

CST Studio Suite 2025

Getting Started



3DEXPERIENCE®

**Installation
Modeling
Post-Processing**

Version 2025.0 - 8/21/2024

Copyright

© 1998–2024 Dassault Systemes Deutschland GmbH
CST Studio Suite is a Dassault Systèmes product.
All rights reserved.

Information in this document is subject to change without notice. The software described in this document is furnished under a license agreement or non-disclosure agreement. The software may be used only in accordance with the terms of those agreements.

No part of this documentation may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or any means electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, for any purpose other than the purchaser's personal use without the written permission of Dassault Systèmes.

Trademarks

CST, the CST logo, Cable Studio, CST BOARDCHECK, CST EM STUDIO, CST EMC STUDIO, CST MICROWAVE STUDIO, CST PARTICLE STUDIO, CST Studio Suite, EM Studio, EMC Studio, Microstripes, Microwave Studio, MPHYSICS, MWS, Particle Studio, PCB Studio, PERFECT BOUNDARY APPROXIMATION (PBA), Studio Suite, IdEM, Spark3D, Fest3D, Antenna Magus, Opera, 3DEXPERIENCE, the 3DS logo, the Compass icon, IFWE, 3DEXCITE, 3DVIA, BIOVIA, CATIA, CENTRIC PLM, DELMIA, ENOVIA, GEOVIA, MEDIDATA, NETVIBES, OUTSCALE, SIMULIA and SOLIDWORKS are commercial trademarks or registered trademarks of Dassault Systèmes, a European company (Societas Europaea) incorporated under French law, and registered with the Versailles trade and companies registry under number 322 306 440, or its subsidiaries in the United States and/or other countries. All other trademarks are owned by their respective owners. Use of any Dassault Systèmes or its subsidiaries trademarks is subject to their express written approval.

DS Offerings and services names may be trademarks or service marks of Dassault Systèmes or its subsidiaries.

[3DS.com/SIMULIA](https://3ds.com/SIMULIA)

Table of contents

Chapter 1 – Introduction	5
Welcome	5
How to Get Started Quickly	6
About This Manual	6
Document Conventions	6
Your Feedback	7
Support.....	7
Chapter 2 – Installation	8
Installation Requirements.....	8
Software Requirements	8
Hardware Requirements.....	8
Licensing Options.....	8
Installation Instructions for Microsoft Windows	8
IdEM requires separate installation of MATLAB runtime (MCR).....	10
License Server	11
License Server Installation.....	11
License Server Configuration	11
Automated Installation.....	12
Starting the CST Studio Suite Software	12
Node Locked License	12
Floating License Using a License Server	13
Chapter 3 – User Interface.....	14
License Management	15
Automatic Software Updates.....	16
Version Information	17
Opening a Project.....	17
Creating a New Project	18
Overview of the User Interface.....	19
Other User Interface Elements.....	21
Next Steps.....	22
Chapter 4 – Structure Modeling.....	23
Create and View Some Simple Structures	23
Create a First Brick	23
An Overview of the Basic Shapes Available.....	25

Select Shapes.....	25
Group Shapes into Components and Assign Material Properties	26
Change the View	29
Apply Geometric Transformations	30
Combine Shapes Using Boolean Operations	33
Pick Points, Edges, or Faces from within the Model.....	34
Chamfer and Blend Edges.....	36
Extrude, Rotate and Loft Faces	37
Local Coordinate Systems	42
The History List.....	45
The History Tree	46
Curve Creation.....	48
Trace Creation	52
Bond Wire Creation	53
Local Modifications	55
Next Steps.....	57
Chapter 5 – Post-Processing	58
Parametric Result Storage	58
Post-Processing Templates	59
Framework to set up Result Templates	60
Pre-Loaded Post-Processing Templates	61
Example for Post-Processing Templates.....	61
Chapter 6 – Finding Further Information.....	67
Online Help System.....	67
Tutorials and Examples.....	68
Technical Support	68
Macro Language Documentation	68
History of Changes.....	68
Appendix – List of Shortcut Keys	69
General Shortcut Keys	69
Shortcut Keys Available in 3D Modeling View.....	69
Shortcut Keys Available in Edit Fields.....	70
Shortcut Keys Available in Schematic View	70
Shortcut Keys Available in Assembly View	71
Shortcut Keys Available in VBA Editor	72

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Welcome

Welcome to the CST Studio Suite® software package, the powerful simulation software for all kinds of electromagnetic (EM) field problems and related applications. The program provides a user-friendly interface to handle multiple projects and views at the same time.

One of the outstanding features of the environment is the seamless integration of various simulation methods and strong interoperability management especially when connected to the 3DEXPERIENCE® platform. The CST Studio Suite software provides the following simulation options:

3D EM Technology



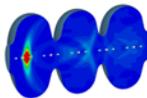
CST MICROWAVE STUDIO®: Fast and accurate 3D EM tools for general **high frequency and optical** simulation. It offers a variety of different solvers operating in time and frequency domains.



CST EM STUDIO®: 3D EM simulation of general **static and low frequency** problems. The module features a large collection of solvers for various applications.



The Opera software suite allows users to perform simulation of low frequency electromagnetic and electromechanical systems. Opera complements the existing CST Studio Suite portfolio by adding its advanced capabilities in low frequency simulation, including **enhanced material modeling** abilities such as **hysteresis, demagnetization and superconducting quench**



CST PARTICLE STUDIO®: Specializes solvers for the 3D simulation of **electromagnetic fields interacting with charged particles**. The software contains several different solvers addressing these challenging problems.



Spark3D®: A general software tool for **radio frequency (RF) breakdown analysis**. It uses powerful and accurate numeric algorithms for predicting both corona (arcing) and multipactor breakdown onsets, which are two of the main high-power effects that can severely damage a device.

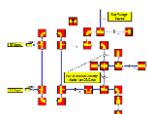


WASP-NET, the fast **hybrid multi-solver domain decomposition** EM CAD tool, enables users to accurately and quickly design and optimize passive microwave components, antennas and antenna arrays, including feed networks.

Cable | Circuit | Macromodels | Filters | PCB | Chip



CST Cable Studio™: Tools for the analysis of **SI, EMC and EMI effects in cable systems** including single wires, twisted pairs as well as complex cable harnesses.



CST Design Studio™: A design and analysis tool for system level simulation. Its schematic view allows the connection of different 3D projects and circuit elements. It is the entry point for the **System Assembly and Modeling (SAM)** workflows and our powerful **circuit simulator**.



IdEM™/IdEM Builder is a tool for the generation of **SPICE-ready macromodels** of electrical interconnect structures. Starting from their input-output port responses IdEM/IdEM Builder provides accurate, proven, passive and causal broadband computational models that can be used in any circuit simulation environment.

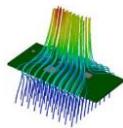


Fest3D®: An efficient software tool for the accurate **analysis of passive components based on waveguide technology**. Fest3D is the first commercial software capable to integrate high power effects in the design process.



CST PCB Studio™: Tools for the investigation of **signal and power integrity** and the simulation of **EMC and EMI effects on printed circuit boards (PCB)** and for the **design of 3D chips**.

Multi-Physics



CST MPhysics® STUDIO: A set of tools for solving **thermal as well as mechanical stress problems**. Use these solvers in conjunction with other simulation domains to address coupled simulation tasks.

How to Get Started Quickly

We recommend that you proceed as follows:

1. Work through this document carefully. It provides you with all the basic information necessary to understand further documentation.
2. Each of the solver modules mentioned above comes with a dedicated manual. Once you have determined which modules are best suited to solve your problems, continue by reading the corresponding manual. The manuals provide valuable information to help you use the software quickly and efficiently.
3. Browse through the online help system and familiarize yourself with its content. As an entry point, you may follow the links on the online help system's start page.
4. Do not hesitate to contact technical support if you encounter any problems or if any questions remain. Since a variety of different applications exists, the documentation may not be able to cover all special cases equally. The support team will be more than happy to assist you in solving your simulation problems as soon as possible.

About This Manual

This manual is primarily designed to enable a quick start to CST Studio Suite. It is not intended to be a complete reference guide to all available features, but it will give you an overview of the key concepts. Understanding these concepts will allow you to learn how to use the software efficiently with the help of the online documentation.

Document Conventions

- Buttons that should be pressed within dialog boxes are always written in italics, e.g. *OK*.
- Key combinations are connected with a plus (+) sign. *Ctrl+S* means that you should hold down the “Ctrl” key while pressing the “S” key.
- The program's features can be accessed through a Ribbon command bar at the top of the main window. The commands are organized in a series of tabs within the Ribbon. In this document, a command is printed as follows: *Tab name: Group name ⇒ Button name ⇒ Command name*. This means that you should activate the proper tab first and then press the button *Command name*, which belongs to

the group *Group name*. If a keyboard shortcut exists, brackets are used to highlight the command. Example: *View: Change View* ⇒ *Reset View (Space)*

- The project data is accessible through the navigation tree on the left side of the application's main window. An item of the navigation tree is referenced in the following way: *NT: Tree folder* ⇒ *Sub folder* ⇒ *Tree item*.
- Example: *NT: 1D Results* ⇒ *Port Signals* ⇒ *i1*

Your Feedback

We are constantly striving to improve the quality of our software documentation. If you have any comments regarding the documentation, please send them to your support center: 3ds.com/support.

Support

Dassault Systèmes is happy to receive your feedback. If you have any questions concerning sales, please contact your local sales office. In case you have problems using our software, see the information provided in *Chapter 6 – Finding Further Information*.

Chapter 2 – Installation

Installing the CST Studio Suite software is simple. This chapter explains everything you need to know regarding installation. It covers the following sections:

- Installation requirements
- Licensing options
- Installation instructions for Microsoft Windows
- License Server
- Starting the CST Studio Suite software

Please note: This document deals with the installation on a Microsoft Windows operating system. To install the software on Linux, please refer to the documentation shipped with the Linux package.

Installation Requirements

Software Requirements

The software runs under Windows 10, Windows 11, Windows Server 2016, 2019 and 2022.

Hardware Requirements

- CPU x86-64 Intel or AMD processor
- 100% OpenGL compatible graphics card
- 32 GB RAM
- 50 GB free disk space (500 GB recommended)

Please refer to CST Studio Suite at 3ds.com/support/hardware-and-software/simulia-system-information/ for more details.

Licensing Options

The software can be licensed either as a single PC (node locked) version or as a network version. The single PC license allows the software to run on a single PC only. In contrast, the network license allows the software to run on several PCs connected to a license server.

Most of the steps of the installation procedure are the same for both types of licenses. We will therefore focus on the common procedures first and then explain the differences in setting up the license afterwards.

Installation Instructions for Microsoft Windows

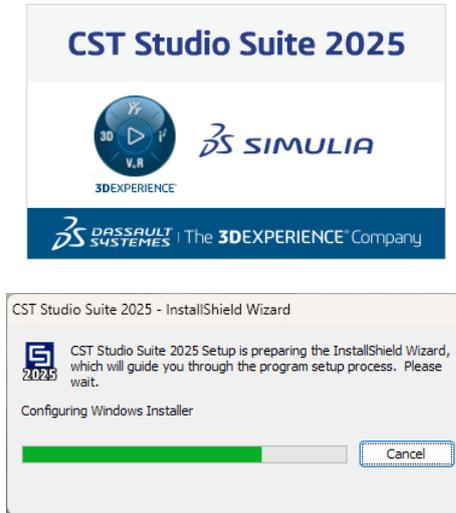
You will normally need administrator privileges in order to install the software. If you do not have these privileges on your local computer, ask your system administrator for assistance. Once you installed the software successfully and it is running, you should close it and log back in as a standard user for security reasons.

Please note: Some virus detection programs may interfere with the setup process and cause the installation to fail. We therefore strongly recommend that you close all other applications and turn off virus scanning before proceeding with the actual installation.

Before installing the CST Studio Suite software, please download the current installer

CST Studio Suite - CST S2 2025 Golden - WIN64 from 3ds.com/support/download and extract the files of the zip archive. If you already have a recent installation DVD, you can skip this step. However, the download area also contains some additional packages free of charge. Please consider the license terms of each individual package.

If you have downloaded, an installation package or the DVD installation does not start automatically after you put it into you DVD drive, run the installer by double-clicking *setup.exe* in the root folder of the installation package. You will see the following screen:



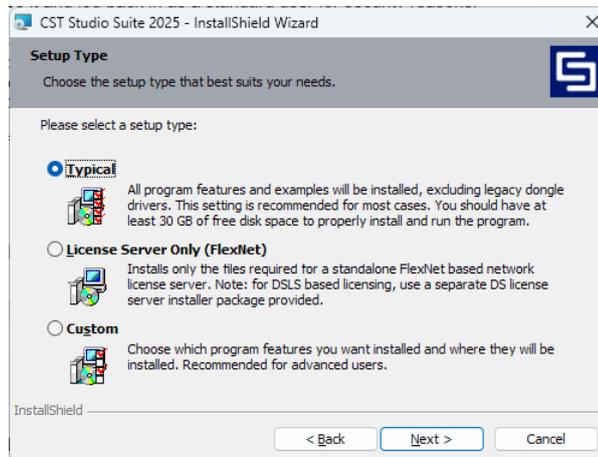
Depending on the current system configuration, the next step will be to install some modules required by the CST Studio Suite software. If some or all of these requirements are already installed, then either some modules or even the entire dialog box may be skipped.

Please press the *Install* button here to proceed to the actual software installation, which will then show the following screen:



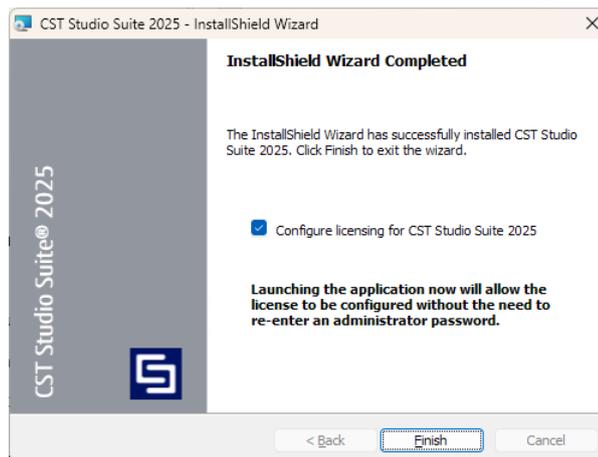
Next, follow the instructions on the screen, and make sure that you read every screen as you advance. We recommend using the *Typical* setup to ensure that you can access all examples which might be of interest to you.

Please note that the *Typical* setup now also includes the installation of Distributed Computing components, which can be activated afterwards.



Now press *Next* and then *Install*.

Once the installation is completed, the following dialog box appears:



If you have a single-PC (node locked) license, skip the next section and continue to the *Starting CST Studio Suite* section.

IdEM requires separate installation of MATLAB runtime (MCR)

IdEM is automatically installed through the CST Studio Suite installation, but a separate installation of MATLAB runtime (MCR) is required. Check if the appropriate Matlab Runtime R2018b (9.5) is already installed on your computer by looking in the Control Panel under Add/Remove Programs.

You will get an error message when starting IdEM if the correct MCR is not installed. If the required version of the Matlab Runtime is missing:

- Download the Windows 64-bit version of the Matlab Runtime R2018b (9.5) from the MathWorks web page by navigating to: [mathworks.com/products/compiler/mcr/index.html](https://www.mathworks.com/products/compiler/mcr/index.html)
- Install the MCR by running the MCR_R2018b_win64_installer.exe executable file and follow the instructions in the installation wizard. This installation will need Administrator rights.

Please note: IdEM is MCR version-specific and it is tied to the MCR version 9.5 only.

Multiple versions of the MCR can be installed simultaneously on your system. There is no need to uninstall previous versions.

License Server

The usage of a floating (or network) license requires a license server running on one computer in your network that is accessible to all other computers, which will run CST Studio Suite software. The communication between the license server and the other modules is done via TCP/IP. If you are using a firewall, make sure that the connections can be established properly.

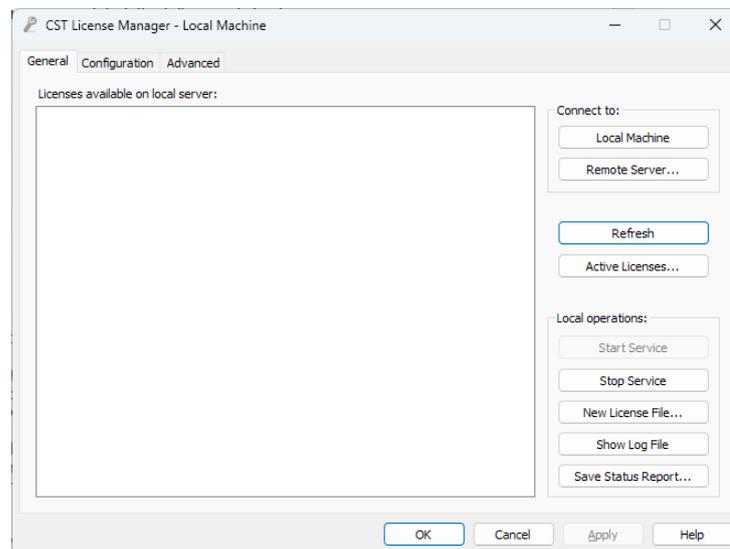
The individual installation of a license server is required only if you are going to use the license server on a computer which does not have the CST Studio Suite *Program Files* component installed on it. The *Typical* installation of the software package will always include the license server. If you already installed CST Studio Suite simulation software and the license server, skip the installation step and continue with the configuration of the license server.

License Server Installation

Installing the license server on a particular computer is easy. Simply run the installation program as shown on the previous pages and select *License Server* as installation type.

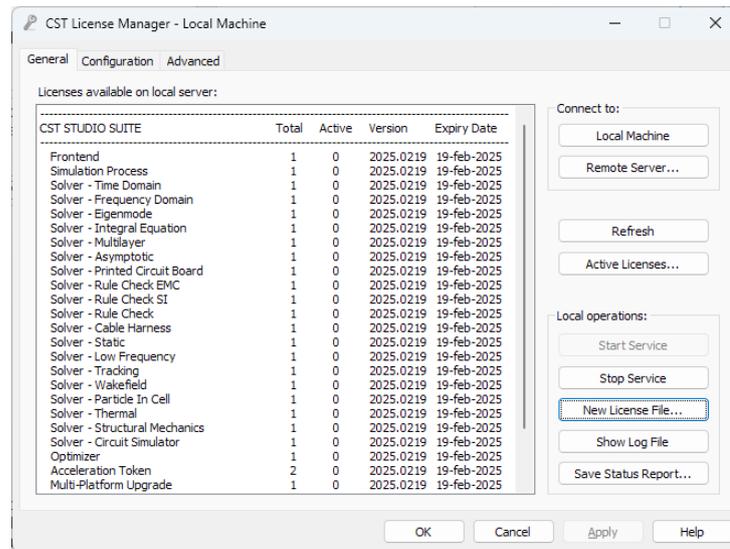
License Server Configuration

After the license server installation is completed, you need to configure the license. Access the CST Studio Suite modules from within the *CST Studio Suite* folder in the Windows *Start* menu. This folder contains an entry named *CST License Manager*. Select this entry to start the License Server control panel:



Now press the *New License File* button. As a later step, you will be prompted to browse for the license file, which you should have received by email. Once properly selected, the new license file will be automatically copied to the correct location. Then you need to press the *Start Service* button to start the license server. The *Licenses available on local server* list will display a summary of currently available licensed features.

The following picture shows an example of how the dialog box should look after the license has been set up successfully:



Please note: This dialog box also allows you to obtain information about who is currently using a particular license by pressing the *Active Licenses* button.

Automated Installation

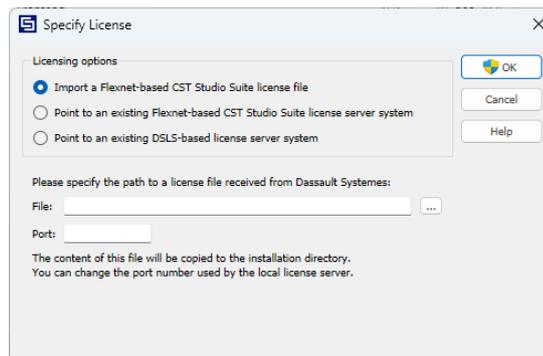
For an automated and silent installation with default settings use the following command:

```
start /wait setup.exe /s /v"/!*"v C:\InstallCST.log REBOOT=REALLYSUPPRESS /qn
```

More information on this topic is provided in [QA00000062498](#).

Starting the CST Studio Suite Software

When you start the CST Studio Suite software for the first time or whenever the license has expired, a dialog box will appear:



The following steps are slightly different depending on whether you are going to use a node locked or floating license.

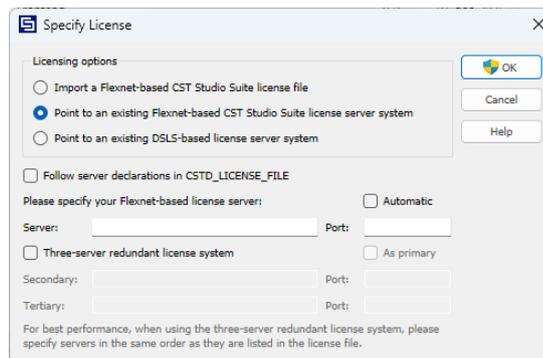
Node Locked License

To install a node locked license, click the *Import a CST license file* option in the *Specify License* dialog box as shown above. Pressing the ... button will then allow you to specify the location of the license file, which you should have received by e-mail. After pressing *OK*, the license file will be automatically copied to the correct location, and you can start using the software.

Floating License Using a License Server

A floating license requires a license server running on one of the computers in your network. We assume that you have already set up your license server correctly by following the instructions in the *License Server* section above. If not, please install the license server now before continuing with the next steps.

For floating licenses, you can choose between a *Flexnet-based* and a *DSLS-based* license server. If you select *Point to an existing Flexnet-based CST Studio Suite license server system*, the dialog box will then appear as follows:

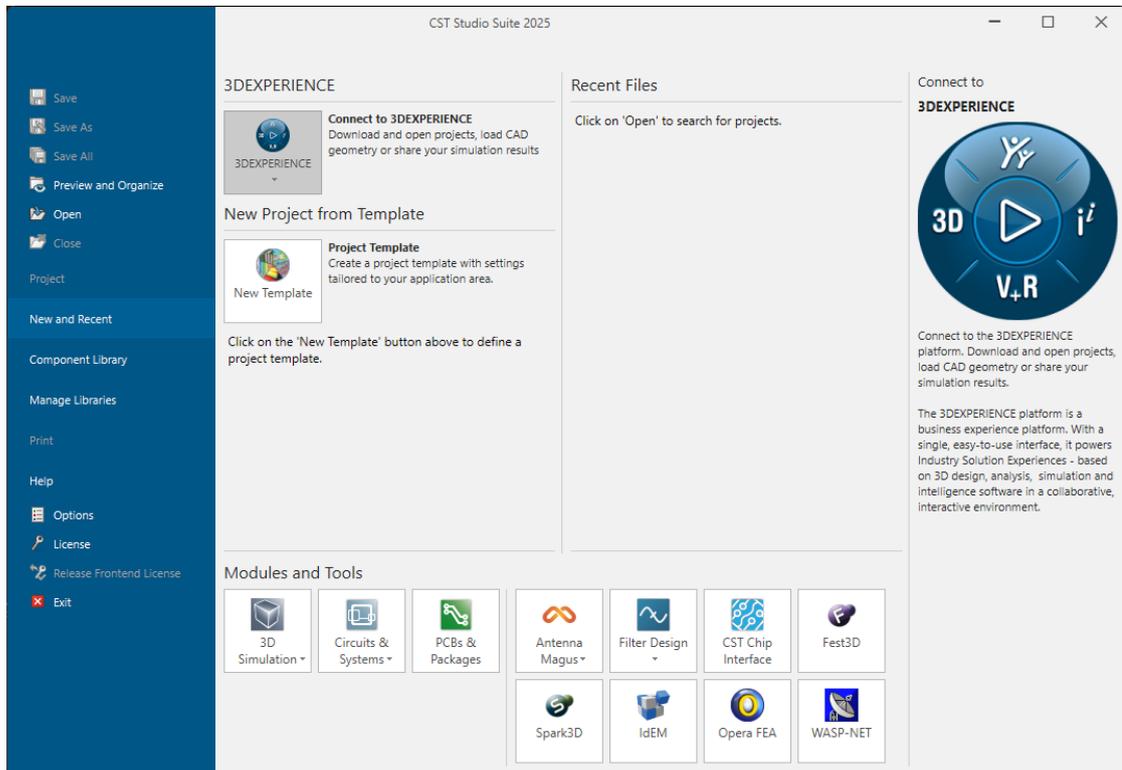


The only setting you need to specify here is the name of your license server in the *Server* field. The *Port* field optionally allows you to specify the license server's TCP/IP port. By default, the port will be detected automatically, so you can normally keep the default setting. Pressing *OK* will then store this setting and you can use the software. The DSLS-based license server mode has similar settings.

Chapter 3 – User Interface

After successfully installing the software, remember to log in as standard user rather than keeping administrator privileges for security reasons.

Start the application by selecting the *CST Studio Suite* entry in the Windows *Start* menu's *CST Studio Suite 2025* folder. You will see the main window of the CST Studio Suite user interface:



If no project is open, this is the default view of the application. You can activate it at any time by selecting the *File* tab.

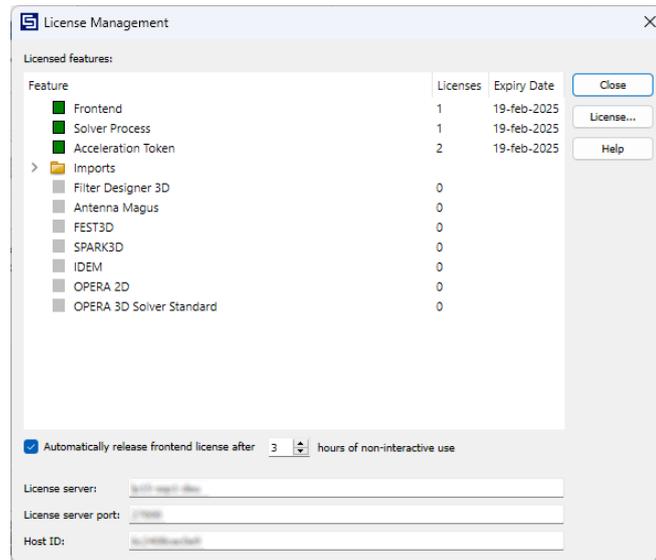
On the left pane you have direct access to typical file related options like *Open*, *Save*, *Print* and *Help*. In addition to those standard controls, the following four pages are provided:

- **Project:** The *Project* page gives a brief overview of the currently active project and offers project related operations like *Archive As* or quick access to the project folder in the windows explorer. Please note: you can access this page only if a project is loaded.
- **New and Recent:** The *New and Recent* page is the central place to a start a new project or quickly load one of the recent projects.
- **Component Library:** On the *Component Library* page you can manage and share your reusable projects with your colleagues. For more information about the Component Library please refer to the online help system.
- **Manage Libraries:** Manage additional packages that can you download from the same location where you get the main installer.

Please note: The button **Connect to 3DEXPERIENCE** is available, if the 3DEXPERIENCE platform is already installed on your system. In this case, you can easily open projects or import CAD geometry from the platform.

License Management

Open the License Management dialog box by choosing *File: License*:



The tree view shows a list of all potentially available features along with the number of licenses and their respective expiration date. Moving the mouse over one of the features shows a tool tip containing more information concerning the respective feature.

Other text fields in the dialog box show the currently used *License server* and *License server port* as well as the *Host ID*.

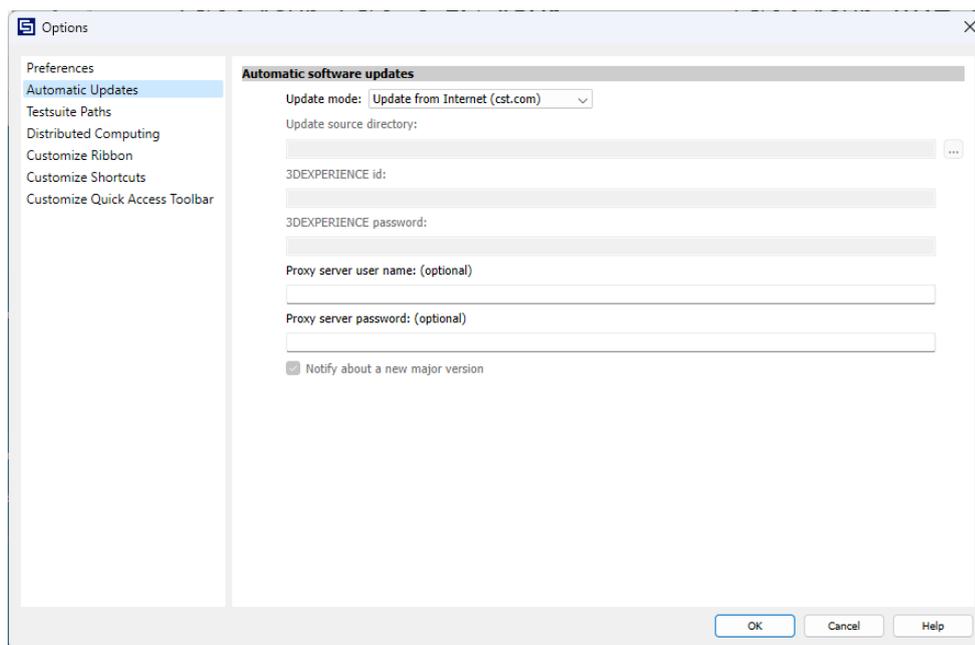
In case of a node locked license, you can also update the license file by pressing the *License* button. If you are using a floating license, we recommend using the License Server control panel as explained in the installation instructions in Chapter 2.

Automatic Software Updates

The automatic software update system helps you to keep your installation of CST Studio Suite up-to-date.

Please note: Some virus scanning tools can interfere with the automatic updating system. We strongly recommend either to turn off virus scanners while installing an update or to exclude the CST Studio Suite installation directory and its sub-directories from virus scanning.

By default, the system is configured in such a way that it frequently checks on the internet for new updates. You can change this by choosing *File: Options* ⇒ *Automatic Updates*:

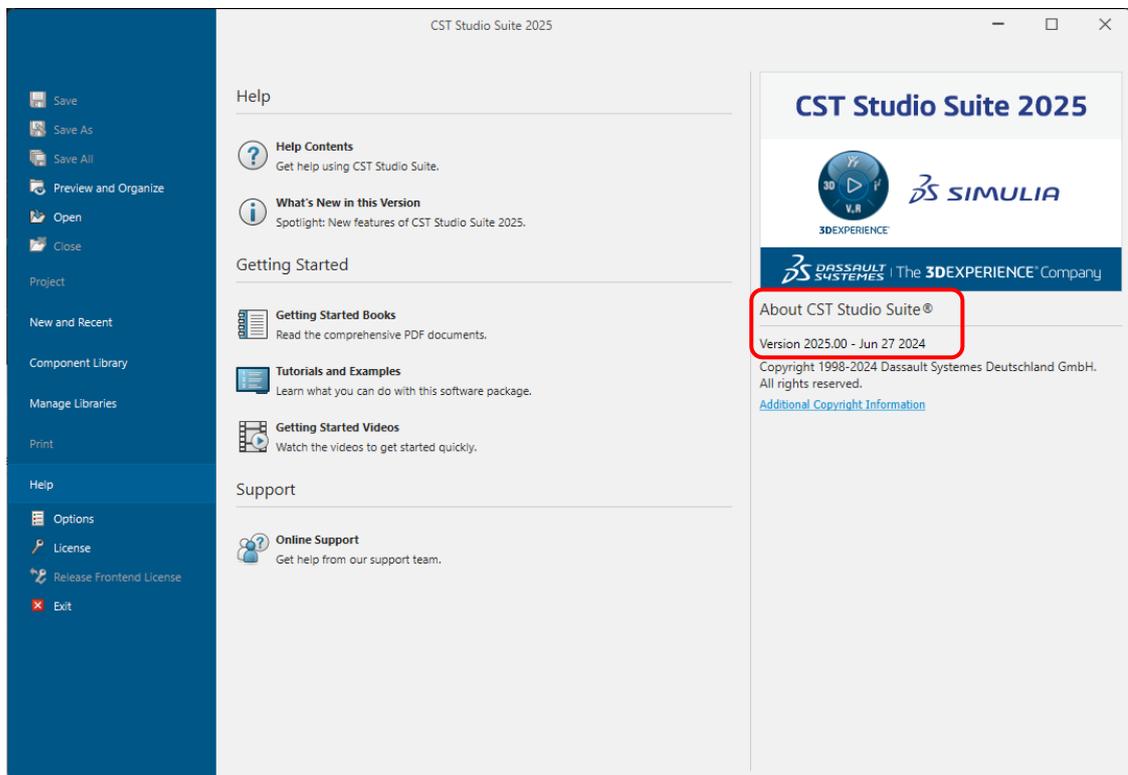


Here you can specify the *Update mode* (*Update from internet*, *Update from local directory*, *No automatic updates*) and optional proxy server information. The latter may be necessary if you need to provide authentication information when opening an internet connection.

We strongly recommend using the automatic software updates in order to stay up-to-date with the latest improvements of the software. Please refer to the online help system for more information about the software update system.

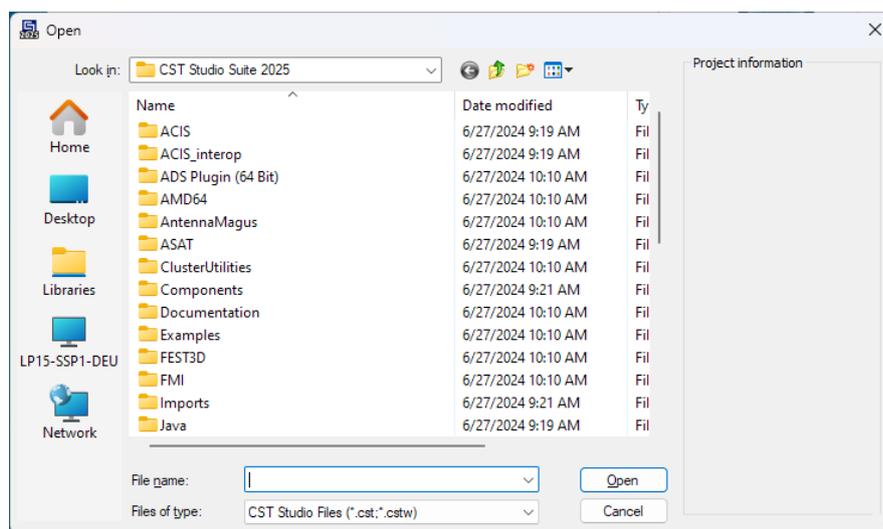
Version Information

Sometimes the technical support team will ask you which software version you have. You can easily find this information by selecting *File: Help*:



Opening a Project

Use the *File: Open* command to open an existing project:



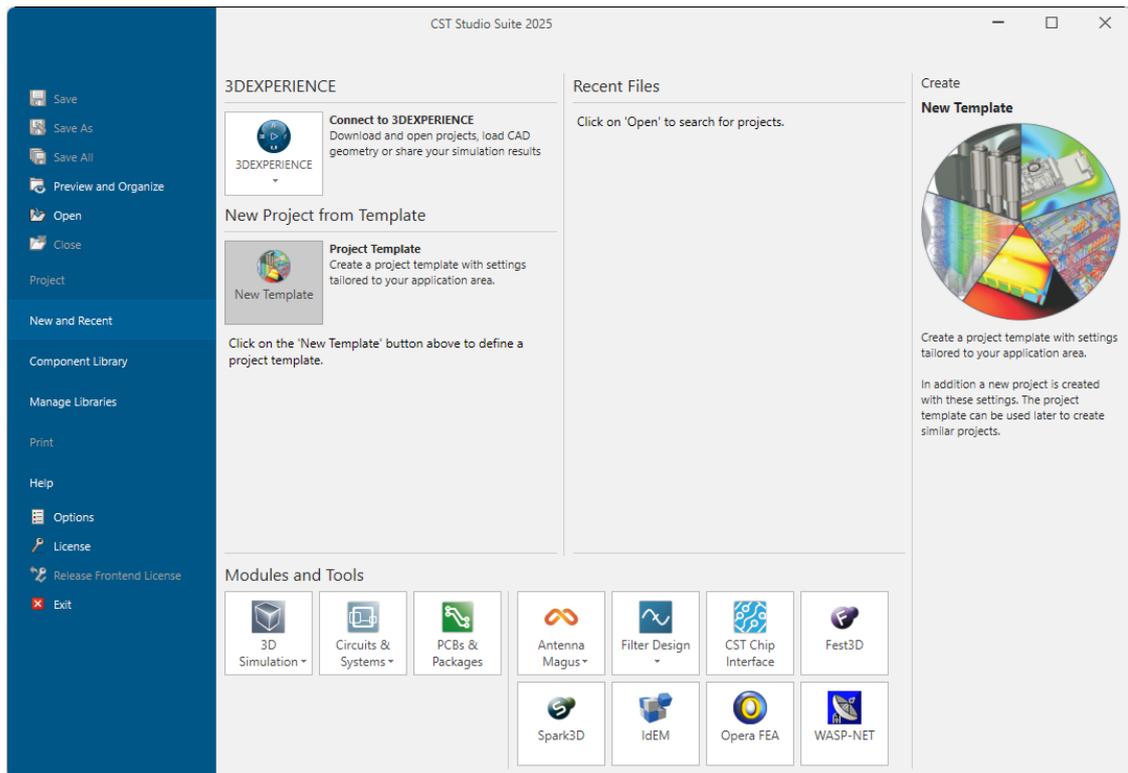
Here you can select a project file with the extension *.cst*.

If you want to open a project, which you have used recently, just activate *File: New and Recent* and select the project from the list of recent projects.

Creating a New Project

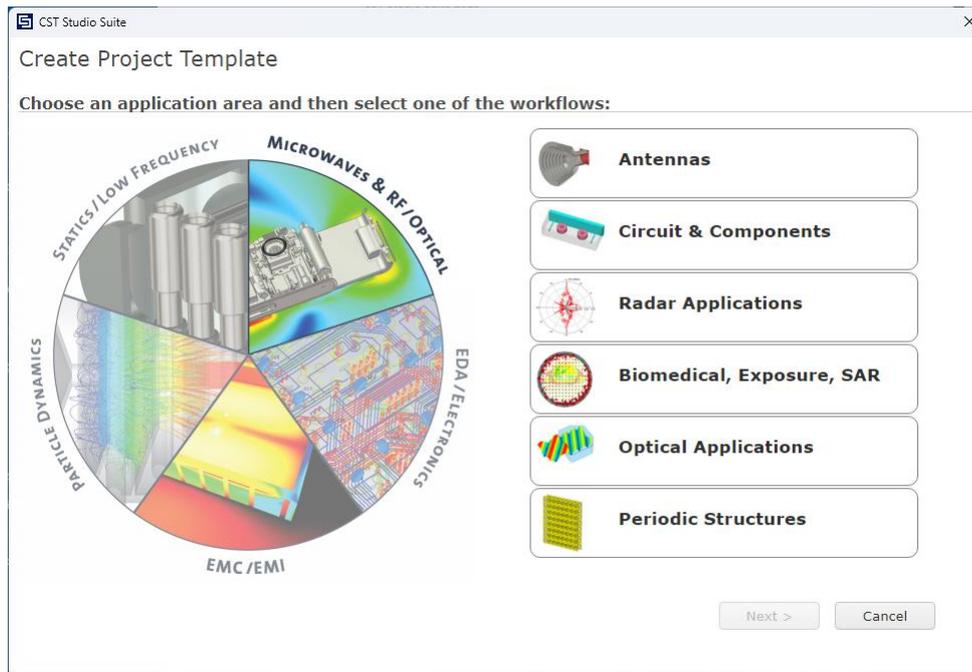
Create a new project by clicking on the *New Template* button in the *New and Recent* page. This will start the template wizard, which guides you through a series of questions in order to specify the application area of your new project.

This ensures that the appropriate module starts automatically. In addition, all project settings are set correctly for the particular type of device you want to analyze. These settings are also stored as a project template for later use. Just click on this template in the list of project templates whenever you want to create another project of the same type.

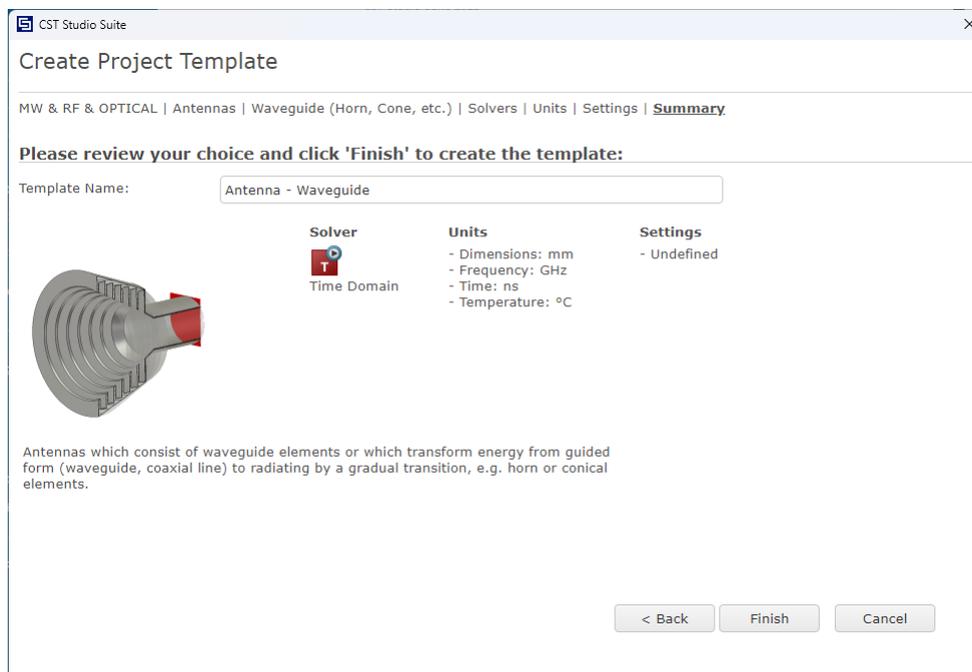


Besides the Template Wizard, you can use the buttons in the *Modules and Tools* group to create a new project. The *Tools* buttons offer quick access to additional applications.

Now we want to create a new project. Press the button *File: New and Recent* ⇨ *New Template* to start the template wizard.



For this introduction, we do not rely on any specific project settings, so just select *MW & RF & OPTICAL* and *Antennas* and press the *Next* button multiple times without any change. In this document, we just introduce the common steps needed when using this wizard for project creation. Please refer to the other CST Studio Suite documents for more details. At the end of the project definition, you can verify your choices on the summary page. On this page, change the name of the project template, if needed:



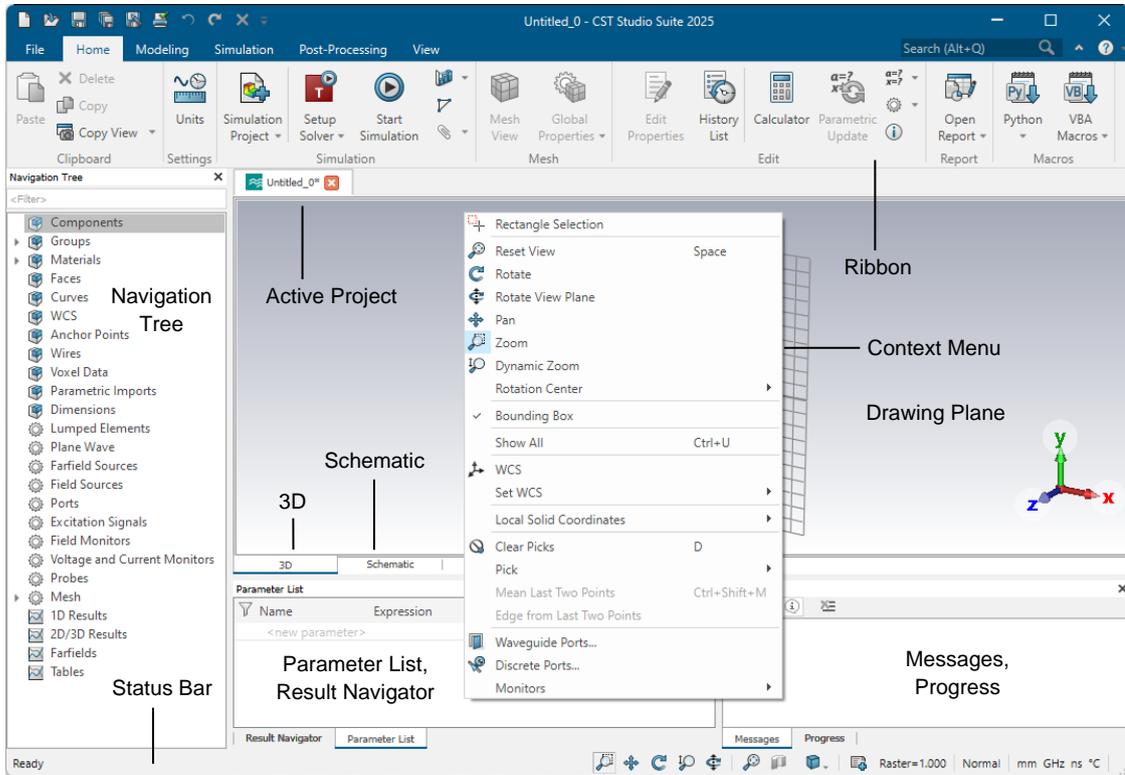
Finally press the *Finish* button to start the appropriate module. In this case, this is the high frequency module CST MICROWAVE STUDIO.

Overview of the User Interface

This section explains the controls and commands of CST MICROWAVE STUDIO. Since the user interface concept of CST EM STUDIO, CST PARTICLE STUDIO, and CST

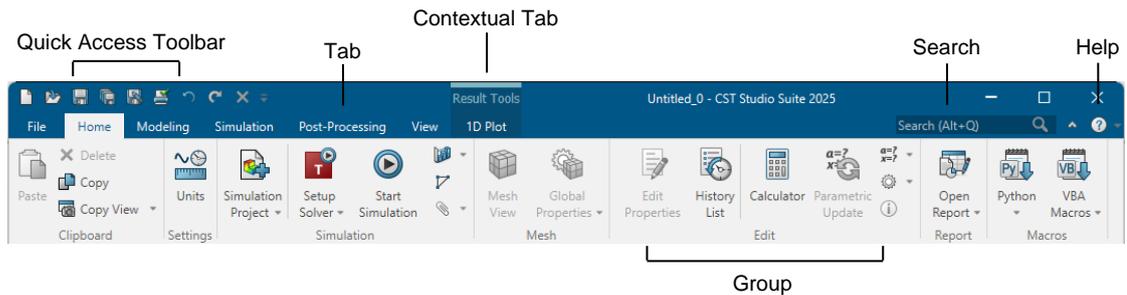
MPHYSICS STUDIO are identical, it should be straightforward to follow the explanations below in case you are using any one of these modules.

After the module has started, you will see the user interface of CST MICROWAVE STUDIO. Now let us have a closer look at the various user interface elements:



Ribbon

The Ribbon command bar organizes all user interface controls in a series of tabs. It is a replacement for the classical menus and toolbars:

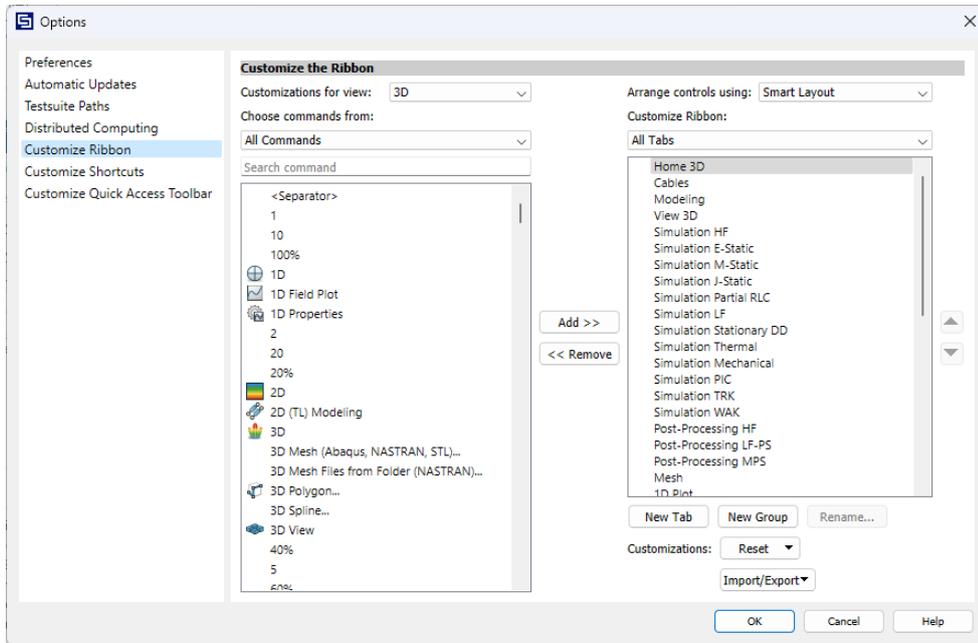


All commands in a Ribbon tab are organized in groups, which are labeled. Besides tabs and groups, the Ribbon consists of:

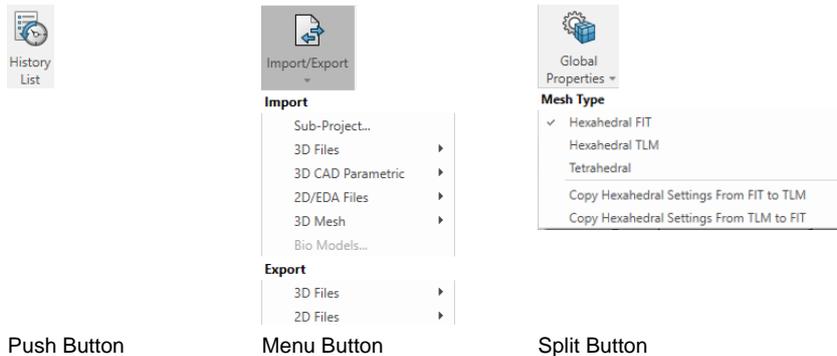
- ❑ A Quick Access Toolbar. This is a small customizable toolbar that displays frequently used commands.
- ❑ Core tabs are the tabs, which are always visible. When switching from 3D to Schematic the core tabs change, because each mode has its own set of individual controls.
- ❑ Contextual tabs are activated only when a particular object is selected or special view is active.
- ❑ The File tab consists of a set of commands related to file handling. General application options and additional help can also be found here.

- ❑ A *Search* field to quickly find commands, examples or search in the help.
- ❑ A *Help*  button to access the online help and the support account. In addition, the *Quick Start Guide* can be started here if a CST MICROWAVE STUDIO project or a project of a similar type is active.
- ❑ The *Minimize the Ribbon (Ctrl+F1)*  button can be used to hide all the Ribbon groups. Instead, only the tab labels are permanently visible.

Use *File: Options* ⇒ *Customize Ribbon* to create your own tabs or add additional buttons or groups to the predefined tabs.



A Ribbon tab can contain three different types of buttons:



- ❑ A Push button simply performs an action or switches a certain state.
- ❑ The Menu button offers a set of choices, but does not directly trigger an action.
- ❑ The Split button is a combination of the two other types. It shows a menu when clicking on the lower part of the button. If the upper part is used, the default action of the control is performed.

Other User Interface Elements

Active Project: Use the tabs at the top of the central main window to switch between the currently loaded projects.

Navigation Tree: The navigation tree is an important part of the user interface. Here you can access structural elements as well as simulation results.

Context Menu: The context menus are a flexible way of accessing frequently used menu commands for the current context. The content of this menu (which can be opened by pressing the right mouse button) changes dynamically.

Drawing Plane: Use the drawing plane to sketch the 2D part of 3D geometry. As the mouse is only a 2D locator, even when defining 3D structures, the coordinates are projected onto the drawing plane in order to specify a 3D location. Since you may change the location and orientation of the drawing plane by means of various tools, this feature makes the modeling very powerful.

3D, Schematic and Assembly: With the tabs at the bottom of the central main window you can switch between the 3D modeling, the Schematic and the Assembly view. Besides these main views, you also have access to additional temporary views, e.g. results. The user interface for the Schematic and the Assembly view is explained in the *CST Studio Suite - Circuit Simulation and SAM* documentation.

Parameter List: The parameter list window displays a list of all previously defined parameters together with their current values.

Result Navigator: The result navigator window displays a list of all previously calculated parametric results. It allows you to browse all results available within the current result view.

Messages and Progress: The messages window displays information text (e.g. solver output) whenever applicable. In the progress window, a progress bar is displayed for every running simulation, even if another project is currently active.

Status Bar: The status bar provides some useful information about the current project settings. You can click on the text for direct access to these values. In addition, you can alter how you manipulate the view with the mouse. The different mouse modes are explained later in this document.

Next Steps

Now that you have been introduced to some basic concepts of CST Studio Suite, the next step in becoming familiar with the software is to carefully study the module specific manuals depending on the product you are planning to use.

For simulations, which are using CST MICROWAVE STUDIO, CST EM STUDIO, CST PARTICLE STUDIO, CST Cable Studio, or CST MPHYSICS STUDIO, we also strongly recommend working through the following chapter: *Structure Modeling*.

Chapter 4 – Structure Modeling

CST MICROWAVE STUDIO, CST EM STUDIO, CST PARTICLE STUDIO, and CST MPHYSICS STUDIO share a common structure-modeling tool. The main purpose of this chapter is to provide an overview of the structure modeler's many capabilities. Read this chapter carefully, as this is a fast and easy way to learn how to use the software efficiently.

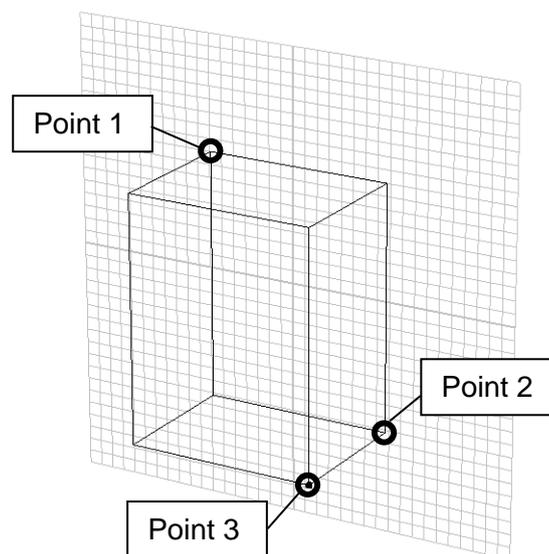
Create and View Some Simple Structures

The following section deals with the procedure of creating a simple structure. Many complex structures are composed of very simple elements, or so called primitives. In the following, we will draw one such primitive, a brick.

Create a First Brick

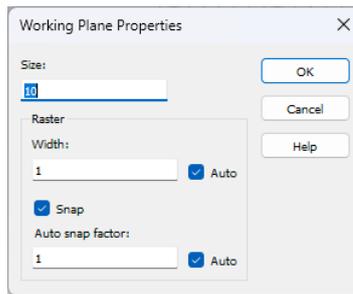
1. Use the *Modeling* tab and activate the Brick tool by using *Modeling: Shapes* ⇨ *Brick* . You are able to select the first point of the brick's base in the drawing plane (see the text line in the upper left corner of the main window).
2. You may set a starting point by double-clicking a location on the drawing plane.
3. Now you can select the opposite corner of the brick's base on the drawing plane by double-clicking on it.
4. Next, define the height of the brick by dragging the mouse. Double-click to fix the height of the brick.
5. Finally, a dialog box will open showing the numerical values of all coordinate locations you have entered. Click *OK* to store the settings and create your first primitive!

The following picture gives an overview of the three double-clicks used to define the brick:



Before we continue drawing other simple shapes, let us spend some time on the different methods of setting a point.

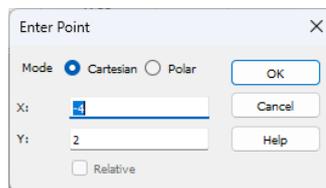
The simplest way to set a point is to double-click its location in the drawing plane as above. However, in most cases the structure coordinates have to be entered with high precision. In this case, the snap-to-grid mode should be activated. You will find the corresponding option dialog box under *View: Visibility* ⇨ *Working Plane* ⇨ *Working Plane Properties*. The following dialog box will appear:



Here you may specify whether the mouse coordinates should *Snap* to a raster (which is the default) or not. Furthermore, you may specify the raster *Snap width* in the corresponding field. The raster *Width* entry influences only the size of the raster, which is drawn on the screen. The coordinate mapping is independent of this setting.

Please note that selecting the *Help* button in a dialog box always opens a help page containing more information about the dialog box and its settings.

Another way to specify a coordinate is to press the *Tab* key whenever a location is expected. In this case, a dialog box will appear in which you may numerically specify the location. The following example shows a dialog box that appears when the first point of a shape must be defined:



You may specify the position either in *Cartesian* or in *Polar* coordinates. The latter type is measured from the origin of the coordinate system. The *Angle* is between the x-axis and the location of the point, and the *Radius* is the point's distance from the origin.

When the first point has been set, the *Relative* option will be available. If you check this item, the entered coordinates are no longer absolute (measured from the origin of the coordinate system) but relative to the last point entered. The coordinate dialog boxes always show the current mouse location in the entry fields. However, often a point should be set to the center of the coordinate system (0, 0). If you press *Shift+Tab*, the coordinate dialog box will open with zero values in the coordinate fields.

The third way to enter accurate coordinates is by clicking estimated values using the mouse and then correcting the values in the final dialog box. You may skip the definition of points using the mouse at any time by pressing the *Esc* key. In this case, the shape dialog box will open immediately.

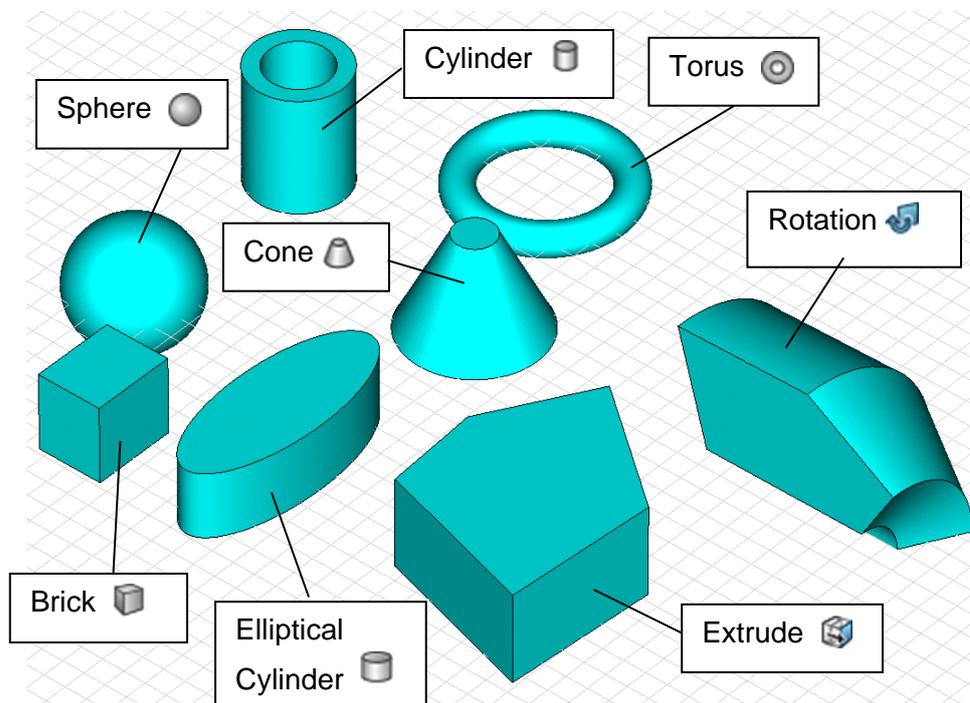
Pressing the *Esc* key twice aborts the shape generation. Pressing the *Backspace* key deletes the previously selected point. If no point has been selected, the shape generation will also be aborted.

Please note that another mode exists for the generation of bricks. When you are asked to pick the opposite corner of the brick's base, you may also specify a line rather than a rectangle. In this case, you will be asked to specify the width of the brick as a third step before specifying the height. This feature is quite useful for construction tasks such as building a microstrip line centered on a substrate.

To facilitate this, a feature exists which allows the line definition to be restricted to orthogonal movements from the first selected point. Simply hold down the shift key and move the mouse to define the next point.

An Overview of the Basic Shapes Available

The following picture gives a brief overview of all basic shapes that can be generated in a similar way to the brick (as described above).



At this stage, you should play around a bit with the shape generator to familiarize yourself with the user interface. Use the shape creation tools, which are located in *Modeling: Shapes*.

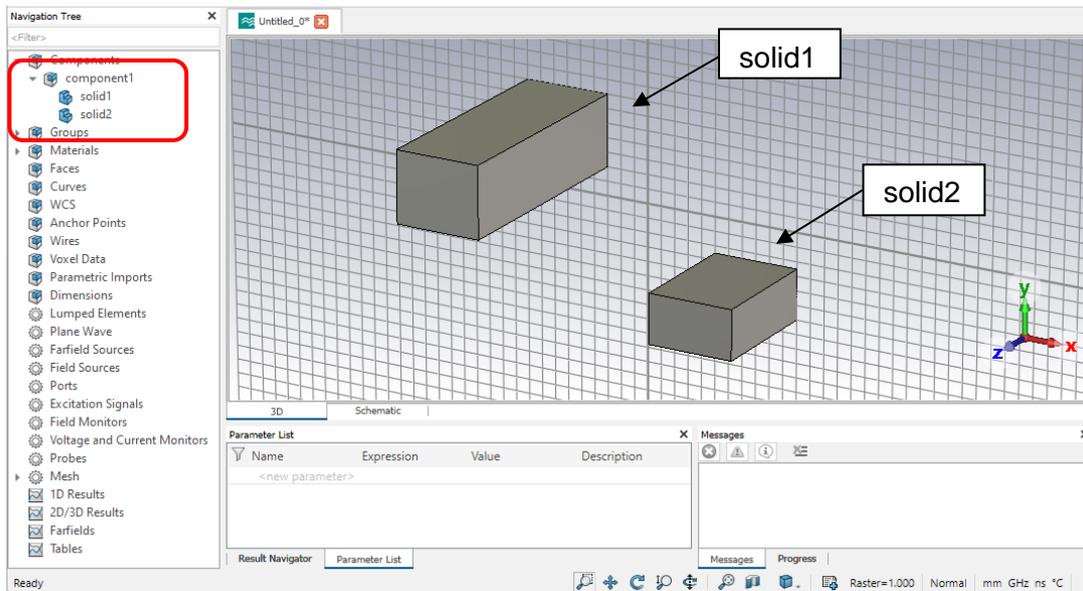
Select Shapes

After a shape is defined, it is automatically cataloged in the navigation tree. You can find all shapes in the *Components* folder. If you open this folder, you will find a subfolder called *component1*, which contains all defined shapes. The name for each primitive is assigned in the final shape dialog box when the shape is created. The default names start with "solid" followed by an increasing number: solid1, solid2, etc.

You may select a shape by clicking on the corresponding item in the navigation tree. Note that after you select a shape, it will be displayed opaquely while all others will be drawn transparently (see the picture below). This is how the modeler visualizes shape selection. A shape can also be selected by double-clicking on it in the main window. In this case, the corresponding item in the navigation tree will also be selected. Holding down the *Ctrl* key, while double-clicking a shape in the main view, allows you to select

multiple shapes. You may also select ranges of shapes in the navigation tree by holding down the *Shift* key while clicking on the shapes' name.

Another powerful way to select multiple shapes is the *Rectangle Selection* feature. Choose *View: Selection* ⇨ *Rectangle Selection* and define a rectangular area in the main view by clicking and dragging with the mouse. All shapes within this rectangle are selected. Take a few seconds to familiarize yourself with the shape selection mechanism.

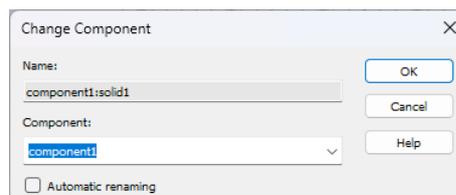


You may change the name of a shape by selecting it and choosing *Modeling: Edit* ⇨ *Rename/Change* ⇨ *Rename (F2)*. You can then change the name of the shape by editing the item text in the navigation tree.

Group Shapes into Components and Assign Material Properties

Now that we have discussed how to select an object, we should spend some time on the grouping of shapes into components. Each component is a subfolder of the *Components* folder in the navigation tree. Each individual component folder can contain an arbitrary number of shapes. The purpose of the component structure is to group together objects, which belong to the same geometrical component, e.g. connectors, antennae, etc. This hierarchical grouping of shapes allows simplified operations on entire components such as transformations (including copying), deletions, etc.

You can change the component assignment of a shape by selecting the shape and choosing *Modeling: Edit* ⇨ *Rename/Change* ⇨ *Change Component* (you find the option *Change Component* also in the context menu when a shape is selected). The following dialog box will open:

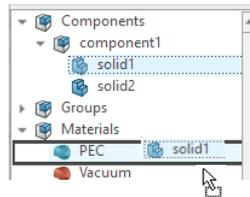


In this dialog box, you can select an existing component from the list or create a new one by simply typing its name in the edit field. You may also select [New Component]

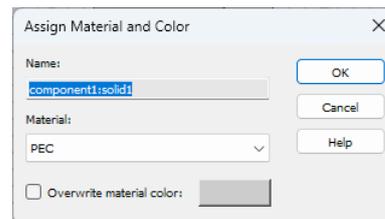
from the list. In the latter case, the newly created components will be automatically named as component1, component2, etc.

The component assignment of a shape has nothing to do with its physical material properties. In addition to its association with a particular component, each shape is assigned to a material that also defines the color for the shape's visualization. In other words, the material properties (and colors) do not belong to the shapes directly, but to the corresponding material. This means that all shapes made of a particular material are represented with the same color.

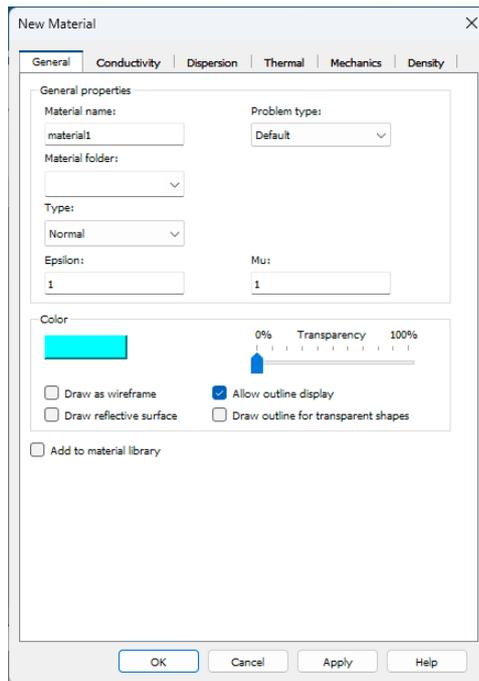
To change the material properties or the color of an individual shape you can assign it to another material. This can be done by dragging the solid in the navigation tree to the target material or vice versa:



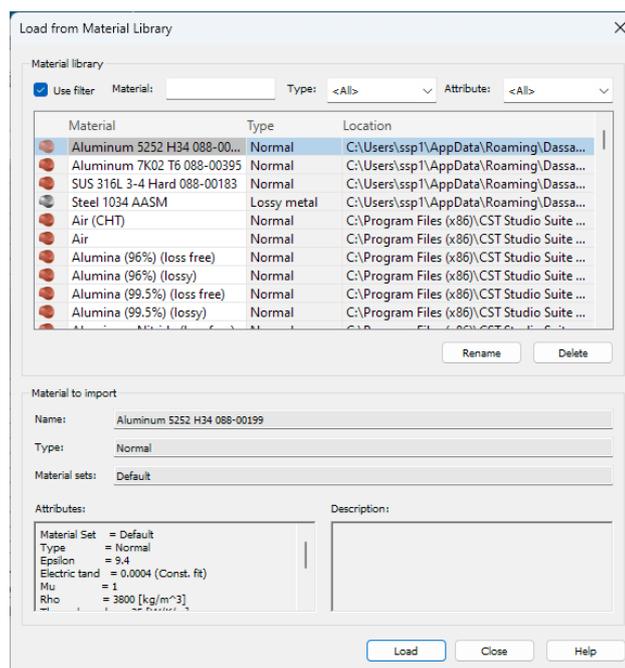
Another method is to select the shape and choose *Modeling: Materials* ⇒ *New/Edit* ⇒ *Assign Material and Color* (this option is also available in the context menu of the selected shape). The following dialog box will open:



In this dialog box, you may select an existing material from the list or define a new one by selecting the item *[New Material...]* from the list. In the latter case, another dialog box will open:



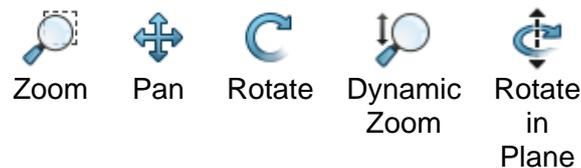
In this dialog box, you have to specify the *Material name* and the *Material type* (e.g. perfect electric conductor (PEC), normal dielectric (Normal), etc.). Note that the available material types as well as the corresponding options depend on the currently used module. You can also change the color of the material by clicking the *Color* button. Use the *Material folder* field to arrange the materials in different sub folders. After clicking the *OK* button, the new material is stored and appears in the *Materials* folder in the navigation tree. Selecting a particular material in the navigation tree also highlights all shapes that belong to this material. All other shapes will then be drawn transparently. In order to simplify the definition of frequently used materials, a material database is available. Before you use a material definition from the available database, you have to add it to the current project by selecting *Modeling: Materials* ⇒ *Material Library* ⇒ *Load from Library*. This operation will open the following dialog box displaying the contents of the database:



You may select an existing material from the list and click the *Load* button to add the material definition to the *Materials* folder in the navigation tree. Once the material is available in this folder, it can be used in the current project. You can also add a material that has been defined in the current project to the database by selecting the material in the navigation tree and then choosing *Modeling: Materials* ⇒ *Material Library* ⇒ *Add to Library*.

Change the View

So far, we have created and viewed the shapes by using the default view. You can change the view at any time (even during shape generation) using some simple commands as explained below. The view will change whenever you drag the mouse while holding down the left button, according to the selected mode. You can select the mode by choosing *View: Mouse Control* ⇒ *Zoom / Pan / Rotate / Dynamic Zoom / Rotate in Plane* or by selecting the appropriate item from the status bar:



The mode setting affects the behavior as follows:

- Zoom:** In this mode, a zoom window can be defined by dragging the mouse. After you release the left mouse button, the zoom factor and the view location will be updated so that the rectangle fills up the main window.
- Pan:** The structure will be translated in the screen plane following the mouse cursor movement.
- Rotate:** The structure will be rotated around the two screen axes. The center of the rotation will be the point on the structure where the mouse button was pressed, indicated by a red mark. If the selected location is outside the structure, the bounding box center point will be used as rotation center.
- Dynamic Zoom:** Moving the mouse upward will decrease the zoom factor while moving the mouse downward will increase the zoom factor.
- Rotate in Plane:** The structure will be rotated in the screen's plane.

The dynamic view-adjusting mode ends when you release the left mouse button. You can reset the zoom factor by choosing *View: Change View* ⇒ *Reset View (Space)* or from the context menu. Press *View: Change View* ⇒ *Reset View to Selection (Shift+Space)* to zoom to the currently selected shape rather than the entire structure.

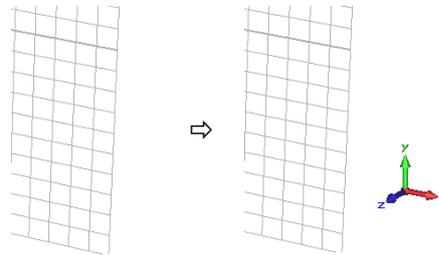
Since changing the view is a frequently used operation that will sometimes be necessary even during the process of interactive shape creation, some useful shortcut keys exist. Press the appropriate keys, and drag the mouse while pressing the left button:

- Ctrl:** Same as “rotate” mode
- Shift:** Same as “plane rotation” mode
- Shift +Ctrl:** Same as “pan” mode

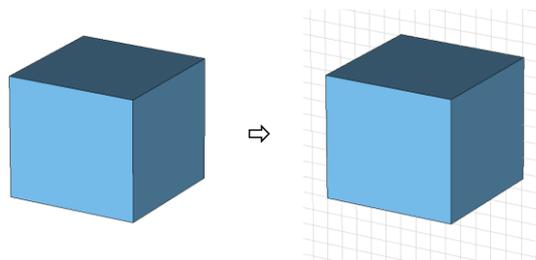
A mouse wheel movement has the same effect as the Dynamic Zoom. By default, the origin for this operation is located at the current mouse pointer location. Optionally, pressing the *Ctrl* key while using the mouse wheel performs a zoom operation around the center of the screen. This behavior can be altered by changing *Zoom to mouse cursor* in *File: Options* ⇒ *Preferences* ⇒ *User interface settings*.

In addition to the options described above, some specific settings are available to change the visualization of the model.

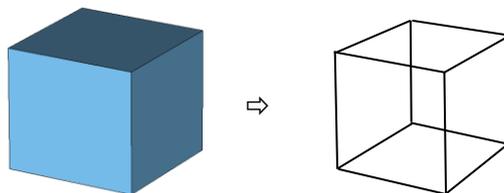
Axes (*View: Visibility* ⇒ *Axes*, *Ctrl+A*): This view option toggles the coordinate system visibility:



Working plane (*View: Visibility* ⇒ *Working Plane* , *Alt+W*): With this view option you may specify whether the drawing plane is visible or not.



Wireframe (*View: Visibility* ⇒ *Wire Frame* , *Ctrl+W*): This option indicates whether all shapes are displayed as simple wire models or as solid shaded objects.



To change the colors of the scene or other specific view settings use *View: Options* ⇒ *View Options* .

Apply Geometric Transformations

So far, you have seen how to model simple shapes and how to change the view of your model. This section focuses on applying geometric transformations to your model.

We assume that you have already selected the shape (or multiple shapes) to which a transformation will be applied (e.g. by double-clicking on a shape in the main view).

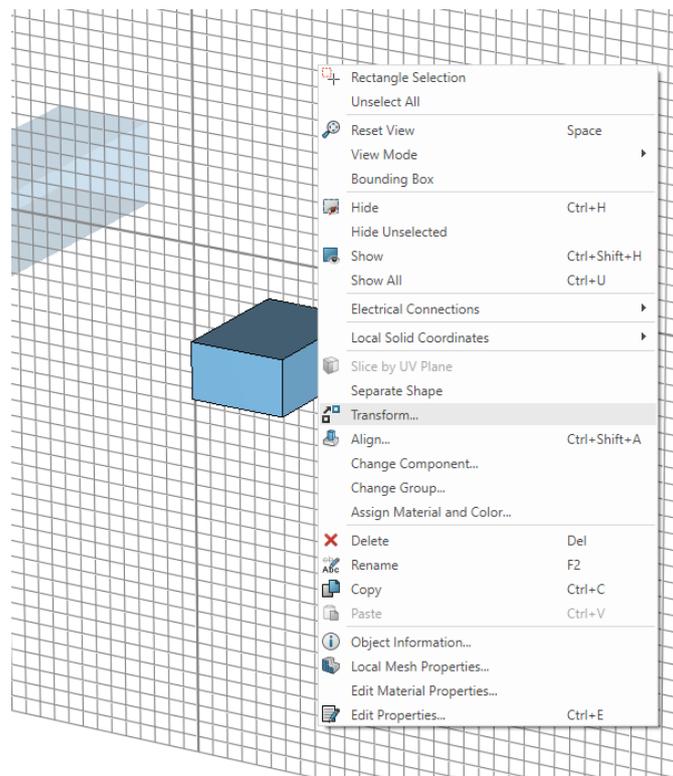
You can then open the transformation dialog box by choosing *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Transform*  or by choosing the item *Transform* from the context menu. In the dialog box, you are asked to select one of the following transformations:

- Translate:** This transformation applies a vector translation to the selected shape.
- Scale:** By choosing this transformation, you can scale the shape along the coordinate axes. By unchecking *Scale uniform* you may specify different scaling factors for each coordinate direction.

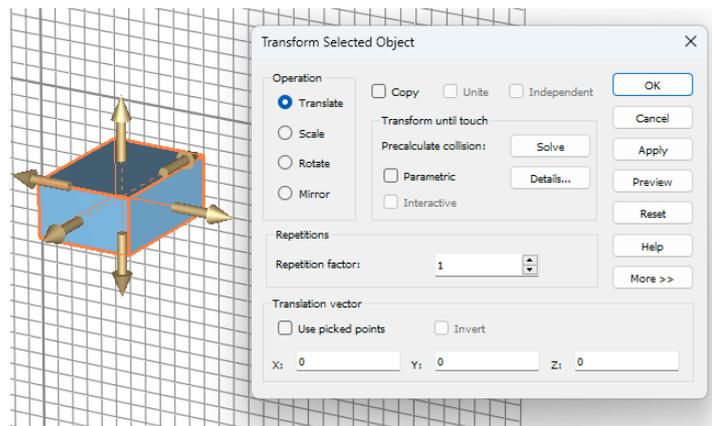
- **Rotate:** This transformation applies a rotation of the shape around a coordinate axis by a fixed angle. You may additionally specify the rotation center in the *Origin* field (click on *More* if the option is not immediately available). The center may be the center of the shape (calculated automatically) or any specified point. Specify the rotation angle and axis settings by entering the corresponding angle in the entry field for the corresponding axis (e.g. entering 45 in the y field while leaving all other fields set to zero performs a rotation around the y-axis of 45 degrees).
- **Mirror:** This transformation allows one to mirror the shape at a specified plane. A point in the mirror plane is specified in the *Mirror plane origin* field, and the plane's normal vector is given in the *Mirror plane normal* input field.

For all transformations above you may specify whether the original shape should be kept (*Copy* option) or deleted. Furthermore, you can specify in the *Repetition factor* field how many times the same transformation will be applied to the shape (each time producing a new shape when the *Copy* option is active). Once a particular type of transformation is selected, corresponding handles will be visualized in the main view. The actual transformation parameters can either be specified by entering numerical values in the input fields or by just dragging the handles with the mouse. Please note that you may need to press the *More* button in order to see all input fields.

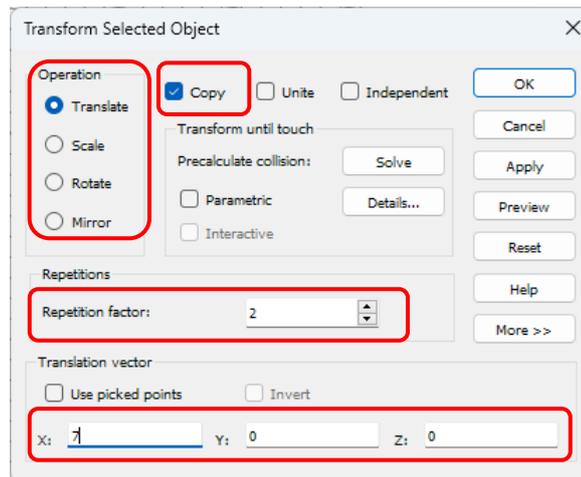
A final example will demonstrate the usage of the transformation feature. Assume that a brick has been defined and selected as depicted below. Open the transform dialog box by choosing the appropriate item from the context menu or *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Transform* .



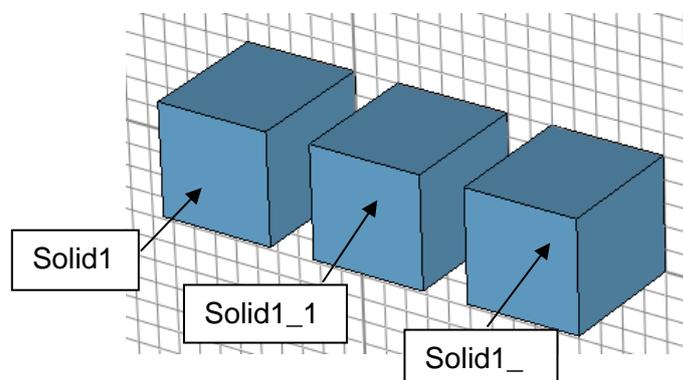
Now the screen looks as follows:



The next step is to apply a translation to the shape by setting a translation vector (7, 0, 0), and to produce multiple copies as the transformation is applied twice. You can either enter the values into the dialog box or use the mouse and drag & drop the golden arrows in the main view:



After pressing the *OK* button, you should finally obtain the following shapes:

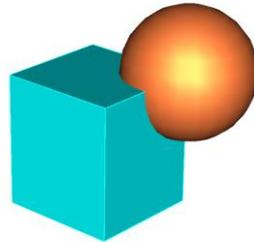


Note that for each transformation the name of the transformed shape is either kept (no *Copy* option) or extended by extensions *_1*, *_2*, etc. to obtain unique names for the shapes.

Combine Shapes Using Boolean Operations

Probably the most powerful operation to create complex shapes is to combine simple shapes using Boolean operations. These operations allow you to add shapes together, to subtract one or more shapes from another, to insert shapes into each other, and to intersect two or more shapes.

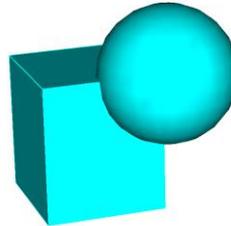
Let us consider two shapes – a sphere and a brick – on which we need to perform Boolean operations.



This list names all available Boolean operations and shows the resulting body for each combination:

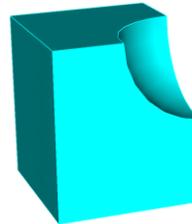
Add brick to sphere

Add both shapes together to obtain a single shape. The resulting shape will assume the component and material settings of the first shape.



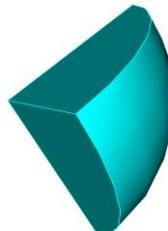
Subtract sphere from brick

Subtract the second shape from the first to obtain a single shape. The resulting shape will assume the component and material settings of the first shape.



Intersect brick and sphere

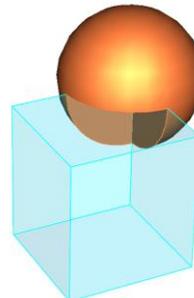
Intersect two shapes to form a single shape. The resulting shape will assume the component and material settings from the first shape of this operation.



Trim sphere

= Insert brick into sphere

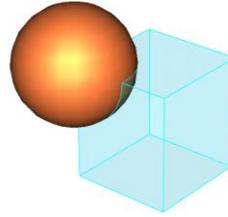
The first shape will be trimmed by the boundary of the second shape. Both shapes will be kept. The resulting shapes will have no intersecting volume.



Insert sphere into brick

= Trim brick

The second shape will be inserted into the first one. Again both shapes will be kept. The resulting shapes will have no intersecting volume.



Note that not all of the Boolean operations above are directly accessible. As you can see, some of the operations are redundant (e.g., a trimming operation can be replaced by an insertion operation when the order of the shapes is reversed).

You can access the following Boolean operations by choosing the corresponding items: *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Boolean* ⇒ *Add / Subtract / Intersect / Insert*. Operations are accessible only when a shape is selected (in the following referred to as “first” shape). After the Boolean operation is activated, you will be prompted to select the “second” shape. Pressing the *Return* key performs the Boolean combination. The result depends on the type of Boolean operation:

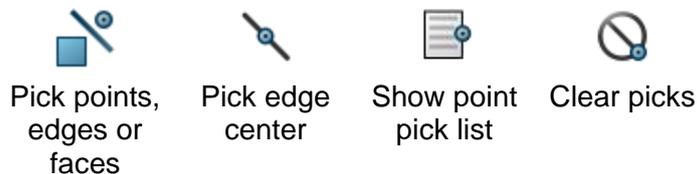
- Add (+)** : Add the second shape to the first one – keeps the component and material settings of the first shape.
- Subtract (-)** : Subtract the second shape from the first one – keeps the component and material settings of the first shape.
- Intersect (*)** : Intersect the first with the second shape – keeps the component and material settings of the first shape.
- Insert (/)** : Insert the second shape into the first one – keeps both shapes while changing the first shape only.

The trim operations are only available in a special “Shape intersection” dialog box which appears when a shape is created that intersects or touches areas with existing shapes. This dialog box will be explained later.

When multiple shapes are selected, you can access the Boolean add operation to unite all selected shapes. You can also select more than one shape when you are prompted to specify the *second* shape for Boolean subtract, intersect or insert operations.

Pick Points, Edges, or Faces from within the Model

Many construction steps require the selection of points, edges, or faces from the model. The following section explains how to select these elementary entities interactively. For each of the “pick operations”, you must first select the appropriate pick tool e.g. *Modeling: Picks* ⇒ *Picks*.



After you activate a pick tool, the mouse cursor will change indicating that a pick operation is in progress. In addition, all pickable elements (points, edges, or faces) will be highlighted in the model. Now you can double-click on an appropriate item. Alternatively, you can cancel the pick mode by pressing the *Esc* key.

Note: You cannot pick edges or faces of a shape when another shape is currently selected. In this case, you should either select the proper shape or deselect all shapes.

As soon as you double-click in the main view, the pick mode will be terminated and the selected item will be highlighted. Note that if the *Modeling: Picks* \Rightarrow *Picks* \Rightarrow *Keep Pick Mode* option is activated, the pick operation will not terminate after double-clicking. In this case you have to cancel the pick mode by pressing the *Esc* key. This mode is useful when multiple items have to be selected and it would be cumbersome to re-enter the pick mode several times.

The following list gives an overview of the available pick modes. Whenever the main structure view is active, keyboard shortcuts (listed in parentheses) can be used to activate a particular pick mode. The main structure view can be activated by left clicking once on the main drawing window.

□ Pick Points

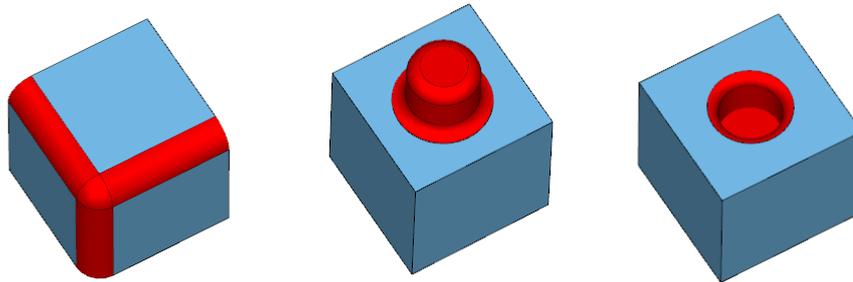
- **Pick End Point (P)** : Double-click close to the end point of an edge. The corresponding point will be selected.
- **Pick Edge Center (M)** : Double-click on an edge. The mid-point of this edge will be selected.
- **Pick Circle Center (C)** : Double-click on a circular edge. The center point of this edge will be selected. The edge need not necessarily belong to a complete circle.
- **Pick Point on Circle (R)** : Double-click on a circular edge. Afterward an arbitrary point on the circle will be selected. This operation is useful when matching radii in the interactive shape creation modes.
- **Pick Face Center (A)** : Double-click on a planar face of the model. The center point of this face will be selected.
- **Pick Point on Face (O)**: Double-click on a point on the model to select it.

□ Picks

- **Pick Points, Edges, or Faces (S)** : Double-click close to an edge, an end point of an edge, or a face. The corresponding item will be selected.
- **Pick Face (F)** : Double-click on a face of the model to select it.
- **Pick Face Chain (Shift+F)**: Double-click on a face of the model. This function will automatically select all faces connected to the selected face. The selection stops at previously picked edges, if any.
- **Pick Similar Faces (Ctrl+Shift+S)** : Pick face or faces which are similar to already picked face or faces. If the number of picked faces is less than ten, this option will pick faces similar to already picked faces. If the number of picked faces is more than ten, this option will enable the interactive pick mode. Hovering with the mouse over a face, will highlight all other similar faces in that shape, double-click will select all highlighted faces.
- **Pick Faces by Rectangle Selection (Ctrl+F)**: Pick all faces within a selected area. Start to drag a rectangle containing all faces of solids you want to pick. Only faces are selected that are completely within the given rectangle. You may change this behavior by using the Shift-Key during dragging the rectangle. Now every face that is touched by the rectangle will be selected. This feature is limited to the visible parts of faces.
- **Pick Edge (E)** : Double-click on an edge of the model to select it.
- **Pick Edge Chain (Shift+E)**: Double-click on an edge of the model. If the selected edge is a free edge, a connected chain of free edges will be selected. If the selected edge is connected to two faces, a dialog box will appear in which you can specify which one of the two possible edge chains bounding the faces will be

selected. In both cases, the selection chain stops at previously picked points, if any.

- **Pick Blend, Pick Protrusion and Pick Depression:** Allows selection of multiple faces at once which represent an individual feature:



Pick Blend

Pick Protrusion

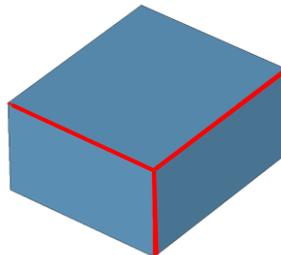
Pick Depression

The pick operations for selecting points from the model are also valid in the interactive shape creation modes. Here, whenever you are requested to double-click in order to enter the next point, you may alternatively enter the pick mode. After leaving this mode, the picked point will be taken as the next point for the shape creation.

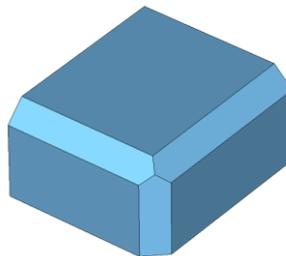
Previously picked points, edges or faces can be cleared by selecting *Modeling: Picks* ⇒ *Clear Picks*  (D).

Chamfer and Blend Edges

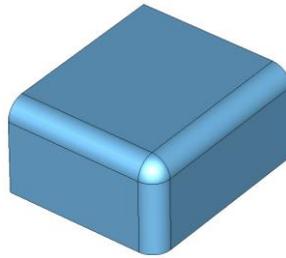
One of the most common applications for picked edges is the chamfer and blend edge operation. We assume you have created a brick and selected some of its edges, as shown in the following picture:



Now you can perform a chamfer edge operation by choosing *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Blend* ⇒ *Chamfer Edges* . In the following dialog box, you can specify the width of the chamfer. The structure should look similar to the one depicted below:

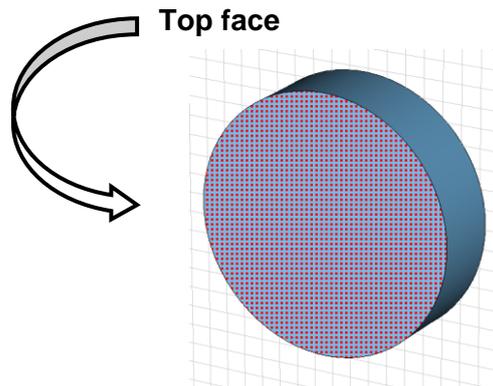


Alternatively, you can perform a blend edges operation by choosing *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Blend* ⇒ *Blend Edges* . In the following dialog box, you can specify the radius of the blend. The result should look similar to the following picture:

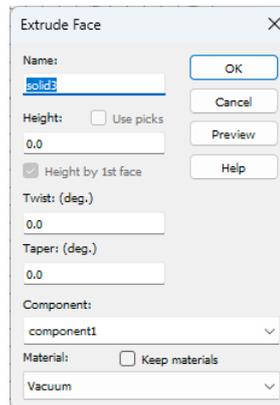


Extrude, Rotate and Loft Faces

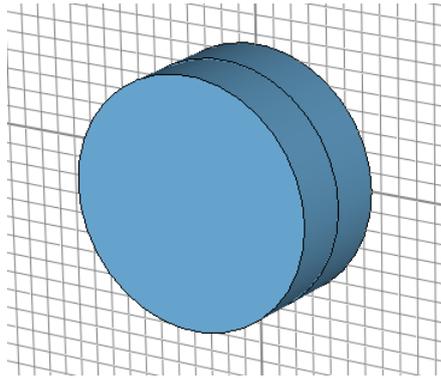
The chamfer and blend tools are common operations on picked edges. Extrude, rotate and loft operations are equally typical construction tools for use on picked faces. In the following, we assume an existing cylinder with a picked top face:



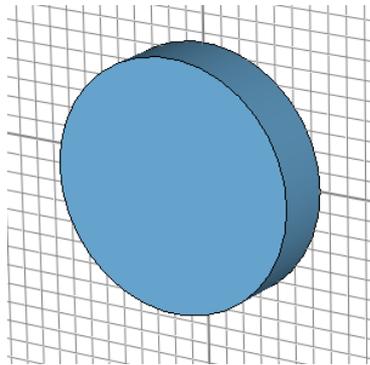
Now we can extrude this face by simply selecting *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Extrusions* ⇒ *Extrude* . When a planar or cylindrical face is picked before this tool is activated, the extrusion refers to the picked face, and the dialog box opens immediately:



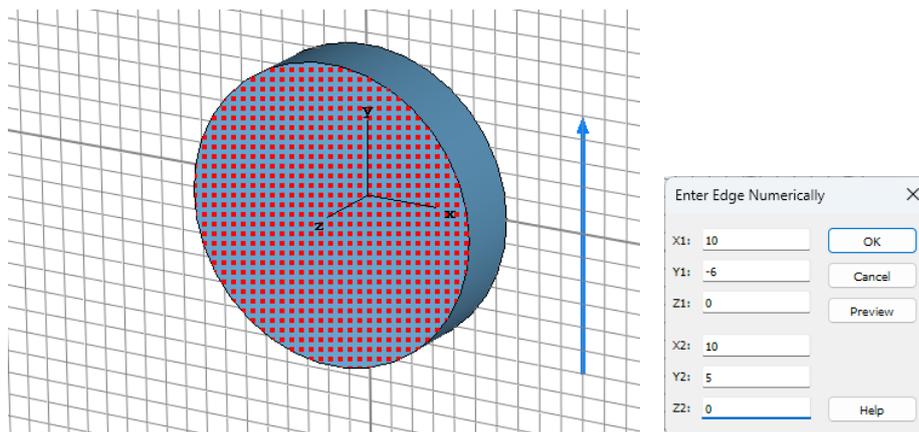
If no face is picked in advance, an interactive mode will be entered in which you can define polygon points for the extrusion profile. However, in this example you should enter a height and click the *OK* button. Finally, your structure should look as follows:



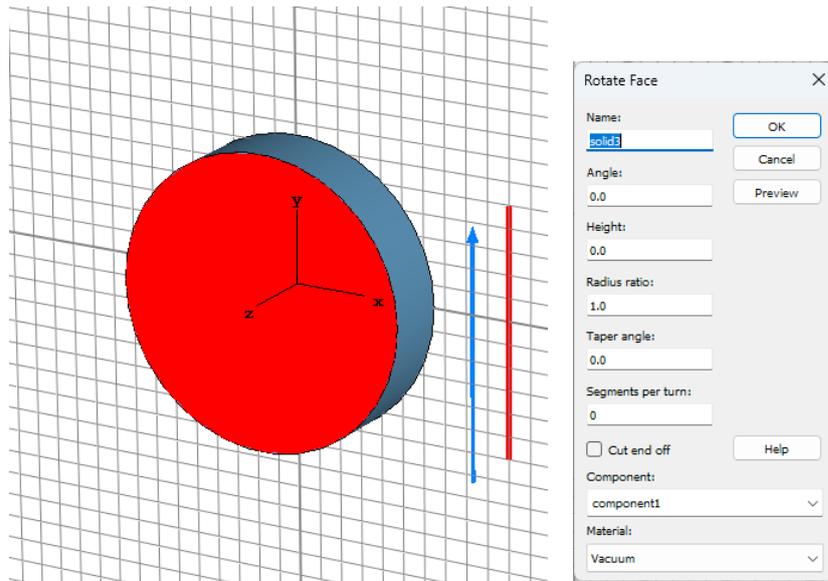
The extrusion tool has created a second shape by extruding the picked face. For the rotation, you should start with the same basic geometry as before:



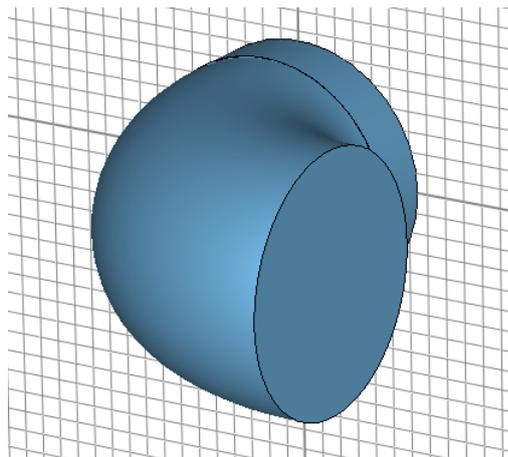
The rotation tool requires the input of both a rotation axis and a picked face. The rotation axis can be a linear edge picked from the model or a numerically specified edge. In this example, you should specify the edge by selecting the *Modeling: Picks* ⇒ *Pick Edge from Coordinates* . Afterwards you will be requested to pick two points on the drawing plane to define the edge. Please select two points similar to those in the following picture:



In the numerical edge dialog box, click the *OK* button to store the edge. Afterward you can activate the rotate face tool by selecting *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Extrusions* ⇒ *Rotate* .



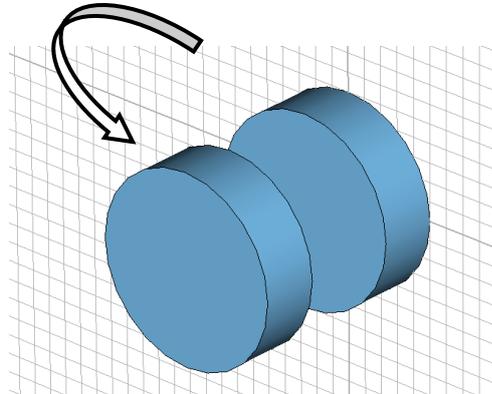
The previously selected rotation axis is automatically projected into the face's plane (blue vector), and the rotation tool dialog box opens immediately. In this dialog box, you can specify an *Angle* (e.g. 90 degrees) and click *OK*. The final shape should look as follows:



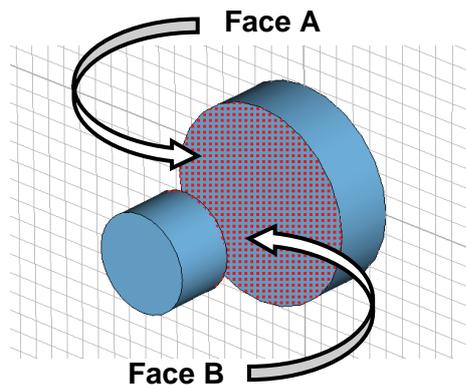
Note that the rotate tool enters an interactive polygon definition mode similar to the one in the extrude tool if no face is picked before the tool is activated.

One of the more advanced operations is generating lofts between picked faces. To practice, construct the following model by defining a cylinder (e.g. radius=5, height=3) and transforming it along its axis by a certain translation (e.g. (0, 0, 8)) using the *Copy* option:

Transformed cylinder



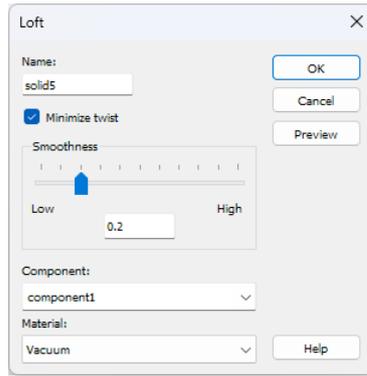
Next select the transformed cylinder and shrink it by applying a scaling transformation along the x- and y-axes by 0.5 while keeping the z-scale at 1.0:



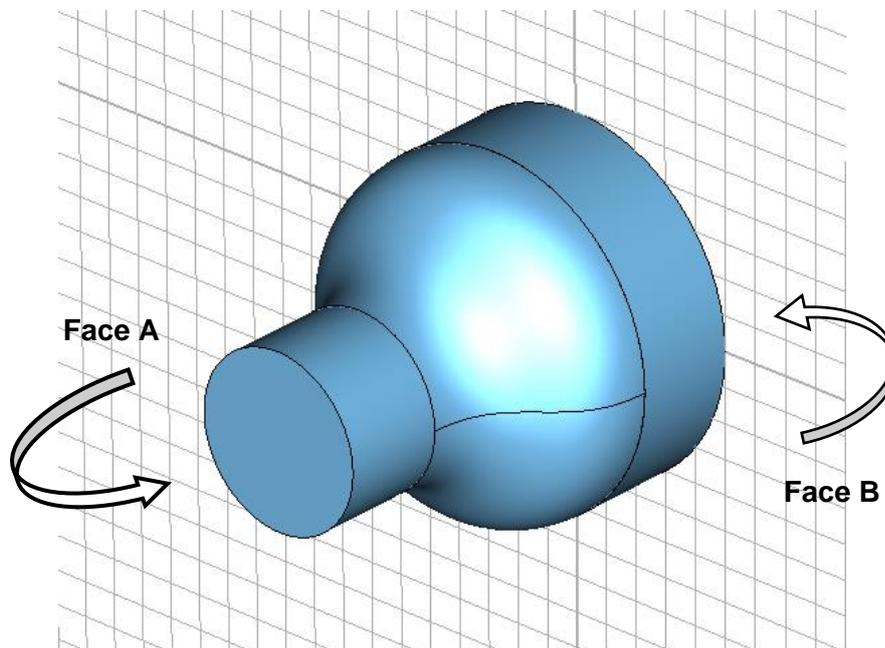
Now pick the adjacent top and bottom faces of the two cylinders as shown above. Afterward you can activate the loft tool by selecting *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Extrusions* ⇒ *Loft*.

In the following dialog box you can set the smoothness to a reasonable value and click the *Preview* button to get an impression of the shape. Drag the *Smoothness* slider such that the shape has a relatively smooth transition between the two picked faces before clicking *OK*.

Note: You should select the corresponding shape before picking its face. Since all other shapes become transparent, it is easier to pick the desired face even “through” other shapes.

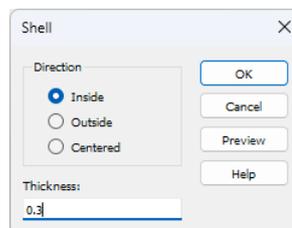


After pressing the *OK* button, your model should look like the following picture (note that the actual form of the lofted shape depends on the setting of the smoothness parameter).

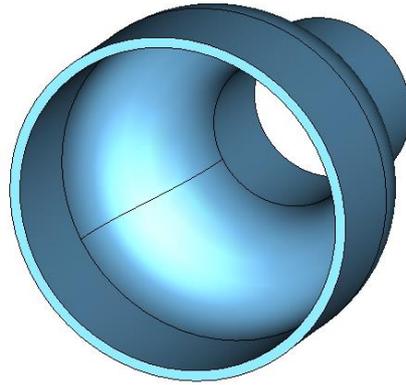


Finally, add all shapes together by selecting all three (holding down the *Ctrl* key) and using the *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Boolean* ⇒ *Add (+)*  operation. Now, pick the two planar top and bottom faces of the shape. Next, select the shape by double-clicking on it and initiate the *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Shape Tools* ⇒ *Shell Solid or Thicken Sheet*  tool.

Note that the shell command will be accessible only if you select a shape.



In the dialog box, you can specify a *Thickness* (e.g. 0.3) and click the *OK* button. Now, your model should look similar to the following picture:



Picking the two faces before entering the shell operation has the effect that the selected faces will later be openings in the shelled structure. If no faces are selected, the structure will be shelled to form a hollow solid.

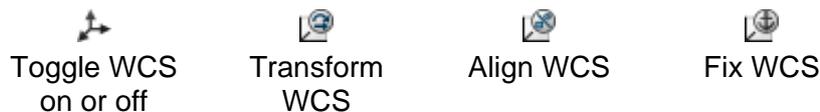
Local Coordinate Systems

The ability to create local coordinate systems adds a great deal of flexibility to the modeler. In the above sections we described how to create simple shapes that are aligned with the axes of a global fixed coordinate system.

The aim of a local coordinate system is to allow the easy definition of shapes even when they are not aligned with the global coordinate system. The local coordinate system consists of three coordinate axes. In contrast to the global x-, y-, and z-axes, these axes are called as the u-, v-, and w-axes, respectively. The local coordinate system is also known as the Working Coordinate System (WCS).

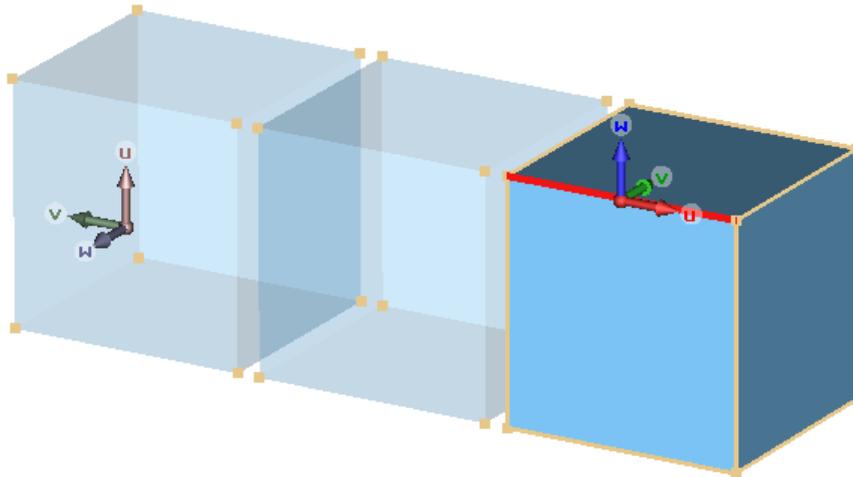
Either the local or the global coordinate system is active at any time. Any geometry data entered is stored in the currently active coordinate system. You may activate or deactivate the local coordinate system with *Modeling: WCS* ⇌ *Local WCS*  or from the *WCS* context menu item. This toggles the local coordinate system on or off.

The most important operations on the local coordinate system are accessible directly in the *Modeling* tab:



The most common way to define the orientation of a local coordinate system is by selecting *Modeling: WCS* ⇌ *Align WCS (W)* .

Hovering over the highlighted points, edges, or faces shows a preview of the new WCS. This WCS can be activated by double-clicking on the highlighted item:



Another option is to pick points, edges, or faces of the model in advance and align the WCS with these items by selecting *Modeling: WCS* ⇒ *Align WCS (W)* 

- When a **point** is selected, the origin of the local coordinate system is moved to this point.
- When **three points** are selected, the u/v plane of the WCS can be aligned with the plane defined by these points. Additionally this function will move the origin of the WCS onto the first selected point.
- When an **edge** is selected, the u-axis of the WCS may be oriented such that it becomes parallel to the selected edge.
- Finally, a **planar face** can be selected with which the u/v plane of the WCS can be aligned.

Together with the available shortcut keys for the pick mode, this is the most efficient way to change the location and orientation of the WCS.

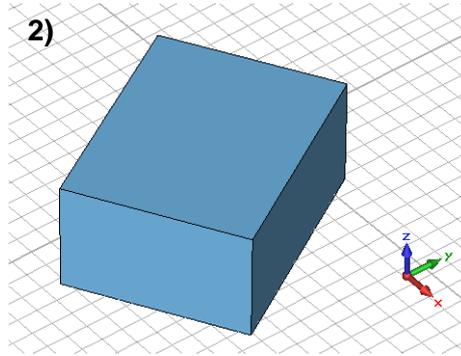
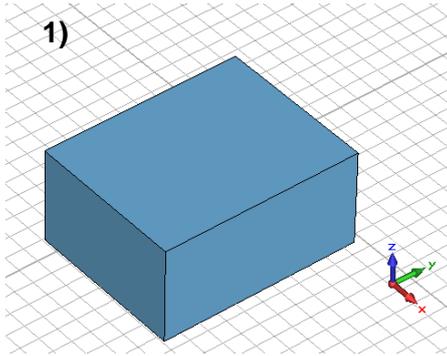
Besides aligning the WCS with items selected from the model, there are two more ways to define the local coordinate system:

- Define local coordinate system parameters directly (*Modeling: WCS* ⇒ *Local WCS* ⇒ *Local Coordinate System Properties*):** In this dialog box, you may enter the origin and the orientation of the w-axis (denoted as *Normal*) and the u-axis directly.
- Transform local coordinate system (*Modeling: WCS* ⇒ *Transform WCS*) **: In this dialog box, you can translate the origin of the local coordinate system by a specified translation vector. You can also rotate the local coordinate system around one of its axes by a specified rotation angle.

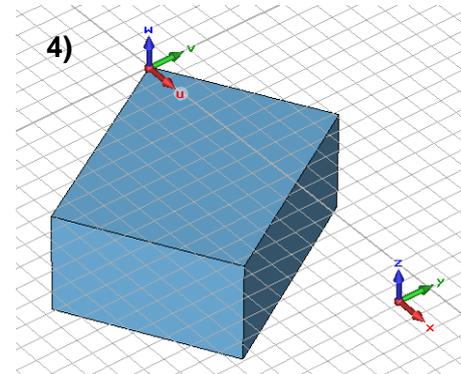
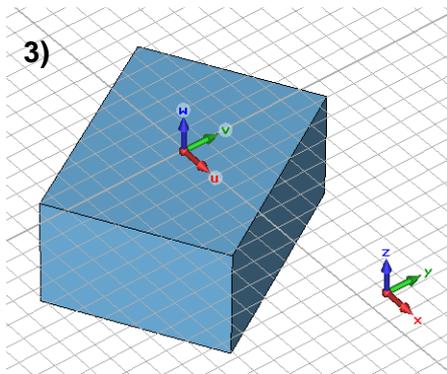
The second option is especially powerful when combined with the pick alignment options described above.

The following example should give you an idea of what can be done by efficiently using local coordinate system specifications:

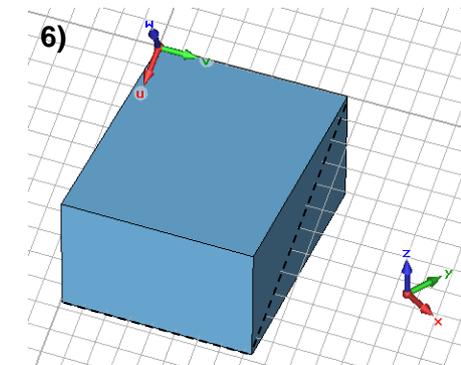
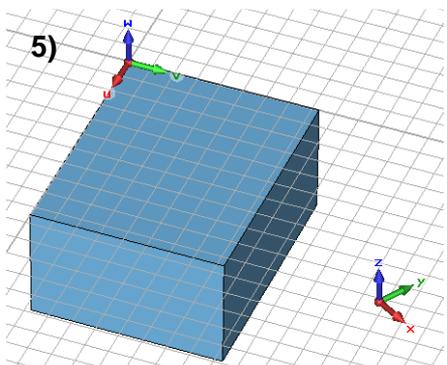
The first step is to create a brick in global coordinates. Then rotate the brick around the z-axis by 30 degrees using the transform dialog box:



Next activate the local coordinate system, and align it first with the top face of the brick and then with one of the corner points on the top face:

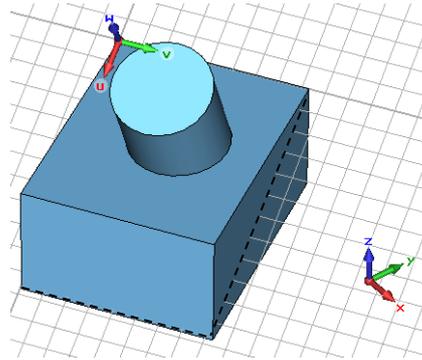


Now align the coordinate system with one of the edges of the brick's top face by rotating the coordinate system 300 degrees around its w-axis, and then rotate the coordinate system 30 degrees around its v-axis:



Finally create a new cylinder in the local coordinate system. As soon as you have defined the cylinder, a dialog box will open asking for the Boolean combination of the two intersecting shapes. In this dialog box, choose *Add both shapes* and click OK:

7)

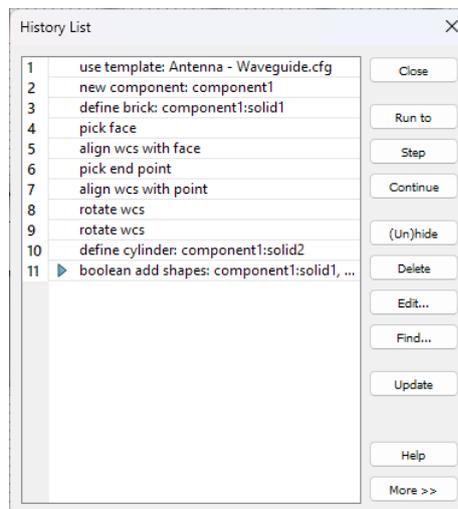


The History List

Up to now, you have created some basic structures and performed some geometric transformations. You can always correct mistakes made during the structure generation by using *Undo*  from the Quick Access toolbar to undo the most recent construction step.

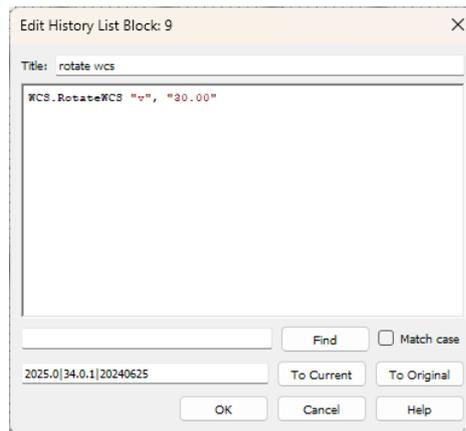
However, sometimes it may become necessary to return to a previous step in the structure generation to change, delete, or insert some operations. This typical task is supported via the "History List". All relevant structural modifications are recorded in a list that can be opened by choosing *Modeling: Edit*  *History List* .

In the following, we assume you have created a structure consisting of a brick and a cylinder as shown above. In this case, the history list will look like in the following picture:

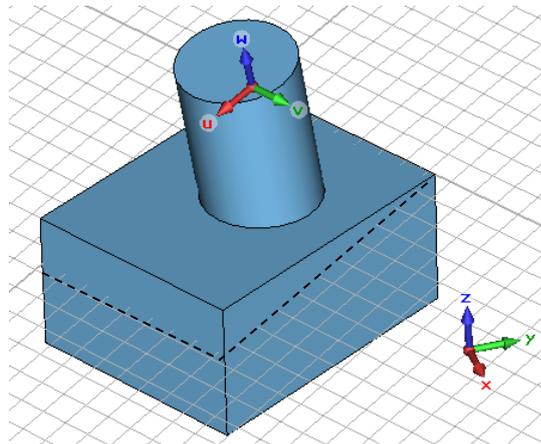


The list shows all previous operations in chronological order. The marker  indicates the current position of the structure creation in the history list. You may restore the structure creation to any step in the history list by selecting the corresponding line and clicking the *Run to* button. Clicking the *Step* button will take you to the next step in the history list. By using the *Continue* button, the history list is processed to the end. You can now experiment a bit with this feature.

Clicking the *Update* button completely regenerates the structure. The *Edit* button allows you to perform changes to previous operations. In this case, select the "rotate wcs" line and click the *Edit* button. The following dialog box will appear:



The text in this box is the macro language command that corresponds to the task performed in the currently selected history step. Here, the first argument “v” is the rotation axis while the second argument specifies the rotation angle. Try to change the rotation angle to 10 degrees and click the *OK* button. Back in the history list, click the *Update* button to regenerate the structure. Your structure should now look similar to the following picture:



In general, the history functionality allows you to perform changes to the model quickly and easily without having to re-enter the modified structure. However, some care has to be taken when history items are altered since this may result in strong topological changes appearing in the model. This often happens when some history items are deleted or new items are inserted. In such cases, pick operations might select incorrect points, edges, or faces (sometimes because the originally picked items no longer exist).

As an example, assume you have deleted the creation of the first brick from the history list. In this case, the pick of the brick’s top face in order to align the WCS with this face will obviously fail.

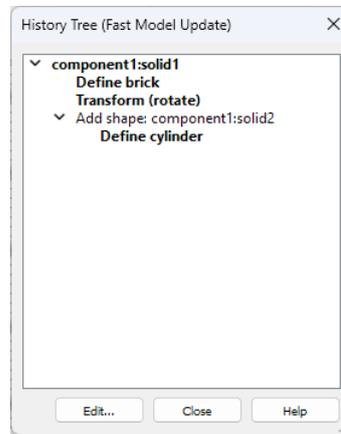
In such cases, we recommend you work through the history list from the beginning in order to properly adjust the picks when needed. Even in this extreme case, the work needed to change the model takes much less effort than completely re-entering the model. Please refer to the online documentation for more details.

The History Tree

The History Tree is another powerful tool to edit an already existing object. Assume that you want to change the radius of the cylinder in the previous example. One way to do this would be to open the complete history list and edit the history step where the cylinder

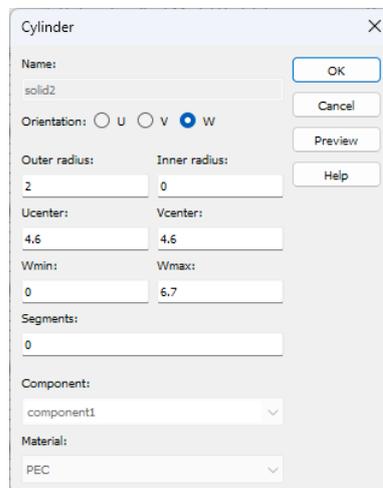
was created. However, you can also select the corresponding shape by double-clicking it in the navigation tree and then choosing *Modeling: Edit* ⇨ *Properties*  or *Properties* from the context menu.

A dialog box (the History Tree) will open, showing the construction history of the selected shape:



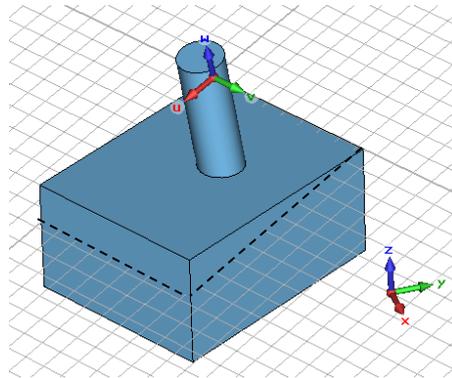
You can now simply click the “Define cylinder” item. As soon as you have selected an editable operation from the History Tree, the corresponding structure element will be highlighted in the main view. Please note that subsequent transformations will not be considered by this highlighting functionality.

After clicking the *Edit* button in the History Tree dialog box, the cylinder creation dialog box will open, showing the parameters of the cylinder:



You can now alter the cylinder radius and click the *Preview* button. You will get an impression of how the structural changes will influence your model. If you are happy with the result, click the *OK* button to update the structure.

Finally, your model should look as follows:



Play around a little with the History Tree to get an idea of what changes can be applied to the existing structure using this functionality. Note that subsequent transformations will not be visualized by the *Preview* option in the shape dialog box but will be applied when you update the model.

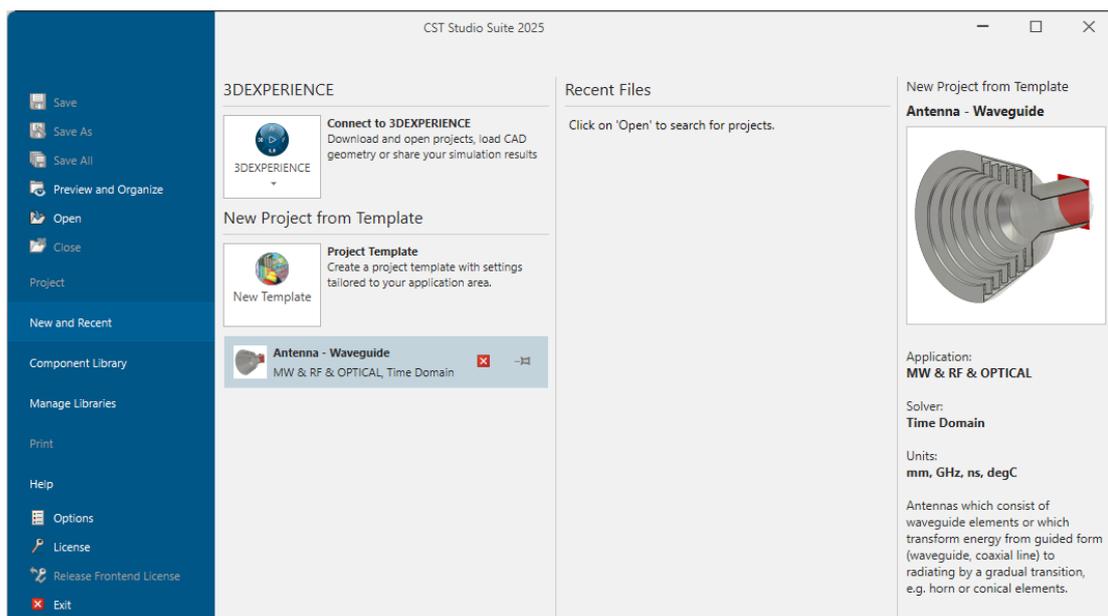
Curve Creation

The previous chapters showed how a model can be generated from 3D primitives and how they can be modified by using powerful operations such as blending, lofting, shelling, etc.

Another complex shape generation option is based on *curves*. A curve is typically a 2D line drawn on the drawing plane. After a curve is defined, it can be used for more advanced modeling operations.

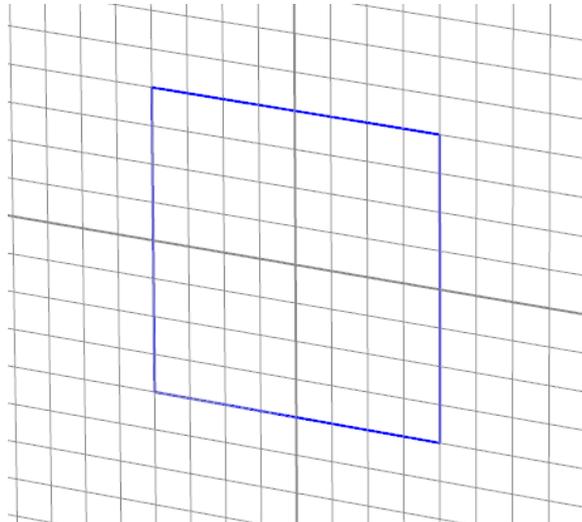
The following explanations give you only a basic introduction to the way curve modeling works. A detailed description of all possibilities would exceed the scope of this document. Please refer to the online documentation for more information.

Before proceeding with the actual curve creation, use *File: New and Recent* and press on the *Antenna – Waveguide* template to start with a new and empty project.

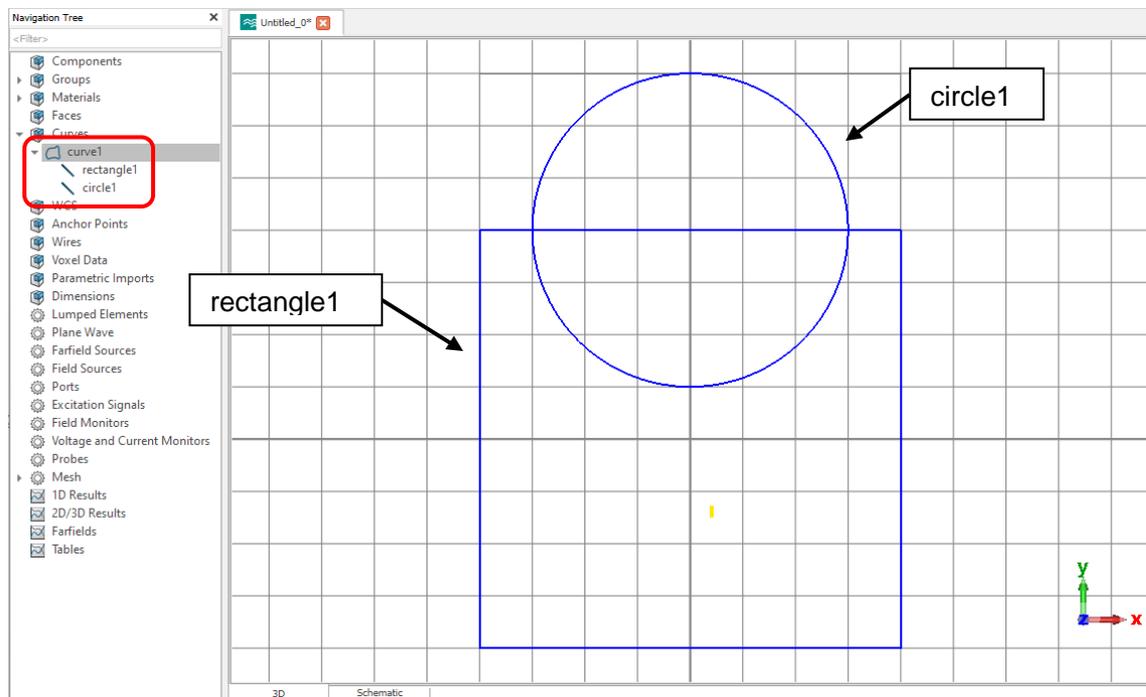


Use *Modeling: Curves* ⇒ *Curves* ⇒ *Rectangle*  to create a new curve item and draw a rectangle on the working plane. Creating curve items is similar to constructing solid primitives.

Your result should look as follows:



Next, draw a circle on the drawing plane, which overlaps with the rectangle. Activate the circle creation by choosing *Modeling: Curves* ⇒ *Curves* ⇒ *Circle* . Afterward, your screen should look similar to the following:



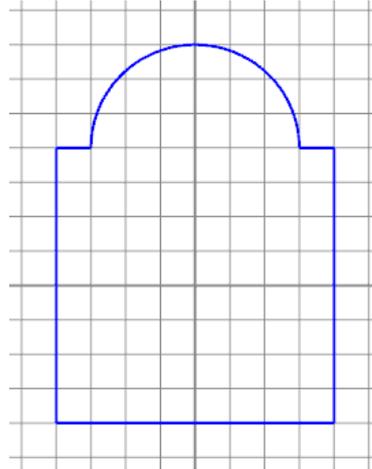
As a result of the previous steps, you now have two curve items – *rectangle1* and *circle1* – in a subfolder named *curve1*. The navigation tree reflects this relationship.

Now trim both curve items so that the resulting curve contains only the outlines of both curve items. First, select one of the curve items, e.g. *rectangle1* (either in the navigation

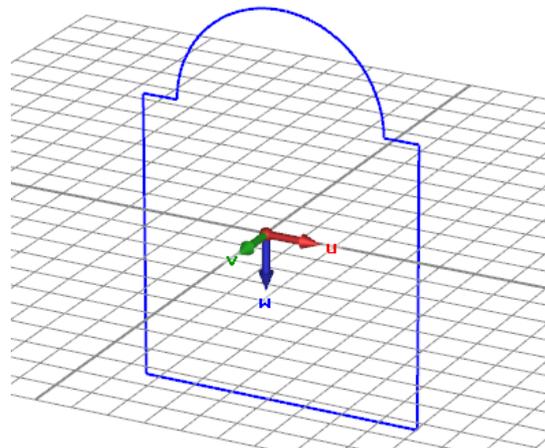
tree or by double-clicking on it in the main view). Afterward activate the *Trim Curves* operation by choosing *Modeling: Curves* ⇒ *Curves* ⇒ *Trim Curves* .

You will be prompted to select the item to be trimmed with the rectangle. Select the circle and confirm your selection by pressing the *Return* key.

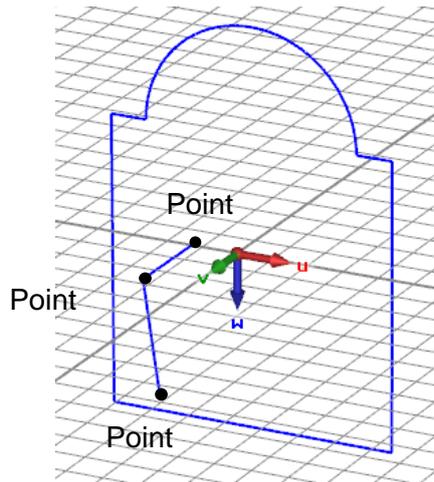
The next step will prompt you to double-click on any curve segments you wish to delete from the model. When you move the mouse across the screen, all selectable curve segments at the mouse location will be highlighted. You should now delete two segments so that the result will look similar to the following picture. Press *Return* to complete the operation.



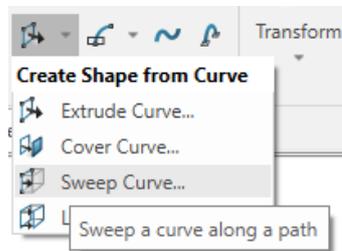
Now you can activate the local coordinate system and rotate it around its u-axis. Your model should look as follows:



The next action is to draw an open polygon consisting of three points on the drawing plane by using *Modeling: Curves* ⇒ *Curves* ⇒ *Polygon* .

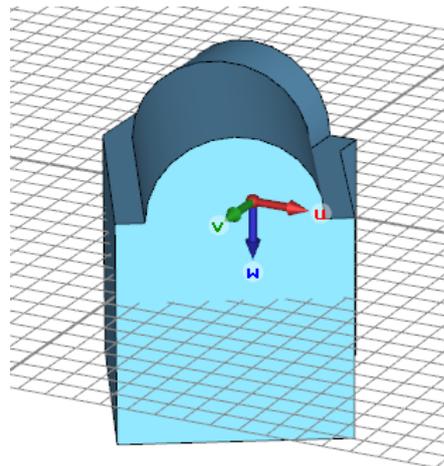


Based on these two disjoint curves, you can create a solid using the sweep curves operation, which can be initiated by choosing *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Sweep Curve* 



As soon as this operation is activated, you will be prompted to select the profile curve. Double-click on the curve consisting of the rectangle and the circle.

After the profile is selected and confirmed by pressing Return key, you will be requested to double-click on the path curve given by the polygon's curve here. After you close the resulting dialog box by clicking OK, the final shape should look as follows:

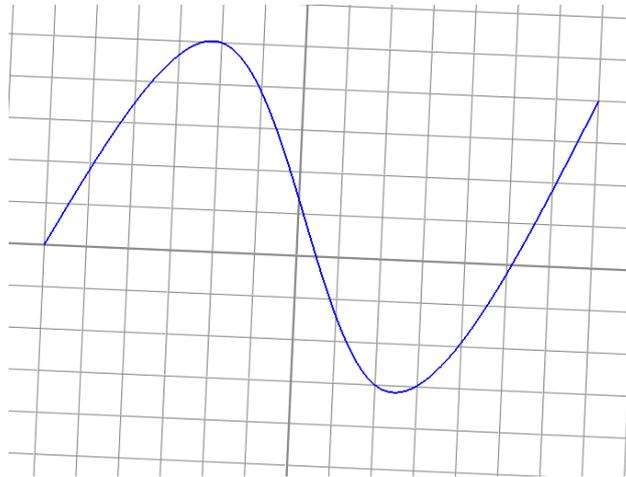


This short introduction into curve modeling provides a very basic understanding of these powerful structure drawing tools. You should experiment a little with the curve modeling features to become more familiar with this kind of structure modeling. Please refer to the online documentation for more details.

Trace Creation

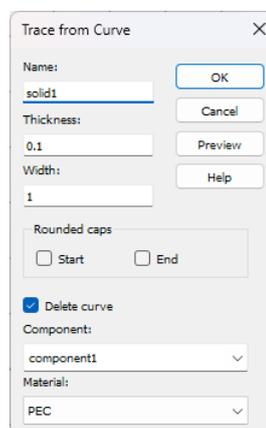
The next section focuses on a rather tedious part of model creation: the definition of conducting traces. Some structures (e.g. printed circuit boards) require many traces, which often entail many time-consuming construction steps. A trace tool simplifies the creation of solid traces with finite width and thickness based on the definition of curves.

To practice using this powerful tool, draw an open but otherwise continuous curve such as the following by selecting *Modeling: Curves* ⇒ *Curves* ⇒ *Spline* 



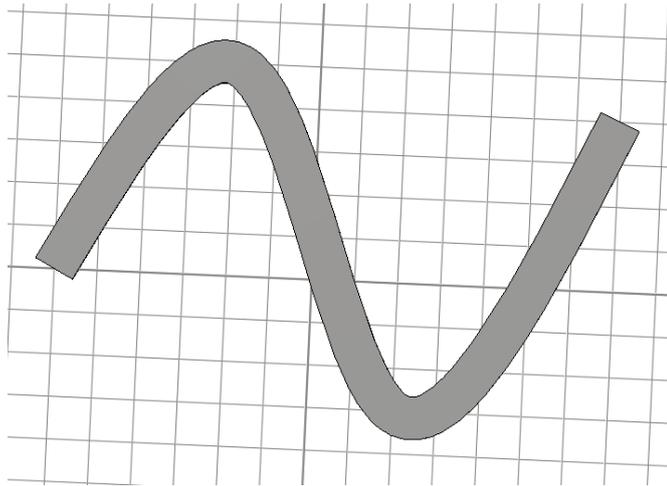
Based on this curve, you can now easily create a trace by choosing *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Trace from Curve* . As soon as this operation is activated, you will be prompted to select the trace's curve.

After you double-click on the previously defined curve, the following dialog box will open:



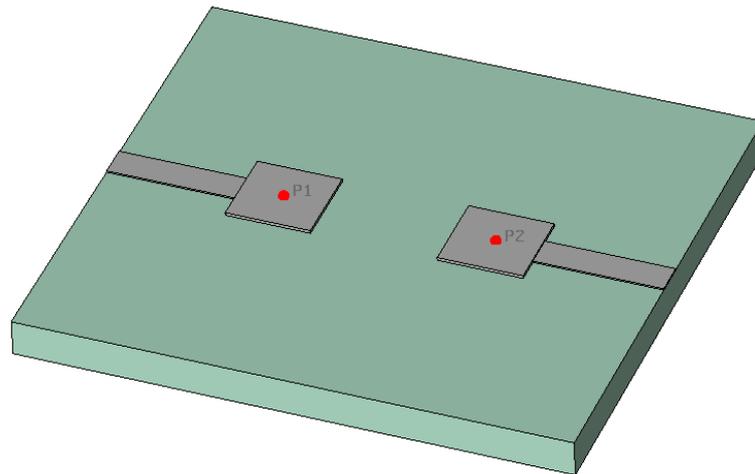
In this dialog box, you can specify the metallization *Thickness* and the *Width* of the trace. You can also specify whether the trace should have rounded caps (instead of rectangular caps) at the start or end of the trace's path. If *Delete Curve* is checked, the original curve will be deleted by the create trace operation.

The resulting trace might look as follows (rounded cap at the end of the trace only):

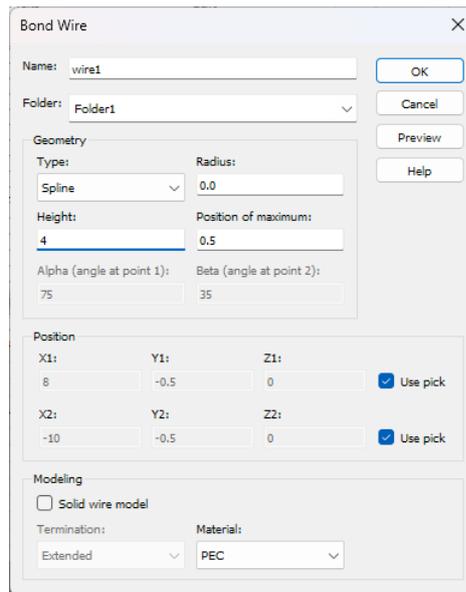


Bond Wire Creation

Since bond wires are frequently used structure elements, a dedicated bond wire tool is available. The easiest way to define a bond wire between two points is to pick those points first as shown in the following picture:



Once the points are picked, you can open the bond wire dialog box by choosing *Modeling: Shapes* ⇒ *Bond wire* .

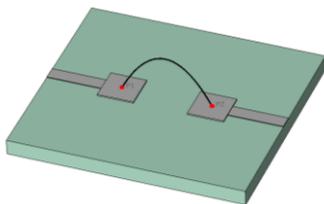


You can also open the dialog box without having picked any points. In this case, you may specify the coordinates of the bond wire's start and end points numerically.

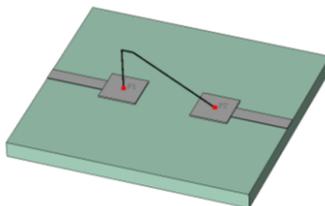
The type of the bond wire can be spline, JEDEC4, or JEDEC5. The location of the spline's maximum can be specified whereas the other two models accept standardized parameters.

The following picture shows the three different types of bond wires:

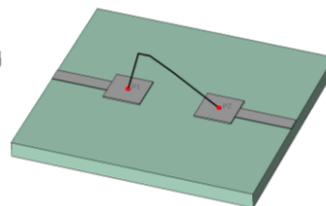
Spline



JEDEC4



JEDEC5



Please refer to the online documentation for more information about JEDEC parameters.

You may also assign a finite radius to the wire by specifying a non-zero entry in the *Radius* field. The wire will still be modeled as infinitely thin, but the solver module will apply a special model to the wire in order to consider the finite radius. Please note, that solvers based on a tetrahedral mesh do not support this feature.

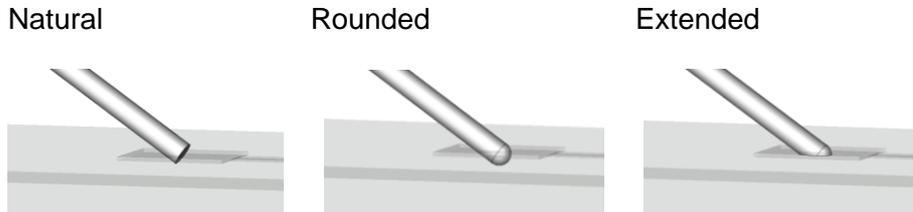
In addition to this option of modeling the bond wire as an infinitely thin wire, the dialog box also supports the creation of solid bond wires by offering the *Solid wire model* option. As for every other solid, a solid bond wire needs to have a material assigned to it.

The *Termination* of the bond wire can be set to any one of the following types:

- Natural:** The wire will be a solid tube with perpendicular cuts at the end.
- Rounded:** The wire will be terminated by a part of a sphere.

- **Extended:** This is the most powerful option. In this case, the software detects the plane in which the bond wire ends. Then the wire extends toward this plane in order to ensure an optimal connection with this plane.

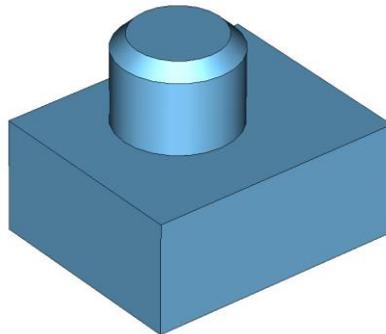
The following picture illustrates the three types of termination:



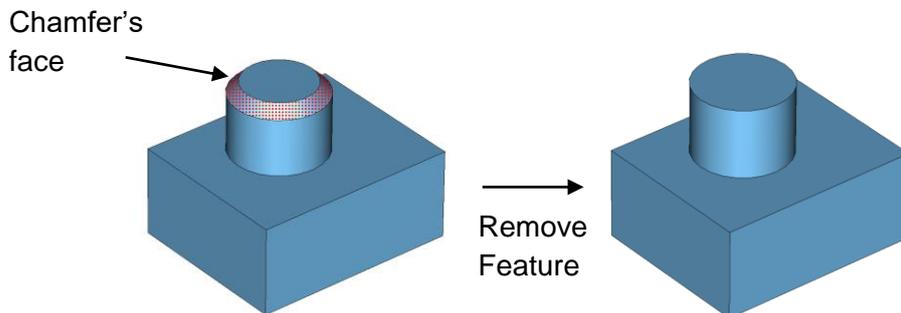
Local Modifications

So far, we have focused on how to change a structure that has been entirely constructed within the built-in modeler. However, sometimes the model will consist of an imported geometry for which no information about the modeling process is available.

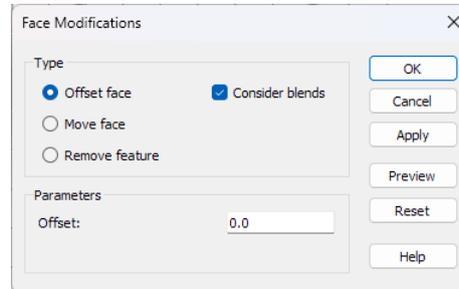
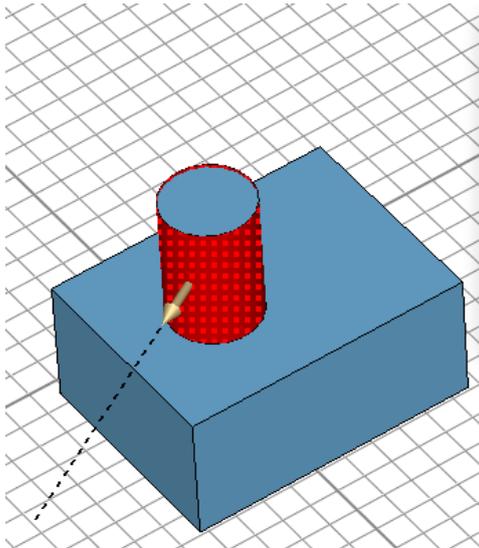
This section will illustrate that, even in these cases, the structure can be parameterized using *Local Modifications*. To practice using these advanced modeling tools, go ahead and create a model similar to the following image (a brick combined with a cylinder and a chamfer operation applied to the cylinder's top edge):



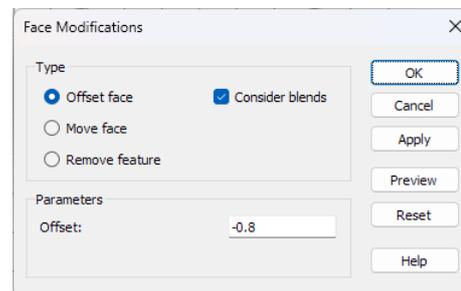
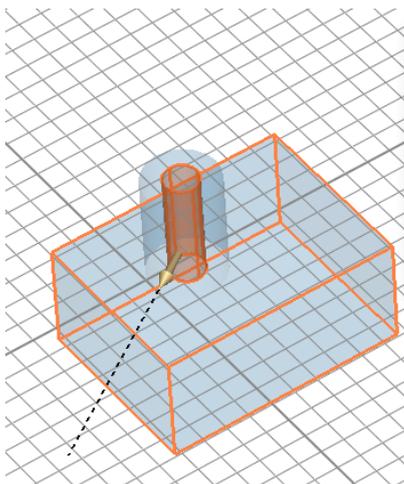
In this structure you should first use the pick face tools in order to select the chamfer's face (*Modeling: Picks* ⇒ *Picks*). Then you can initiate the *Remove Feature* command by selecting *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Modify Locally* ⇒ *Remove Feature* (*Ctrl+R*).



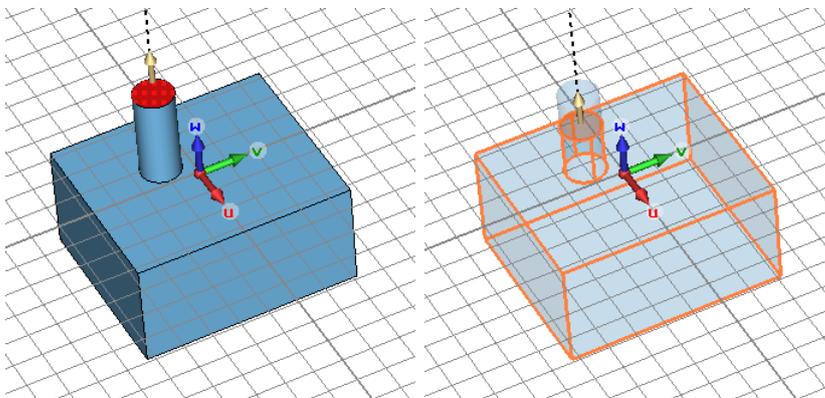
As you can see, the gap produced by simply removing the face will automatically be closed by the *Remove Feature* operation. Afterward, pick the cylindrical face and select the *Modeling: Tools* ⇒ *Modify Locally* command. A dialog box will open where you can modify the offset of the cylindrical face.



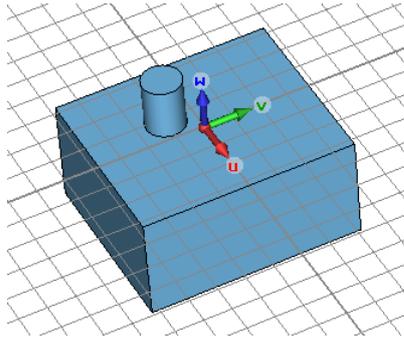
This can be done either by dragging the yellow arrow or by modifying the *Offset* edit field in the dialog box. The yellow arrow appears when the mouse is near the affected face.



Press *Apply* to confirm the change. Now you can select the top face and modify the height of the cylinder by dragging the yellow arrow again:



After pressing the *Apply* button, the model finally looks like this:



The local modifications are powerful modeling operations. However, the modifications will fail if there is no unique solution for closing the gaps. You should play around a bit with these tools to get an impression of what is possible.

Next Steps

Now you are familiar with the general user interface and the 3D modeling capabilities of the software package. Before starting with the following chapter, which is about *post-processing*, we recommend that you read the dedicated manual of the module, which is appropriate for your area of application.

Chapter 5 – Post-Processing

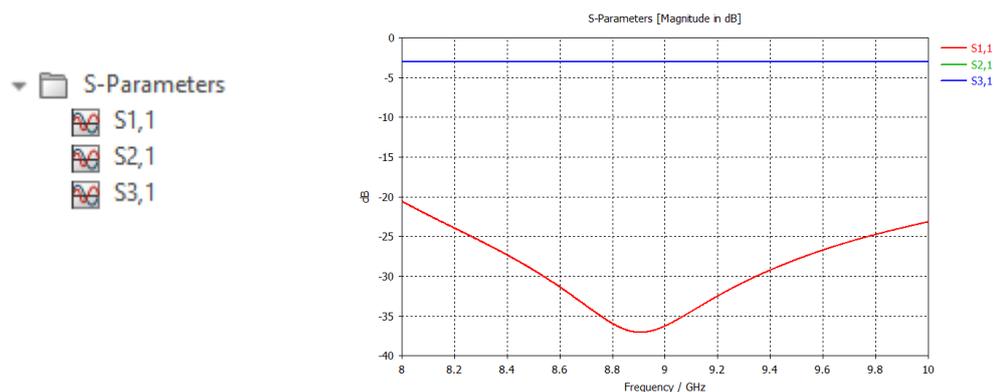
Once a simulation is completed, result data will typically be shown in the navigation tree. CST Studio Suite contains powerful post-processing capabilities, which include various options for visualizing the results and calculating secondary quantities. Please refer to the module specific documentation and the online help system for more information.

Parametric Result Storage

In order to reduce the effort required for obtaining typical parametric results, all zero and one dimensional data points / result curves are stored parametrically by default. In the following, we will introduce this functionality briefly. Please refer to the online documentation for more information.

For the following explanations, we assume that your model has a parameter “offset” defined and that you have performed multiple simulations for different values of this parameter. Furthermore, the examples show the results of an S-Parameter computation using CST MICROWAVE STUDIO, but the concept is the same for all other solvers and modules.

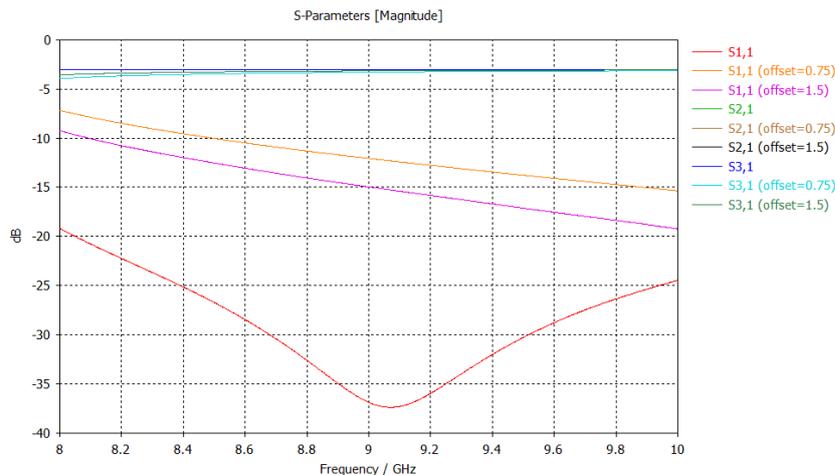
Once a computation has finished, selecting a result from the navigation tree will display the corresponding result curves for the current parameter values:



Further results from all previously calculated parameter values are summarized in the *Result Navigator* window:

3D Run ID	offset
0: Current Run	
1	2
2	0
3	0.75
4	1.5
5	2.25
6	3

Here you can change the parametric result selection to plot more results within the current result view:



The *Result Navigator* offers an advanced filtering functionality to reduce the number of displayed results based on desired parameter values or plotted *OD* results. Changing the selection in the navigation tree allows you to inspect other results based on the active parameter combination selection.

The parametric plotting functionality allows for convenient access of typical parametric results without the need for further setting up more advanced post-processing operations. The automatically stored parametric results can also be used directly for optimizations. Please refer to the online documentation for more information.

Another very powerful feature, which is common to all modules of CST Studio Suite is the concept of *Post-Processing Templates* which will be introduced in the following sections.

Post-Processing Templates

The Post-Processing Templates allow for flexible processing of 2D/3D Fields, 1D Signals, or scalar values (*OD* Results).

All defined Post-Processing Templates are evaluated after every calculation during parametric sweeps and optimizations. The calculated data is then stored parametrically to allow for flexible access to the entire data set.

Typical examples for Post-Processing Templates are 1D results such as the following:

- Z, Y versus frequency
- Farfield 1D plots at a single frequency
- Broadband farfield values
- Group delay times
- 1D Plots of 2D/3D results along arbitrary curves
- FFT of existing time signals
- Exchange excitations and TDR functionality
- Mixture of any of these 1D-results using an analytic formula
- and more...

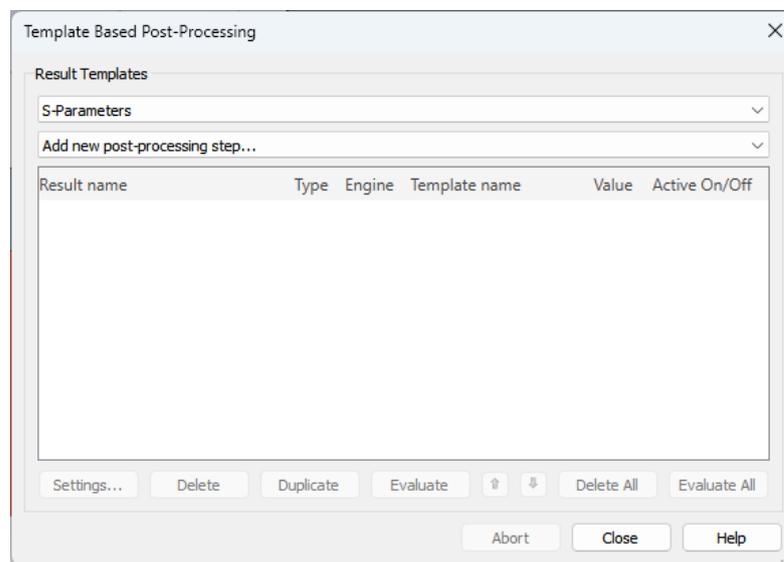
or 0D results (single real scalar values):

- Min, max, mean, integral, and other values of existing 1D-results
- Q-values, energies, losses, coupling coefficients of eigenmodes
- Curve-, face-, or volume integrals of 2D/3D results
- Mixture of any of these 0D-results using an analytic formula
- and more...

The following sections introduce the framework of this feature and present its application with an example.

Framework to set up Result Templates

The following picture shows the template-based post-processing dialog box, which can be opened by choosing *Post-Processing: Result Templates* ⇒ *Template Based Post-Processing*  (Shortcut *Shift+P*):



The list contains the currently defined sequence of post-processing tasks. You can add new tasks to the list by first selecting a template group and then selecting a particular item from the drop-down list below. The *Type* field indicates whether the result of a post-processing task is a one-dimensional curve (*1D*) or a single data point (*0D*).

You can easily rename a task by clicking on the corresponding line and directly changing its name in the list.

If the currently selected task provides a settings dialog box, pressing the *Settings* button will open that box and allow you to change template parameters.

Clicking the *Duplicate* button creates a copy of the currently selected item. Some post-processing operations require many settings. However, most of the time one is only interested in investigating the results, which depend on varying parameters, leaving most of the settings unchanged. In such a case, instead of repeatedly entering all settings, you may simply duplicate an existing entry and modify the settings of interest afterwards.

The *Evaluate* button executes the currently selected task whereas the *Evaluate All* button executes the entire list starting from the beginning.

All *Post-Processing Templates* are automatically processed after each solver run, including parametric sweeps and optimizations. The execution takes place in the order shown in the list. You may need to change the order (up / down arrow buttons), especially if tasks refer to previously obtained data.

The template based post-processing results are managed as follows:

- 1D results are shown in the navigation tree under *Tables* ⇒ *1D Results* ⇒...
- 0D results are shown in the navigation tree under *Tables* ⇒ *0D Results* ⇒...
Additionally, the latest result value is shown in the *Value* column of the task list.
- Templates with a “-” sign in front of their name do not add useful results to the navigation tree’s *Tables* folder, but store their results at other locations. Please refer to the corresponding template’s description for more information.

Pre-Loaded Post-Processing Templates

The standard installation includes an extensive list of pre-loaded *Post-Processing Templates*. They can be mainly categorized as follows:

1. Load data into the post-processing chain.
2. Calculate secondary quantities.
3. Extract data from other post-processing results.

Besides operations on S-parameters, a variety of pre-loaded *Post-Processing Templates* deal with the extraction of 1D or 0D data from fields (including farfields, etc.).

We recommend you to browse through the list of available templates in the online help system to get an overview of what is already available. Each of the *Post-Processing Template’s Settings* dialog boxes contains a *Help* button, which will open an online help page providing more information.

Since all *Post-Processing Templates* are written in the VBA programming language, you can add your own specific post-processing operations. Please refer to the online documentation or contact technical support for more information.

Example for Post-Processing Templates

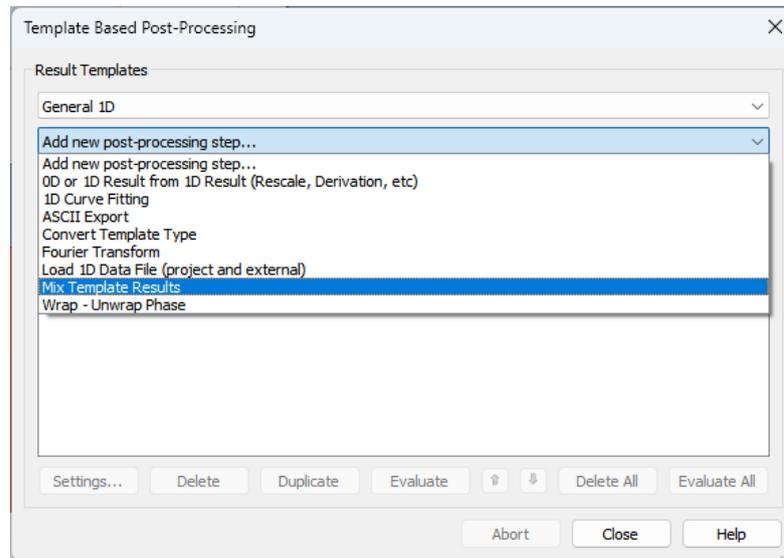
The following example shows a typical *Post-Processing Template* for CST MICROWAVE STUDIO. However, even if you are using another module, we still recommend reading through this example since it describes general procedures common to all modules.

Let us assume that you have simulated a device and that you want to calculate the accepted averaged power $0.5 \cdot (1 - |S_{11}|^2)$ as well. You can take any example that calculates S-parameters.

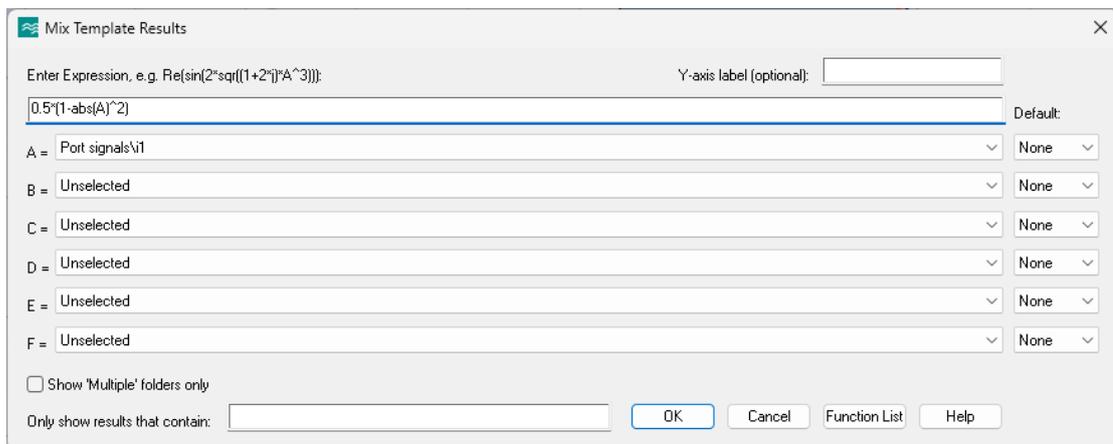
Please note that the accepted averaged power is available right away in the navigation tree *NT* ⇒ *1D Results* ⇒ *Power* ⇒ *Excitation [1]* ⇒ *Power Accepted*. Although there is no actual need for *Post-Processing Templates* here, it can still serve as a good example to illustrate the principle workflow.

You should select the *General 1D* template group from the upper drop-down list in the dialog box. Once a particular group is selected, the lower drop-down list shows all

available post-processing tasks within this group. Now we can calculate the accepted averaged power $0.5 \cdot (1 - |S_{11}|^2)$ by selecting the *Mix Template Results* template:



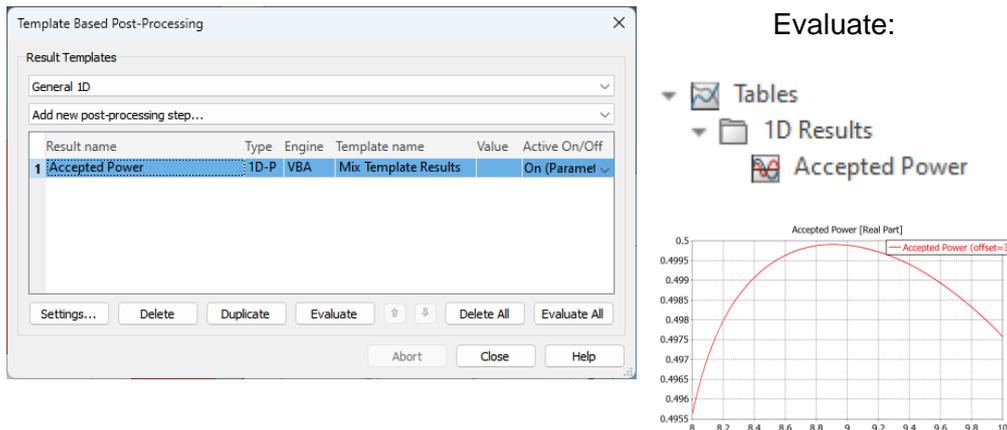
Selecting this task from the list opens the following window, where arbitrary 1D results can be combined using VBA expressions, several predefined mathematical functions and physical constants (cf. the *Function List* button). If we select A as a placeholder for the complex *S11* result, our expression would be $0.5 \cdot (1 - \text{abs}(A)^2)$.



Please note that this and some other result templates allow selecting primary result curves directly without the need for loading them into the post-processing system beforehand.

Back in the *Post-Processing Template* dialog box, you can set the name of the newly created task by clicking on the corresponding item and changing its name to *Accepted*

Power. Clicking the button *Evaluate* will immediately add the corresponding result to the navigation tree's *Tables* folder:

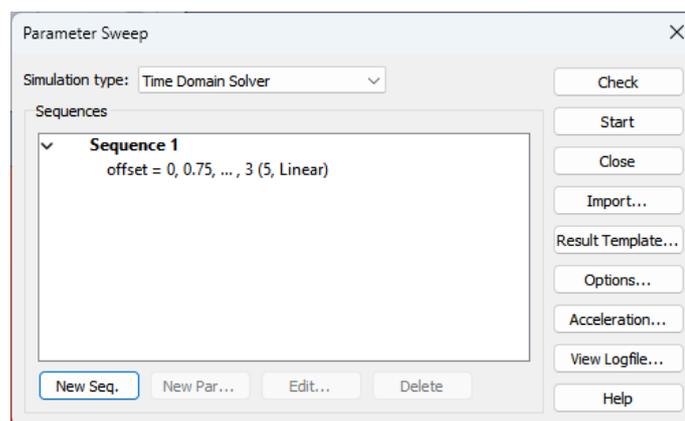


You can change the definition of any task by selecting the corresponding line and clicking on *Settings*.

So far, you have seen how *Post-Processing Templates* can be a very flexible and powerful tool to perform complex post-processing tasks. However, many useful results will be calculated and stored in a parametric way automatically, so please check what is available before setting up *Post-Processing Templates*.

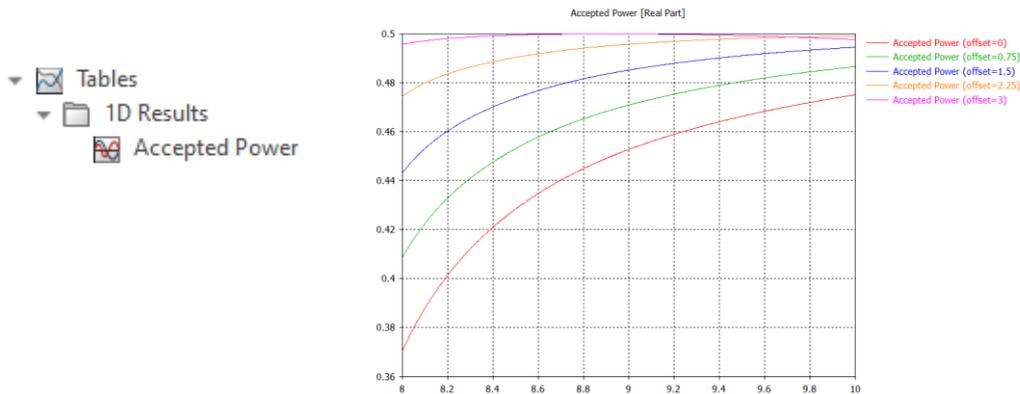
Once defined, a set of *Post-Processing Templates* will always be executed right after an individual simulation run is completed. This functionality provides an efficient way to automate post-processing steps. This automation becomes most useful when running parametric sweeps or optimizations.

Let us now assume that we have a model where “offset” is one of the structure’s parameters. Each solver dialog box contains buttons named *Optimizer* and *Par. Sweep*:

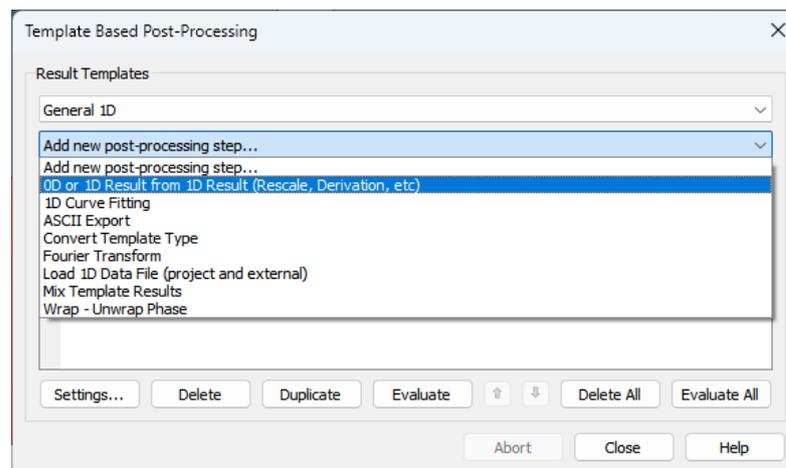


In our example, we assume that the *Accepted Power* calculation was defined as described above. Once a *Parameter Sweep* is performed, the *Accepted Power* results

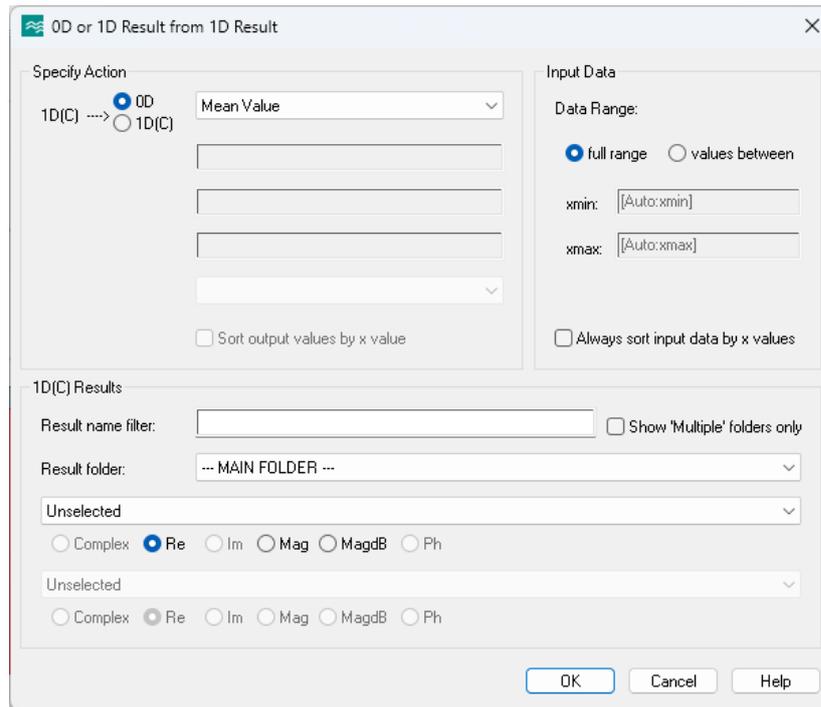
can be visualized as a function of the structure's parameters by selecting the corresponding template result:



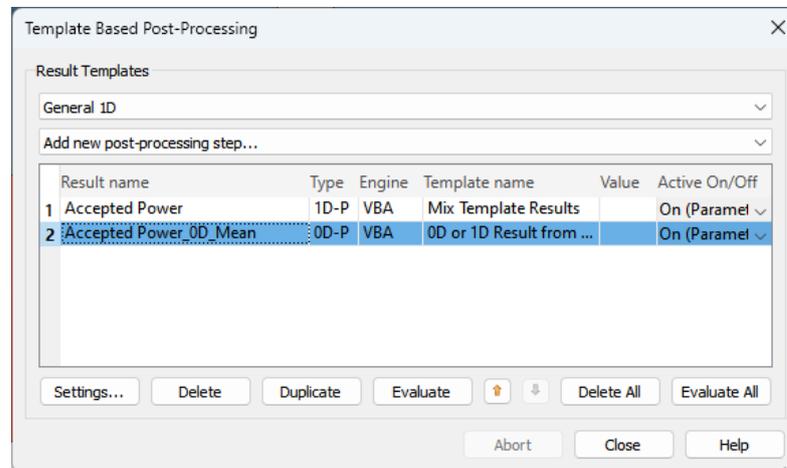
Let us now assume that you want to optimize the *Accepted Power* averaged over the entire simulation frequency band. This can be achieved by adding a *Post-Processing Template* calculating the mean value of the *Accepted Power*. Therefore, switch to the *General 1D* template group again and select the task *0D or 1D Result from 1D Result (Rescale, Derivation, etc.)* (*Rescale, Derivation, etc.*):



This will open the corresponding *Post-Processing Template's* settings dialog box:

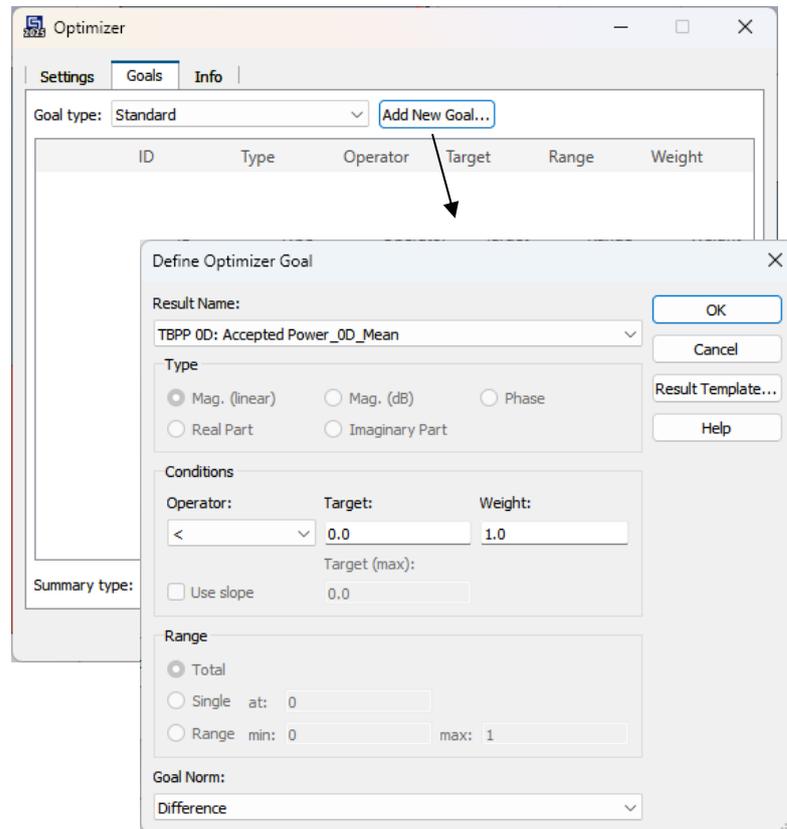


The results of 0D *Post-Processing Templates* are also written to the *Tables* folder in the navigation tree after pressing the *Evaluate* button. Once the evaluation of a 0D *Post-Processing Template* is performed, the latest results are shown directly in the task list's *Value* column:



The same 0D *Post-Processing Templates* that we used for parametric sweeps can be used as goal definitions for the optimizer. The ability to combine various templates together provides a very powerful way to define even complex post-processing tasks, which in turn allows for very flexible goal setups.

The following picture shows an example of such a *OD Result* optimizer goal definition based on *Post-Processing Templates*. Choose *Home: Simulation* ⇨ *Optimizer* to access the optimizer:

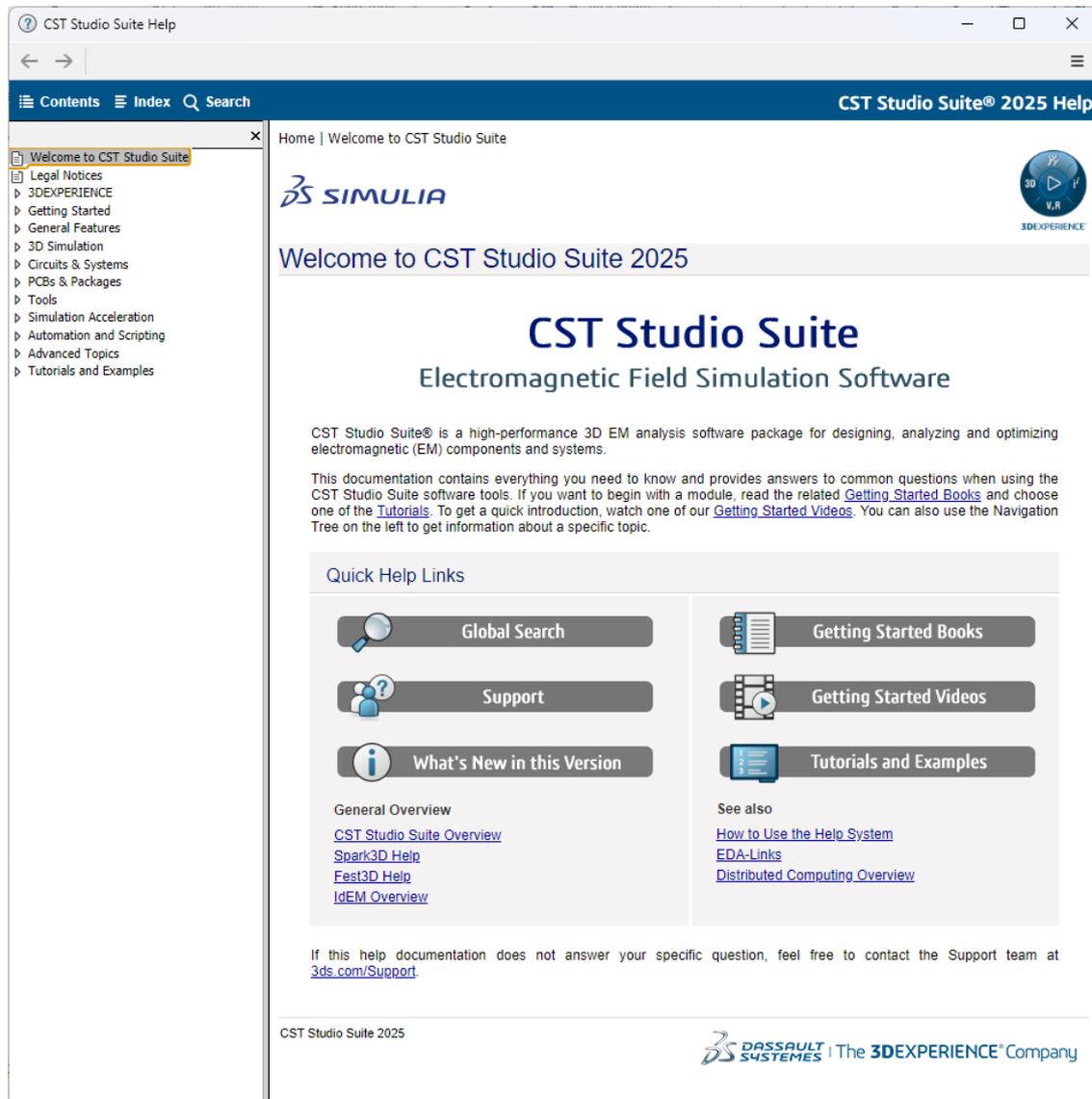


Chapter 6 – Finding Further Information

After carefully reading the *Getting Started* manuals, you should have some idea of how to use the CST Studio Suite modules efficiently for your own applications. However, you may have additional questions once you start creating your own models. In this chapter, we will give you an overview of the available documentation and help systems.

Online Help System

The online help system should generally be your primary source of information. You can access the help system's overview page at any time by selecting *File: Help* ⇨ *Help Contents* or simply by clicking on the  icon on the right-hand side of the Ribbon bar.



Please note: The CST Studio Suite Help browser shows the help contents. By activating '*File: Options > Preferences > General settings > Use default browser to view help contents*' you can use your system Web browser. Currently Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are compatible.

The help system's overview page contains a collection of useful links, making it easy to access frequently requested information. The system also features a powerful full text search function, which provides fast access to the help system's extensive content.

The help system's content is organized into a hierarchical structure of books and pages, which can be easily accessed from within the navigation tree. In each of the dialog boxes there is a specific *Help* button that directly opens the corresponding manual page. Additionally, the *F1* key gives some context sensitive help when a particular mode is active. For instance, by pressing the *F1* key while a basic shape generation mode is active, you can obtain some information about the definition of shapes and possible actions.

If no specific information is available, pressing the *F1* key will open an overview page from which you may navigate through the help system.

Tutorials and Examples

The component library provides tutorials and examples, which are generally your first source of information when trying to solve a particular problem. See also the explanation given when following the *Tutorials and Examples Overview* link  on the online help system's start page. We recommend that you browse through the list of all available tutorials and examples and choose the one closest to your application.

Technical Support

Before contacting Technical Support, you should check the online help system. If this does not help to solve your problem, you find additional information in the [Knowledge Base](#) and obtain general product support at 3DS.com/support.

Macro Language Documentation

More information concerning the built-in macro language for a particular module can be accessed from within the online help system's *VBA* book: Automation and Scripting > Visual Basic (VBA). The macro language's documentation consists of four parts:

- An overview and a general description of the macro language.
- A description of all specific macro language extensions.
- A syntax reference of the Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) compatible macro language.
- A collection macro examples.

History of Changes

An overview of important changes in the latest version of the software can be obtained by following the *What's New in this Version* link  on the help system's main page or from the *File: Help* backstage page. Since there are many new features in each new version, we suggest that you browse through these lists even if you are already familiar with one of the previous releases.

Appendix – List of Shortcut Keys

The following list gives an overview of available shortcut keys that may be very useful, especially for advanced users.

General Shortcut Keys

Alt	Shows the key tips and enables to navigate through the Ribbon by using the keyboard
F1	Open context sensitive help
F2	Rename the currently selected shape in the navigation tree
F5	Update 1D results (while solver is running only)
Ctrl+F5	Start simulation
F7	Update parametric changes
F8	Open the component library
Ctrl+O	Open new project file in current modeler window
Ctrl+N	Switch to <i>File: New and Recent</i>
Ctrl+S	Save current project
Delete	Delete the currently selected object
Space	Reset view to contents
Shift+Space	Reset view to selection

Shortcut Keys Available in 3D Modeling View

You can activate this view by clicking on it with the left mouse button.

Esc	Cancel currently active mode
Alt+V	Open view options dialog box
Ctrl+C	Copy the currently displayed result curves to clipboard
Ctrl+Alt+C	Copy the active view to clipboard
Ctrl+V	Paste result curves from clipboard into the active result curve plot
Alt+O	Toggle from outline off to colored and black outline
Alt+W	Toggle working plane visualization on or off
Ctrl+A	Toggle axis view on or off
Ctrl+W	Toggle wireframe mode on or off
Shift+A	Toggle field plot animation on or off
Shift+C	Activate/deactivate cutting plane view
Shift+T	Add to Report
x	If the cutting plane view is active, the cut is made on the x-plane
y	If the cutting plane view is active, the cut is made on the y-plane
z	If the cutting plane view is active, the cut is made on the z-plane
Tab	Open the numerical coordinate input box (also available in 1D plots for axis marker positioning)
Shift+Tab	Open the numerical coordinate input box with zero defaults
Numpad-(5)	Front view
Numpad-(3)	Back view
Numpad-(4)	Left view
Numpad-(6)	Right view
Numpad-(8)	Top view
Numpad-(2)	Bottom view
Numpad-(1)	Nearest axis view
Numpad-(0)	Perspective view
Cursor-Left	Decrement phase (2D/3D plots), move axis marker left (1D plots)
Cursor-Right	Increment phase (2D/3D plots), move axis marker right (1D plots)
Cursor-Up	Move cutplane or meshplane in positive normal direction
Cursor-Down	Move cutplane or meshplane in opposite normal direction
Page-Up	Increase frequency for visualization of frequency dependent port modes
Page-Down	Decrease frequency for visualization of frequency dependent port modes
Alt+X	Select vector component X (2D/3D Plot)
Alt+Y	Select vector component Y (2D/3D Plot)
Alt+Z	Select vector component Z (2D/3D Plot)
Alt+A	Select vector component Abs (2D/3D Plot)
Alt+N	Select vector component Normal (2D/3D Plot)
Alt+T	Select vector component Tangential (2D/3D Plot)
Ctrl+H	Hide selected shape or object
Ctrl+Shift+H	Show selected shape or object
Ctrl+U	Show all
W	Align the WCS with a point, edge or face

Shift+U	Rotate the WCS around its u-axis by 90 degrees
Shift+V	Rotate the WCS around its v-axis by 90 degrees
Shift+W	Rotate the WCS around its w-axis by 90 degrees
S	Pick point, edge or face
P	Pick point
M	Pick edge midpoint
A	Pick face center
R	Pick point on circle
C	Pick circle center
E	Pick edge
F	Pick face
Ctrl+F	Pick faces by rectangle selection
Ctrl+Shift+S	Pick similar faces
Shift+E	Pick edge chain
Shift+F	Pick face chain
D	Clear picks
Ctrl+E	Open history tree for selected shape
Ctrl+T	Transform selected shape
Ctrl+Shift+A	Align selected shape
Ctrl+R	Remove the selected feature
Ctrl+Shift+D	Delete the selected face
Ctrl+Shift+C	Cover the selected edges
Backspace	Delete previous point in generation of basic shapes.
+	Start Boolean add operation for selected shape
-	Start Boolean subtract operation for selected shape
*	Start Boolean intersect operation for selected shape, start trim curves operation for selected curve
÷	Start Boolean insert operation for selected shape
%	Start Boolean imprint operation for selected shape
#	Start trim curve operation for selected curve
Return	Perform Boolean operation (if active)
Shift+P	Open result template post-processing dialog box
Mouse Wheel	Dynamic zoom view. By default the mouse wheel performs a zoom operation around the current mouse pointer location. Optionally, by pressing the <i>Ctrl</i> key the origin for this operation is located in the center of the screen.

The following shortcuts are active when the mouse is dragged while pressing the left mouse button:

Shift	Restrict mouse movement along one coordinate axis (in shape creation) or Planar rotate view (otherwise)
Ctrl	Rotate view
Shift+Ctrl	Pan view

Shortcut Keys Available in Edit Fields

Ctrl+C	Copy selected text to clipboard
Ctrl+V	Paste clipboard to current marker's position
Ctrl+X	Cut selected text
Ctrl+Z	Undo last editing operation

Shortcut Keys Available in Schematic View

Ctrl+X	Cut selected component/text
Ctrl+C	Copy selected component/text into clipboard
Ctrl+Alt+C	Copy the active view to clipboard
Ctrl+V	Paste clipboard into drawing/to current marker's position
Ctrl+Z	Undo last editing operation
Ctrl+Y	Redo previously undone operation
Ctrl+A	Select all
Ctrl+E	Open property dialog of selected component
Esc	Cancel currently active mode (and return to selection mode)
Ctrl+Alt+Z	Activate zoom mode
Ctrl+Alt+P	Activate panning mode
Space	Reset view
Shift+Space	Reset view to selection
Shift+T	Add to Report
Ctrl+Alt+Mouse wheel	Zoom in/out (without switching to zooming mode)
Ctrl+Shift	Pan (without switching to panning mode)

Ctrl+G	Switch grid on or off
A	Activate the insertion mode for a connection label
C	Activate the insertion mode for a connector
G	Activate the insertion mode for a ground element
O	Activate the insertion mode for a probe
P	Activate the insertion mode for an external port
Shift+R	Activate the insertion mode for a resistor
Shift+L	Activate the insertion mode for an inductor
Shift+C	Activate the insertion mode for a capacitor
D	Changes the direction of the selected probe
Left	Scroll to the left if no components are selected, otherwise move the selected components to the left
Right	Scroll to the right if no components are selected, otherwise move the selected components to the right
Up	Scroll up if no components are selected, otherwise move up the selected components
Down	Scroll down if no components are selected, otherwise move down the selected components
Page Up	Scroll up page by page
Page Down	Scroll down page by page

L	Rotate left the selected components
R	Rotate right the selected components
Ctrl+Alt+H	Flip the selected components horizontally
Ctrl+Alt+V	Flip the selected components vertically
Ctrl+Left	Select the component(s) to the selected component's left
Ctrl+Right	Select the component(s) to the selected component's right
Ctrl+Up	Select the component(s) to the selected component's top
Ctrl+Down	Select the component(s) to the selected component's bottom
Shift+P	Open result template post-processing dialog box

Shortcut Keys Available in Assembly View

Esc	Cancel currently active mode
Alt + V	Open the view options dialog box
Alt + O	Toggle between outline off and black outline
Shift + C	Activate cutting plane view
A	Align
B	Show bounding box
D	Clear picks
E	Edit part
P	Pick point
R	Rotate part
T	Translate part
Ctrl+T	Absolute transform
X	If the cutting plane view is activated the cut is made in the x-plane
Y	If the cutting plane view is activated the cut is made in the y-plane
Z	If the cutting plane view is activated the cut is made in the z-plane
Tab	Toggle between active modes
Shift+Tab	Toggle between active modes
Left	Toggle between active modes
Right	Toggle between active modes
Up	Toggle between active modes
Down	Toggle between active modes
Numpad-(5)	Front view
Numpad-(3)	Back view
Numpad-(4)	Left view
Numpad-(6)	Right view
Numpad-(8)	Top view
Numpad-(2)	Bottom view
Numpad-(1)	Snap to closest aligned view
Numpad-(0)	Perspective view
Backspace	Go back to previous operation
Return	Perform operation
Mouse-Wheel	Dynamic zoom around center or mouse position (according to mouse settings in Options - Preferences)
Ctrl+Mouse-Wheel	Dynamic zoom around center or mouse position (according to mouse settings in Options - Preferences)

The following shortcuts are active when the mouse is dragged while pressing the left mouse button:

Shift	Planar rotate view
Ctrl	Rotate view
Shift+Ctrl	Pan view

Shortcut Keys Available in VBA Editor

Ctrl+N	File new
Ctrl+O	File open
Ctrl+S	File save
Ctrl+P	Print
Ctrl+F	Find
F3	Find again
Ctrl+R	Replace
Ctrl+Z	Undo previous operation
Ctrl+Y	Redo previously undone operation
Ctrl+X	Cut
Ctrl+C	Copy
Ctrl+V	Paste
F1	Context help for the word next to the caret position
F5	Run macro
ESC	Pause macro
F7	Debug step to
F9	Debug break
Ctrl+F9	Add watch
Ctrl+Shift+F9	Clear all breaks
Shift+F9	Quick watch
Ctrl+F8	Debug step out
Shift+F8	Debug step over
F8	Debug step into

More information about the VBA Language is provided in the Online Help. Especially the Overview page contains a short, useful introduction to the most important language elements. In addition, there is also a Python interface for basic project handling and 1D result access available. Please refer to the *Automation and Scripting* section in the Online Help:

- ▲ Automation and Scripting
 - ▲ Visual Basic (VBA)
 - 📄 VBA Overview
 - 📄 WinWrap Basic Language Reference
 - 📄 VBA Application Object
 - 3D Simulation VBA
 - Circuits & Systems VBA
 - ▲ Python
 - 📄 CST Python Libraries