Created in COMSOL Multiphysics 6.1

Stress Analysis of a Pipe Fitting from a CAD File

Introduction

The stress analysis of a threaded connection is usually a complex undertaking because of the presence of fine geometrical details. One way to simplify the problem is to assume that the thread is axisymmetric. Computing the solution on a 2D cross section requires much less computational resources. This tutorial shows how to obtain a 2D cross section from a 3D geometry in order to perform stress analysis of a threaded pipe fitting. The 3D geometry of the fitting (see Figure 1) comes from a SOLIDWORKS® assembly, and is synchronized using the LiveLink interface.

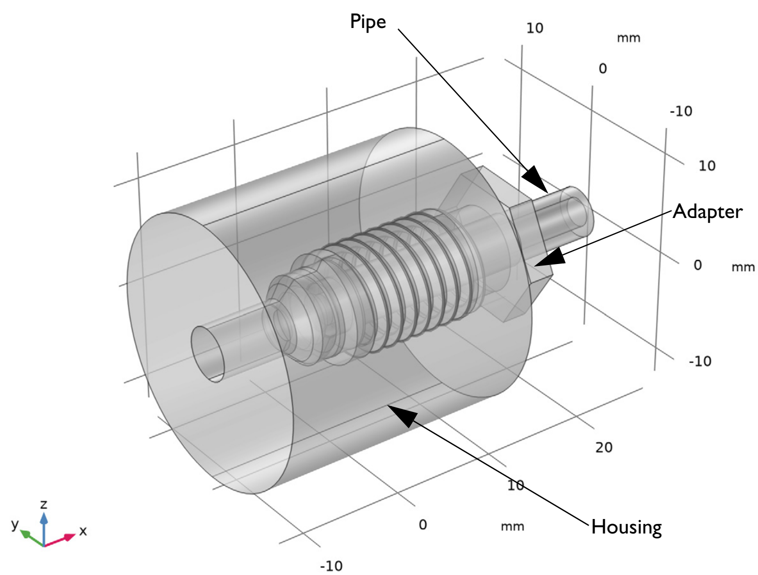


Figure 1: The 3D geometry of the pipe fitting used in this tutorial.

Model Definition

The simulation is performed on the 2D cross section of the geometry seen in Figure 2.

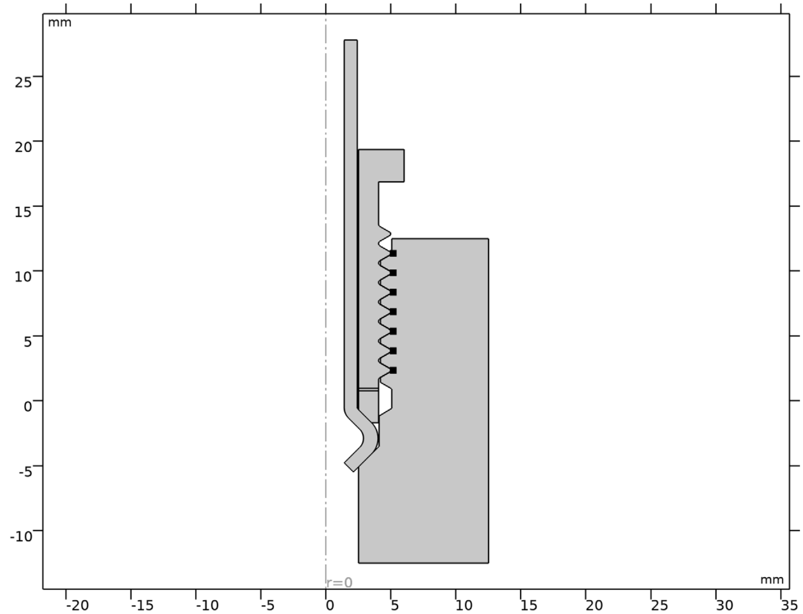


Figure 2: 2D cross section of the pipe fitting used for the simulation.

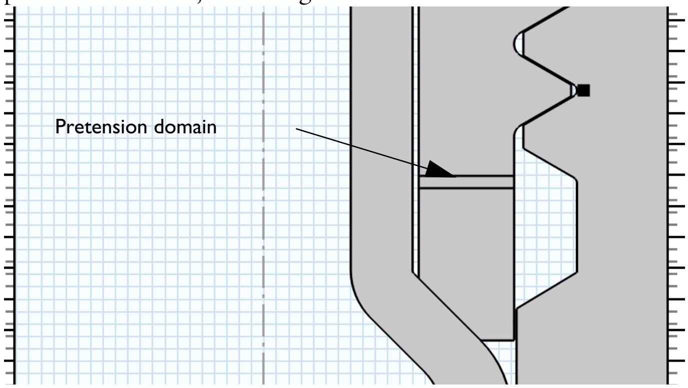
The analysis is based on a benchmark described in Ref. 1, where a 5 Nm torque is applied to the adapter. All components are made of the same steel material.

For this 2D axisymmetric simulation it is not an option to apply the torque to the adapter component. Instead an axial preload (W) can be applied based on the torque (T) as outlined in Ref. 1:

$$W = \left[\frac{2T \cdot (1 - \mu \cdot A \cdot \sec(\beta))}{d_0 \cdot (A + \mu \cdot \sec(\beta)) + \mu \cdot \sec(0.7854) \cdot d_1 \cdot (1 - \mu \cdot A \cdot \sec(\beta))}\right]$$

where μ is the friction coefficient, β the semi thread angle, d_0 the thread mean diameter, d_1 the abutment shoulder mean diameter and A the tangent of the helix angle.

The bolt pretension is ensured by means of an initial strain in the *z* direction set in a pretension domain, see the figure below:



The applied initial strain in the *z* direction is automatically adjusted so that the integrated stress along the *z* direction equals the calculated preload.

The model uses contact pairs to compute the force transmission between each part of the assembly.

Results and Discussion

The von Mises stress for the maximum applied torque, 5 Nm, is plotted in Figure 3. The maximum value of the von Mises stress is below the yield stress for a class 10.9 alloy steel.

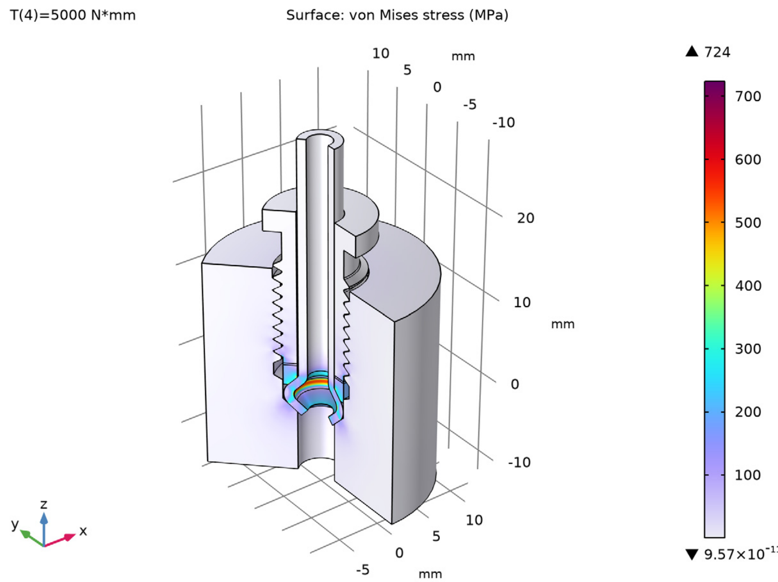


Figure 3: The von Mises stress at the maximum applied torque.

Notes About the COMSOL Implementation

To generate the 2D cross section of the synchronized 3D geometry the Cross Section geometry operation is applied. This operation also maps the selections from the 3D geometry to the 2D geometry. The selections on the 3D geometry are defined in the SOLIDWORKS® files and synchronized by the LiveLink interface.

TABLE 1: SELECTIONS DEFINED IN THE SOLIDWORKS FILES.

NAME	TYPE	DEFINED IN FILE
Faceset1@pipe	boundary	pipe.SLDPRT
Faceset2@pipe	boundary	pipe.SLDPRT
Faceset1@adaptor	boundary	adaptor.SLDPRT
Faceset2@adaptor	boundary	adaptor.SLDPRT
Pre-tension domain	object	adaptor.SLDPRT

TABLE 1: SELECTIONS DEFINED IN THE SOLIDWORKS FILES.

NAME	TYPE	DEFINED IN FILE
Faceset1@housing	boundary	housing.SLDPRT
Faceset2@housing	boundary	housing.SLDPRT
Male fitting	object	pipe_fitting.SLDPRT

To view the selection in the SOLIDWORKS user interface, click the **Selections** button on the **COMSOL Multiphysics** tab. The selections defined in the component files are automatically loaded and displayed also for the assembly, and they are synchronized during synchronization of the assembly with the COMSOL model.

Reference

1. J. Smart, “NAFEMS Advanced Workbook of Examples and Case Studies (Volume 2)” *NAFEMS R0086*, 2003.

Application Library path: `LiveLink_for_SOLIDWORKS/Tutorials,_LiveLink_Interface/pipe_fitting_llsw`

Modeling Instructions

1 In SOLIDWORKS open the file `pipe_fitting_cad/pipe_fitting.SLDASM` located in the model’s Application Library folder.

2 Switch to the COMSOL Desktop.

3 From the **File** menu, choose **New**.

NEW

In the **New** window, click **Model Wizard**.

MODEL WIZARD

1 In the **Model Wizard** window, click **3D**.

2 Click **Done**.

GEOMETRY 1

Make sure that the CAD Import Module kernel is used.

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** click **Geometry 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Geometry**, locate the **Advanced** section.

3 From the **Geometry representation** list, choose **CAD kernel**.

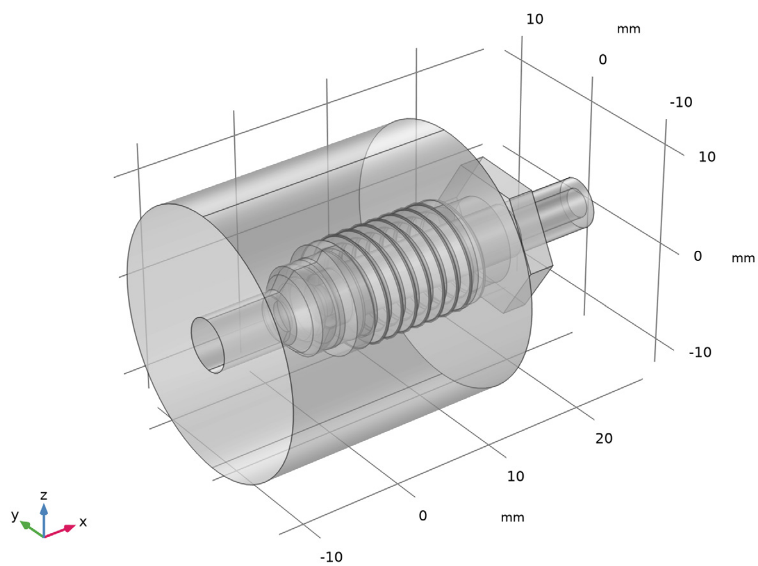
LiveLink for SOLIDWORKS 1 (cad1)

1 In the **Home** toolbar, click **LiveLink** and choose **LiveLink for SOLIDWORKS**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **LiveLink for SOLIDWORKS**, locate the **Synchronize** section.

3 Click **Synchronize**.

4 Click to expand the **Object Selections** section. Click to expand the **Boundary Selections** section. The selections listed in these sections are defined on the geometry in the SOLIDWORKS assembly. For more details see .



Work Plane 1 (wp1)

1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Work Plane**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Work Plane**, locate the **Plane Definition** section.

3 From the **Plane** list, choose **zx-plane**.

ADD COMPONENT

In the **Model Builder** window, right-click the root node and choose **Add Component> 2D Axisymmetric**.

GEOMETRY 2

1 In the **Settings** window for **Geometry**, locate the **Units** section.

2 From the **Length unit** list, choose **mm**.

Cross Section 1 (cro1)

1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Cross Section**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Cross Section**, locate the **Selections of Resulting Entities** section.

3 Select the **Selections from 3D** check box.

4 Click **Build Selected**.

Union 1 (uni1)

1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Booleans and Partitions** and choose **Union**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Union**, locate the **Union** section.

3 From the **Input objects** list, choose **Male fitting (Cross Section 1)**.

Form Union (fin)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)>Geometry 2** click **Form Union (fin)**.

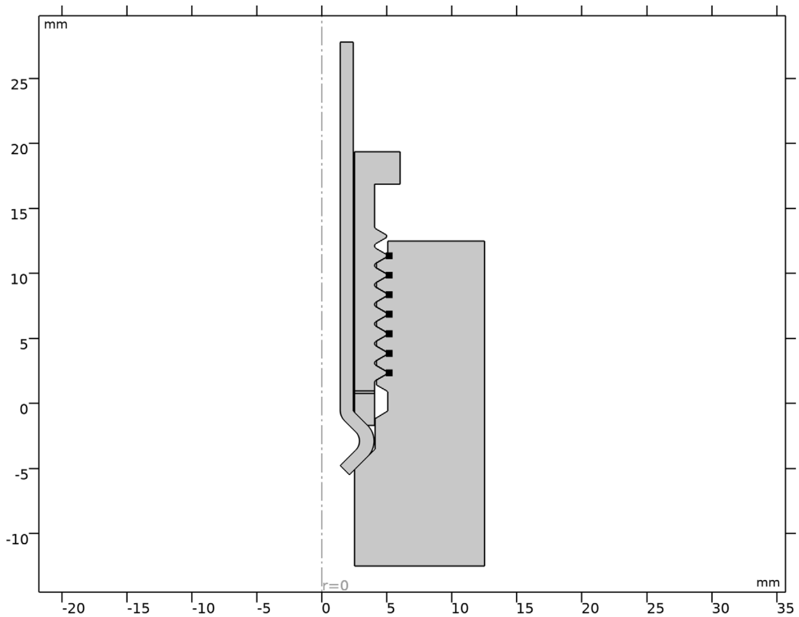
2 In the **Settings** window for **Form Union/Assembly**, locate the **Form Union/Assembly** section.

3 From the **Action** list, choose **Form an assembly**.

4 Clear the **Create pairs** check box.

Warning 1 (warning1)

In the **Geometry** toolbar, click **Build All**.



ADD MATERIAL

1 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Material** to open the **Add Material** window.

2 Go to the **Add Material** window.

3 In the tree, select **Built-in>Structural steel**.

4 Right-click and choose **Add to Component 2 (comp2)**.

5 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Material** to close the **Add Material** window.

ADD PHYSICS

1 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Physics** to open the **Add Physics** window.

2 Go to the **Add Physics** window.

3 In the tree, select **Structural Mechanics>Solid Mechanics (solid)**.

4 Click **Add to Component 2** in the window toolbar.

5 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Physics** to close the **Add Physics** window.

DEFINITIONS (COMP2)

Contact Pair 1 (p1)

1 In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **Pairs** and choose **Contact Pair**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Pair**, locate the **Source Boundaries** section.

3 From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset2@pipe (Cross Section 1)**.

4 Locate the **Destination Boundaries** section. From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset2@adaptor (Cross Section 1)**.

Contact Pair 2 (p2)

1 In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **Pairs** and choose **Contact Pair**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Pair**, locate the **Source Boundaries** section.

3 From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset1@housing (Cross Section 1)**.

4 Locate the **Destination Boundaries** section. From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset1@adaptor (Cross Section 1)**.

Contact Pair 3 (p3)

1 In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **Pairs** and choose **Contact Pair**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Pair**, locate the **Source Boundaries** section.

3 From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset2@housing (Cross Section 1)**.

4 Locate the **Destination Boundaries** section. From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset1@pipe (Cross Section 1)**.

SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

Contact 1a

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)** right-click **Solid Mechanics (solid)** and choose **Pairs>Contact**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Contact**, locate the **Pair Selection** section.

3 Under **Pairs**, click + **Add**.

4 In the **Add** dialog box, in the **Pairs** list, choose **Contact Pair 1 (p1)**, **Contact Pair 2 (p2)**, and **Contact Pair 3 (p3)**.

5 Click **OK**.

6 In the **Settings** window for **Contact**, locate the **Contact Method** section.

7 From the list, choose **Augmented Lagrangian**.

Friction 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Attributes** and choose **Friction**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Friction**, locate the **Friction Parameters** section.

3 In the μ text field, type `mu`.

4 Locate the **Initial Value** section. From the **Previous contact state** list, choose **In contact**.

Roller 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Roller**.

2 Select Boundary 14 only.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

Continue with loading the parameters used for setting up the simulation.

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Global Definitions** click **Parameters 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Parameters**, locate the **Parameters** section.

3 Click **Load from File**.

4 Browse to the model's Application Libraries folder and double-click the file `pipe_fitting_parameters.txt`.

DEFINITIONS (COMP2)

Integration 1 (intop1)

1 In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **Nonlocal Couplings** and choose **Integration**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Integration**, locate the **Source Selection** section.

3 From the **Selection** list, choose **Pre-tension domain (Cross Section 1)**.

4 Locate the **Advanced** section. From the **Frame** list, choose **Material (R, PHI, Z)**.

SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

1 Click the **Show More Options** button in the **Model Builder** toolbar.

2 In the **Show More Options** dialog box, in the tree, select the check box for the node **Physics>Equation-Based Contributions**.

3 Click **OK**.

Global Equations 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Global** and choose **Global Equations**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Global Equations**, locate the **Global Equations** section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	f(u,ut,utt,t) (1)	Initial value (u_0) (1)	Initial value (u_t0) (1/s)	Description
eZ	intop1(solid.SZ/ 0.2[mm])+W	0.1	0	

4 Locate the **Units** section. Click **Select Dependent Variable Quantity**.

5 In the **Physical Quantity** dialog box, select **Solid Mechanics>Strain tensor (1)** in the tree.

6 Click **OK**.

7 In the **Settings** window for **Global Equations**, locate the **Units** section.

8 Click **Select Source Term Quantity**.

9 In the **Physical Quantity** dialog box, select **General>Force (N)** in the tree.

10 Click **OK**.

Linear Elastic Material 1

In the **Model Builder** window, click **Linear Elastic Material 1**.

Initial Stress and Strain 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Attributes** and choose **Initial Stress and Strain**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Initial Stress and Strain**, locate the **Domain Selection** section.

3 Click **Clear Selection**.

4 From the **Selection** list, choose **Pre-tension domain (Cross Section 1)**.

5 Locate the **Initial Stress and Strain** section. In the ε_0 table, enter the following settings:

0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	eZ

Spring Foundation 1

1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click **Boundaries** and choose **Spring Foundation**.

2 Select Boundaries 5 and 63 only.

3 In the **Settings** window for **Spring Foundation**, locate the **Spring** section.

4 From the list, choose **Diagonal**.

5 In the $\mathbf{k}_A$ table, enter the following settings:

0	0
0	k

MESH 2

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 2 (comp2)** click **Mesh 2**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Mesh**, locate the **Sequence Type** section.

3 From the list, choose **User-controlled mesh**.

Size 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, right-click **Free Triangular 1** and choose **Size**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Size**, locate the **Geometric Entity Selection** section.

3 From the **Geometric entity level** list, choose **Boundary**.

4 From the **Selection** list, choose **Faceset2@adaptor (Cross Section 1)**.

5 Locate the **Element Size** section. Click the **Custom** button.

6 Locate the **Element Size Parameters** section.

7 Select the **Maximum element size** check box. In the associated text field, type `0.1`.

8 Click **Build All**.

ADD STUDY

1 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Study** to open the **Add Study** window.

2 Go to the **Add Study** window.

3 Find the **Studies** subsection. In the **Select Study** tree, select **General Studies>Stationary**.

4 Right-click and choose **Add Study**.

5 In the **Home** toolbar, click **Add Study** to close the **Add Study** window.

STUDY 1

Step 1: Stationary

1 In the **Settings** window for **Stationary**, click to expand the **Study Extensions** section.

2 Select the **Auxiliary sweep** check box.

3 Click **Add**.

4 In the table, enter the following settings:

Parameter name	**Parameter value list**	**Parameter unit**
T (Applied torque)	`100 500 1e3 5e3`	`N*mm`

5 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Study 1**.

Solution 1 (sol1)

1 In the **Study** toolbar, click **Show Default Solver**.

2 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Solution 1 (sol1)** node.

3 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Study 1>Solver Configurations>Solution 1 (sol1)>Stationary Solver 1>Segregated 1** node, then click **Solid Mechanics**.

4 In the **Settings** window for **Segregated Step**, click to expand the **Method and Termination** section.

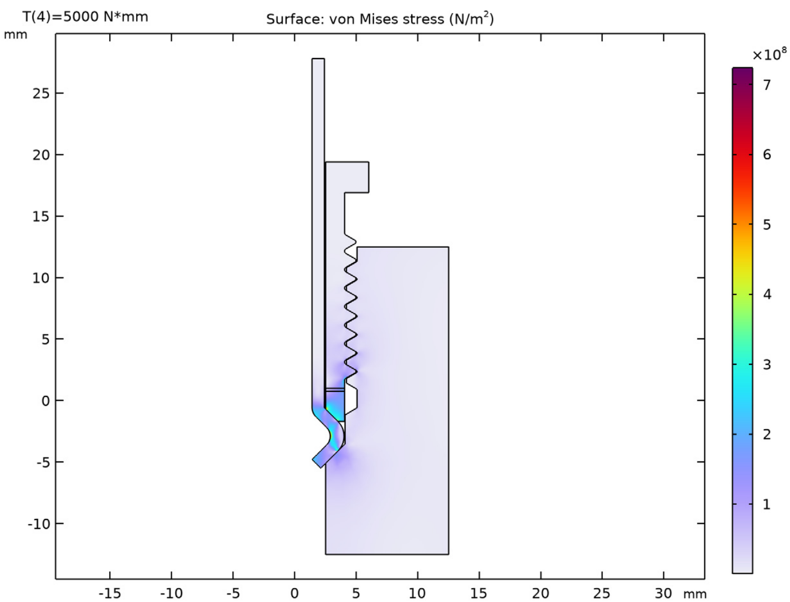
5 From the **Termination technique** list, choose **Tolerance**.

6 In the **Study** toolbar, click **Compute**.

RESULTS

Stress (solid)

The first automatically generated plot group contains a surface plot of the von Mises stress, and a line plot of the contact pressure.



Stress, 3D (solid)

To visualize the solution in 3D, a plot is also generated based on a revolution dataset.

Surface 1

1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Stress, 3D (solid)** node, then click **Surface 1**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **Surface**, locate the **Expression** section.

3 From the **Unit** list, choose **MPa**.

Stress, 3D (solid)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Stress, 3D (solid)**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, locate the **Color Legend** section.

3 Select the **Show maximum and minimum values** check box.

The results plot should now appear similar to that in Figure 3