



A TOOL FOR FAST DESIGN OF PRESSURE VESSEL DOMES AND THEIR SIZE AND SHAPE OPTIMIZATION BY USING HYPERSTUDY

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The design and analysis of Ultra Light Pressurized Elements requires that high structural performances are achieved by preserving the low weight of their structures. The numerical procedure presented in this paper has been set up in order to give designers a tool which can be suitable for making appropriate choices of the end caps (domes) for pressurized elements and allow for a fast evaluation of their stress field. In fact, the proposed tool allows one to choose among 5 different dome profiles as well as the computation of both hoop and meridian stress. The user can then evaluate the suitability of its choice, change the choice and re-evaluate the stress field automatically. This automatic tool leads to other important information related to the dome characteristics (i.e. closure volume, pressurized elements overall volume, etc.). It is a program written in Visual Basic for Applications and interfacing with Microsoft Software Excel package. It also allows for a direct interface with CAD software; the user, can in fact obtain the IGES file related to the geometry of the domes. As a limitation, the present tool only deals with membrane stress fields; however if the user is interested in considering the local effects (bending and shear) at the interface of the domes and the cylindrical part of the pressurized element, the present tool allows the use of FE codes (i.e. RADIOSS, NASTRAN) for the automatic execution of Finite Element Analysis (Linear Static, Buckling, Non-Linear Static). Finally, in order to make a sizing optimization of the wall thicknesses of pressurized elements, a procedure has also been set up, based on the use of the HyperStudy software in conjunction with a solver based program written in Visual Basic for Application (VBA).

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INTRODUCTION

- This presentation is related to an automated computational procedure named **DOMPRO** (**DOMesPRO**files).
- This procedure is intended to be a simple to use tool for quick design of end closure profiles of pressurized elements (i.e. tanks, pressurized modules, etc..), which exhibit revolutionary symmetry
- It is based on a program written in Visual Basic for Applications (VBA)
- It is coupled with a Microsoft Excel worksheet, which acts as a user interface for the input of the program data
- The procedure exploits the batch mode use of HyperMesh and RADIOSS software

INTRODUCTION (cont.)

- To give an example of the field of application of the procedure, Figure 1 shows a real application case of two tanks studied, in their first design phase, with this procedure

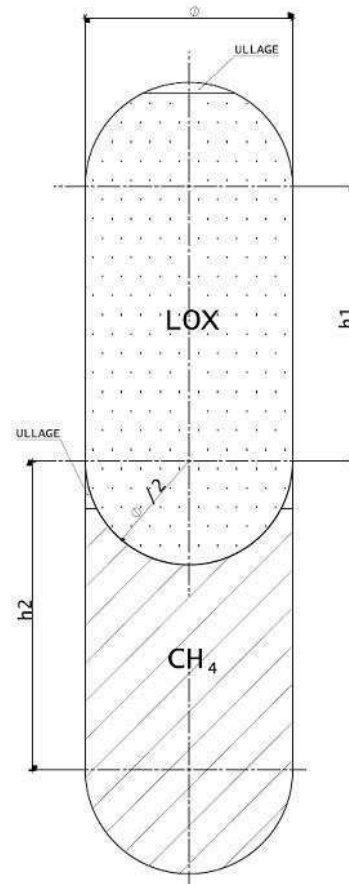


FIG. 1 – Example of real application case

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION

➤ For what concern the characteristics of the procedure, its main procedure functionalities are listed below :

data management

- input data processing
- data summary

analytical computations

- profile x ,y coordinates
- profile radii
- profile length
- profile surface
- dome mass
- dome volume
- total volume
- profile meridian stresses
- profile hoop stresses
- profile variable thickness

CAD & FEM

- profile IGES file using HyperMesh
- dome FEM analysis using RADIOSS
- dome FD analysis using BOSOR

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- **START** button opens the windows of Figure 3, where one can choose the dome profile (among 5 allowed) and input the engineering data.



Dome profiles

Cassinian|
 Cassinian
 Elliptical
 Semi-Spherical
 Toric-Spherical
 Toric-Conical

$E =$ 70000 [MPa]
 $t_{cost} =$ 1 [mm]
 $\rho =$ 2.8E-6 [Kg/m³]
 Allowable = 221 [MPa]

$m =$ 0.7
 $n =$ 2.213134
 $a =$ 2300 [mm]
 $b =$ 1610,000 [mm]
 $L =$ 2700 [mm]
 $V =$ 83595418531 [mm³]
 $V_{Cylinder} =$ 44871367871
 $V_{Dome} =$ 19362025330

Analysis selection
 Standard BOSOR

L defined **Integral iteration for dome volume** 10000
 V defined **STEP =** 100

Scaling = Cost

Plot Close

Dome profiles

Cassinian|

$vU =$ 0.33
 $p =$ 2.0 [MPa]
 $E =$ 70000 [MPa]
 $t_{cost} =$ 1 [mm]
 $\rho =$ 2.8E-6 [Kg/m³]
 Allowable = 221 [MPa]

$m =$ 0.7
 $n =$ 2.213134
 $a =$ 2300 [mm]
 $b =$ 1610,000 [mm]
 $L =$ 2700 [mm]
 $V =$ 83595418531 [mm³]
 $V_{Cylinder} =$ 44871367871
 $V_{Dome} =$ 19362025330

Analysis selection
 Standard BOSOR

L defined **Integral iteration for dome volume** 10000
 V defined **STEP =** 100

Scaling = Cost

Plot Close

$V_{Totale} = V_{Cilindro} + 2 \cdot V_{Calotta}$

Equazione del profilo
 $(x^2 + n^2 \cdot y^2)^2 + 2 \cdot m \cdot a^2 \cdot (x^2 - n^2 \cdot y^2) = a^4 \cdot (1 + 2 \cdot m)$

FIG. 3 – Window for Dome profile choice and data input

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- By applying the Plot and then the Close button, computations are executed and the following window appears

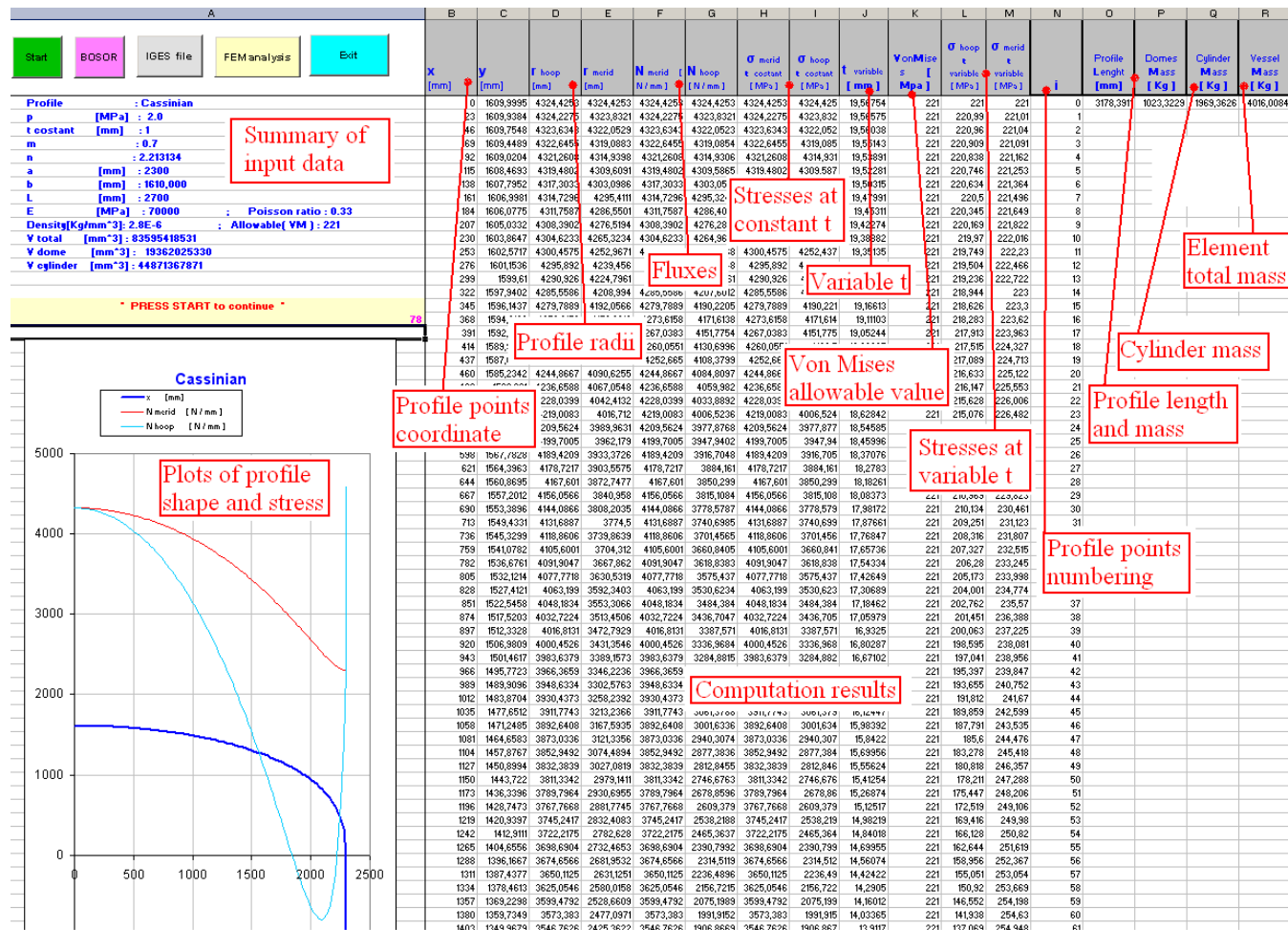


FIG. 4 – Worksheet with computed results

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- **BOSOR** button allows the use of a Finite Difference based code (**B**uckling **O**f **S**hells **O**f **R**evolution, by Bushnell) for a static or non-linear buckling analysis of the profile.
- The user must choose the profile discretization and then the analysis type

FIG. 5 – BOSOR usage window

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- **IGES file** button performs the generation of a neutral data format file containing the profile geometry
- The generation of the IGES file is done by using the HyperMesh in batch mode
- HyperMesh processes a command file (*.cmf) automatically written by the procedure and based on coordinates of profile points
- IGES file can refer to a constant thickness profile or to a variable thickness one
- In the latter case the user must define the number and the length of profile subdivisions

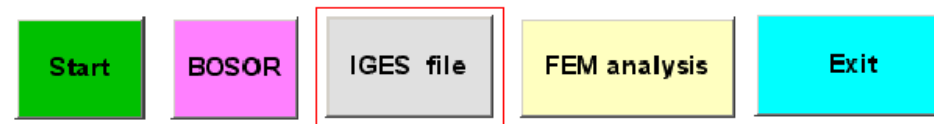
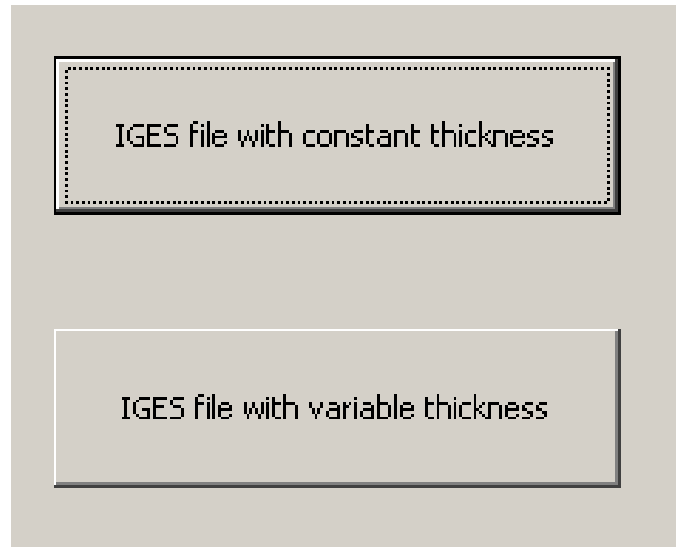


FIG. 6 – IGES file button

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
ip int t variable [mm]	VonMises [Mpa]	σ hoop variable [MPa]	σ merid variable [MPa]		Profile Lenght [mm]	Domes Mass [Kg]	Cylinder Mass [Kg]	Vessel Mass [Kg]	
43	19,5675	221	221	221	0	3178,39	1023,32	1969,36	4016,01
83	19,5657	221	220,99	221,01	1				
05	19,5604	221	220,96	221,04	2				
09	19,5514	221	220,91	221,09	3				
93	19,5389	221	220,84	221,16	4				
59	19,5228	221	220,75	221,25	5				
05	19,5031	221	220,63	221,36	6				
32	19,4799	221	220,5	221,5	7				
3,4	19,4531	221	220,35	221,65	8				
26	19,4227	221	220,17	221,82	9				
96	19,3888	221	219,97	222,02	10				
44	19,3514	221	219,75	222,23	11				
3,7	19,3103	221	219,5	222,47	12				
76	19,2658	221	219,24	222,72	13				
6	19,2177	221	218,94	223	14				
22	19,1661	221	218,63	223,3	15				
61	19,111	221	218,28	223,62	16				
78	19,0524	221	217,91	223,96	17				
1,7	18,9904	221	217,52	224,33	18				
38	18,9248	221	217,09	224,71	19				
81	18,8559	221	216,63	225,12	20				
98	18,7834	221	216,15	225,55	21				
89	18,7076	221	215,63	226,01	22				
52	18,6284	221	215,08	226,48	23				
88	18,5459	221	214,49	226,98	24				
94	18,46	221	213,87	227,5	25				
3,7	18,3708	221	213,2	228,05	26				
16	18,2783	221	212,5	228,62	27				
3	18,1826	221	211,76	229,21	28				
11	18,0837	221	210,97	229,82	29				
58	17,9817	221	210,13	230,46	30				
1,7	17,8766	221	209,25	231,12	31				
46	17,7685	221	208,32	231,81	32				
84	17,6574	221	207,33	232,51	33				
84	17,5433	221	206,28	233,25	34				
44	17,4265	221	205,17	234	35				
62	17,3069	221	204	234,77	36				
38	17,1846	221	202,76	235,57	37				
3,7	17,0598	221	201,45	236,39	38				
57	16,9325	221	200,06	237,23	39				
97	16,8029	221	198,6	238,08	40				
86	16,671	221	197,04	238,96	41				
3	16,5371	221	195,4	239,85	42				
19	16,4013	221	193,66	240,75	43				
56	16,2637	221	191,81	241,67	44				
38	16,1245	221	189,86	242,6	45				
63	15,9839	221	187,79	243,53	46				
31	15,8422	221	185,6	244,48	47				
38	15,6996	221	183,28	245,42	48				
85	15,5562	221	180,82	246,36	49				
68	15,4125	221	178,21	247,29	50				



	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U
ip int t variable [mm]	VonMises [Mpa]	σ hoop variable [MPa]	σ merid variable [MPa]		Profile Lenght [mm]	Domes Mass [Kg]	Cylinder Mass [Kg]	Vessel Mass [Kg]				
19,5675	221	221	221	0	3178,39	1023,32	1969,36	4016,01			19,5675	
19,5657	221	220,99	221,01	1							19,5675	
19,5604	221	220,96	221,04	2							19,5675	
19,5514	221	220,91	221,09	3							19,5675	
19,5389	221	220,84	221,16	4							19,5675	
19,5228	221	220,75	221,25	5							19,5675	
19,5031	221	220,63	221,36	6							19,5675	
19,4799	221	220,5	221,5	7							19,5675	
19,4531	221	220,35	221,65	8							19,5675	
19,4227	221	220,17	221,82	9							19,5675	
19,3888	221	219,97	222,02	10							19,5675	
19,3514	221	219,75	222,23	11							19,5675	
19,3103	221	219,5	222,47	12							19,5675	
19,2658	221	219,24	222,72	13							19,5675	
19,2177	221	218,94	223	14							19,5675	
19,1661	221	218,63	223,3	15							19,5675	
19,111	221	218,28	223,62	16							19,5675	
19,0524	221	217,91	223,96	17							19,5675	
18,9904	221	217,52	224,33	18							19,5675	
18,9248	221	217,09	224,71	19							19,5675	
18,8559	221	216,63	225,12	20							19,5675	20
18,7834	221	216,15	225,55	21							18,7834	
18,7076	221	215,63	226,01	22							18,7834	
18,6284	221	215,08	226,48	23							18,7834	
18,5459	221	214,49	226,98	24							18,7834	
18,46	221	213,87	227,5	25							18,7834	
18,3708	221	213,2	228,05	26							18,7834	
18,2783	221	212,5	228,62	27							18,7834	
18,1826	221	211,76	229,21	28							18,7834	
18,0837	221	210,97	229,82	29							18,7834	
17,9817	221	210,13	230,46	30							18,7834	
17,8766	221	209,25	231,12	31							18,7834	
17,7685	221	208,32	231,81	32							18,7834	
17,6574	221	207,33	232,51	33							18,7834	
17,5433	221	206,28	233,25	34							18,7834	
17,4265	221	205,17	234	35							18,7834	35
17,3069	221	204	234,77	36							17,3069	
17,1846	221	202,76	235,57	37							17,3069	
17,0598	221	201,45	236,39	38							17,3069	
16,9325	221	200,06	237,23	39							17,3069	
16,8029	221	198,6	238,08	40							17,3069	
16,671	221	197,04	238,96	41							17,3069	
16,5371	221	195,4	239,85	42							17,3069	
16,4013	221	193,66	240,75	43							17,3069	
16,2637	221	191,81	241,67	44							17,3069	
16,1245	221	189,86	242,6	45							17,3069	
15,9839	221	187,79	243,53	46							17,3069	
15,8422	221	185,6	244,48	47							17,3069	
15,6996	221	183,28	245,42	48							17,3069	
15,5562	221	180,82	246,36	49							17,3069	
15,4125	221	178,21	247,29	50							17,3069	50

FIG. 7 – IGES file creation

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- Figure 7 shows constant thickness and segmented profile

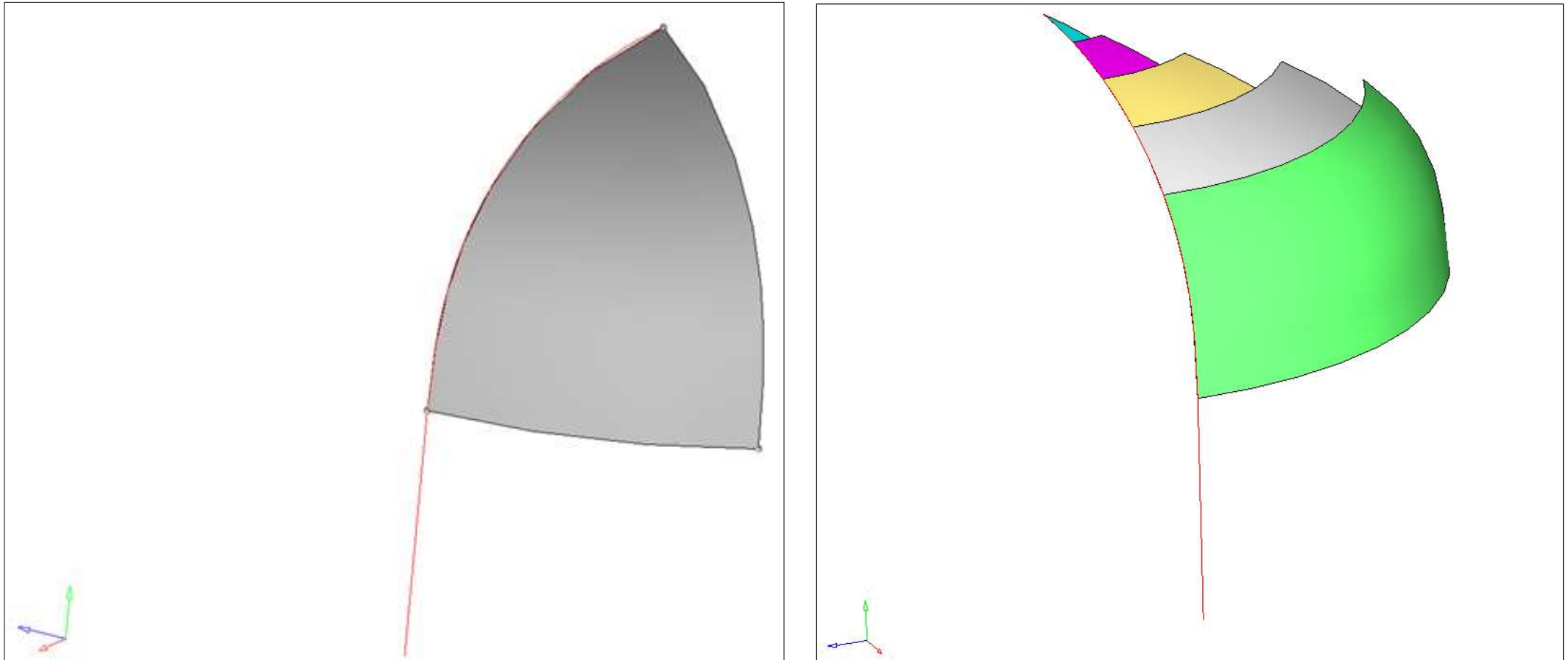


FIG. 8 – IGES profile examples

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- **FEM analysis** button allows the automatic execution of Finite Element Analyses
- FEM analysis is done by using Hypermesh and RADIOSS in batch mode
- Suitable command files are automatically written by the procedure and processed for the following operations:
 - ❑ importing of IGES file containing the profile geometry
 - ❑ generation of a revolving surface (right now based on fixed parameters)
 - ❑ generation of Finite Element Model
 - ❑ application of boundary conditions (simmetry constraints and internal pressure)
 - ❑ generation of input file suitable for Linear Static, Non-Linear Static or Buckling analyses
 - ❑ run FE analysis



FIG. 9 – FEM analysis button

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- In order to perform Finite Element Analyses the user can choose among three different analysis types

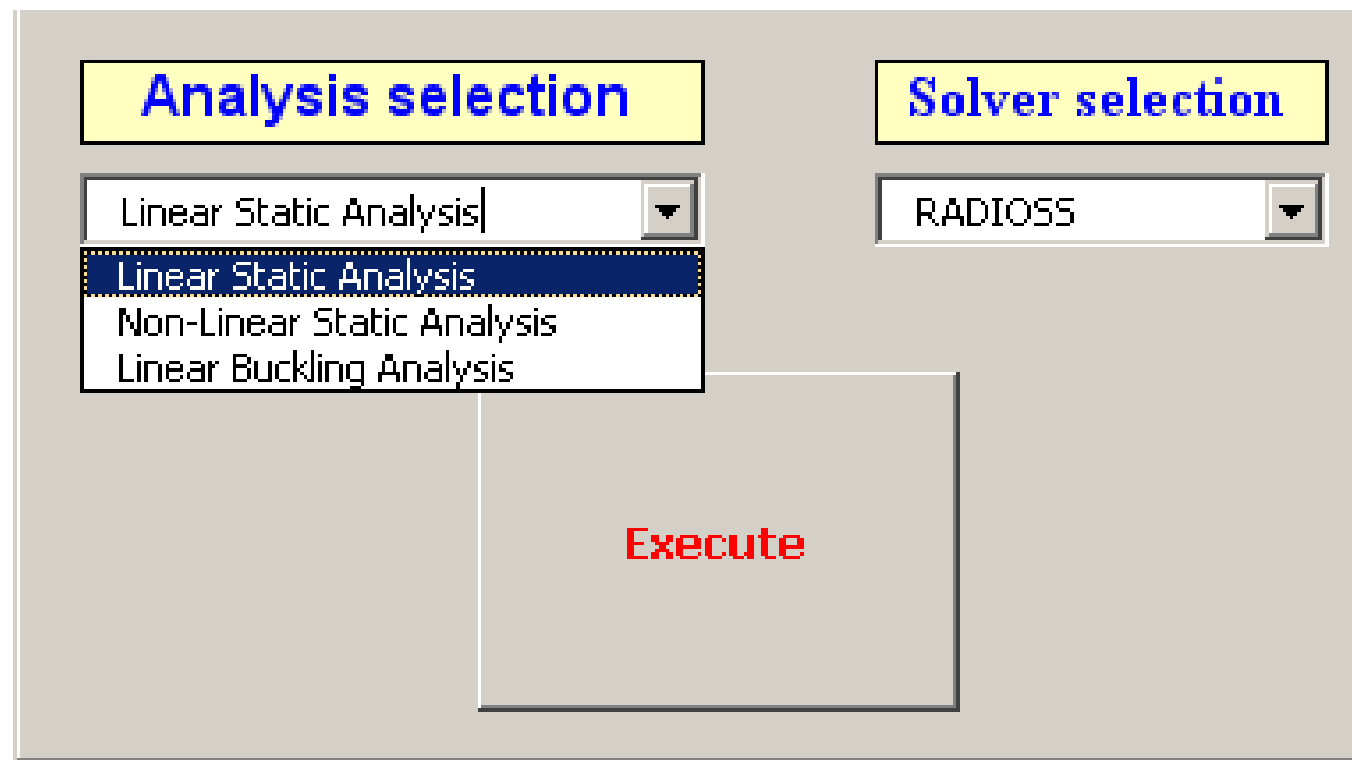


FIG. 10 – Windows for the choice of Finite Element Analysis

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- Once FEM analysis is executed, the procedure allows results visualization for a quick evaluation. Examples of Buckling and Static analyses results are shown below.

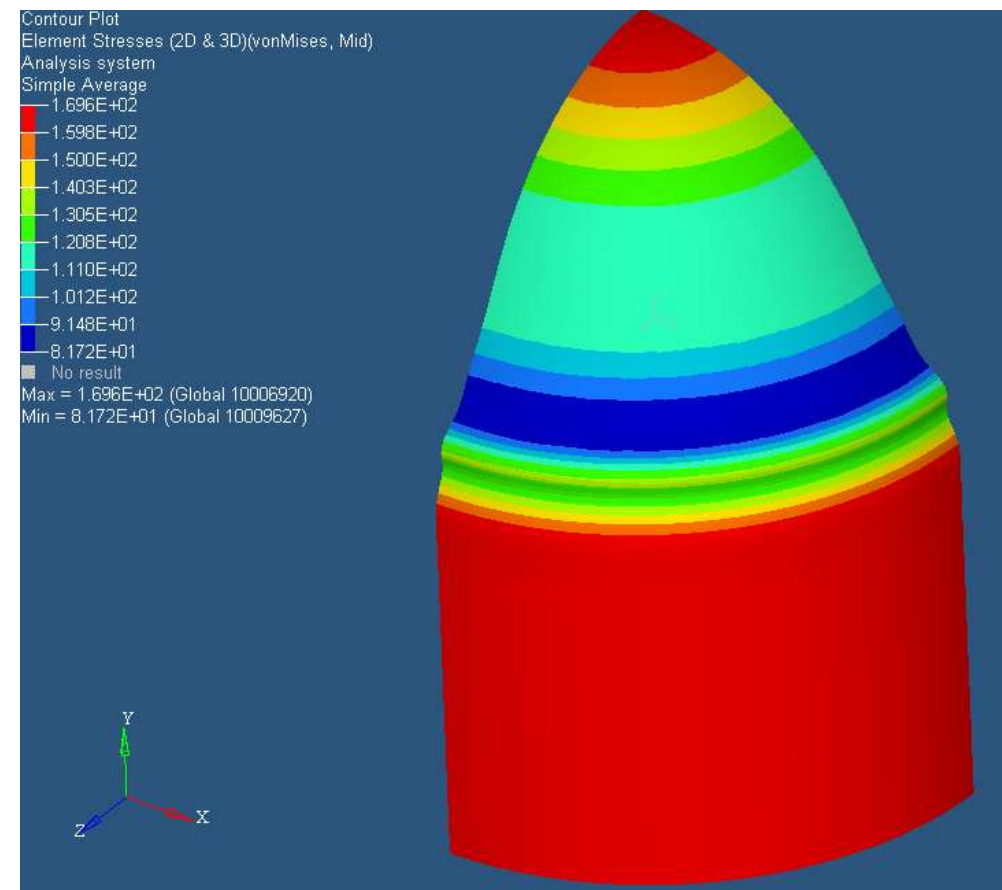
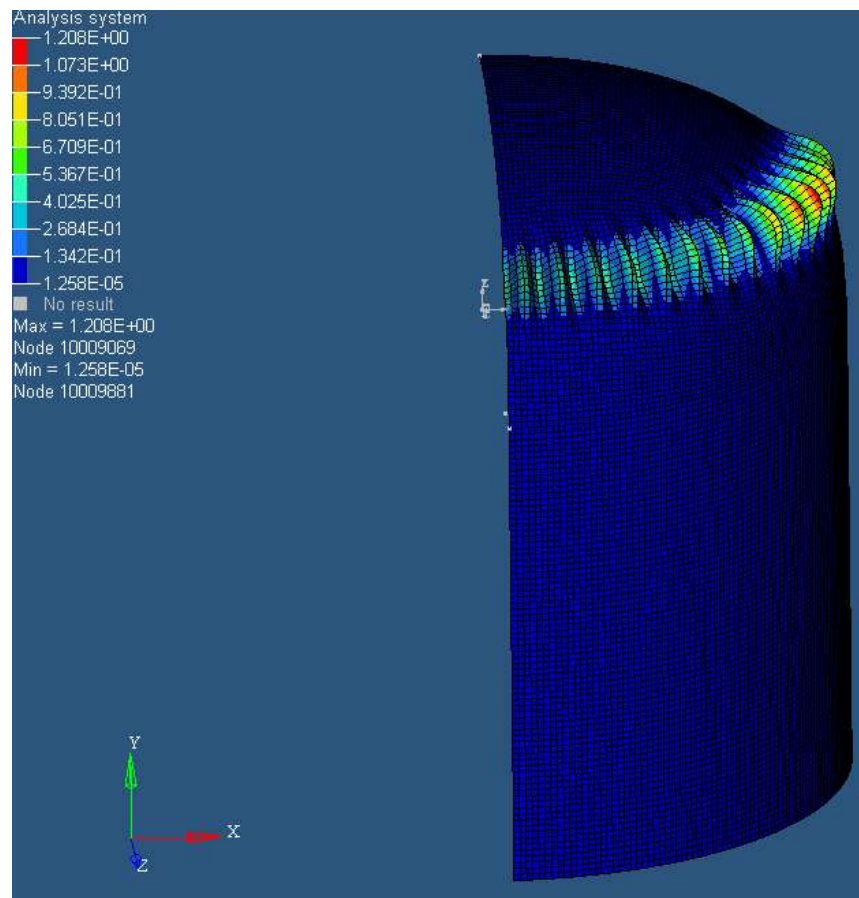


FIG. 11 – FEM Analyses results

PROCEDURE PRESENTATION (cont.)

- **Exit** button allows to end the procedure



FIG. 12 – Exit command button

PROCEDURE VALIDATION

- Validation of the procedure has been made by comparing analytical with numerical results obtained from a dedicated FEM analysis
- In order to do this, a strip FEM model has been used

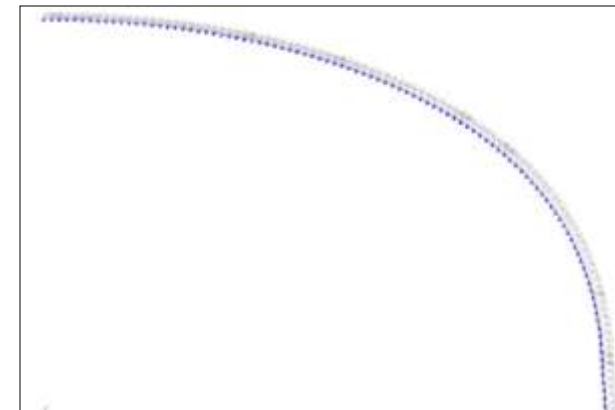
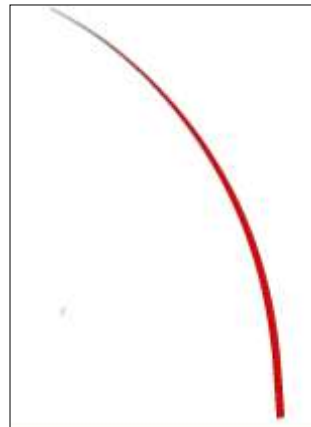
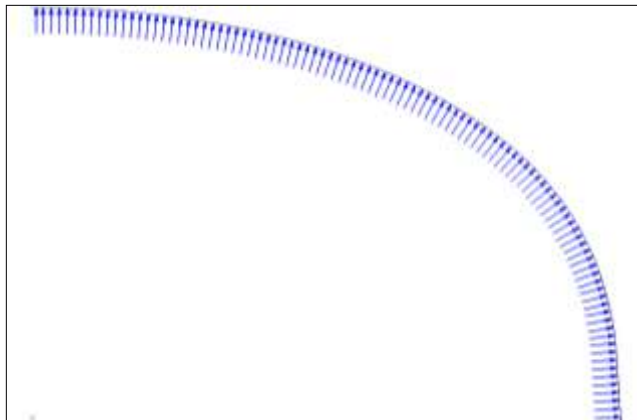
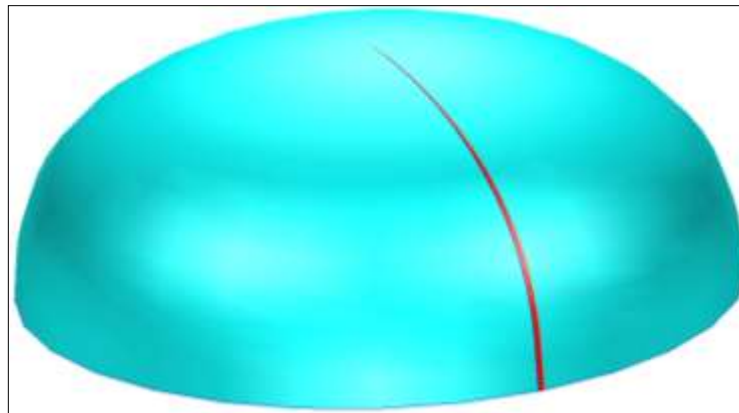


FIG. 13 – Pressurized Element strip FEM mode

PROCEDURE VALIDATION (cont.)

- The comparison has been made between the membrane fluxes (meridian and hoop)

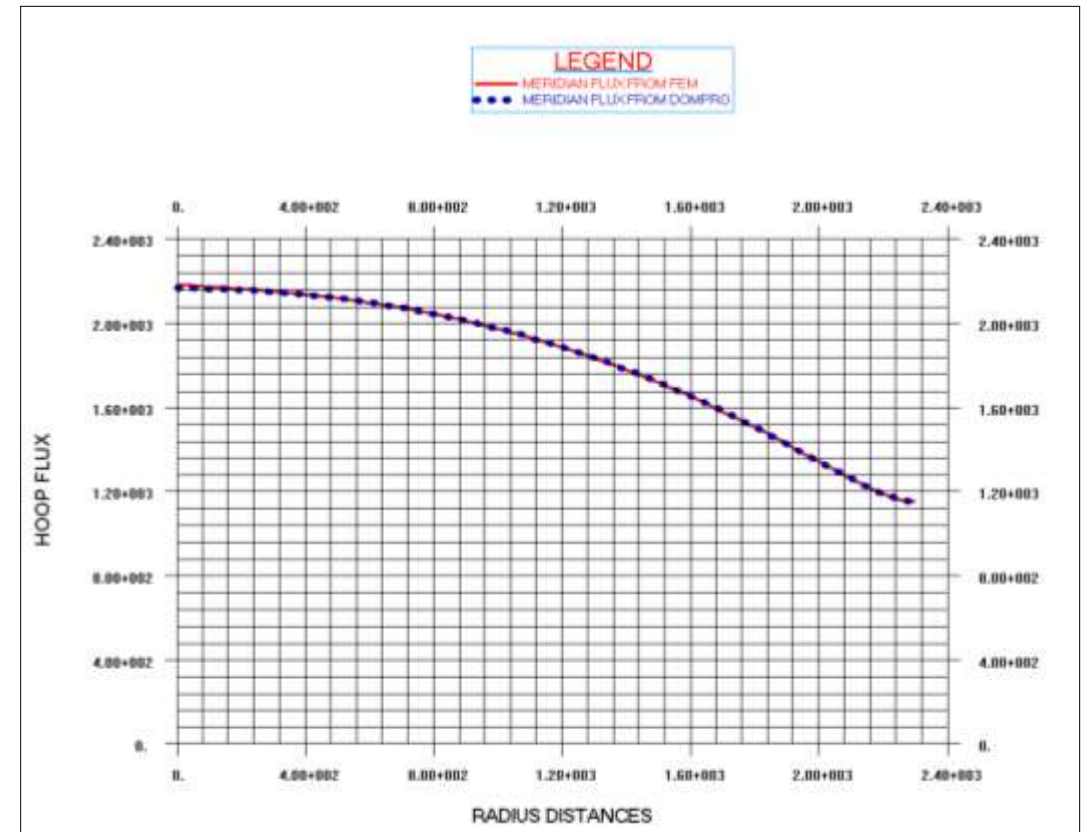
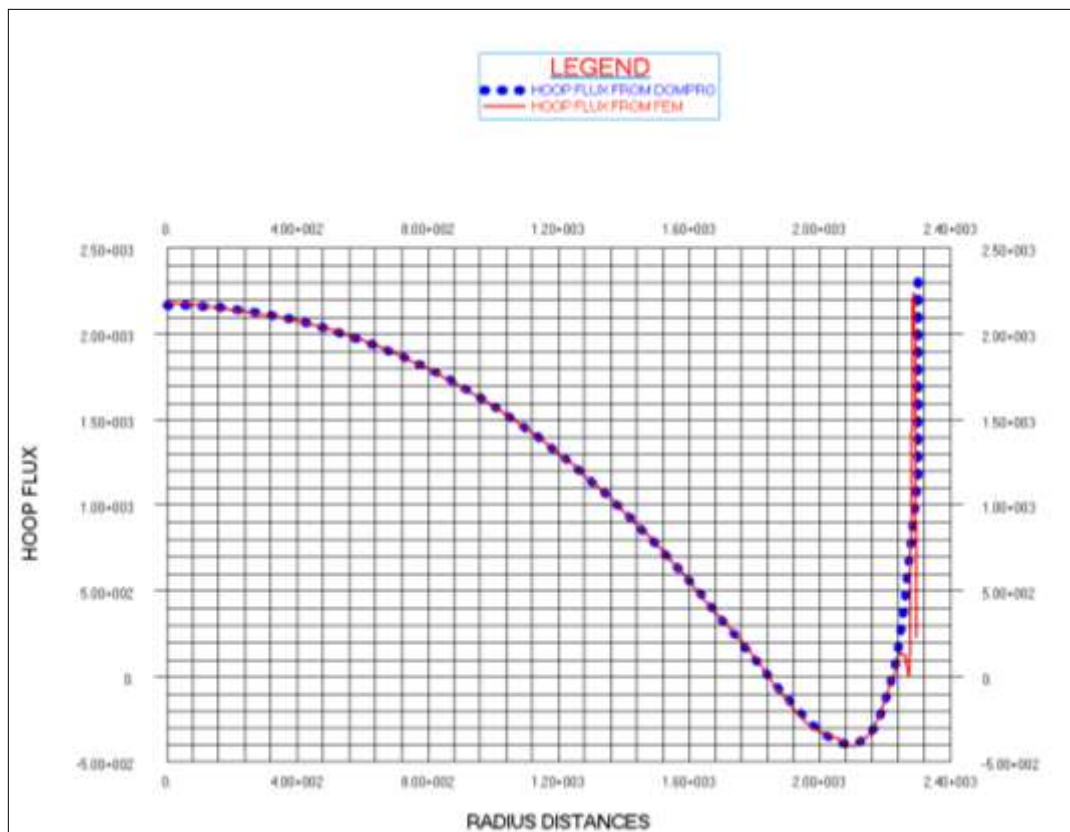


FIG. 14 – Membrane Meridian and Hoop fluxes comparison

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY

- The optimization relates the Cassinian family of dome profiles
- Coupling of HyperStudy with DOMPROM has been made to optimize equation parameters
- The equation which describes the Cassinian profiles is :

$$(x^2 + n^2 \cdot y^2)^2 + 2 \cdot m \cdot a^2 \cdot (x^2 - n^2 \cdot y^2) = a^4 \cdot (1 + 2 \cdot m)$$

➤ where :

- ☐ a → radius of pressurized element
- ☐ m, n → equation parameters

- The shape of the dome profile depends on the parameters value
- Usually, for some practical design assumptions, the ratio of “ b/a “ (dome height to dome radius ratio) is fixed or varying inside a range
- This ratio depends on the values of the equation parameters “m” and “n”
- Optimization is made to obtain the parameters value which corresponds to a minimum mass dome design, while respecting an imposed b/a ratio

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- For this purpose DOMPRO procedure has been adapted to become suitable for its use inside HyperStudy
- Once HyperStudy is started the following window appears
- In this window the user can then define the optimization variables

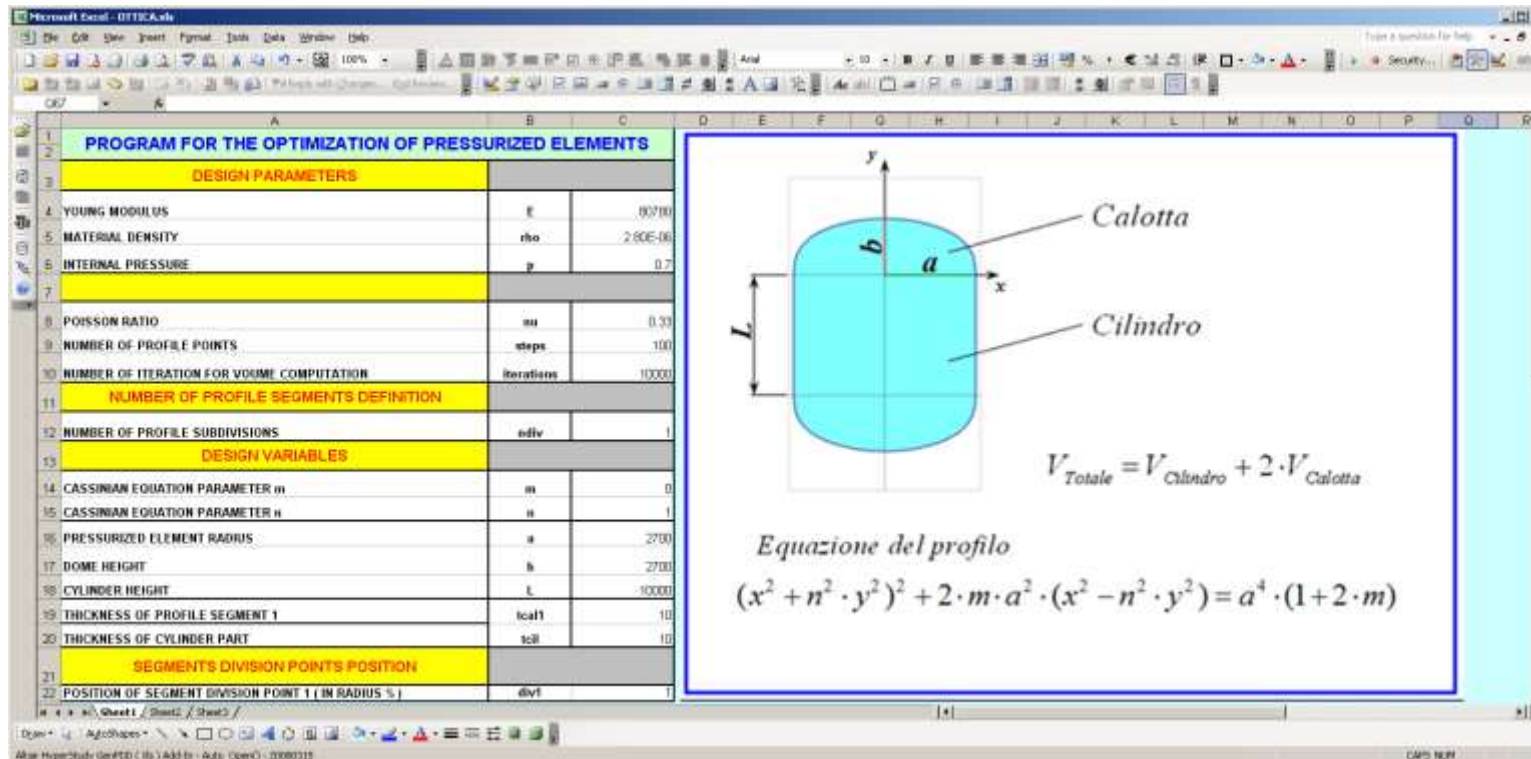


FIG. 15 – Windows for Optimization

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- The responses, the constraints and the optimization objective are defined in HyperStudy
- All computations are made by a VBA program named PROFILO which is defined into HyperStudy as the computational code
- This Optimization study has been made for the real case application shown in Figure 1
- The study and optimization set up are explained in next slides

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- Design variables : m, n, L (equation parameters, total tank Length)

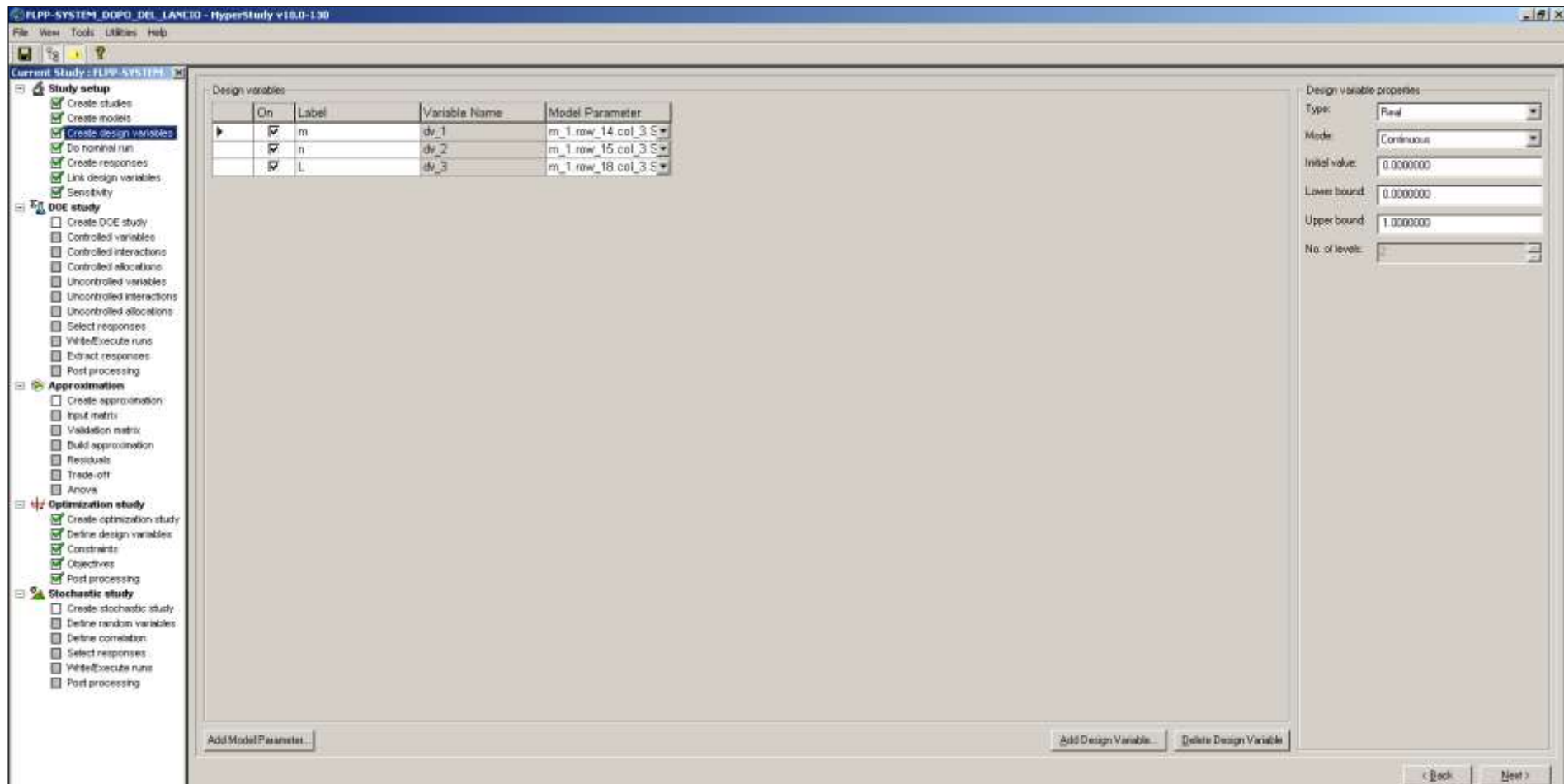


FIG. 16 – Design variables definition

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- Responses : b/a, total tank Volume, total tank Mass

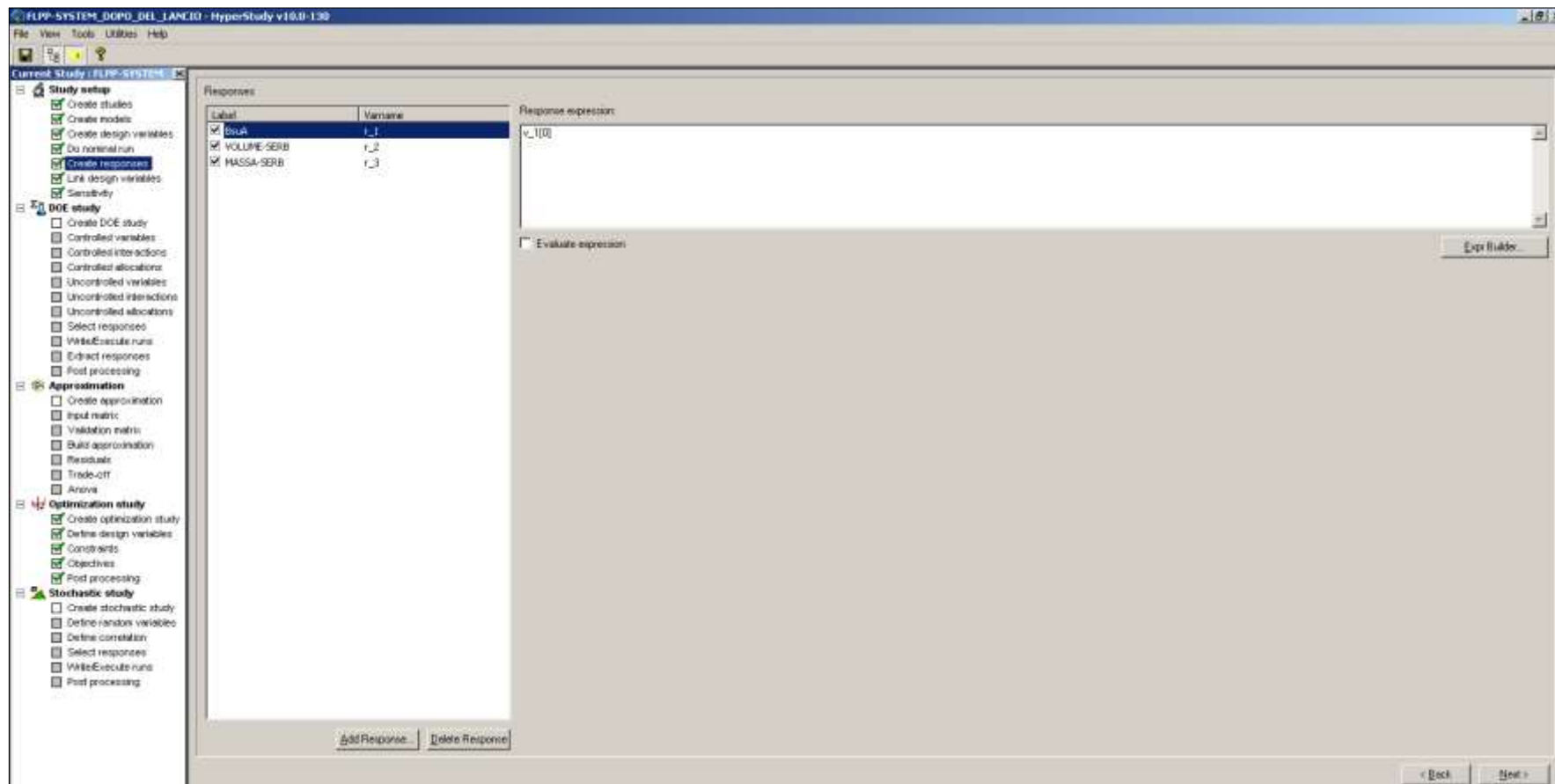


FIG. 17 – Design responses definition

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- Design constraints: b/a , total tank Volume

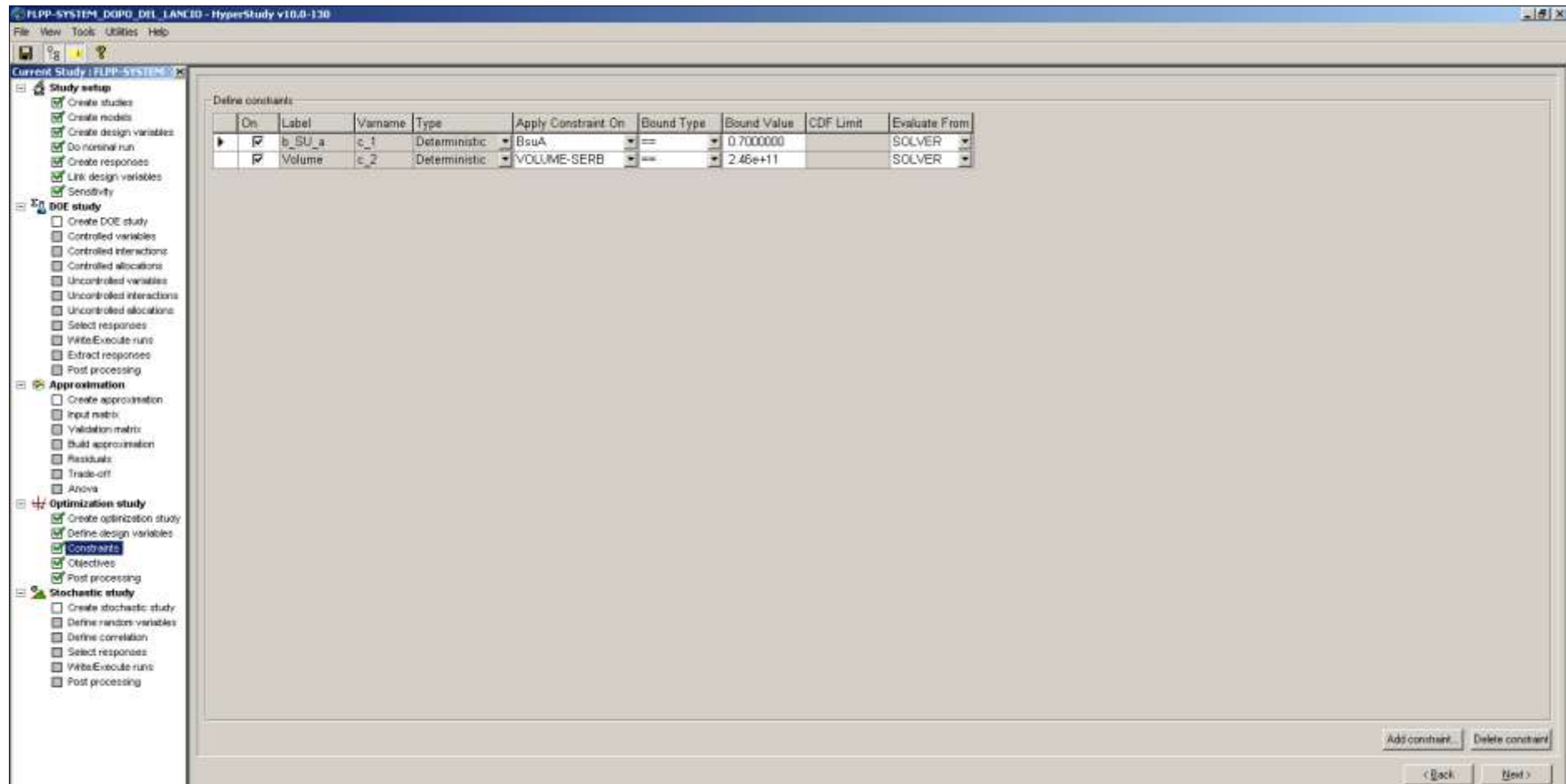


FIG. 18 – Design constraints definition

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- Design objective: total tank Mass

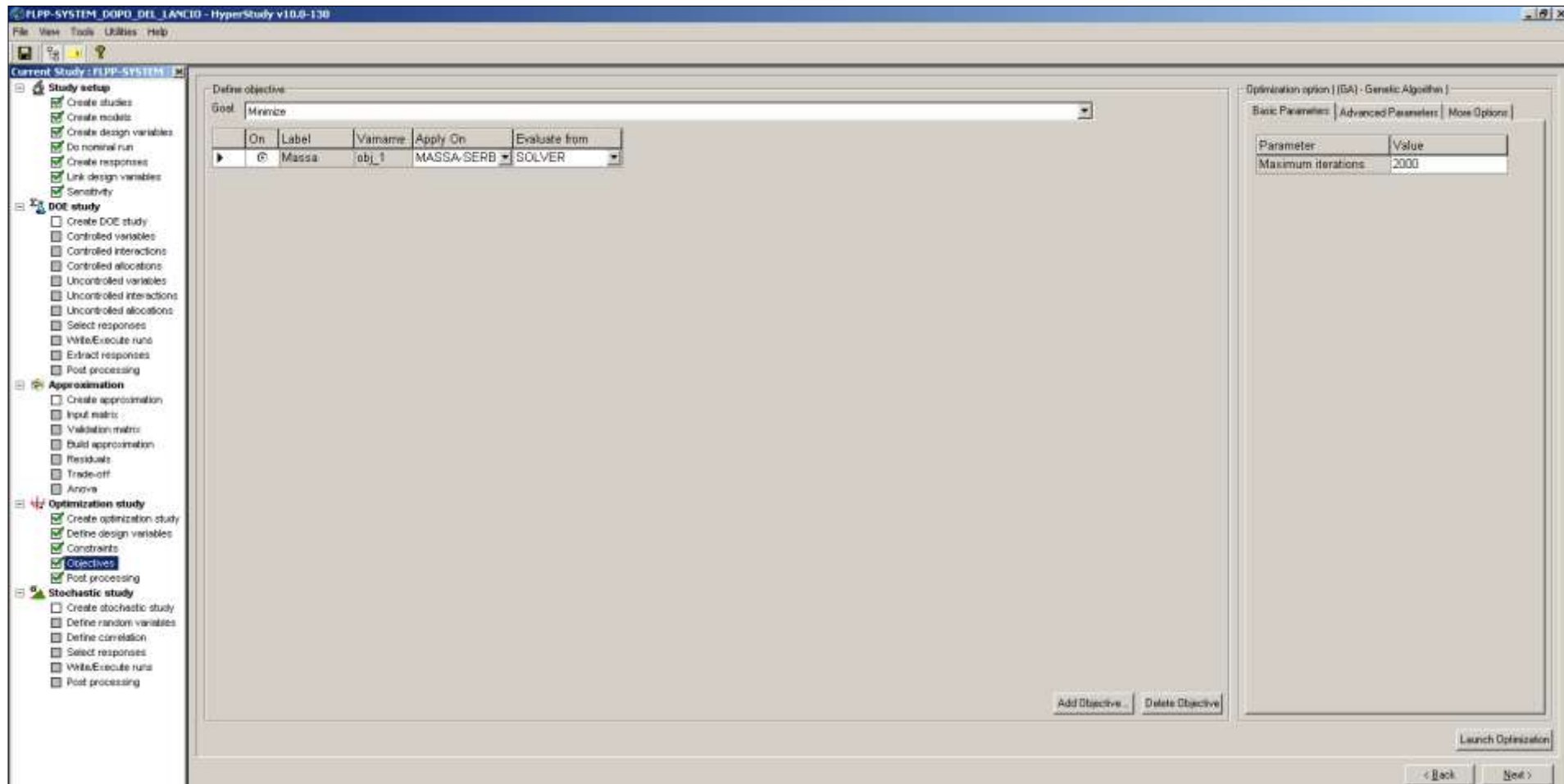


FIG. 19 – Design objective definition

OPTIMIZATION WITH HYPERSTUDY (cont.)

- Optimization results : a converged solution has been obtained

Optimization Iteration History Plot Optimization Iteration History Table

Iteration	Massa	b_SU_a	Volume	m	n	L	BsuA	VOLUME-SERB	MASSA-SERB
1	4614.8674	1.0000000	3.11e+11	0.0000000	1.0000000	10000.000	1.0000000	3.11e+11	4614.8674
2	3863.5088	0.7091900	2.47e+11	0.3753666	1.8657185	8156.8915	0.7091900	2.47e+11	3863.5088
3	4089.1919	0.6999300	2.43e+11	0.9413490	2.4257478	7753.1769	0.6999300	2.43e+11	4089.1919
4	4097.9635	0.6980300	2.44e+11	0.9257087	2.4191202	7814.7605	0.6980300	2.44e+11	4097.9635
5	4097.9635	0.6980300	2.44e+11	0.9257087	2.4191202	7814.7605	0.6980300	2.44e+11	4097.9635
6	4097.9635	0.6980300	2.44e+11	0.9257087	2.4191202	7814.7605	0.6980300	2.44e+11	4097.9635
7	3877.4763	0.6964100	2.47e+11	0.3440860	1.8657185	8197.9472	0.6964100	2.47e+11	3877.4763
8	3877.4763	0.6964100	2.47e+11	0.3440860	1.8657185	8197.9472	0.6964100	2.47e+11	3877.4763
9	3877.4763	0.6964100	2.47e+11	0.3440860	1.8657185	8197.9472	0.6964100	2.47e+11	3877.4763
10	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528751	1.8657185	8146.6376	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
11	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528751	1.8657185	8146.6376	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
12	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
13	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
14	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
15	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
16	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
17	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
18	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
19	3859.2909	0.7000200	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000200	2.46e+11	3859.2909
20	3859.2874	0.7000300	2.46e+11	0.3528837	1.8657185	8146.6276	0.7000300	2.46e+11	3859.2874

FIG. 20 – Optimization history table

CONCLUSION

- **DOMPRO procedure presented in this work shows the possibility of analyzing pressurized elements in a simple and rapid way**
- **Benefits derive from coupling different software (Hypermesh, RADIOSS, BOSOR) and from their use in batch mode**
- **Coupling DOMPRO with Hyperstudy seems to be very promising for the optimization of pressurized elements**
- **Future developments of DOMPRO are foreseen, as :**
 - ❑ **differentiate solvers for FEM non linear analyses (i.e. Abaqus)**
 - ❑ **complete automatic output reporting**
 - ❑ **Insert the procedure in a more complete Automated Analytical Tool for the Conceptual phase of the pressurized elements design**

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