



DEVELOPMENT OF A WEB APPLICATION  
FOR THE DESIGN OF ADHESIVE JOINTS

**DATE**

4 JULY 2013

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## Motivation

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**The prediction of an adhesive joint behaviour is complex and depends on various factors, which means that different analytical methods, whose complexity can require a simple calculator or a powerful computer for solving, can be used to predict said behaviour.**

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# Objectives

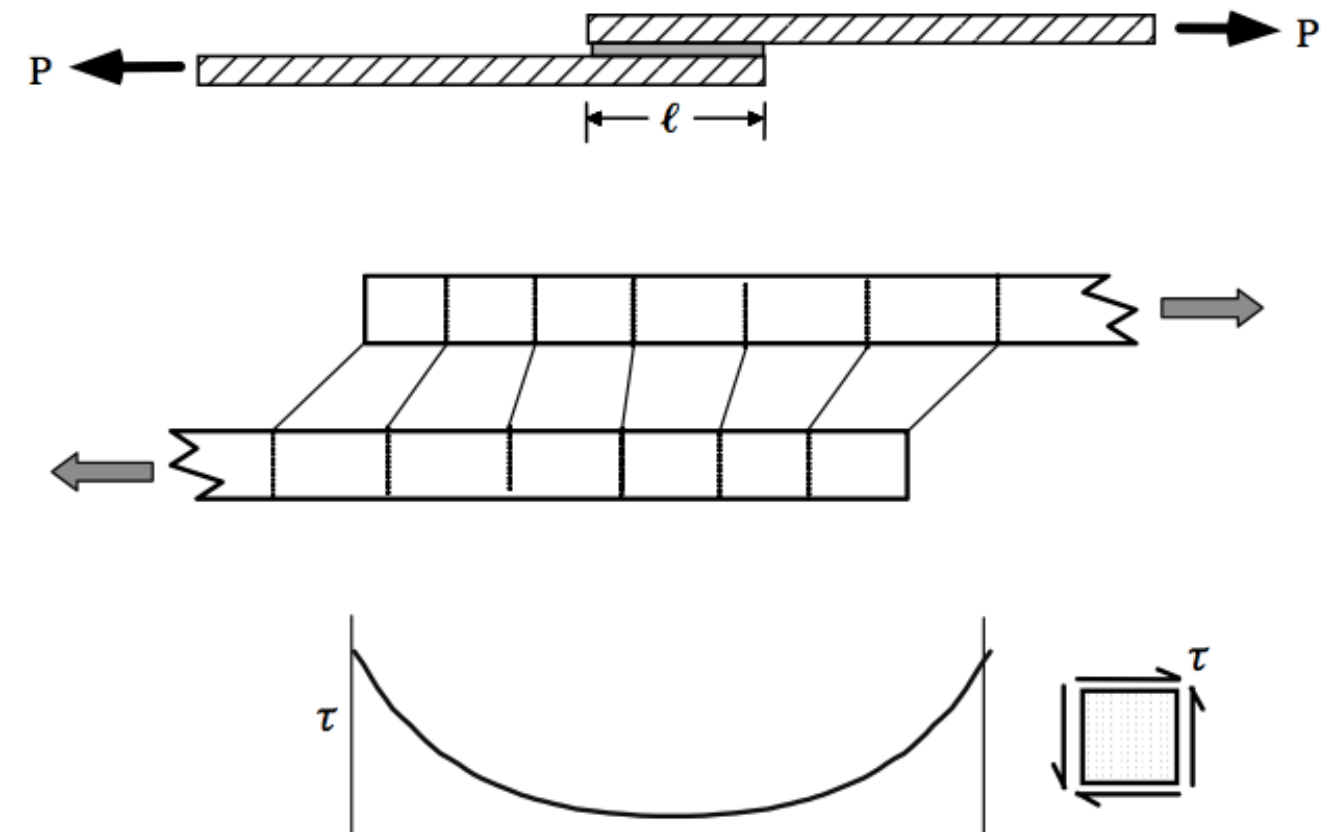
- **Main objective: create an user interface where all types of analytical methods (simple and complex) can be easily used and evaluated.**
- **Analytical methods objectives:**
  - Implement analytical methods that can be used for various material properties;
  - Ability to use both elastic and plastic analytical methods;
  - Anisotropic adherends support.
- **Application objectives:**
  - Create an interface that can be used by all engineers, even those without experience in adhesives;
  - Visualize results as plots, e.g. peel and shear stress plots;
  - Print plots and export results (Excel, PDF, etc.) to use outside JointDesigner;
  - Database of materials (adhesives and adherends), with both general and private material options.

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# Elastic analysis

- **Volkersen [1938]**
  - Adhesive deforms only in shear;
  - Adherends deform in tension (elastic).



**FIG. 1** - Volkersen analysis, with resulting shear stress plot (bottom) for elastic adherends.

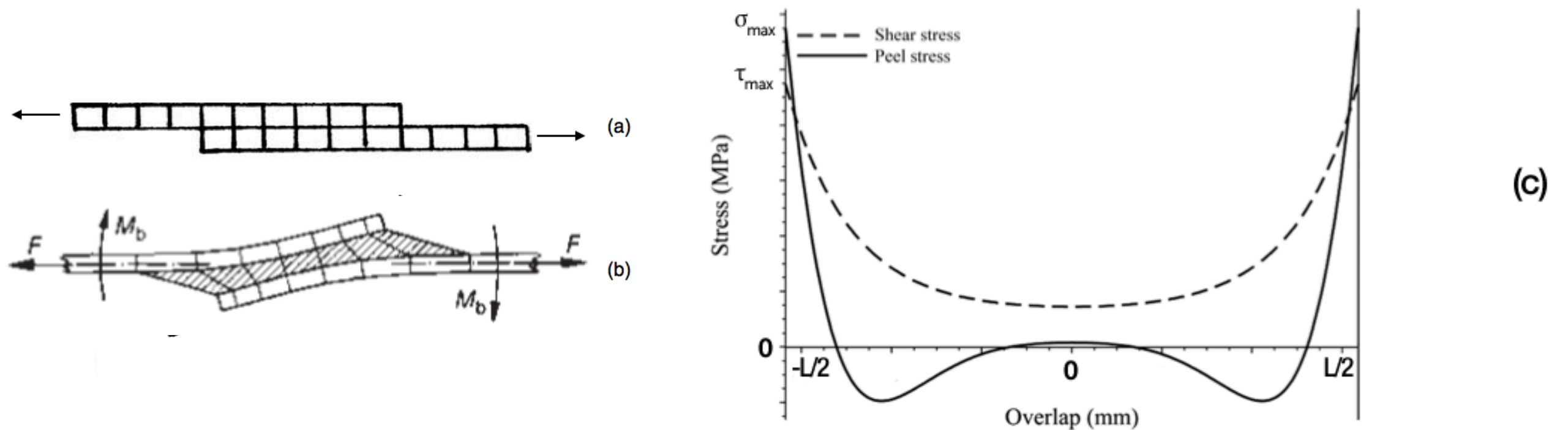
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# Elastic analysis

- **Goland & Reissner [1944]**

- Due to the eccentric load path of a SLJ, a bending moment occurs, which causes the joint to rotate;
- In addition to the shear stress, peel stress is also present.



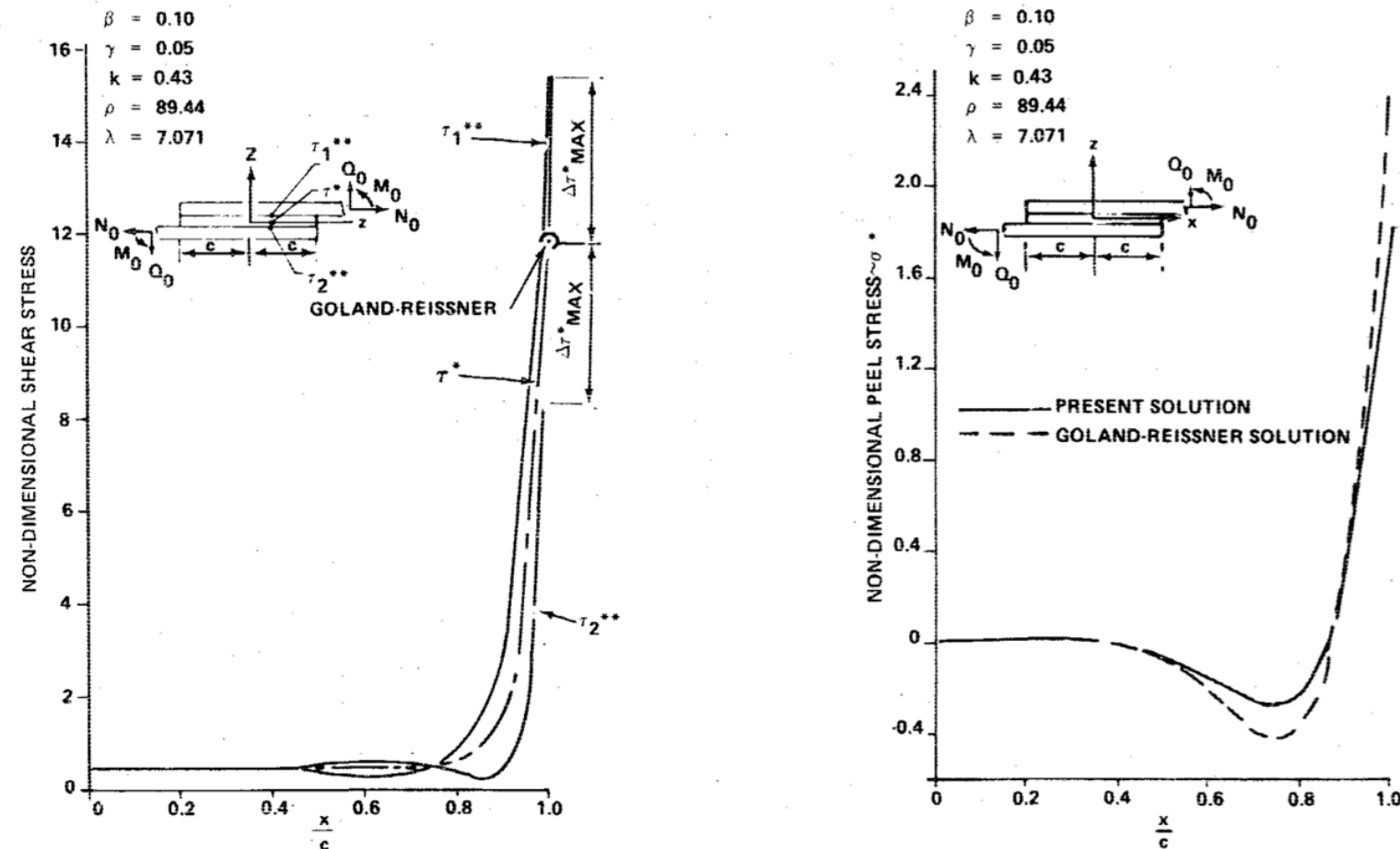
**FIG. 2** - Goland & Reissner analysis: (a) joint configuration, (b) deformed joint with applied force and resulting bending moment, and (c) example shear and peel plots [da Silva et al., 2009].

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# Elastic analysis

- **Ojalvo & Eidinoff [1978]**
  - Detected a deficiency in the work published by Goland & Reissner:
    - Incomplete shear-strain/displacement equation for the adhesive;



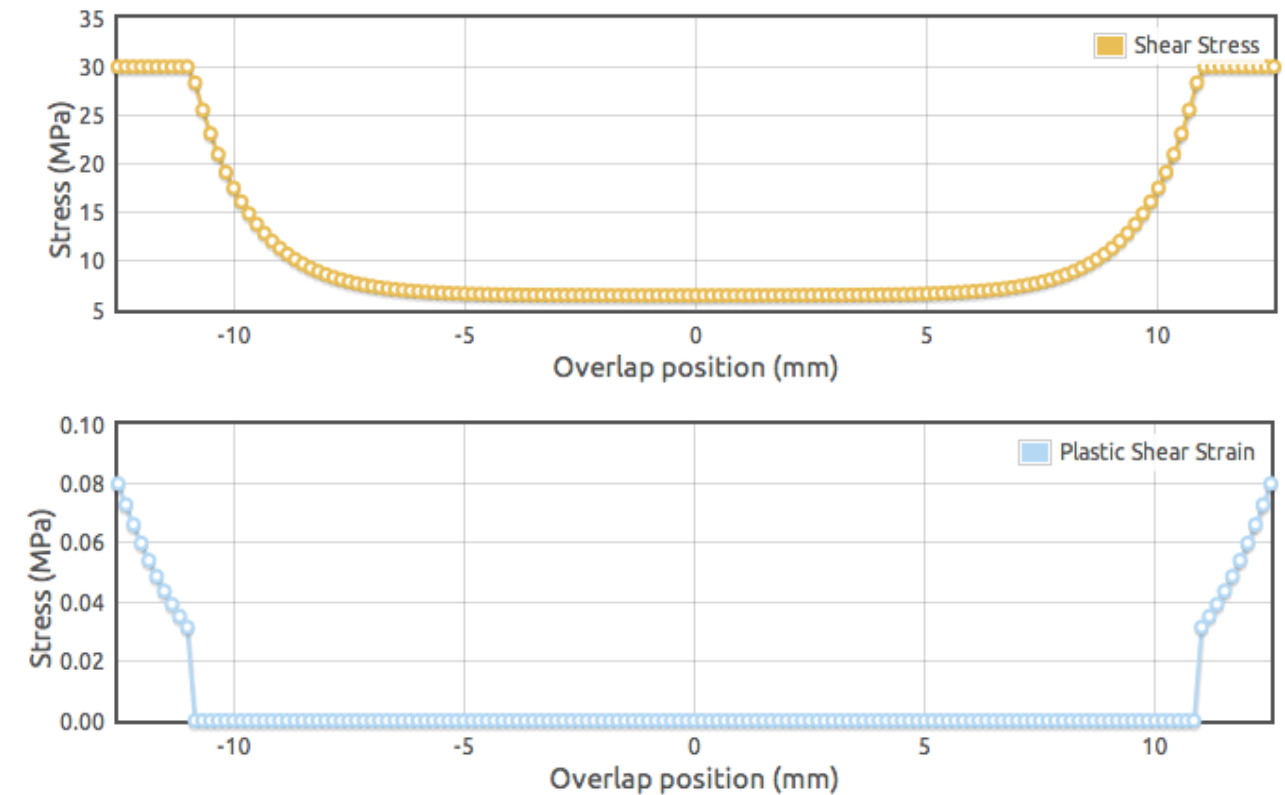
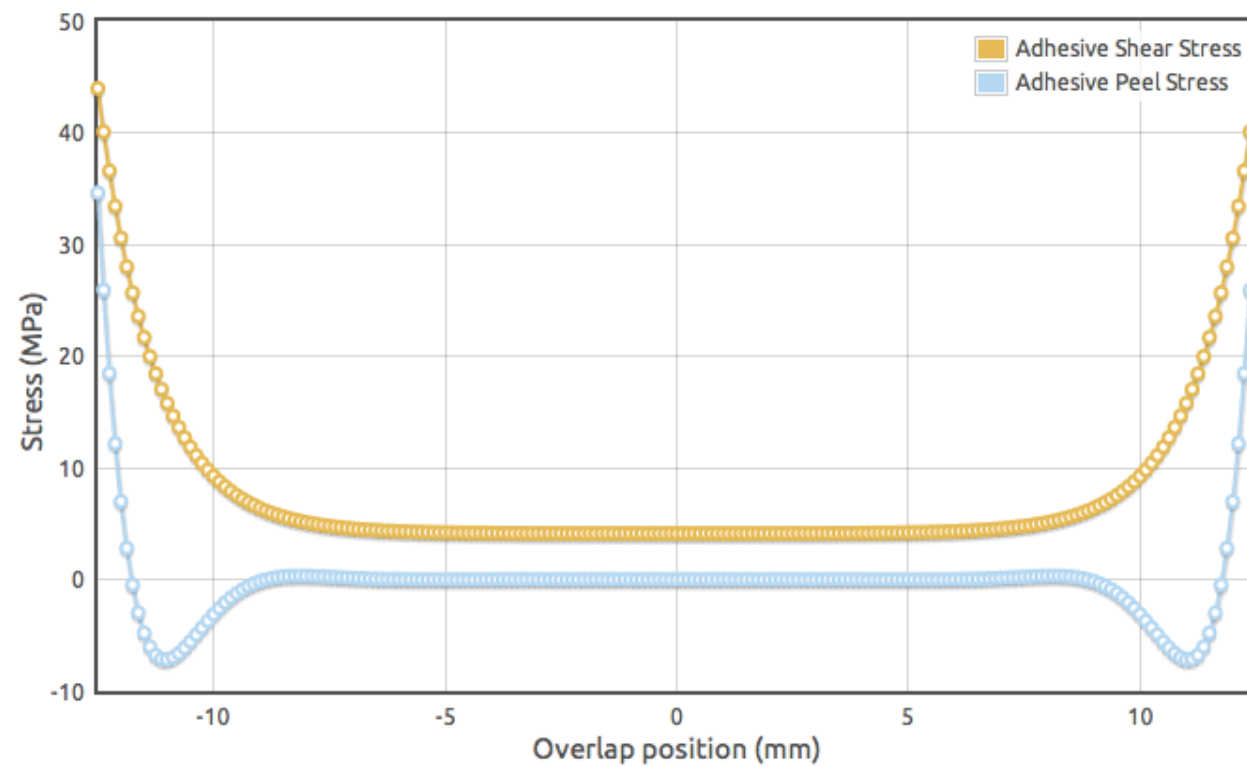
**FIG. 3** - Comparison between Ojalvo & Eidinoff and Goland & Reissner's results: (left) shear stress distribution, and (right) peel stress distribution [Ojalvo et al., 1978].

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# Plastic analysis

- **Hart Smith [1973]**
  - Considers the plastic deformation of an adhesive in addition to the elastic response.



**FIG. 4** - Results for an arbitrary joint: (left) adhesive shear and peel stress, (top right) shear stress and (bottom right) plastic shear strain.

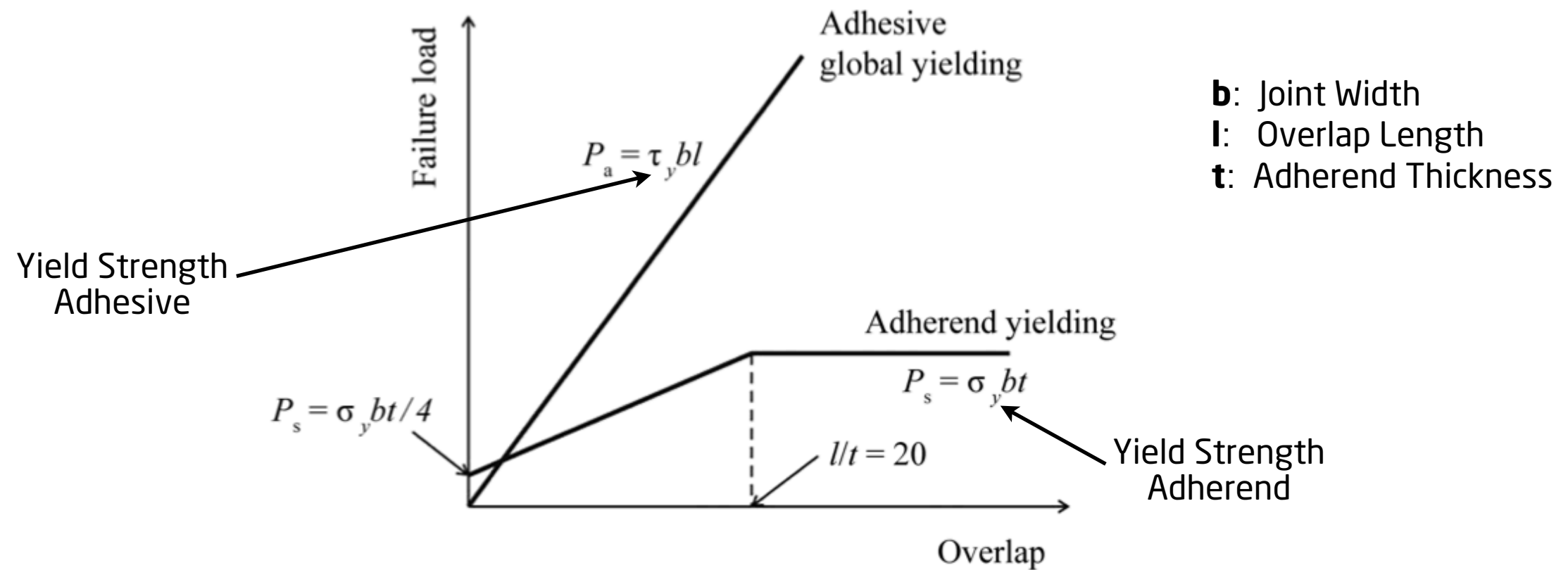


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# Plastic analysis

- **Adams [1997]**
  - Simple predictive model that gives the adhesive global yielding and the adherend yielding;
  - Predicts load for total plastic deformation of both adhesive and adherends.



**FIG. 5** - Simple design methodology of single lap joints based on the adherend yielding according to Adams et al [Karachalios et al., 2013].

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# Summary of analytical methods implemented

Adhesive behaviour	Adherends			Results	Methods
	Behaviour	Material	Similarity		
Elastic	Elastic	Isotropic	Dissimilar	Stresses	Volkersen
			Similar		Goland & Reissner
			Dissimilar		Ojalvo & Eidinoff
Plastic	Plastic	Isotropic	Similar		Hart Smith
				Failure load	Adams

**TAB. 1** - List of implemented analytical methods as function of various parameters [da Silva et al., 2009].

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# Advantages of the web application

- **Advantages** compared to a desktop application:
  - Independent of operating system;
  - Independent of place of usage;
  - Easier to apply updates;
  - Easier to investigate problems;
  - Reuse of existing technology (plotting, printing, etc.) to speed up development;
  - Avoid the distribution problems we would have with MATLAB.
- **Disadvantages** to a desktop application:
  - Needs a server to run (extra costs):
    - At the moment it runs on our server at FEUP - free.
  - Weak algebraic and mathematical power:
    - We use a dedicated CAS system to solve this problem.

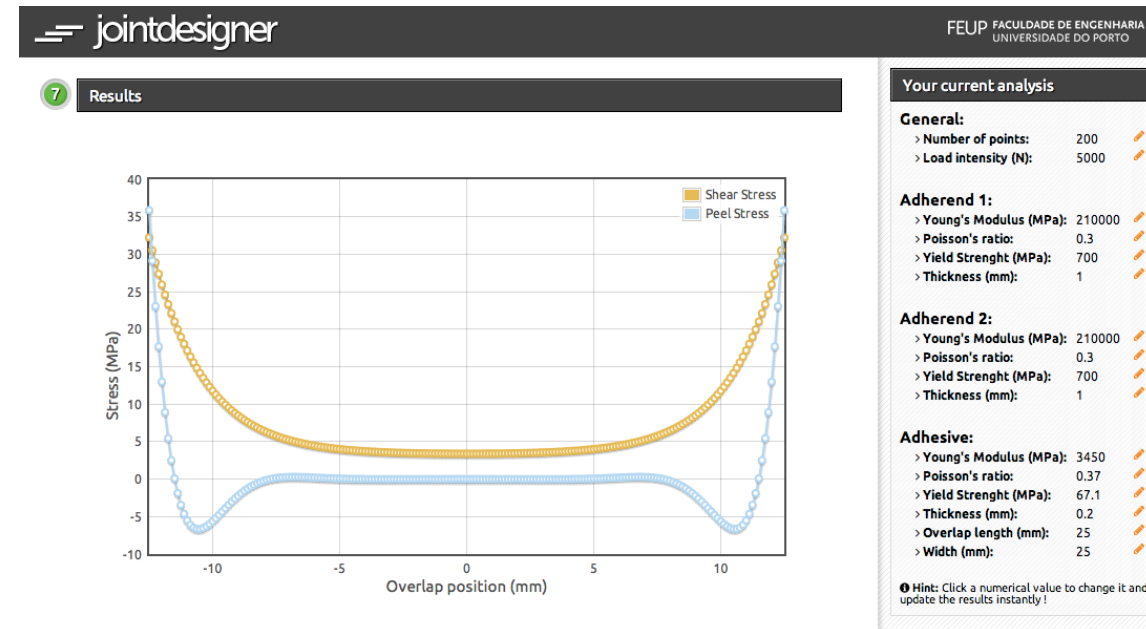
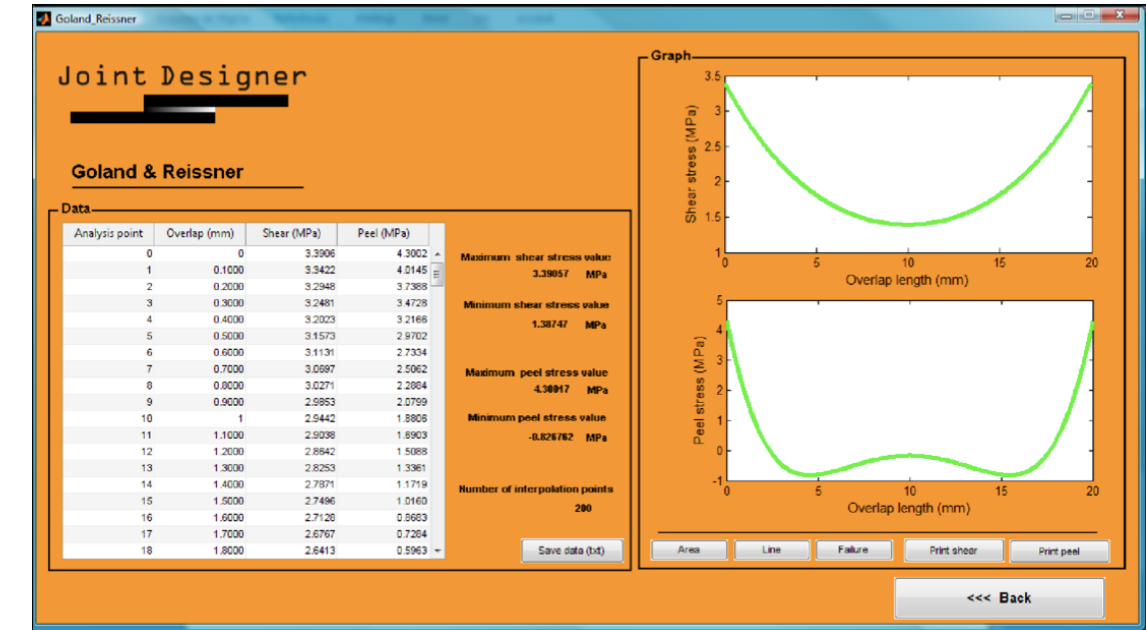
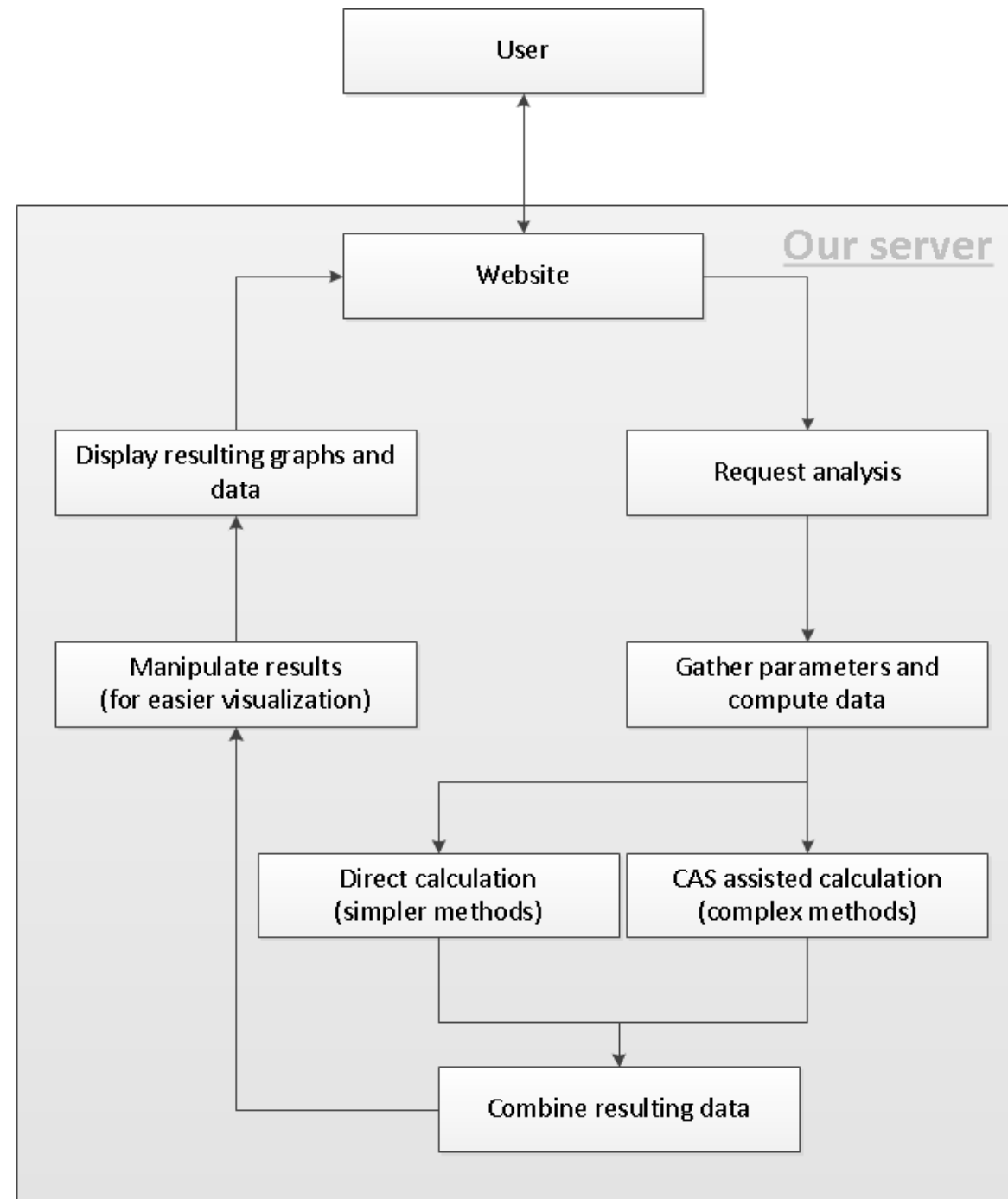


FIG. 6 - JointDesigner as: (top) a desktop application in 2009, and (bottom) a web application.

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# Internal diagram



**FIG. 7** - Diagram representing the backend of JointDesigner.

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# Choosing a CAS\* (Computer Algebra System)

- **Necessary because JointDesigner needs to:**
  - Solve systems of equations;
  - Evaluate differential equations;
  - Complex equations are preferably handled by software created for that purpose.
- **Open-source CAS selected based on capabilities and speed:**
  - Singular - very fast and highly efficient algorithms;
  - Maxima - fast, stronger and wider support of mathematical and algebra concepts;
  - SAGE - open-source alternative to MATLAB/Maple, and incorporates Maxima as well.

$$\frac{P}{l\tau_p}(\lambda'l) = 2\lambda' \left(\frac{l-d}{2}\right) + (1-K)(\lambda'd) + K \tanh(\lambda'd)$$

$$\frac{P}{\tau_p}\lambda^2 \left[1 + 3k(1-\nu^2) \left(1 + \frac{t_a}{t}\right)\right] = 2 \left(\frac{\gamma_p}{\gamma_e}\right) - K \left[2\lambda' \left(\frac{l-d}{2}\right)\right]^2$$

$$2 \left(\frac{\gamma_p}{\gamma_e}\right) = K \left\{ \left[2\lambda' \left(\frac{l-d}{2}\right) + \tanh(\lambda'd)\right]^2 - \tanh(\lambda'd) \right\}$$

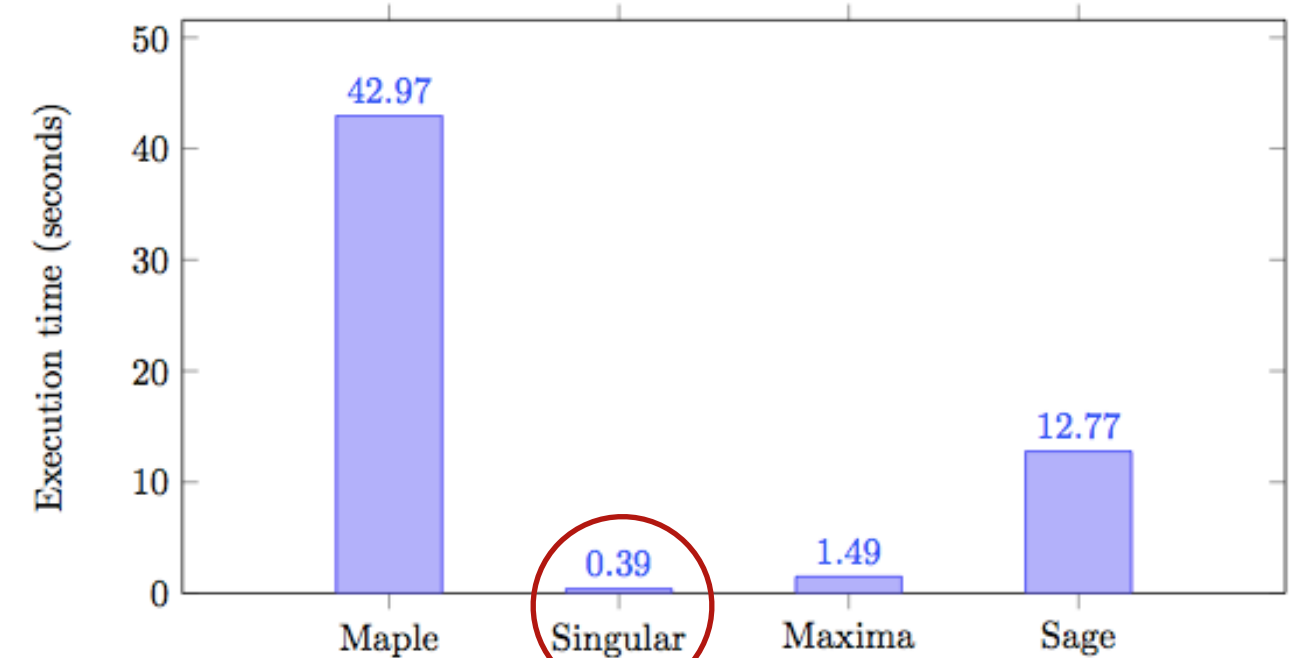


FIG. 8 - System of equations used to test the CAS software (left), and resulting execution time for each (right).

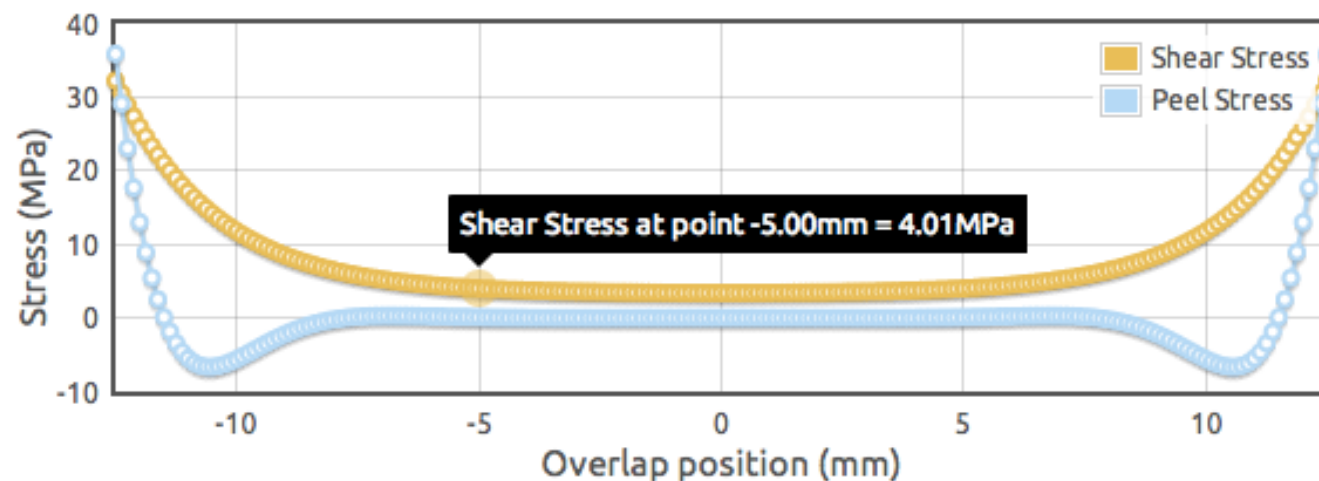
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# Key functionality

- **Analytical methods:**
  - Wide support of methods for each type of problem;
  - Each method is a module of the site, making it easy to develop and implement more methods;
  - Thanks to the use of a CAS system, virtually no limits on complexity of methods.

- **Front end of the web application:**
  - Ability to view stress values in each point of the joint;
  - Export results to various formats, and print directly from results page;
  - Save analysis online, so they can be accessed later;
  - Database of adhesives and adherends stores common materials:
    - Properties are automatically inserted.



**Print results**

Use the following button to print the previous plots:

**Print**

**Save results to file**

Select what type of file to export to:

Excel .XLS file

CSV (Comma Separated Value) file

PDF report

**Export**

**Save analysis online**

Analysis name:

Results are:

Select a status:  **Save**

**FIG. 9** - Resulting plot ability to view stress at each point (left), and print/export/save features (right).

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## Conclusions

- **Resulting application considered to be a success:**
  - Easy to use;
  - Various features and analytical methods;
  - Use of advantages available due to being a web product:
    - Sharing of data with other co-workers/accounts.
- **Main objectives accomplished:**
  - Reduction of the time an engineer needs to predict the behaviour of an adhesive joint
    - Possible to compute an analysis through JointDesigner in minutes;
  - Ability to export results to Excel and other software.
- **Created a valuable product to any engineer that designs adhesive joints.**
- **Possibility to extend and add new functionality to the web application, increasing its value over time.**