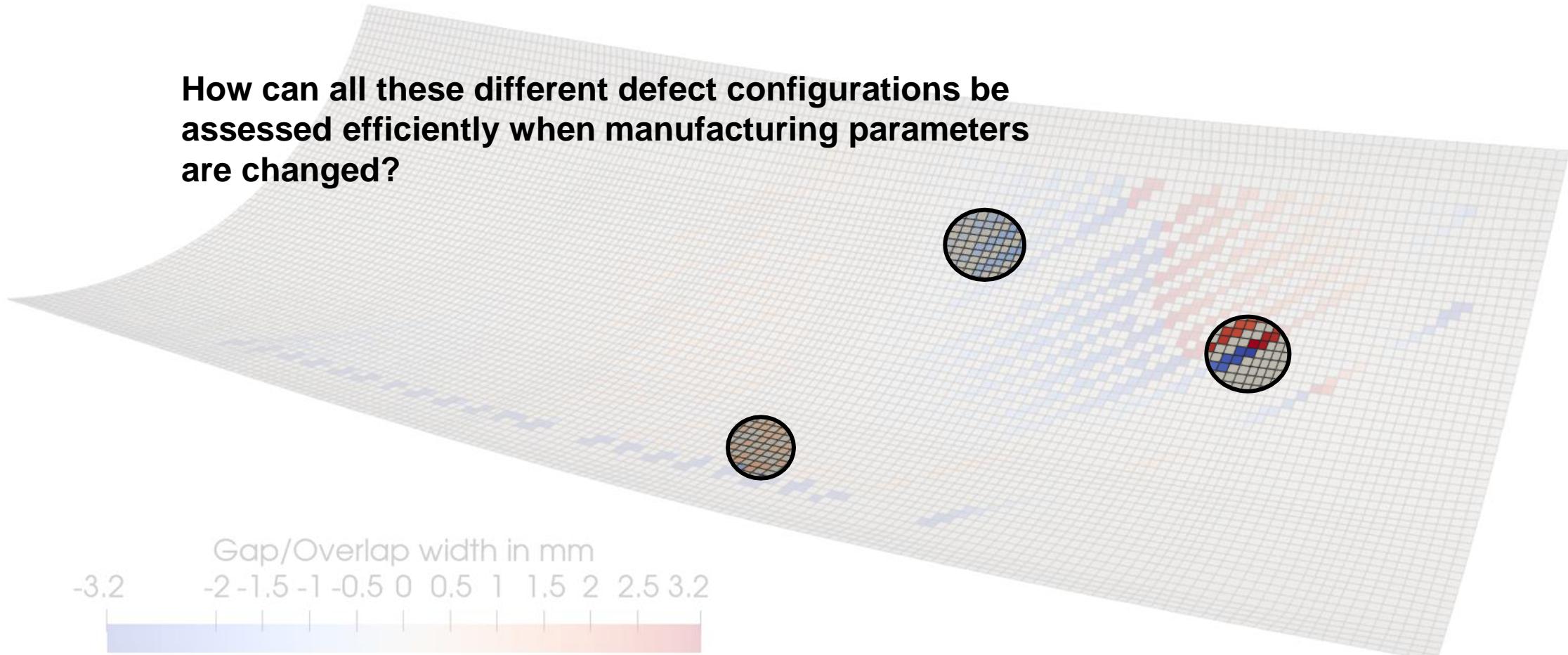
Gap/Overlap width in mm

-3.2 -2 -1.5 -1 -0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3.2



KI-based prediction

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



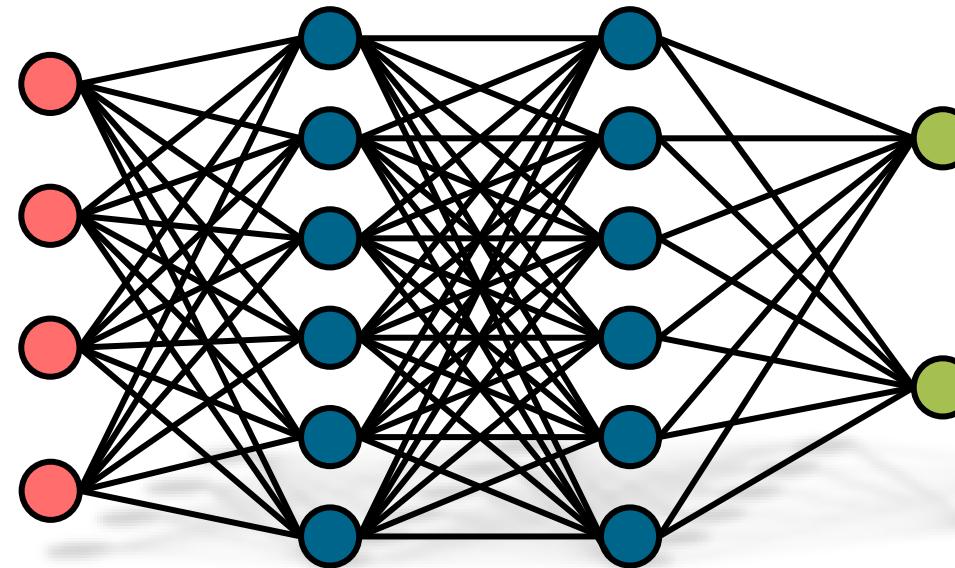
KI-based prediction

- 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

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

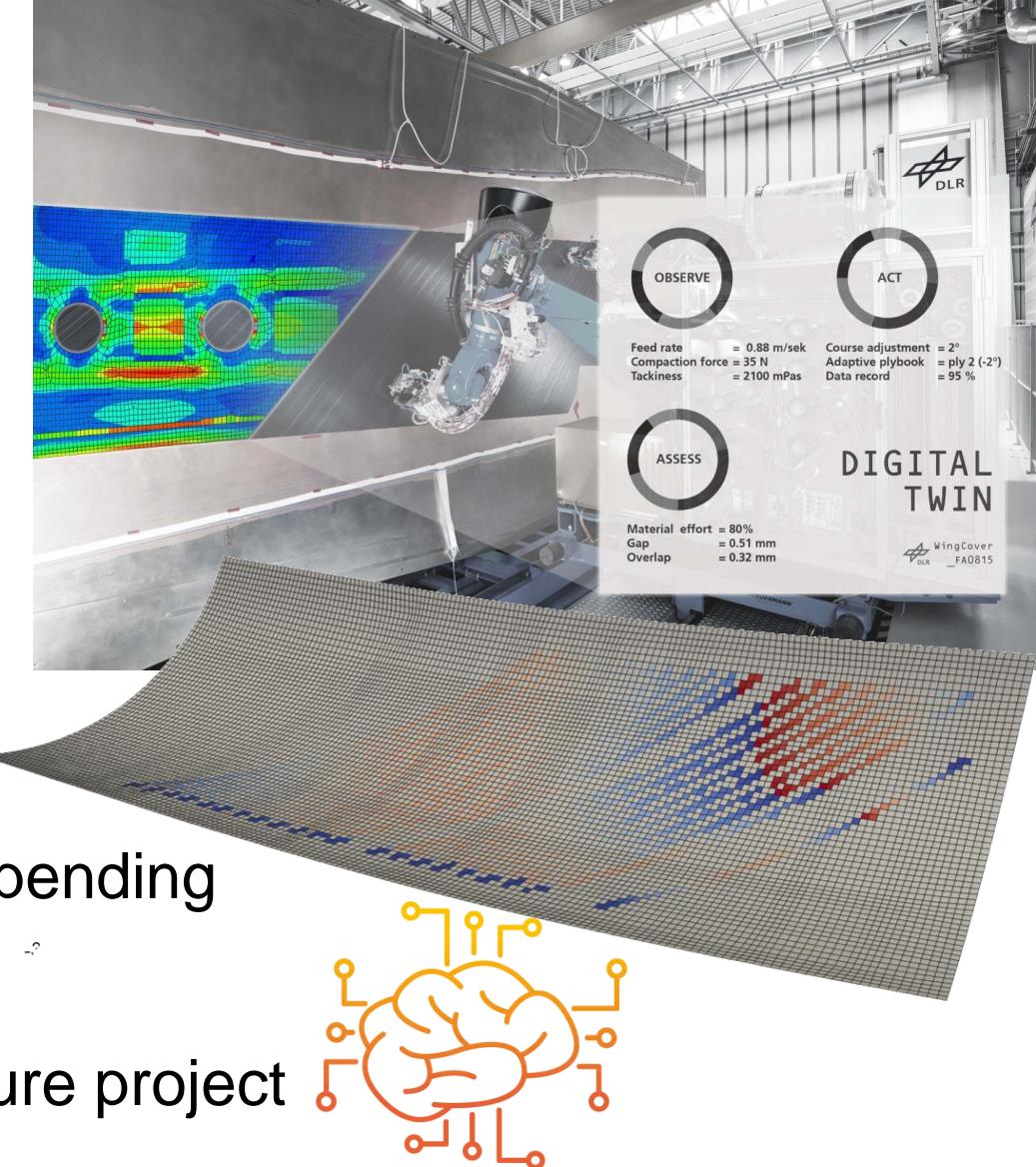
- Fehlermaße
- KPI-Landkarte (Autoencoder-Code)
- Vorhersage-Tabelle

⬇️ VORHERSAGE-TABELLE HERUNTERLADEN (CSV)

| DLR KPI-VORHERSAGE | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Datenauswahl | Datenanalyse | Modellierung | 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 |
| MODELL | ID | | | | | | | | | | |
| Autoencoder mit Nachbarschaft 1 | id_1 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.97 |
| | id_2 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.97 |
| | id_3 | 0.89 | 0.94 | 0.98 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.89 | 0.95 | |
| | id_4 | 0.71 | 0.74 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.89 | 0.82 | 0.81 | 0.87 | |
| | id_5 | 0.71 | 0.74 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.89 | 0.82 | 0.81 | 0.87 | |
| | id_6 | 1.01 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 0.99 |
| | id_7 | 1.01 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 0.99 |
| | id_8 | 1.01 | 1.00 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 1.00 | 1.00 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 0.99 |
| | id_9 | 0.36 | 0.59 | 0.94 | 0.86 | 0.95 | 0.23 | 0.87 | 0.50 | 0.69 | |
| | id_10 | 0.72 | 0.73 | 0.93 | 0.86 | 0.95 | 0.24 | 0.85 | 0.64 | 0.75 | |
| | id_11 | 0.72 | 0.73 | 0.93 | 0.86 | 0.95 | 0.24 | 0.85 | 0.64 | 0.75 | |
| | id_12 | 0.47 | 0.81 | 0.99 | 0.99 | 0.97 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 0.81 | 0.97 | |
| | id_13 | 0.45 | 0.68 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 1.04 | 0.84 | 1.01 | |
| | id_14 | 0.45 | 0.68 | 1.06 | 1.06 | 0.94 | 0.94 | 1.04 | 0.84 | 1.01 | |
| | id_15 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 0.79 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.66 | 0.66 | |
| | id_16 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 0.37 | 0.28 | 0.79 | 0.22 | 0.27 | 0.66 | 0.66 | |
| | id_17 | 0.91 | 0.94 | 0.86 | 0.75 | 0.96 | 0.76 | 0.87 | 0.94 | 0.99 | |
| | id_18 | 0.94 | 0.93 | 0.94 | 0.93 | 0.96 | 0.89 | 0.65 | 0.92 | 0.92 | |
| | id_19 | 0.98 | 0.99 | 0.38 | 0.82 | 0.96 | 0.44 | 0.81 | 0.88 | 0.88 | |
| | id_20 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.36 | 0.58 | 0.92 | 0.39 | 0.69 | 0.71 | 0.72 | |
| | id_21 | 0.94 | 0.97 | 0.36 | 0.58 | 0.92 | 0.39 | 0.69 | 0.71 | 0.72 | |
| | id_22 | 1.00 | 0.91 | 0.64 | 0.77 | 0.92 | 0.80 | 0.50 | 0.87 | 0.71 | |
| | id_23 | 0.81 | 0.98 | 0.97 | 0.90 | 0.97 | 0.97 | 0.88 | 1.02 | 1.02 | |
| | id_24 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.20 | 0.19 | 0.64 | 0.21 | 0.34 | 0.46 | 0.46 | |
| | id_25 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.65 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 0.60 | 0.60 | |
| | id_26 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.65 | 0.20 | 0.29 | 0.60 | 0.60 | |
| | id_27 | 0.87 | 0.83 | 0.88 | 0.83 | 0.96 | 0.87 | 0.85 | 1.02 | 1.01 | |
| | id_28 | 0.91 | 0.95 | 0.90 | 1.00 | 0.95 | 0.67 | 0.93 | 0.90 | 0.88 | |
| | id_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 prozesses 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 assissted evaluation in future project



A high-resolution visualization of an aircraft in flight, overlaid with a 3D wireframe mesh. The aircraft is a white commercial jet with blue and red stripes and the DLR logo on the tail. The wireframe shows the aircraft's structure, including the fuselage, wings, and engines. Red and yellow streamlines are visible near the front and rear of the aircraft, indicating air flow and wake. The background is a clear blue sky.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Contact

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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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