



Politecnico
di Torino

mODa14

Model-Oriented Data Analysis
and Optimum Design

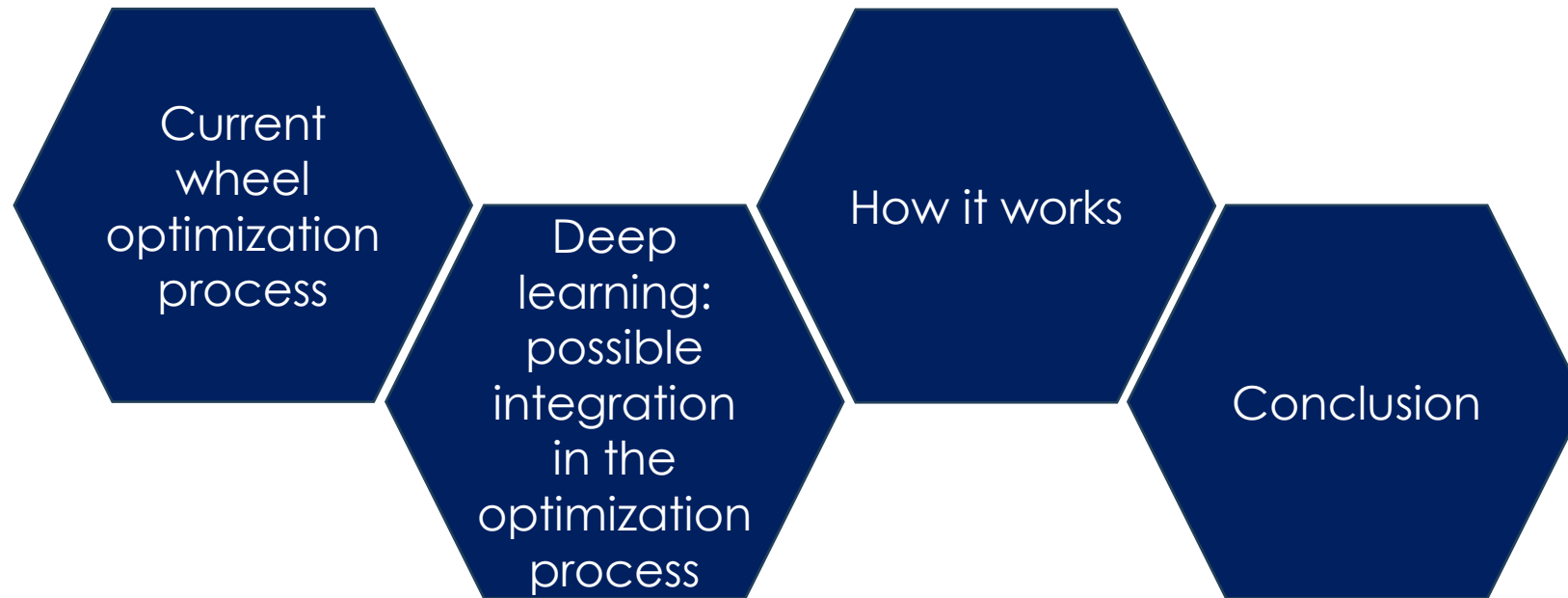
Davide Ronco

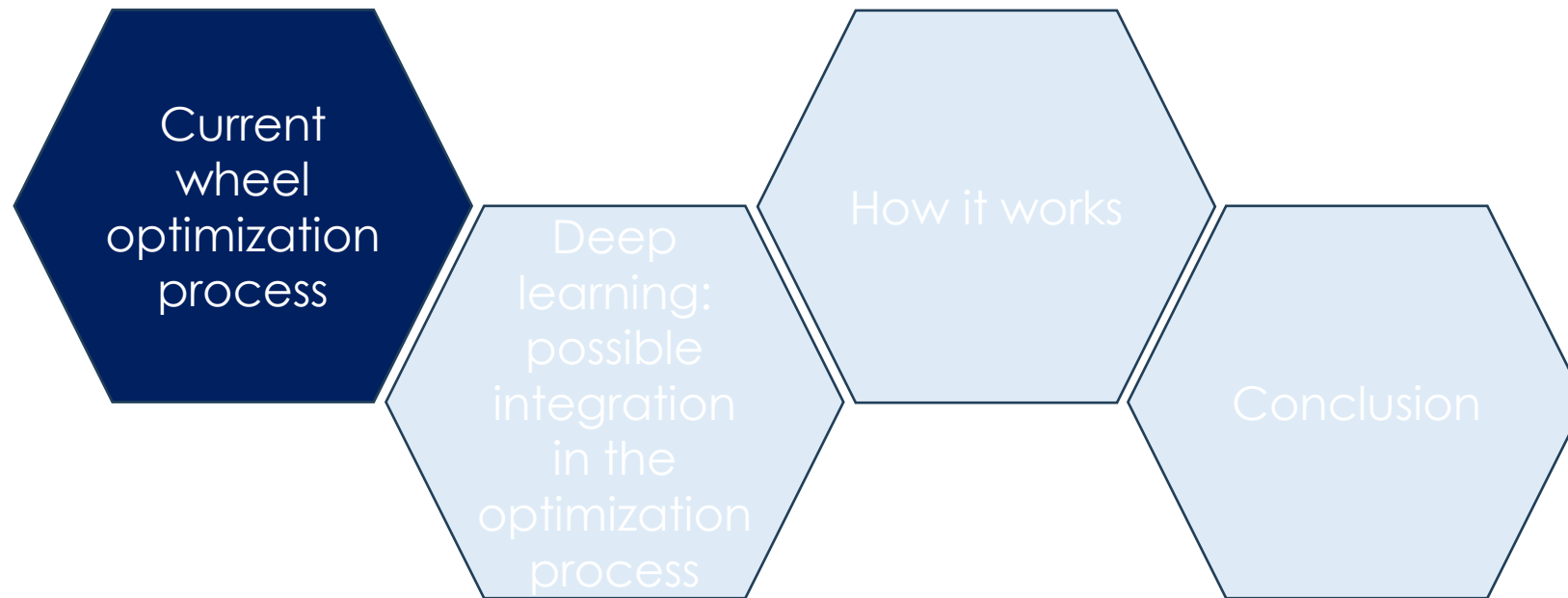
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June 2026

Topic





Wheel: safety component

- Mature component
- Established geometries and technologies
- **Key safety component**



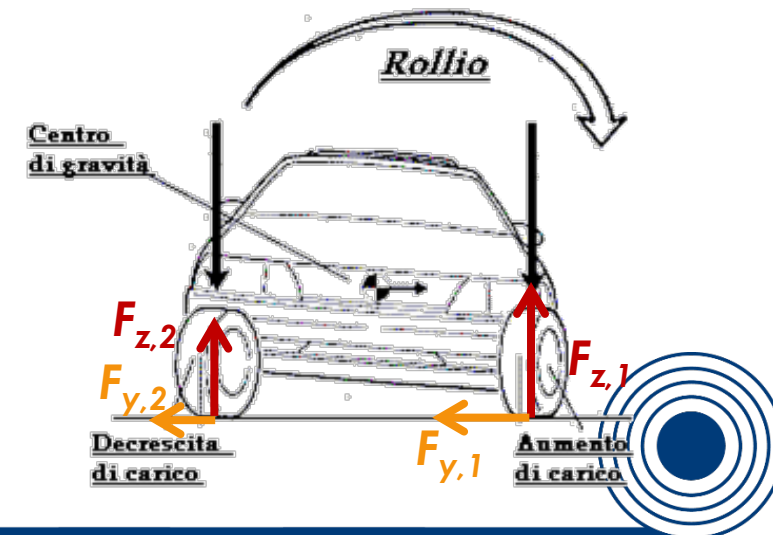
- Difficult to innovate
- Components already strongly optimized
- Designed following the Safe design approach



Fatigue

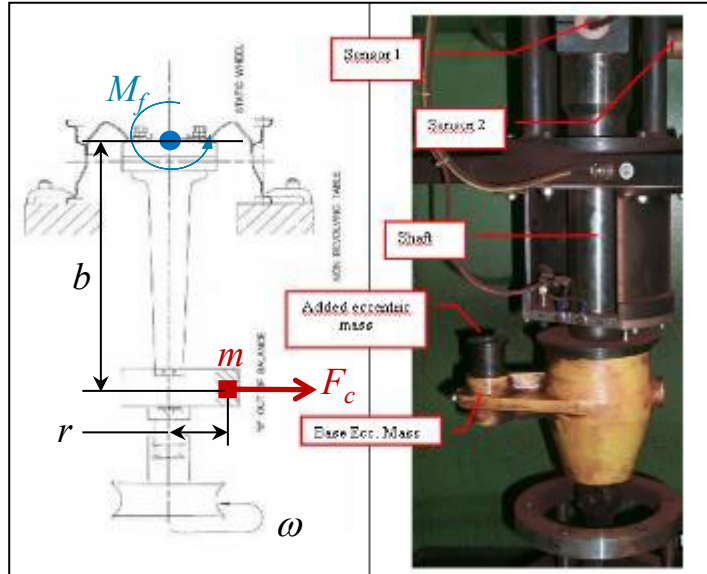
The purpose of the wheel is to sustain the weight of the vehicle and to connect it to the road via the tyre. The fatigue resistance is the key parameter to take into account in designing the wheel.

External loads radial (due to the car weight) and axial (due to the curve behaviour) coupled with rotation creates cyclic rotary loads



Fatigue test and requirement

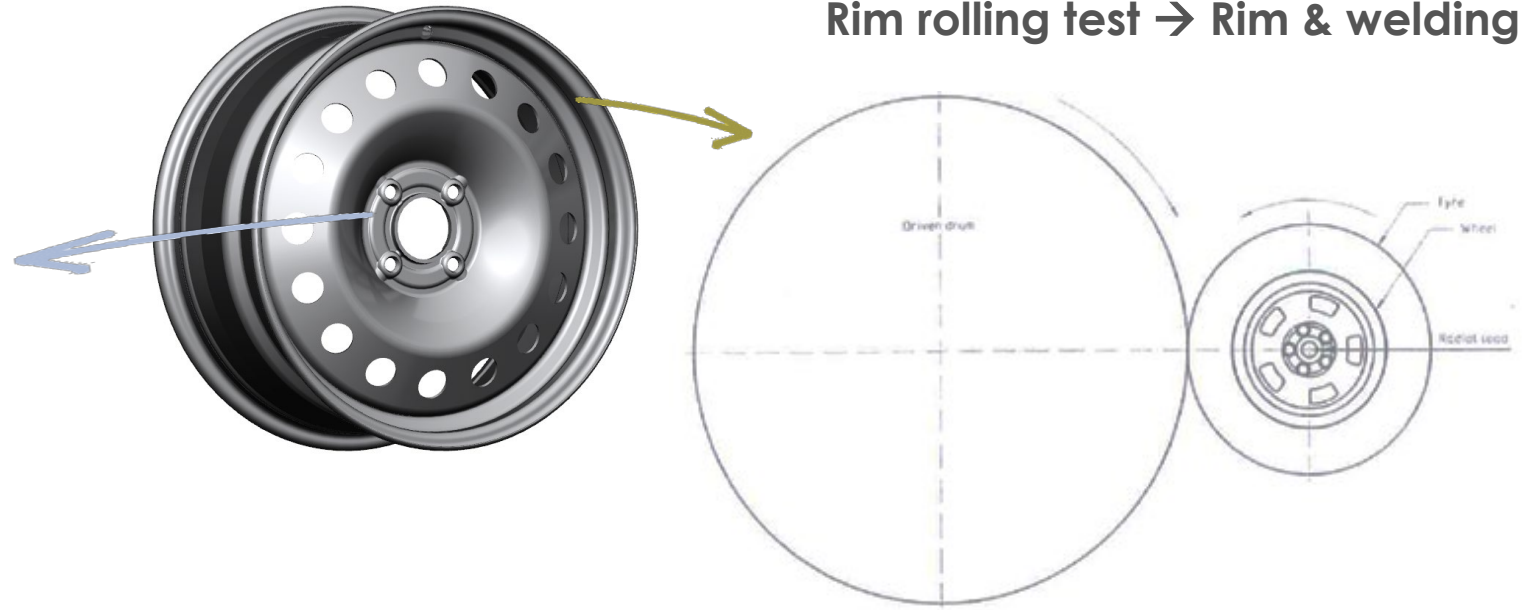
Rotary bending test → Disc



Parameter for test:

- Bending moment (M_b)
- Number of cycles (N)

Rim rolling test → Rim & welding



Parameter for test:

- Radial force (F_r)
- Axial force (F_a)
- Tyre pressure (p)
- Number of cycles (N)



Fatigue test and requirement

Rotary bending test → Disc

On the **rotary bending test** typically the crack are on the disc

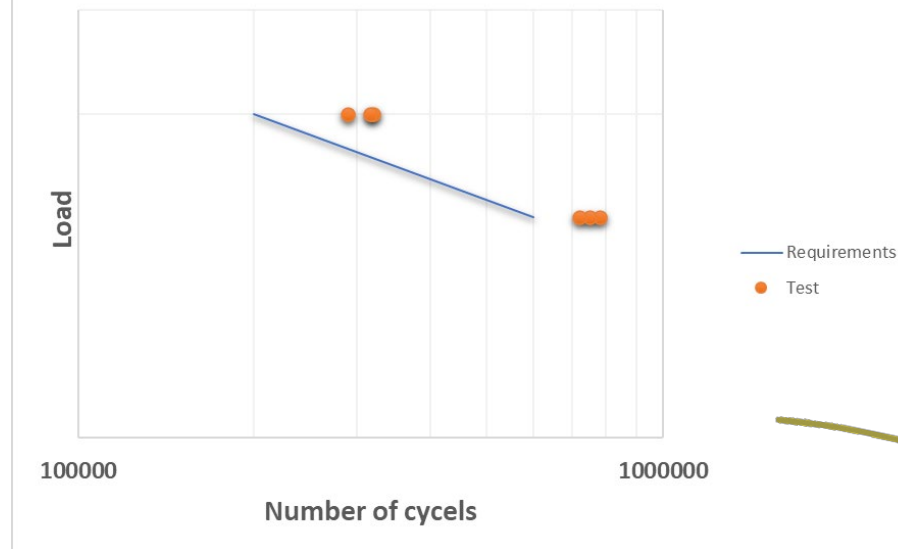


Rim rolling test → Rim & welding

On the **rim rolling test** typically the crack are on the rim or on welding



Example of fatigue test results



The tests results should be higher the requirements imposed by customer.



Main goal: Predict the fatigue behaviour

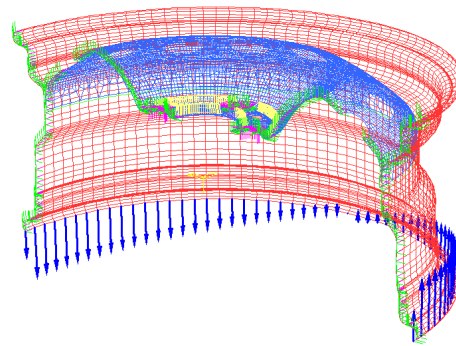
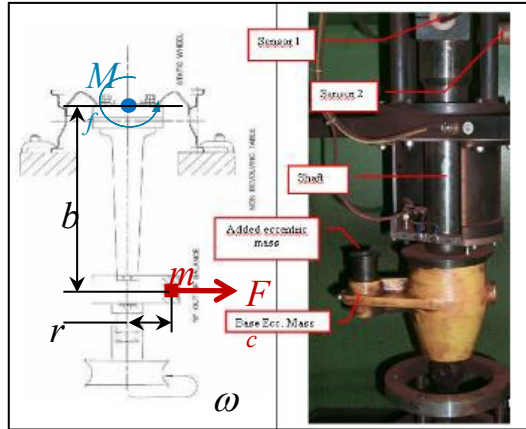
Fatigue is the main aspect for a steel wheel.

Product **not** suitable for **fast prototyping**.

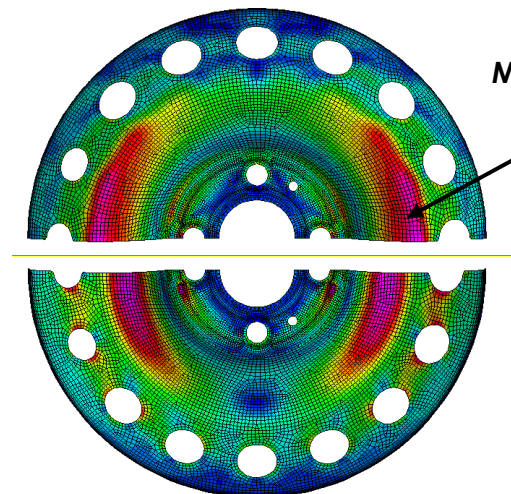
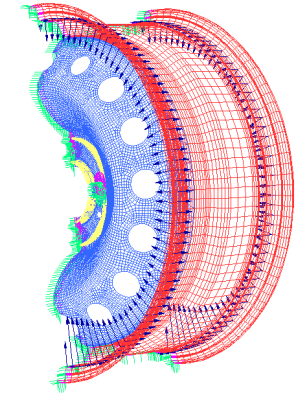
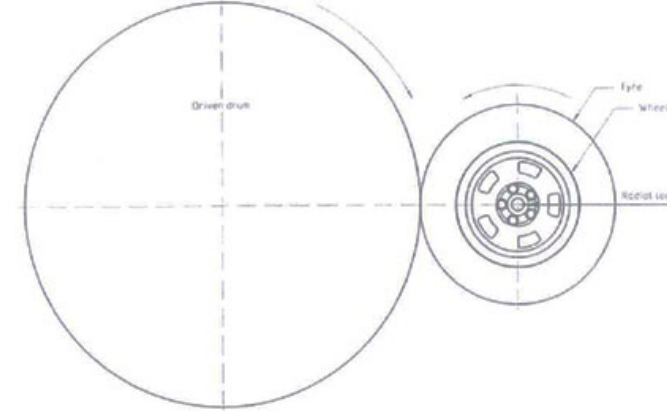


FEM simulation

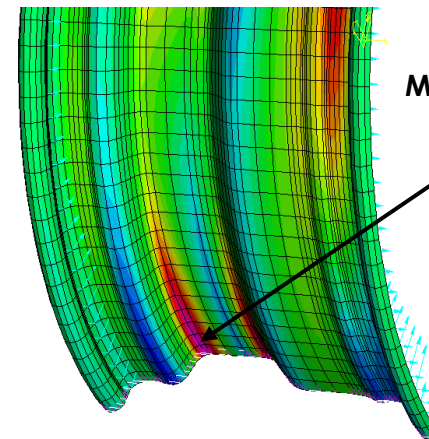
Rotary bending test



Rim rolling test



Most stressed area



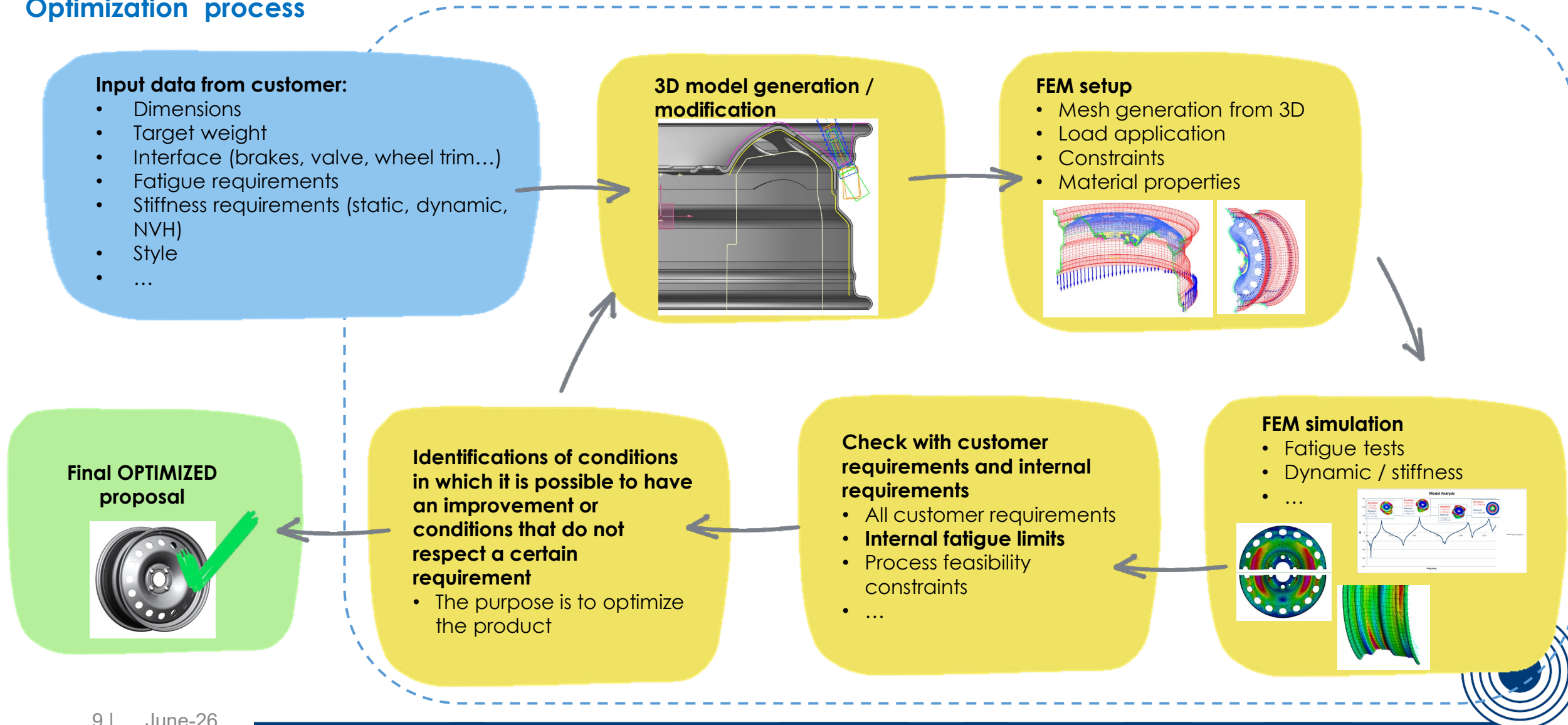
Most stressed area



Current wheel optimization process

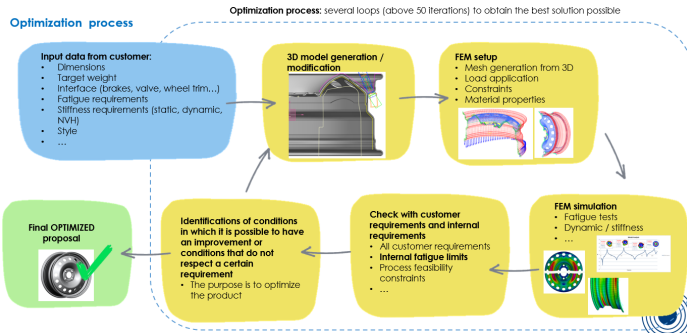
Optimization process: several loops (above 50 iterations) to obtain the best solution possible

Optimization process



Current wheel optimization process

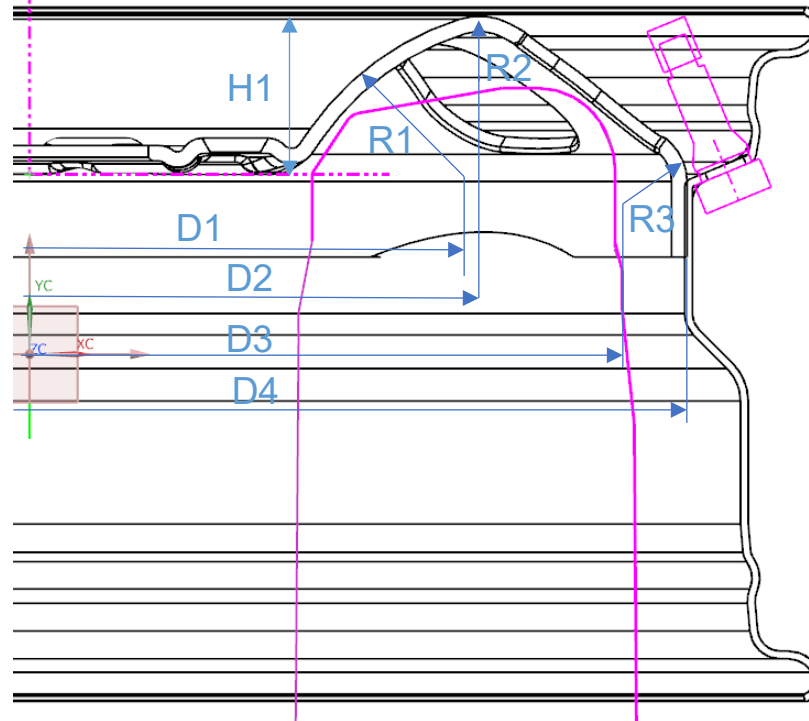
Speed-up the optimization process



In the **Optimization process**, usually are modified **few parameters per time** (sometimes only 1 parameter), in order to avoid that the impact of 1 parameter is hidden by the modification of other parameters.

The parameters are modified on 3D CAD evaluating their impact on interfaces (brakes, valve, wheel trim...).

The calculation (FEM) is performed with another software that evaluate the impact of parameters on fatigue.

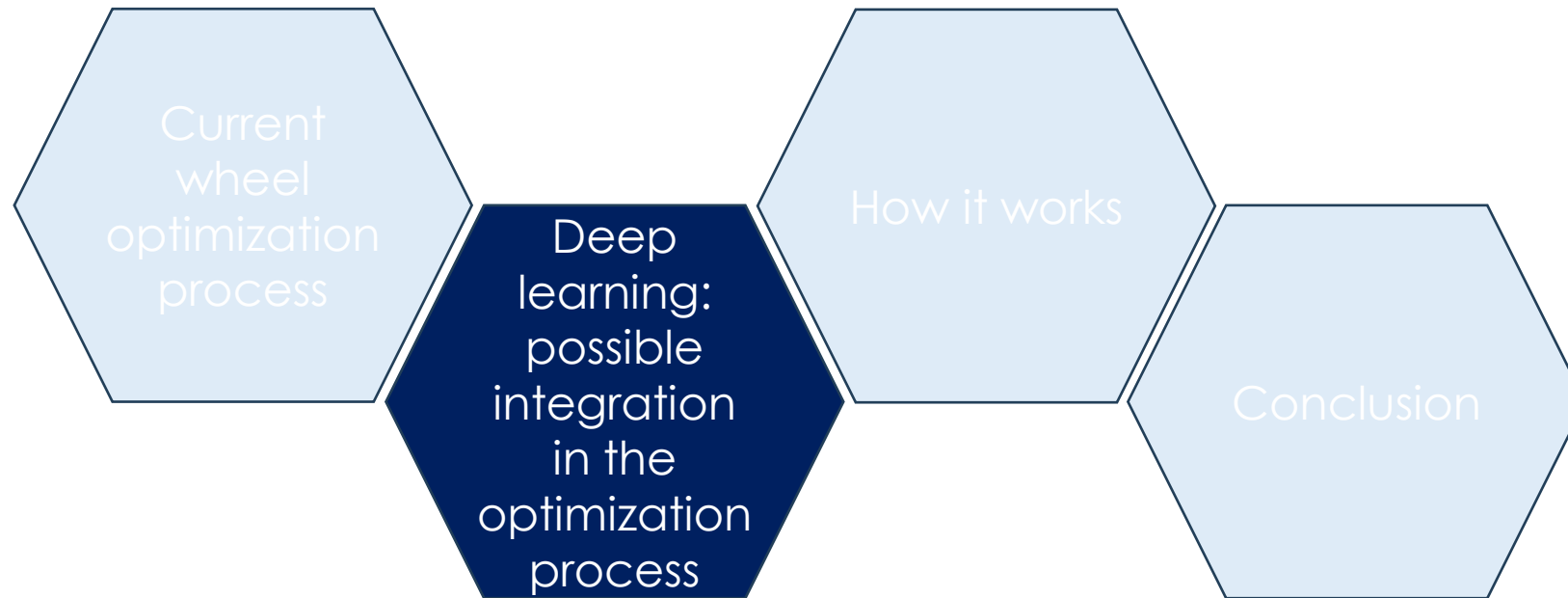


- It is possible to have the full focus of the impact of the single parameter on fatigue behaviour (stress)
- It is possible to have the clear view of the direction of optimization



- Time (from 1 to 5 days to find the optimized solution)
- Possibility to investigate few parameters per time
- Difficulty to reach the most optimized solution
- Human error

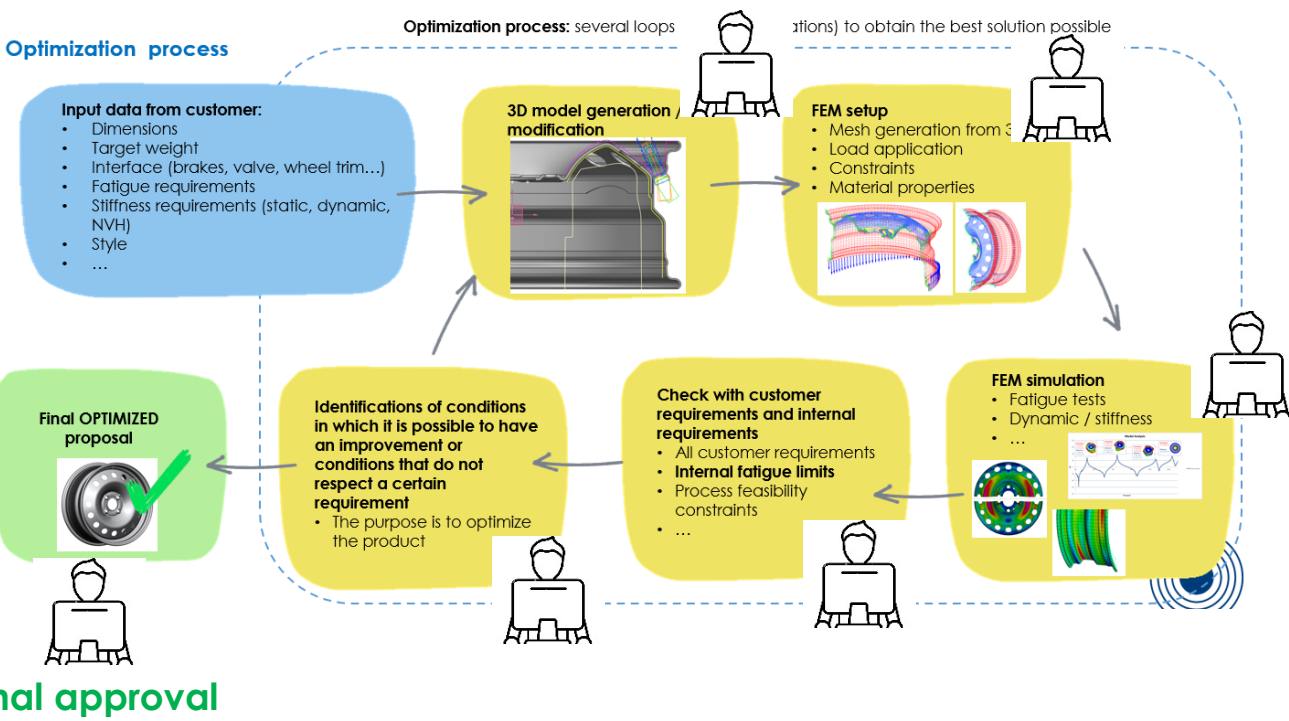




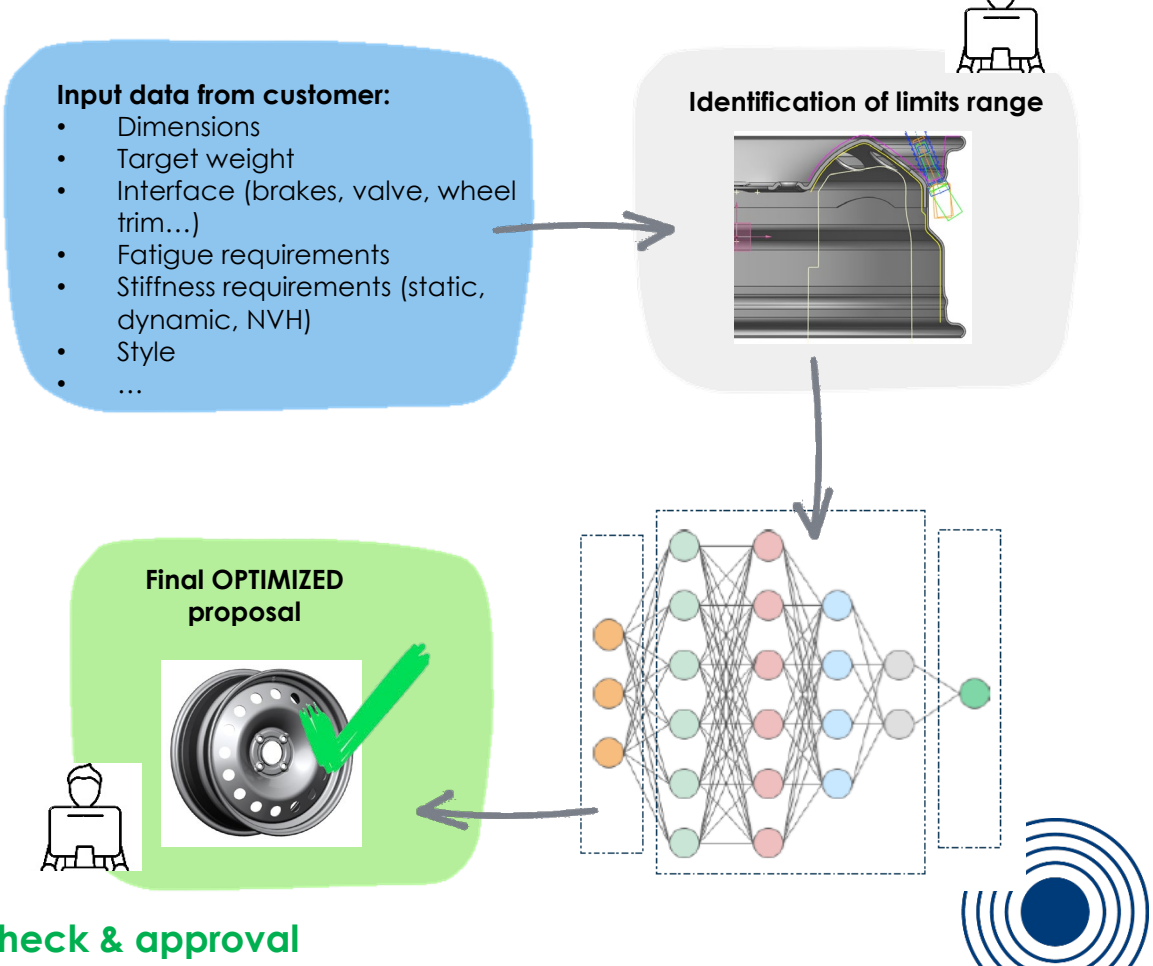
Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Speed-up the optimization process

Standard optimization process



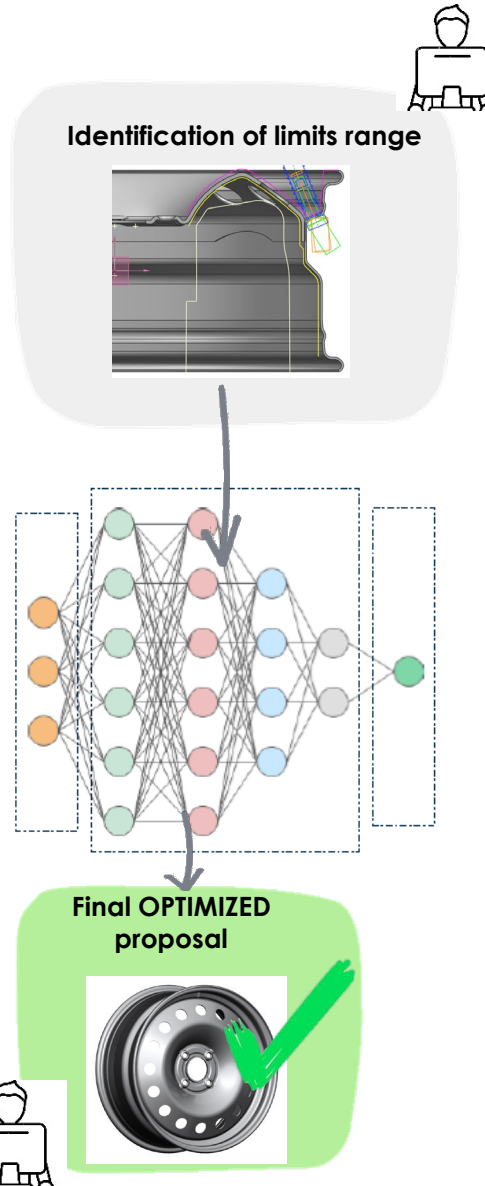
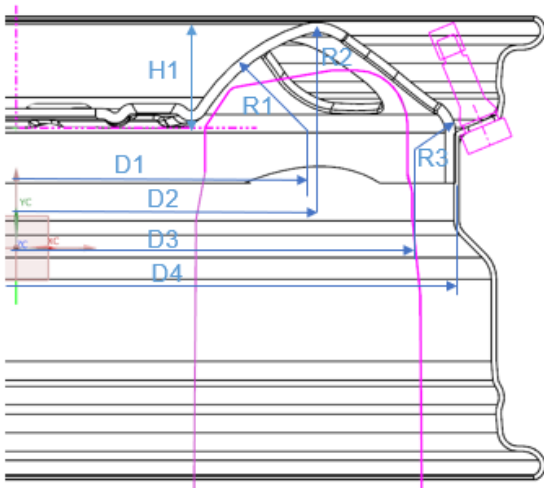
DL implementation



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Speed-up the optimization process

Prediction



The Operator, will provide only the range for each parameters, that take into account the interface.

E.g.:

H1= 25 – 30 mm

R1= 10 – 20 mm

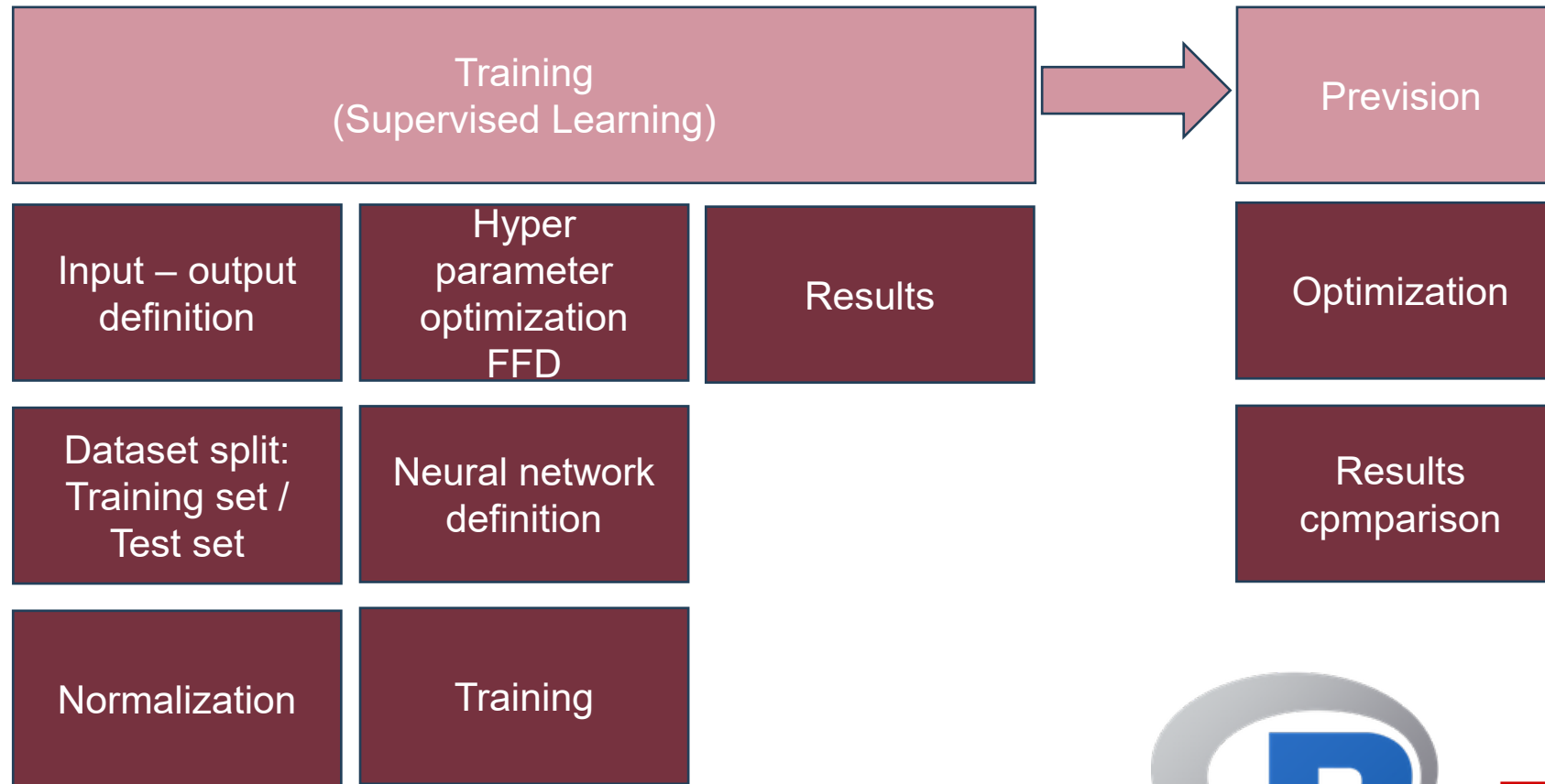
....

The optimized definition/s will be identified, exploring all the possible combinations (minimizing the stress) between parameters inside the range defined by the Operator.

The Operator will check the optimized proposal and gives the approval.



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process



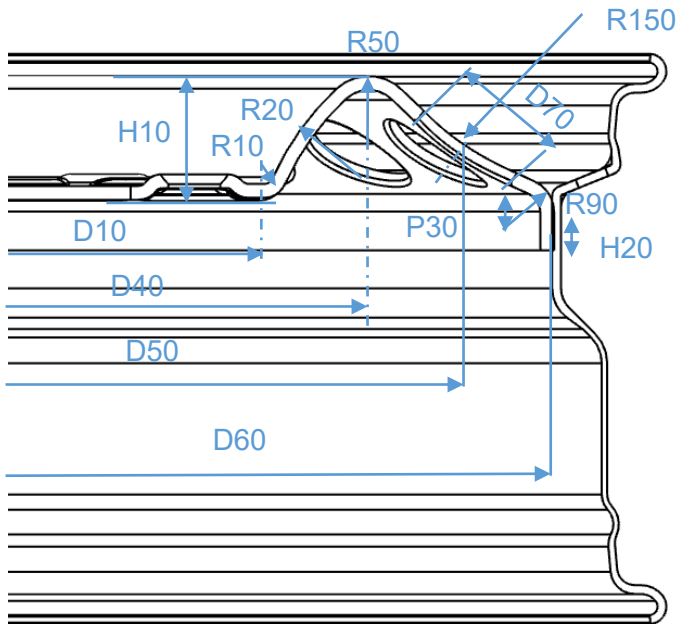
Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Input – output definition

Input

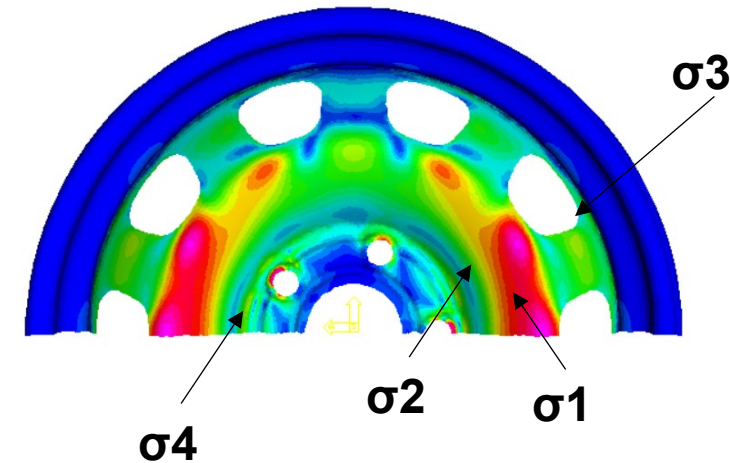
All the characteristic dimensions of the model.
At this stage of the project, the main dimension able to characterize the disc are taken into account **(15 inputs)**

- Disc thickness
- Vent hole number



Output

- Stress in the critical areas of the wheel
 - σ_1 , MPa: Nose area
 - σ_2 , MPa: Voile area
 - σ_3 , MPa: Vent hole area
 - σ_4 , MPa: Central part area
- Disc net weight, kg
- Raw material surface, mm²

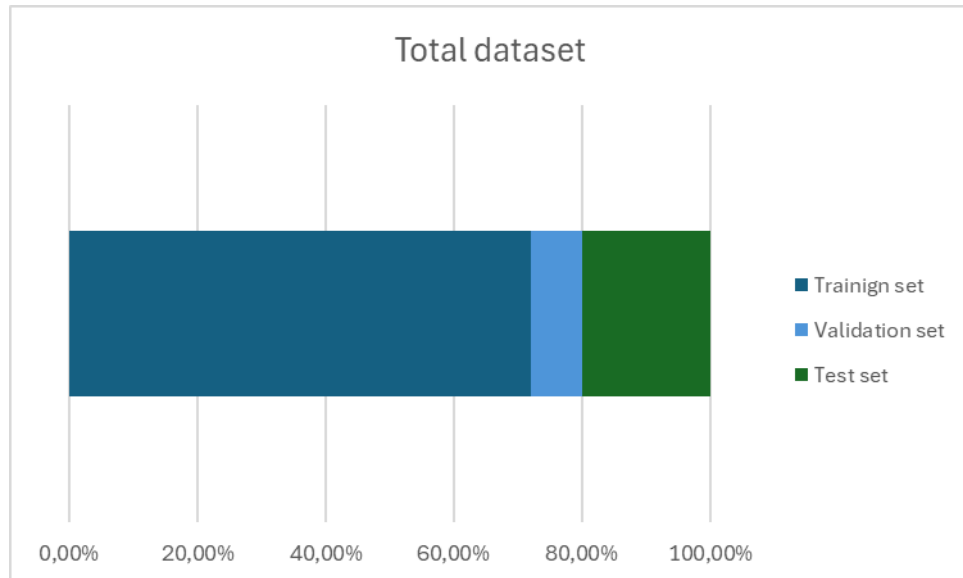


Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Dataset split: Training set – Test set

The dataset (for the moment 258 samples) was splitted in:

- 80% Training set
 - 90% Pure Training
 - 10% Validation set
- 20% Test set



Normalization

The training set was normalized between 0 to 1. This permit to improve and speed up the model convergence during the training phase. The input and output have very different scale between each others.

$$x_{norm} = (x - \min(x)) / (\max(x) - \min(x))$$

Also the standardization was tried, but the performances were better with the normalization.



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Hyper parameter optimization

Through a Full Factorial Design (FFD), implemented in the algorithm, it was researched the better configuration of Hyper parameters.

Neurons number

- Number of neurons for each hidden layer between input and output layer

Batch size

- Number of samples to be used to updated the weights during each iteration

Learnign rate

- This parameter manages the speed of the weights updating in each iteration

Activation function

- ReLU and Tanh

Hydden layer number

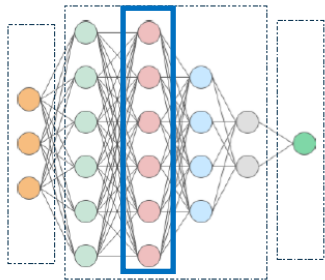
- Number of level between Input layer and Output layer

Epoche

- Represent the iteration between all the training set. It is important to avoid the Overfitting or Underfitting phenomena

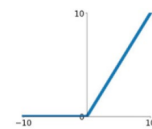
Optimizer

- It is the algorithm that updates the weights and the bias with the scope to reduce the loss function

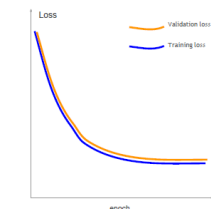
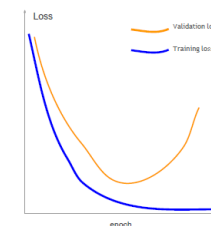
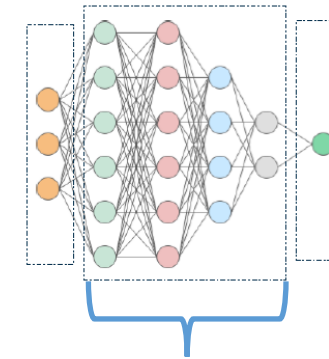
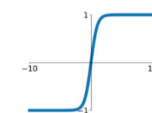


$$\theta := \theta - \eta \cdot \frac{1}{m} \sum_{i=1}^m \nabla_{\theta} \mathcal{L}(x^{(i)}, y^{(i)}; \theta)$$

ReLU Function



Hyperbolic Tangent Function

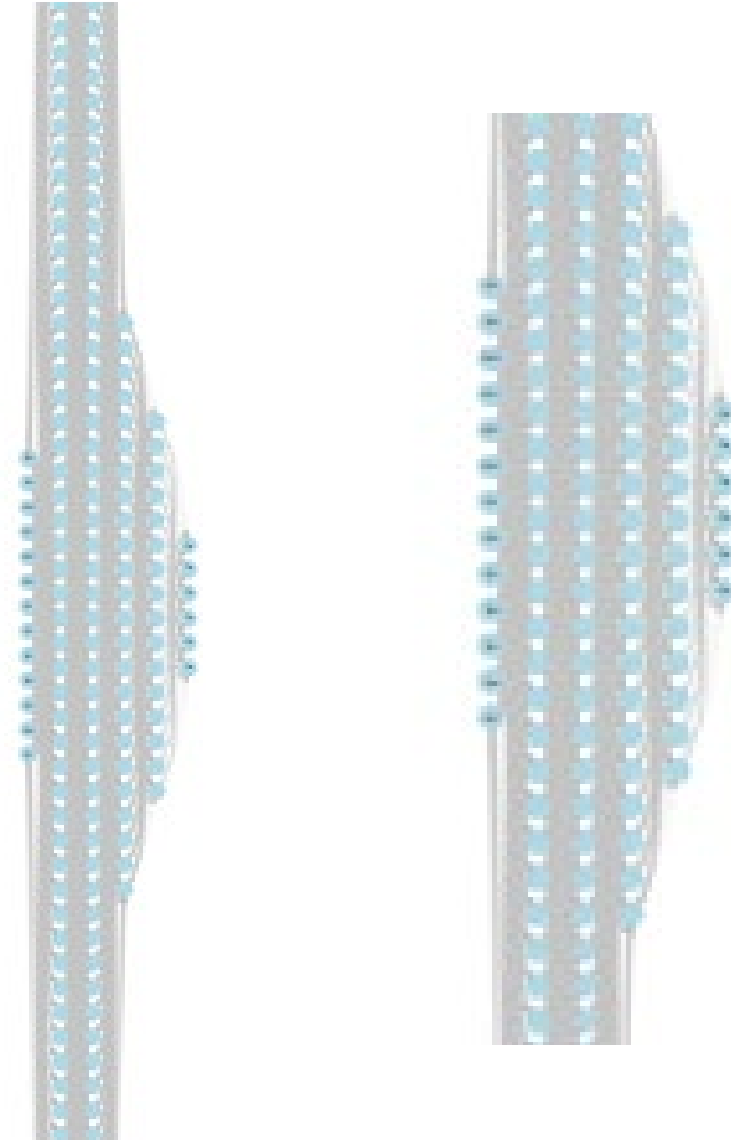


Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Neural network definition

Hyper-parameter	Value
Input layer	15 neurons → Input parameters
1° Hidden layer	64 neurons
2° Hidden layer	16 neurons
3° Hidden layer	16 neurons
4° Hidden layer	8 neurons
Output layer	6 neurons → Output
Learning rate	0,005
Batch size	4
Activation function	ReLU
Epochs	500
Optimizer	Adam

Training time: 30 min

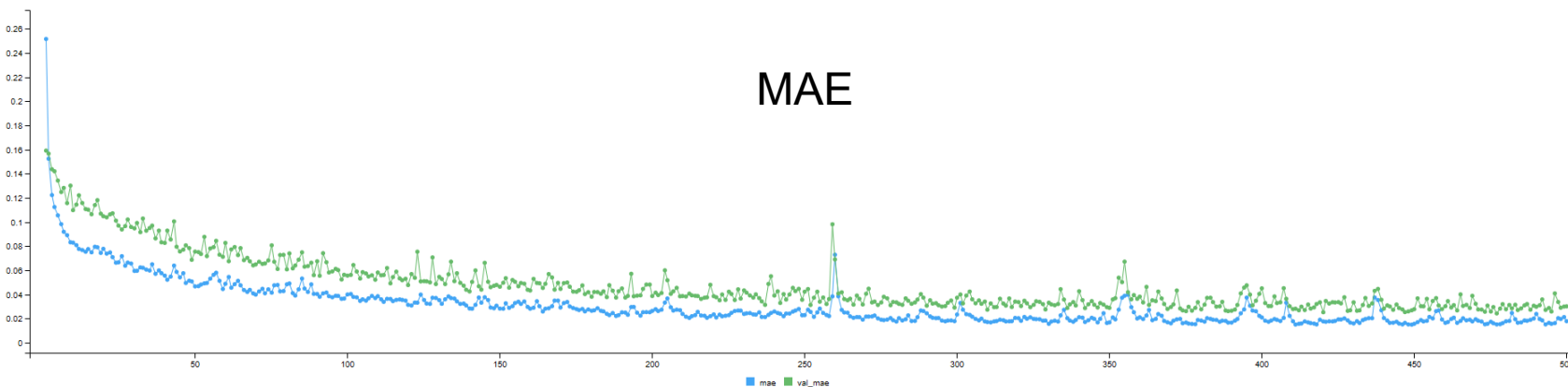
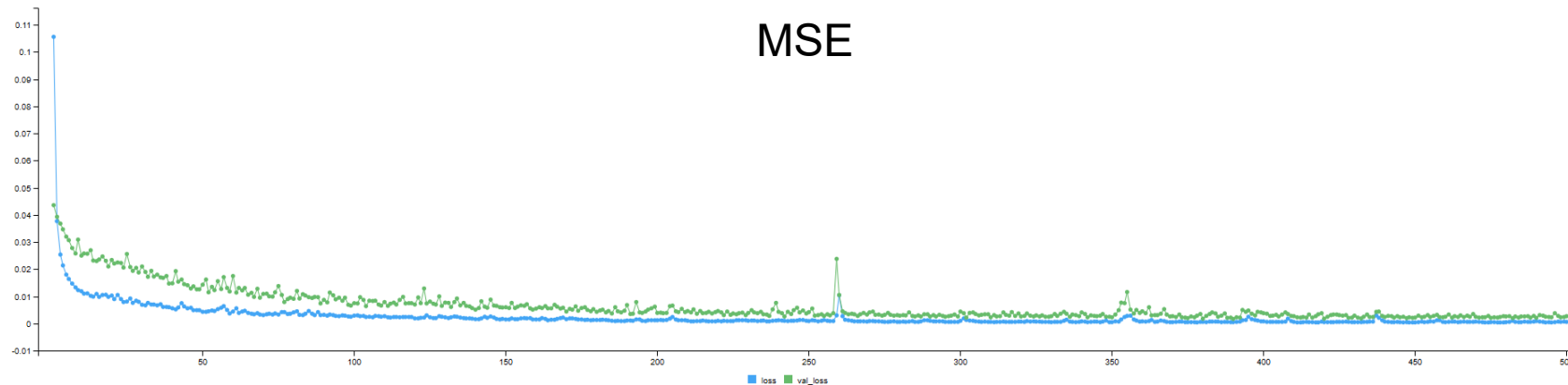


Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Trining

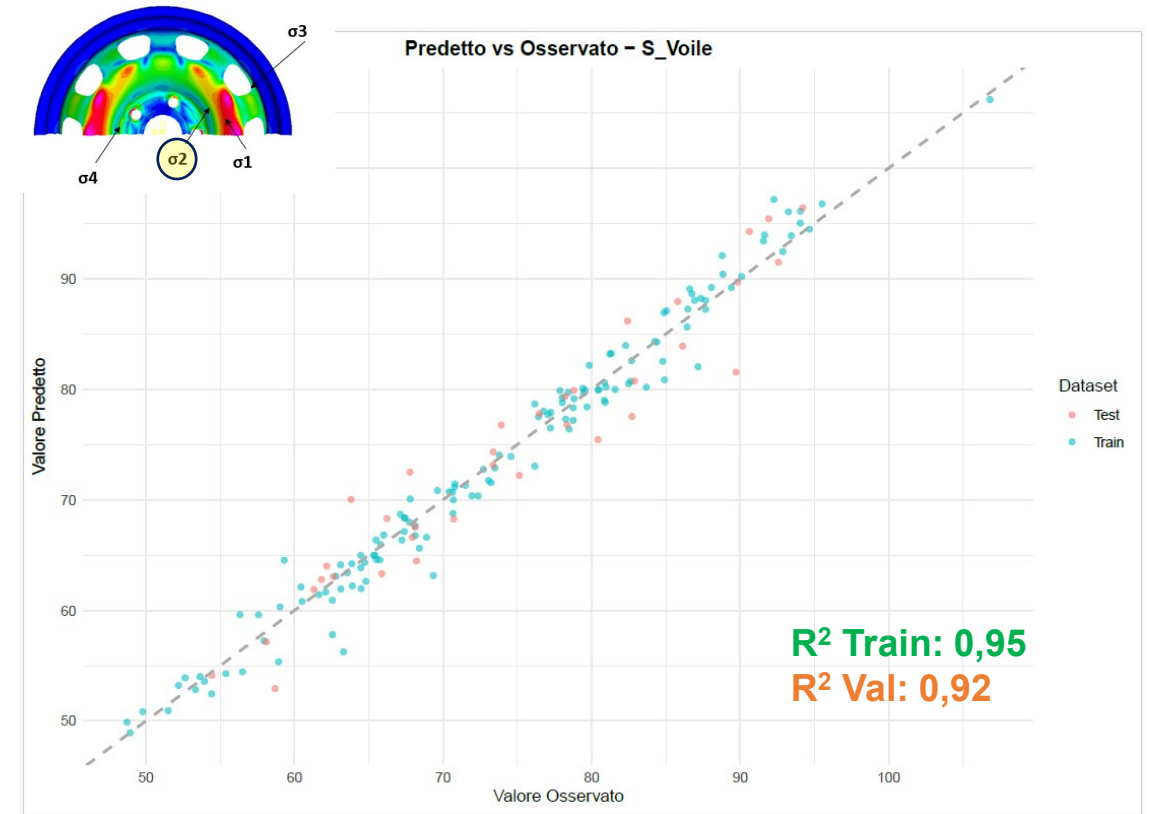
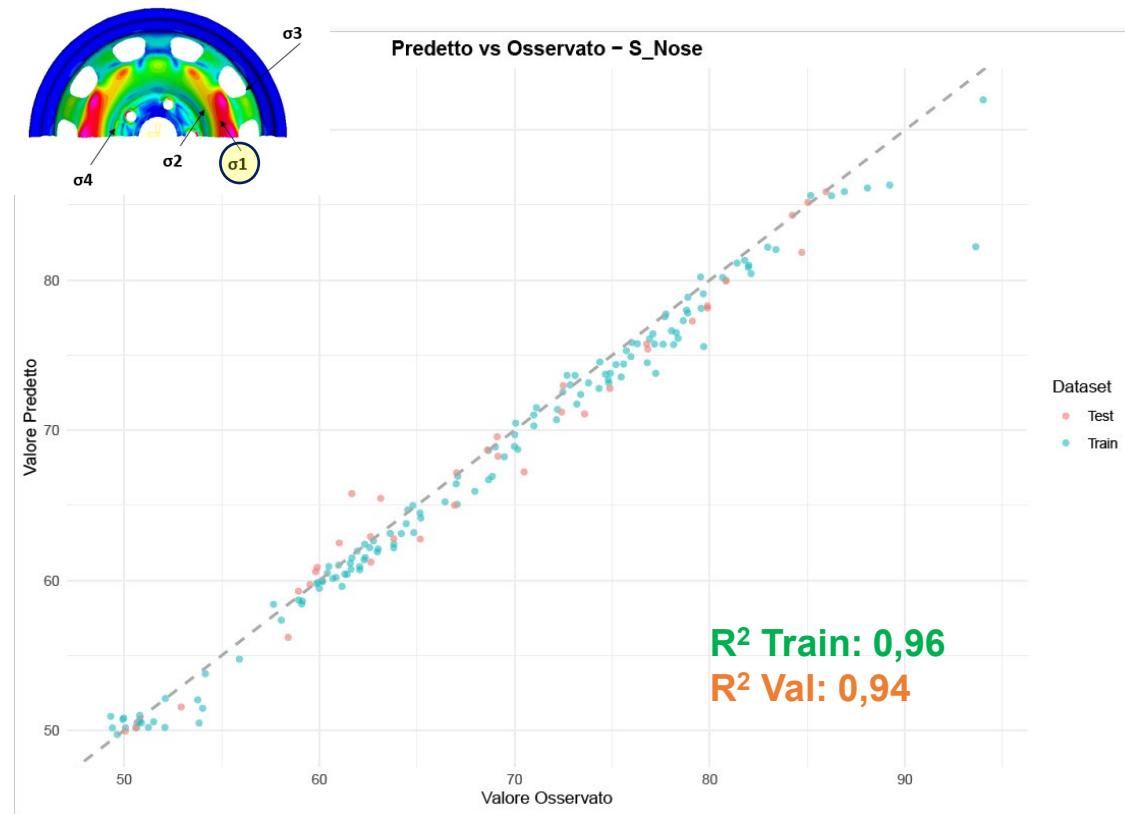
In the graph next to it you can see the MSE loss function, and also the MAE (Mean Absolute Error), for training data (blue) and validation data (green). Both converge to 0, a symptom of a good definition of the model (no Underfitting, no Overfitting).

$$MSE = \frac{1}{n} \sum_{i=1}^n (Y_{i,real} - Y_{i,pred})^2$$



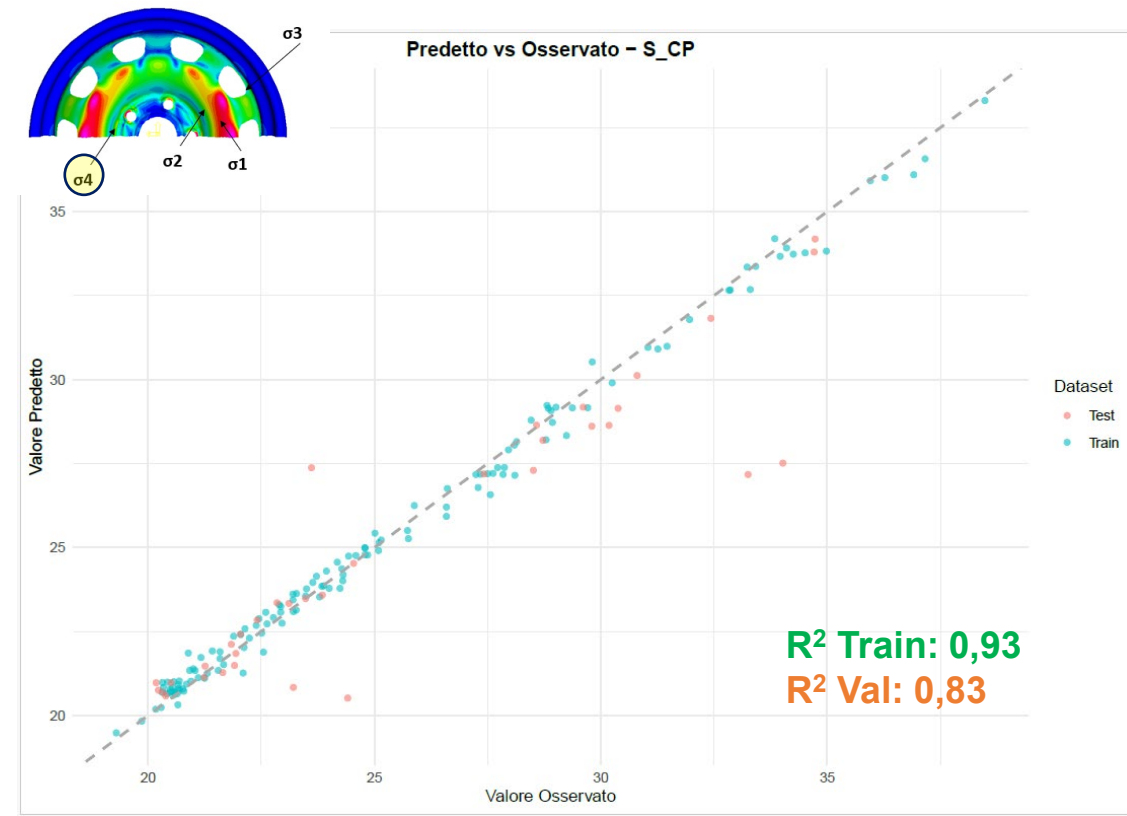
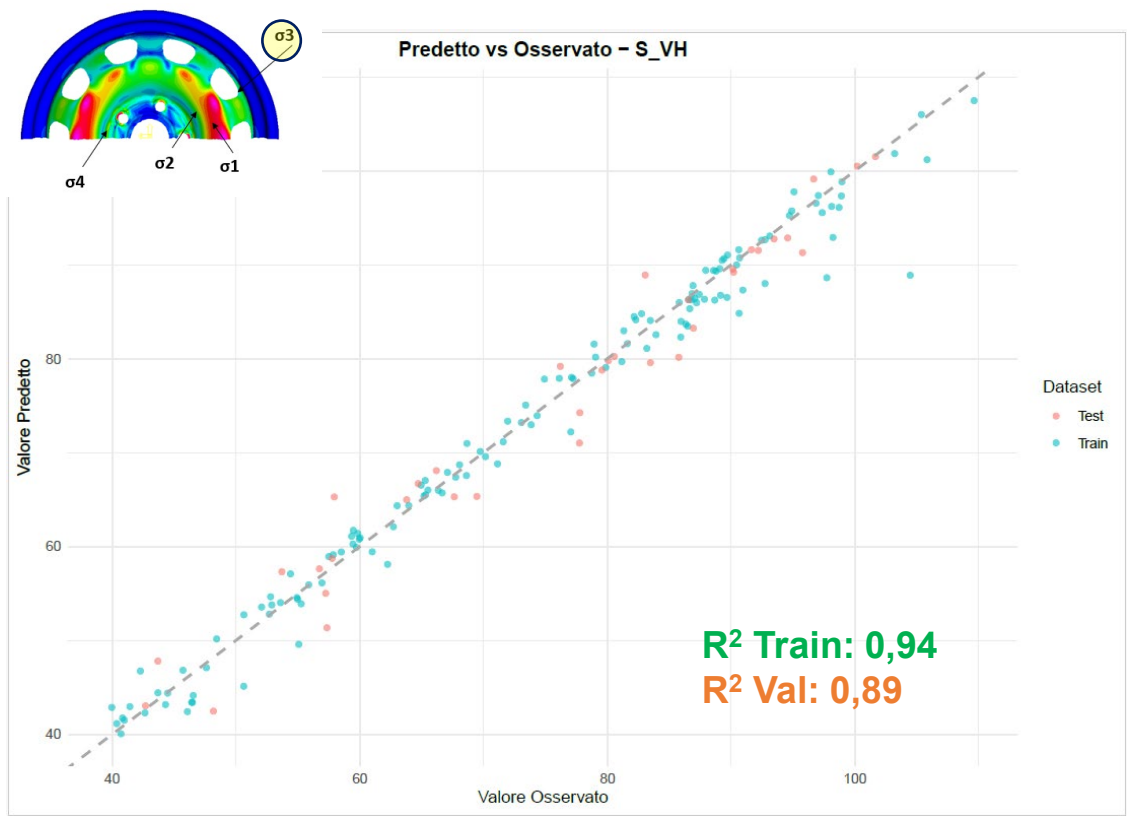
Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Results



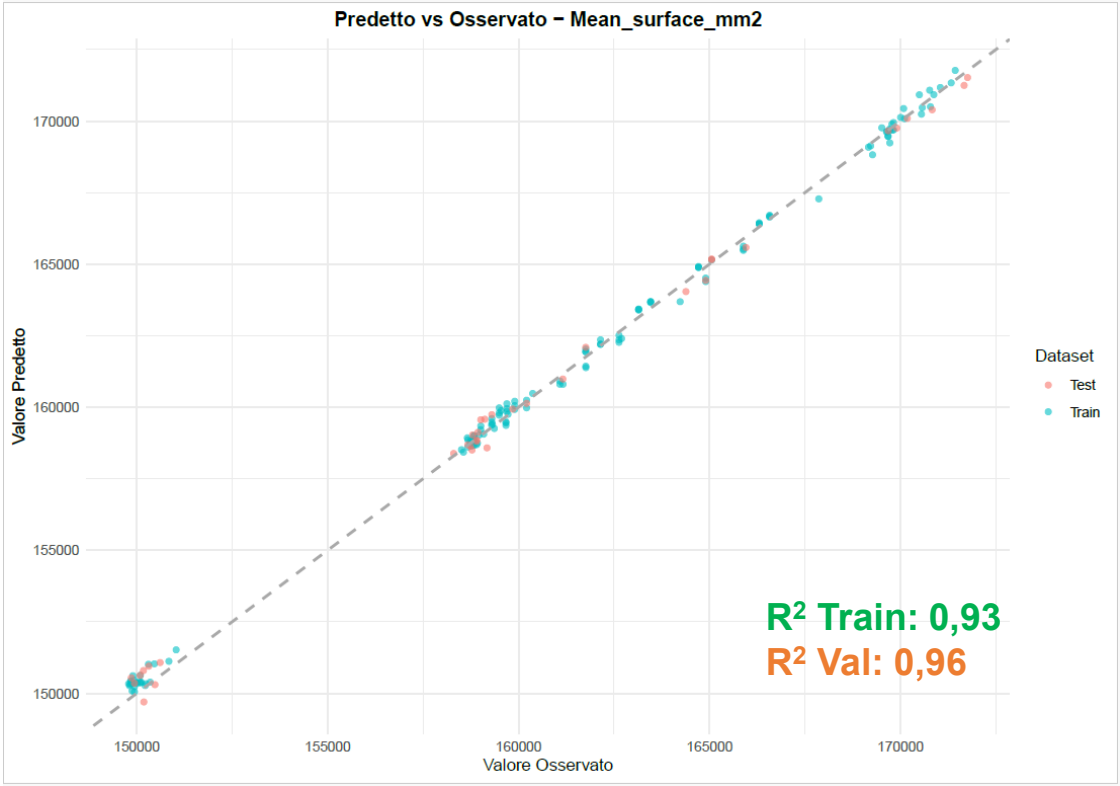
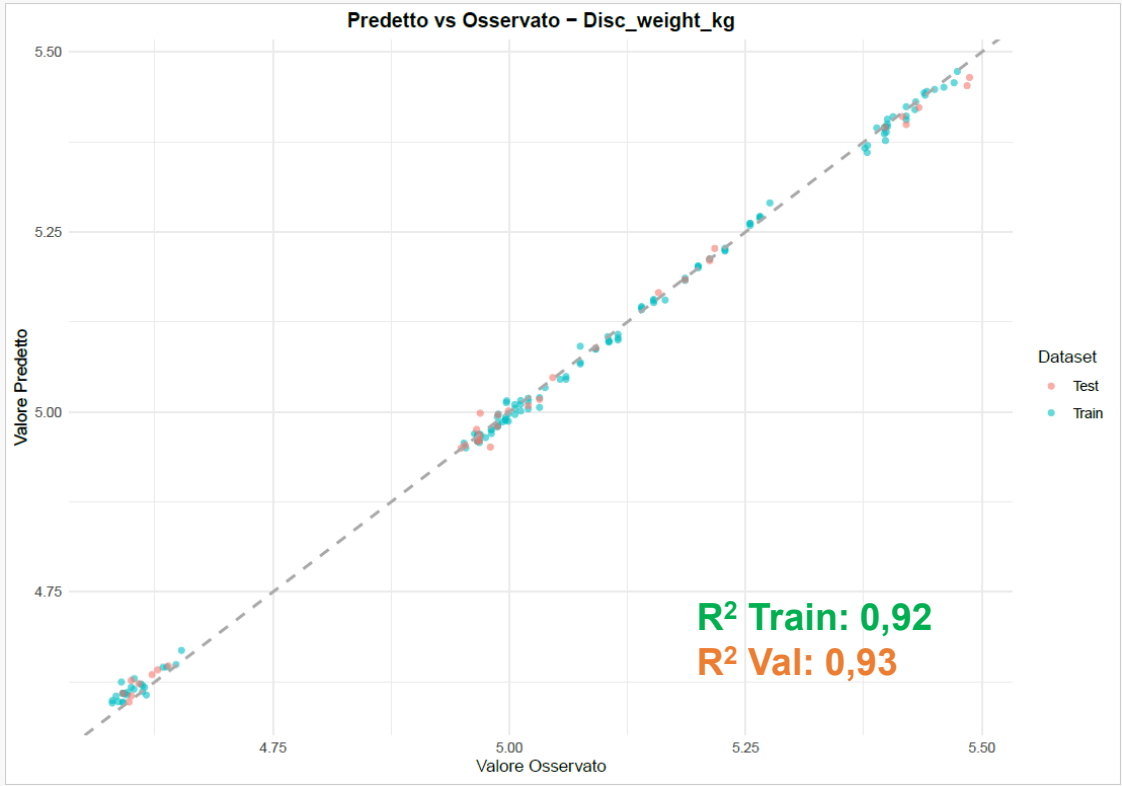
Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Results



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Results



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

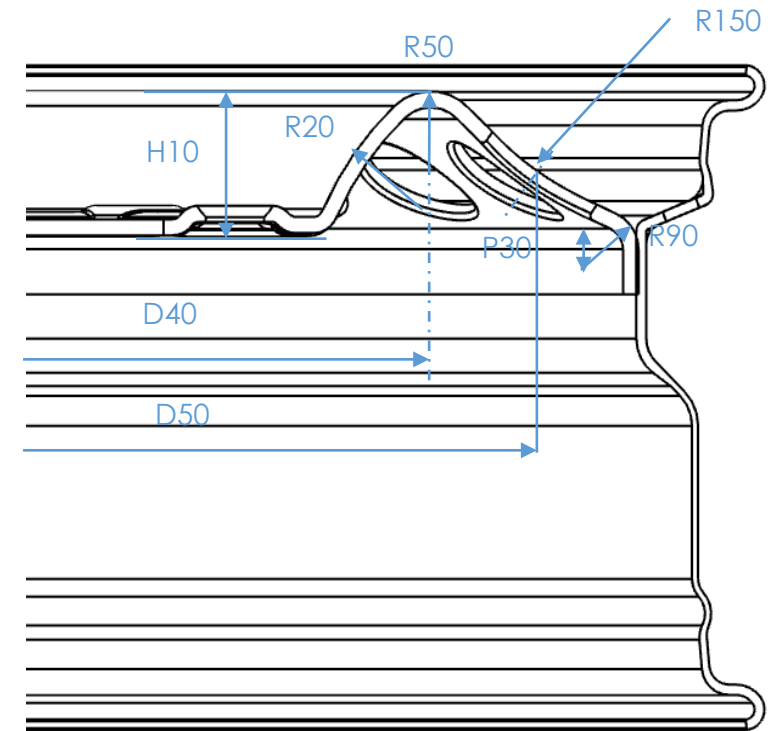
Prevision: Steel wheel design optimization

After training the neural network, it is possible to make predictions about the tension state of the wheel disc, its weight and the amount of material needed for its manufacture.

For some dimensions (8/13 Input parameter) a minimum value, a maximum value and an incremental step have been chosen, as shown in the table.

Parameter	Min	Max	Step
R20	85	110	5
R50	10	20	1
D40	245	265	5
H10	30	50	1
R80	150	500	50
D50	325	335	1
R90	10	20	2
P30	-4	4	2
Total combinations		571'725	

In just over 6 minutes, the algorithm calculated the solution of over 570,000 solutions, providing (on request) the 4 solutions that minimize the tensions in the 4 areas defined as critical.



Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Results comparison

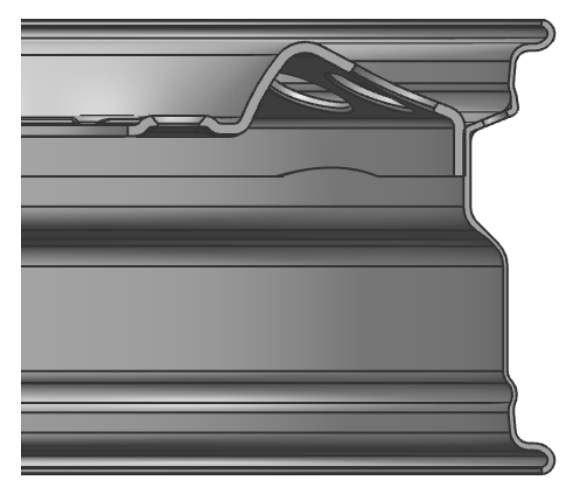
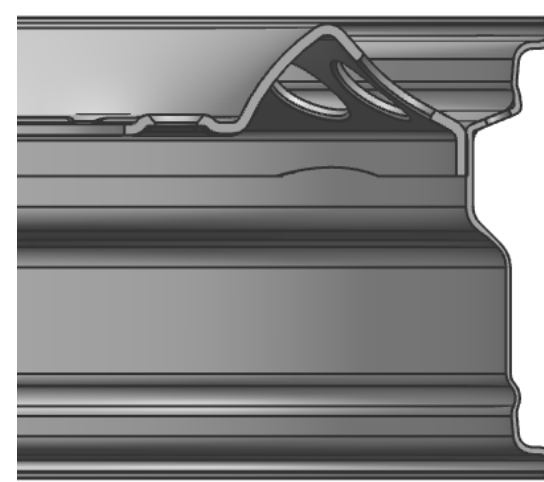
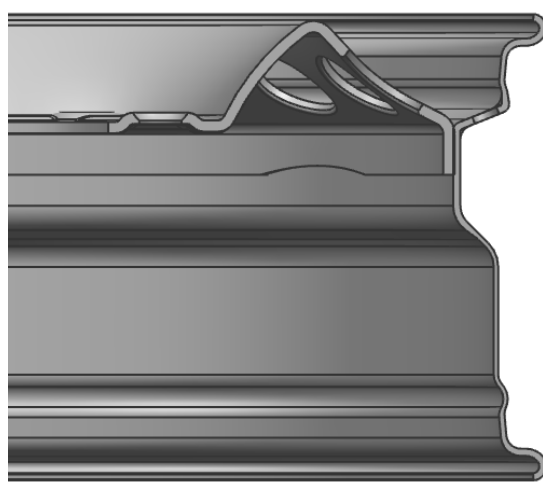
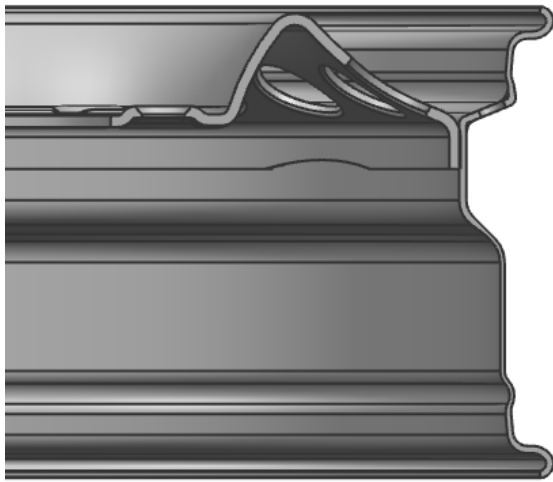
Downstream of the analysis, as a result, the algorithm returned the 4 configurations that minimize stress in the 4 critical areas.

	R20	R50	D40	H10	R80	D50	R90	P30	S_Nose	S_Voile	S_VH	S_CP	Disc_weight_kg	Mean_surface_mm2
70506	109	12	245	50	150	328	12	-4	48.66285	53.23623	43.37734	24.35182	5.365451	169020.0
802434	109	10	265	50	150	328	10	0	48.96111	48.25116	42.67980	24.83352	5.390100	169584.3
403264	99	10	265	50	150	328	10	-2	49.46952	48.88618	40.62879	25.74068	5.394061	169561.9
1628394	109	16	245	43	500	328	10	4	67.12288	74.39213	71.66362	19.27807	5.169920	164065.2

Geometrical
parameters

Stresses

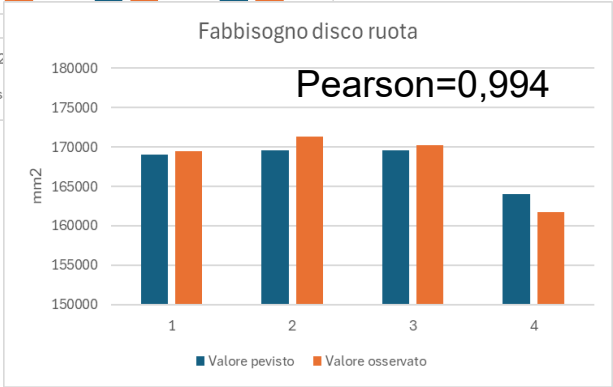
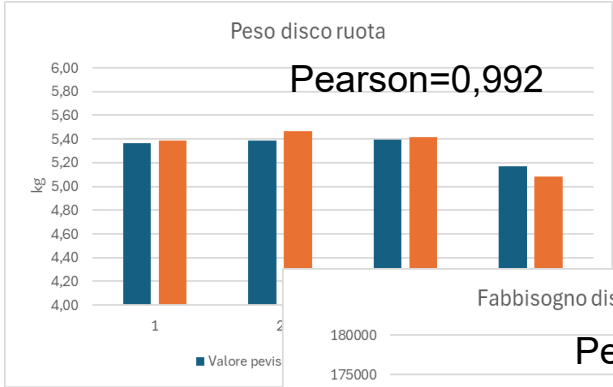
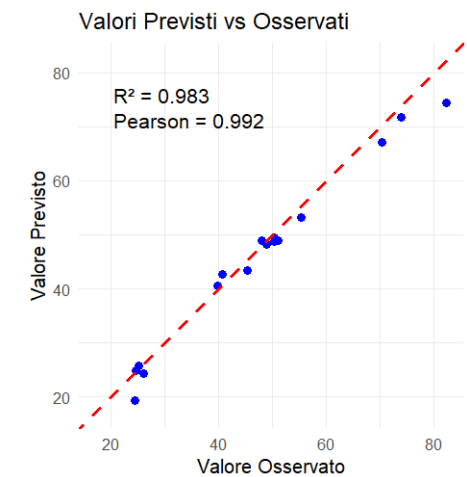
Weight and raw
material

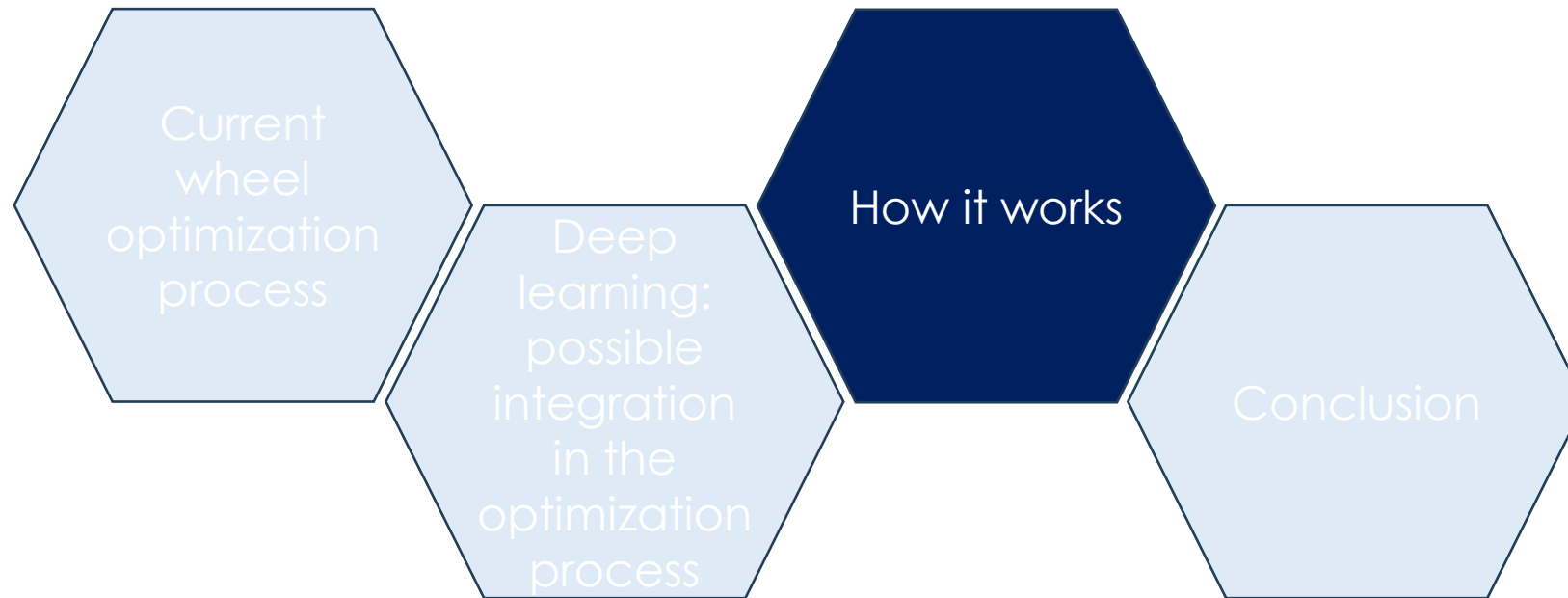


Deep learning: possible integration in the optimization process

Results comparison

	S_nose	S_Voile	S_VH	S_CP	Weight	Surface
NN	48,66	53,23	43,37	24,35	5,37	169020,00
FEM	50,39	55,38	45,39	26,12	5,39	169513,17
NN	48,96	48,25	42,67	24,83	5,39	169584,30
FEM	51,01	48,87	40,67	24,68	5,46	171361,92
NN	49,47	48,88	40,628	25,74	5,39	169561,90
FEM	50,31	47,95	39,84	25,17	5,42	170206,58
NN	67,12	74,39	71,66	19,28	5,17	164065,20
FEM	70,32	82,27	73,89	24,53	5,09	161723,35





How it works

Bending moment definition

Definition of the bending moment at 200'000 cycles, typically used for the optimization loop.
All the stresses will be scaled to this Bending Moment.

```
16 # =====
17 # DEFINIZIONE MOMENTO A 200'000cicli
18 # =====
19
20 Mf <- 4500 #Momento flettente a 200'000 cicli
21
```

Material definition

Definition of the disc material.
This permits to set the Stress Limits.

```
22 # =====
23 # SCELTA MATERIALE
24 # =====
25 Material <- "MW06"
26
27 material_limits <- list(
28   MW06 = c
29   MW05 = c
30   MW04 = c
31   MW01 = c
32 )
33
34 # Controllo che il materiale scelto esista
35 if (!Material %in% names(material_limits)) {
36   stop("Materiale non valido. Scegli tra: MW06, MW05, MW04")
37 }
38
39 limits <- material_limits[[Material]]
40
41 print(Material)
42 print(limits)
```



How it works

Input parameters definition

In this phase it is necessary to define for each dimensions the Min value, the Max value and the Step. This will permit to generate all the possible combinations of all the parameters.

```
# =====  
# DEFINIZIONE PARAMETRI GEOMETRICI  
# =====  
D_Thick_p <- seq(3.5, 5.5, by = 1)  
R10_p     <- 6  
D10_p     <- 176  
R20_p     <- seq(85, 110, by = 5)  
R50_p     <- seq(10, 20, by = 5)  
D40_p     <- seq(245, 265, by = 10)  
H10_p     <- seq(30, 50, by = 5)  
R80_p     <- seq(150, 500, by = 50)  
D50_p     <- seq(295, 365, by = 10)  
R90_p     <- seq(10, 20, by = 5)  
P30_p     <- seq(-4, 4, by = 4)  
H20_p     <- seq(10, 20, by = 5)  
D60_p     <- 390  
N_VH_p    <- seq(16, 20, by = 4)  
D70_p     <- seq(30.5, 40.5, by = 5)
```



How it works

Results

The program will generate 2 type of input:

Minimum absolute configuration

- Configuration that minimize the Nose Stress
- Configuration that minimize the Voile Stress
- Configuration that minimize the V_Hole Stress
- Configuration that minimize the C_Part Stress
- Configuration that minimize the Disc weight
- Configuration that minimize the Disc blank surface

The best N solutions

The best N (of default 10) solutions that have the stresses below the Stress Limits in all the areas, and that minimize disc weight and disc blank surface.

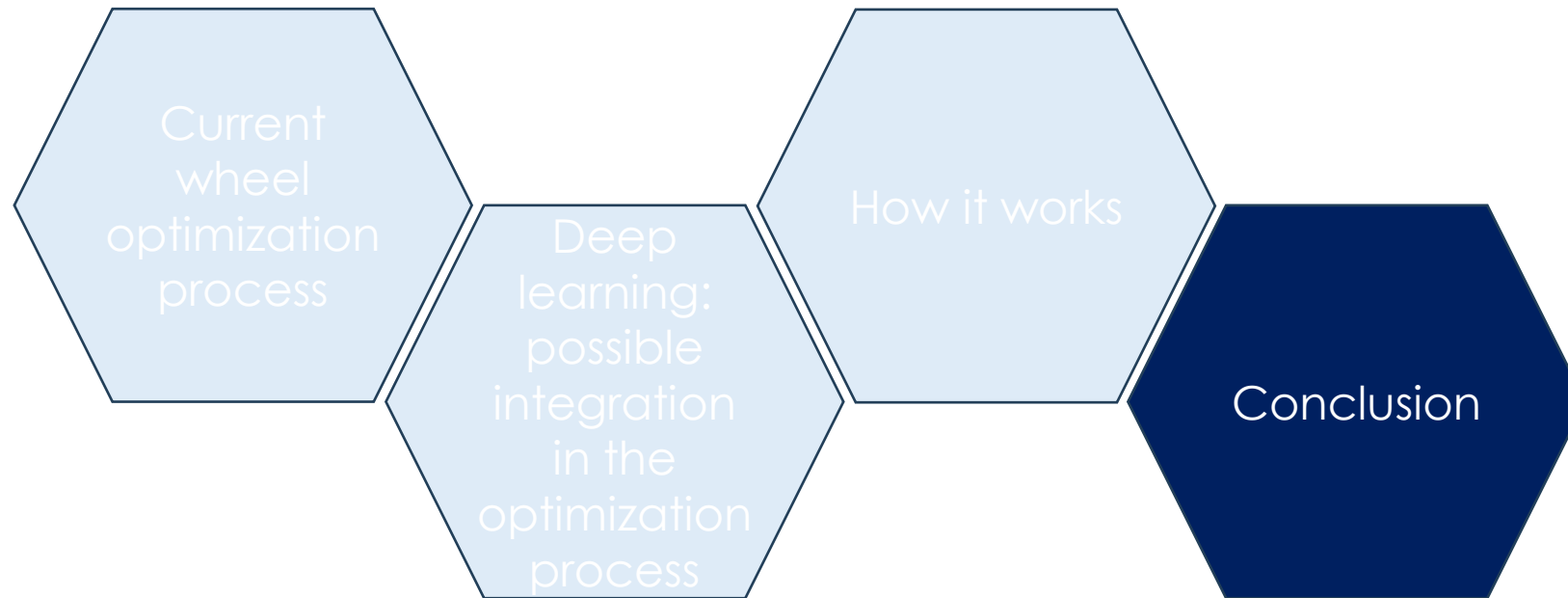
```
R 4.4.3 - C:/Users/ronco/Desktop/Dottorato/Project/R/Project3/ > print(top10_best)
```

	Disc_thick_mm	R20	R50	D40	H10	R80	D50	R90	P30	H20	D60	N_VH	D70	S_Nose	S_Voile									
45	344.3042	74.45283	5.981200	104488.3	45	5920240	3.5	90	10	265	50	350	305	10	4	10	390	16	40.5	309.7388	333.7233	6.197475	169154.4	4500
46	536.3772	242.04526	4.291642	145653.0	45	5920252	3.5	110	10	265	50	350	305	10	4	10	390	16	40.5	307.8734	331.6469	6.195110	168976.0	4500
47	409.2386	130.32626	4.995296	158965.6	45	5920249	3.5	105	10	265	50	350	305	10	4	10	390	16	40.5	308.1132	331.8962	6.191007	168748.0	4500
48	341.0740	74.05300	5.958545	164335.8	45	5920243	3.5	95	10	265	50	350	305	10	4	10	390	16	40.5	308.7985	332.6397	6.186961	168516.1	4500
49	536.5436	243.37946	4.293740	145246.2	45	5920246	3.5	100	10	265	50	350	305	10	4	10	390	16	40.5	308.3531	332.1455	6.200791	169433.1	4500
50	409.5963	130.88988	5.018739	158584.0	45	5759815	3.5	105	10	255	50	450	295	10	0	10	390	16	40.5	313.9729	334.8551	6.200254	169339.2	4500
	[reached 'max' / getOption("max.print") -- omitted 839					5759818	3.5	110	10	255	50	450	295	10	0	10	390	16	40.5	313.3429	333.9651	6.198191	169171.4	4500
						5766283	3.5	85	10	255	50	450	305	10	0	10	390	16	40.5	308.8117	332.8471			
						5611534	3.5	110	10	245	50	500	305	10	-4	10	390	16	40.5	309.9375	334.5363			
						5767093	3.5	85	10	255	50	500	305	10	0	10	390	16	40.5	308.7325	332.7714			
							S_VH	S_CP	Disc_weight_kg	Mean_surface_mm2	Mf													
						5920240	206.6668	192.8250	3.943109	171100.5	4500													
						5920252	203.8066	192.4606	3.943889	170995.6	4500													
						5920249	204.1254	192.5723	3.944731	171035.8	4500													
						5920243	205.1226	192.7769	3.945473	171103.5	4500													
						5920246	204.4441	192.6839	3.945572	171076.0	4500													
						5759815	215.0480	198.4892	3.966462	168923.5	4500													
						5759818	213.9201	198.7972	3.969777	168885.9	4500													
						5766283	208.6773	190.2588	3.972011	170784.1	4500													
						5611534	213.5945	187.6809	3.972623	170169.5	4500													
						5767093	208.8702	190.0281	3.974807	170758.0	4500													

ption("max.print") -- omitted 2138973 rows]

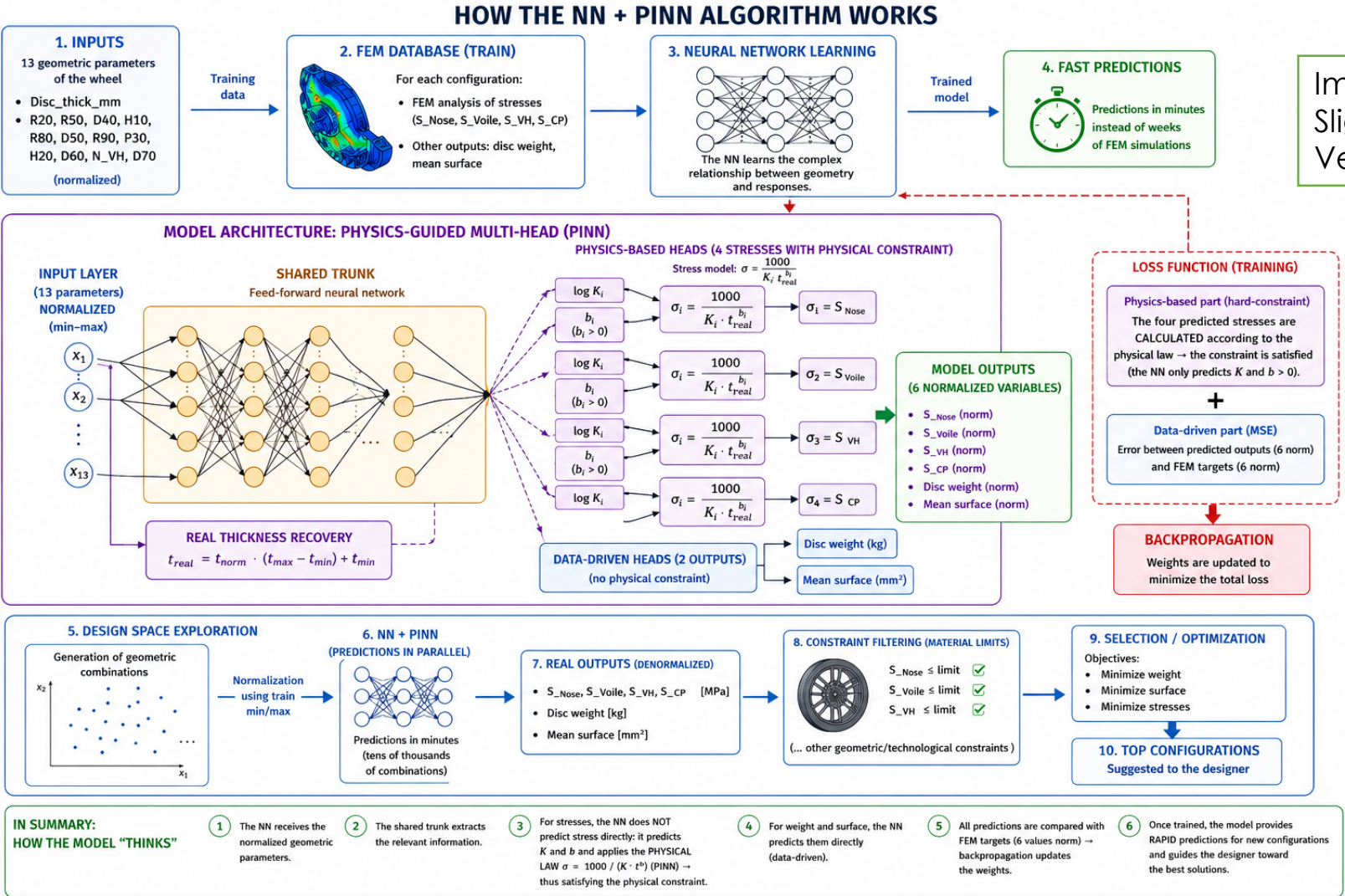


Topic



How to improve

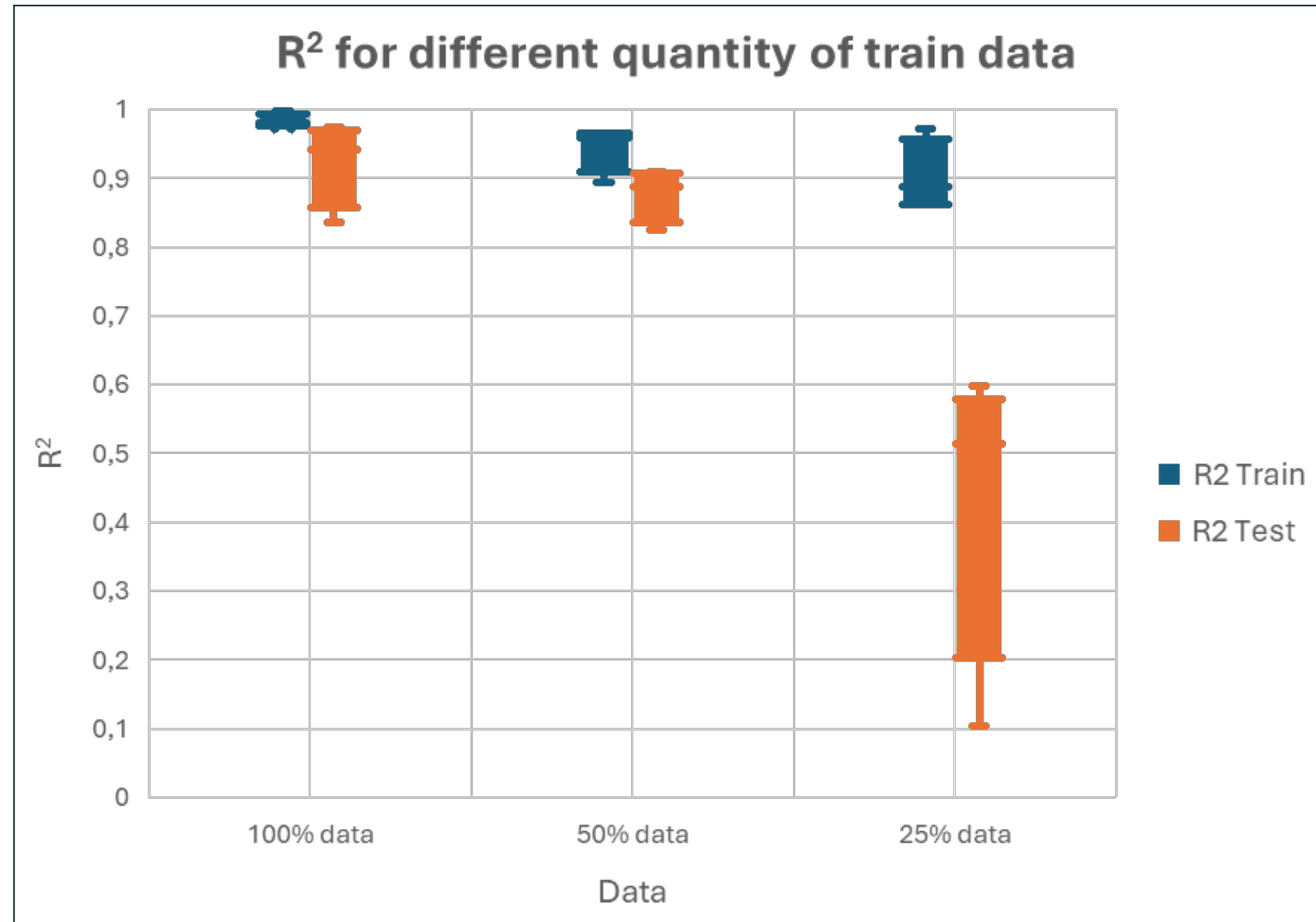
PINN (Physic Informed Neural Network)



How to improve

Increase the dataset

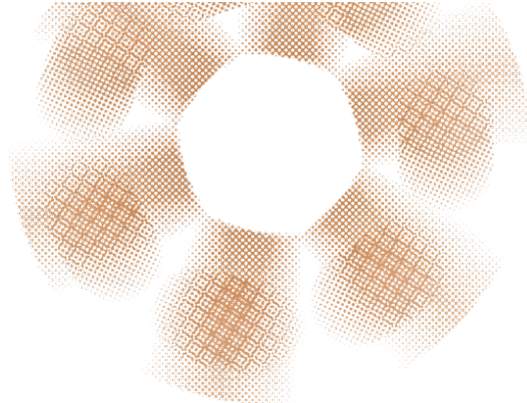
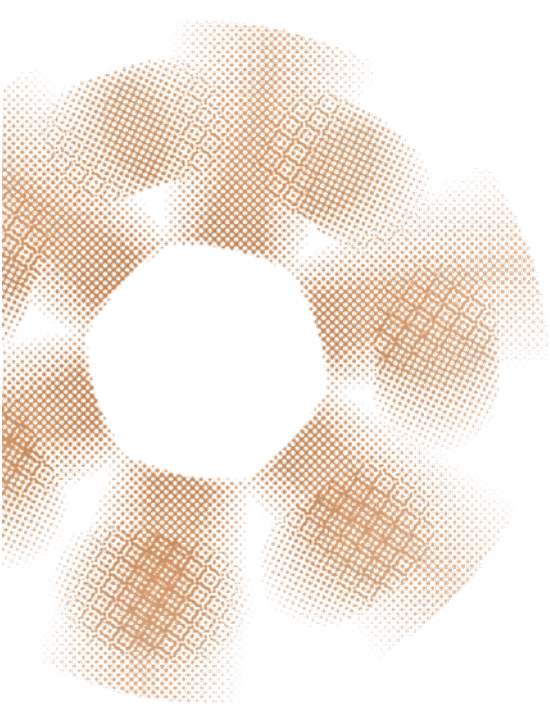
Increasing the training dataset, there is a huge improvement on reliability.



Conclusion

- The results in this study phase are very promising.
- The algorithm is able to autonomously select the optimal hyperparameters for the neural network training phase.
- Given the promising results, the implementation of a supervised Deep Learning algorithm could simplify and speed up the iterative optimization process of a wheel rim during the design phase.
- Once trained, the algorithm is capable of providing a vast number of solutions (10^5 – 10^6) in just a few minutes, making it possible to select the best one(s) according to the project requirements.





Thank you!

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