



Multiphysics Simulations in Automotive Product Development: Concept and Beyond

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**COMSOL
CONFERENCE
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AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Excerpt from the Proceedings of the 2012 COMSOL Conference in Milan



„Operate the direction indicator at the steering wheel!“



„Push buttons: with 4 on-off switches - for interior, instrument or fog lighting, radio, wiper, head lamp, etc.“

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Company's data

- 1912:** Foundation of parent company Leopold Kostal in Lüdenscheid
- 1973:** Start of activities in first plant abroad (Mexico)
- 1978:** Production of first automobile electronics
- 1983:** Start of mechatronics (first sensor systems)
- 2011:** Revenues: 1,623 bn €
Employees: 13.503 (73% abroad)
Subsidiaries in 17 countries on 3 continents

Business areas

KOSTAL Automotive Electrical Systems

Mechatronic modules
Electronic control units
Switch panels/switches



KOSTAL Industries

Connectors
Industrial Electronics
SOMA Test Systems

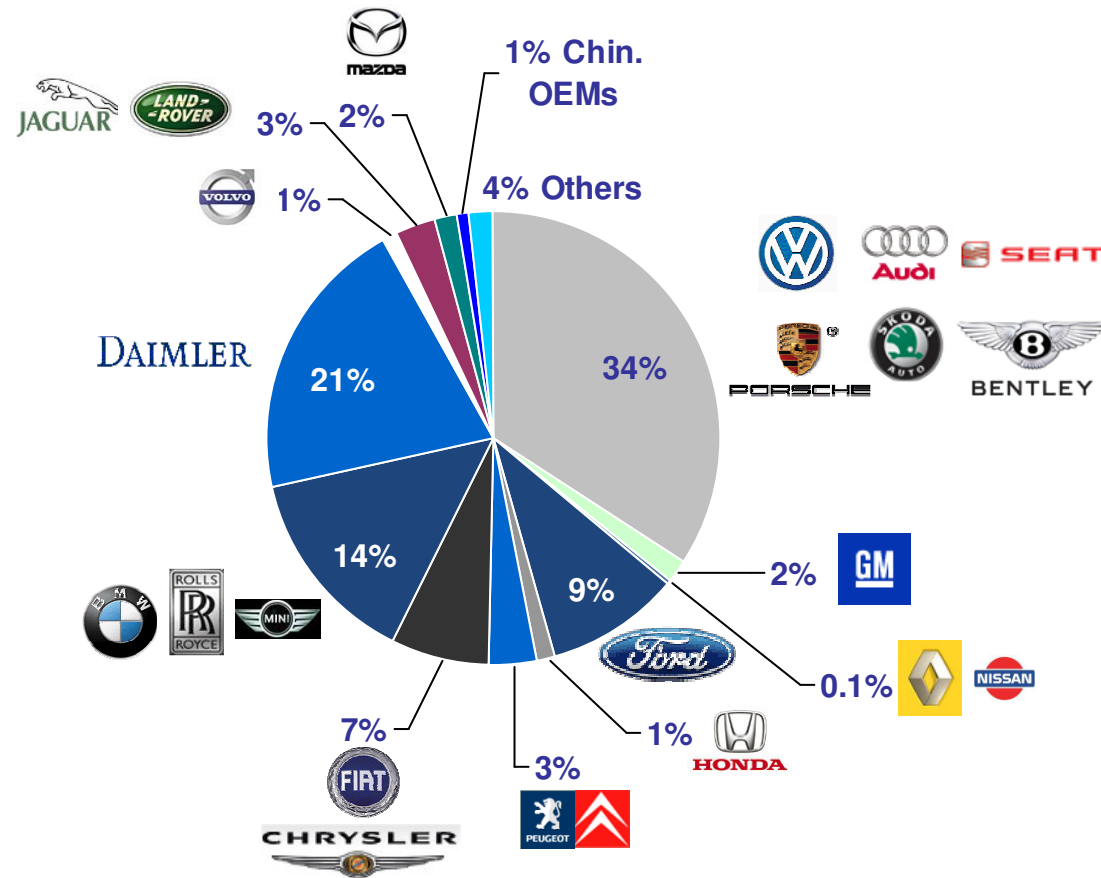


The KOSTAL Group is acting globally as a family-owned company.

KOSTAL Automotive Electrical Systems: Customers and Turnover 2010



The total global goods turnover achieved in the Business Area Automotive Electrical Systems was 1,2 bn €.

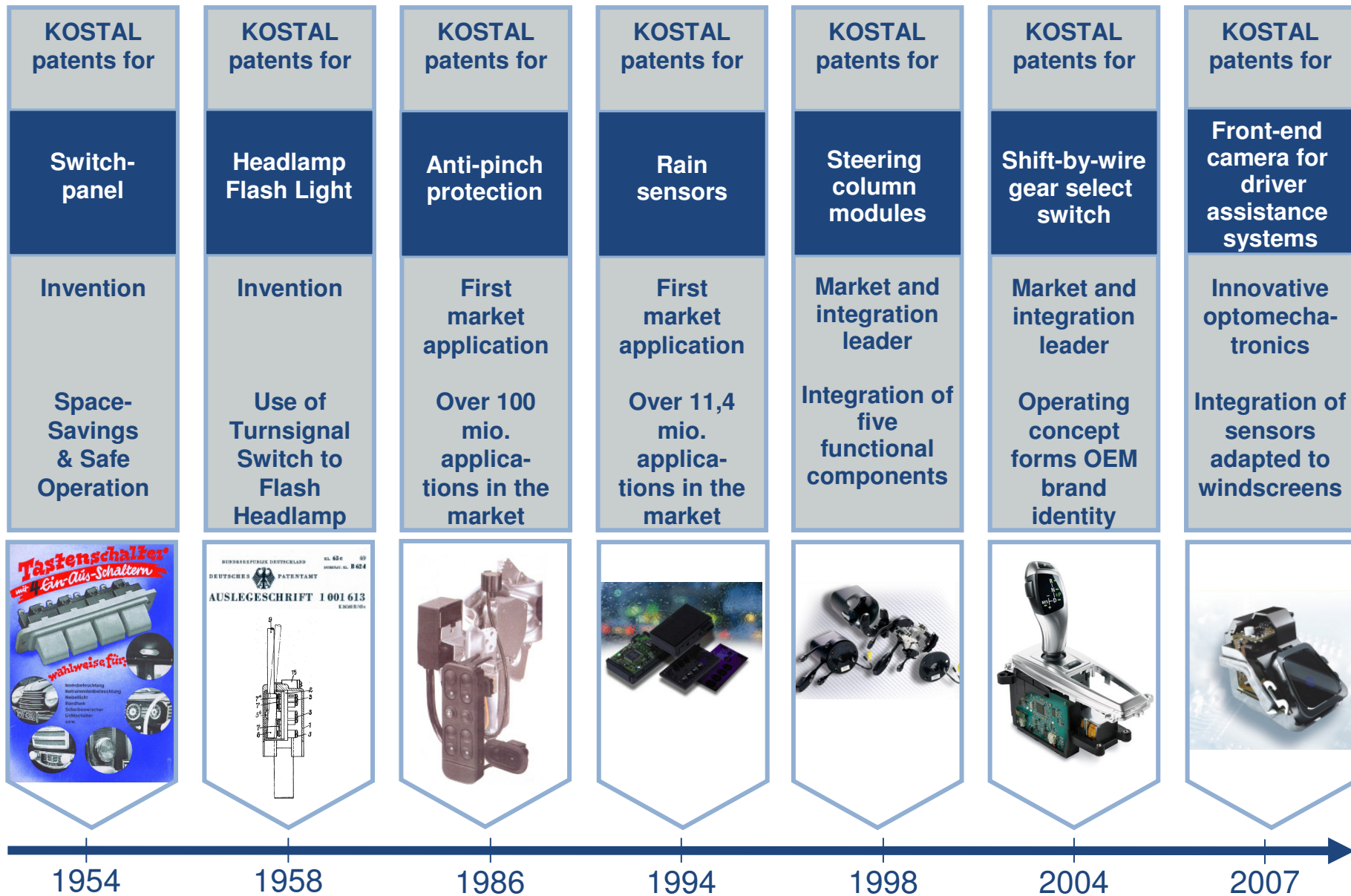


Quellen: AVP, HC [Real 2010]

Our customers' success is the basis for KOSTAL's success !

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KOSTAL Automotive Electrical Systems: Innovations and Impetus



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CPU – central microchip

- 1µC resp. 2µC system
- OSEK
- ready for AUTOSAR
- 1/2-CAN/LIN; Flexray

Steering angle sensor

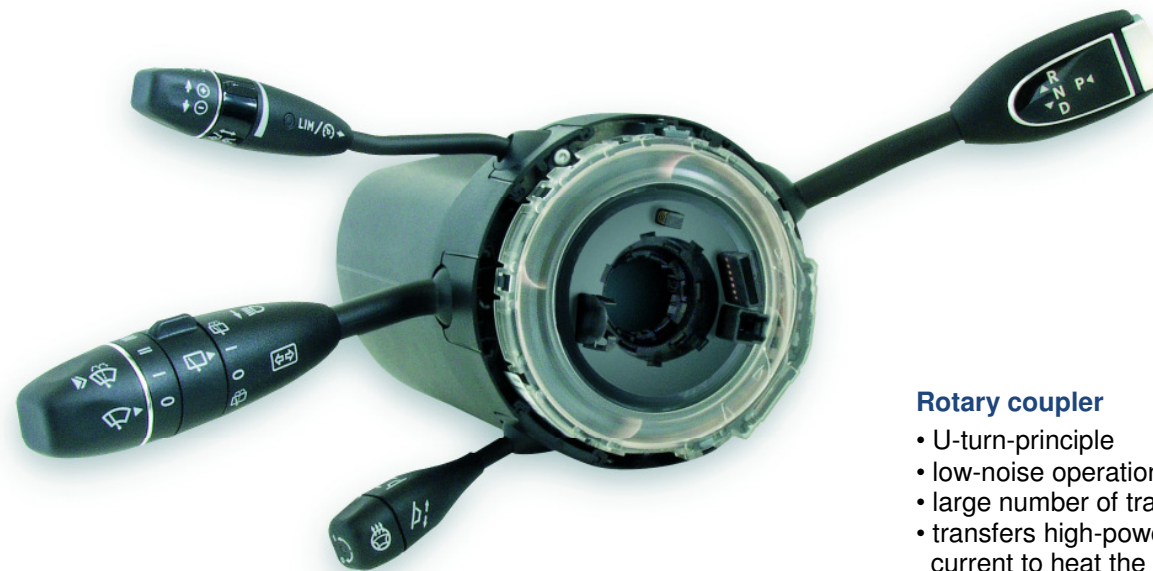
- non-contact, optic resp. magnetic
- absolute measurement
- resolution 0,1°
- SIL3 to IEC 61508

Gear selector switch

- switching system contactless, magnetic
- suitable for higher operation and abuse force requirements
- SIL2 according to IEC 61508

Latching system

- optimised free play
- ergonomic latching forces on customer request



Optical Switching

- no mechanical wear
- no effect on tactile feedback
- simple structures ensure high quality

Rotary coupler

- U-turn-principle
- low-noise operation
- large number of tracks
- transfers high-power electrical current to heat the steering wheel

From steering column switches to complete, integrated modules

The KOSTAL product range extends from combined steering column switches for compact cars, through to „high-end“ steering column modules for premium class vehicles. Scaled architectures provide platform functionalities across different vehicle ranges.

Light design

- innovative light design: optimal light distribution without direct or indirect glare
- modern tools for light simulation



Switches / surface design

- integration of premium switch elements for control of sun roof, interior lights and emergency call activation



Electronics

- high performance electronics with special software for pinch protection control and anti-theft alarm

Functional integration

- integrated anti-theft alarm sensorics
- passenger airbag off illumination
- integrated microphones for speech control and hands-off calling

Rain- / light- / fog - sensor

- ‚best in class‘- rain sensor functionality
- variable sensitivity selection
- integrated Light sensor
- integrated solar sensor
- integrated fog sensor

Driver assistance camera

- ‚smallest in class‘- foot print on wind shield
- maintenance-free, no-wind shield heating necessary
- integrated rain-/light sensor
- integrated solar sensor
- integrated fog sensor



Integrated functions in the vehicle roof

KOSTAL roof modules integrate various single components to a technical and logistical module. Design and production competencies in the fields of mechanics, electronics, software, lighting technology and simulation make KOSTAL a ideal partner for the development of such mechatronic modules.

Control elements / surfaces

- integration of high-level control elements to operate additional functions
- high level look and feel by leather- /ceramic- /metal surfaces

Position sensors

- non-contact Hall-Sensors
- SIL 2 to IEC 61508 (total system)



Patented 3D latching system

- optimum play
- fully configurable to the user's requirements
- monostable or latching
- individual force-level display



Function select / driver assistance

- drive position- and steptronic-mode
- end-stops/barriers can be configured according to the drive position
- actuator for automatic return from steptronic lane
- activation of sport mode

Installation in the vehicle

- assembly point in the centre console

Bus systems

- PT-CAN
- LIN
- redundant system in accordance with the required safety class

Shift-by-wire gear selector switches

The introduction of shift-by-wire gear selector switches in modern vehicles with automatic gearboxes is a trend which is now unstoppable. Their outstanding functionality and flexibility makes them superior to previous systems in in many respects. In addition this system gives the interior designer much greater scope in deciding the shape of the centre console.



COMSOL Multiphysics

- AC/DC
- Heat Transfer
- Optimization



Typical Use Cases

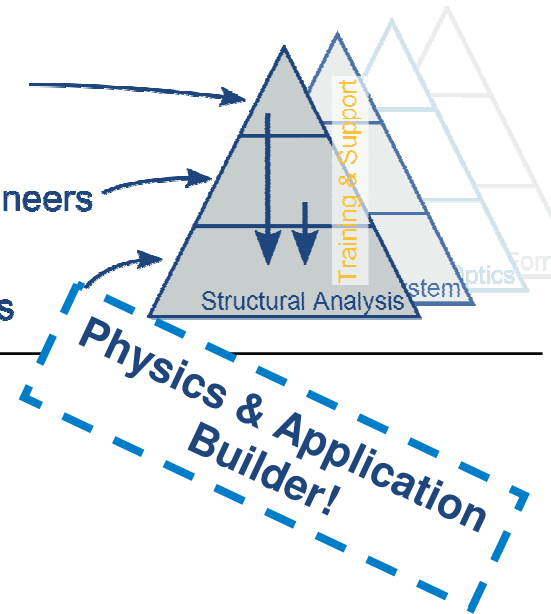
- **Mechanical FEA**
 - Use / Misuse Forces
 - Assembly Processes
 - (Flexible) Multi-Body-Simulations
- **Injection Moulding Simulation**
 - Filling
 - Pressure Distribution
 - Deformation
- **Optical Simulation**
 - Symbol Illumination
 - Light Guides
 - Reflectors
- **System Modelling**
 - Tolerance Analysis
- ...

- „Pyramid“-Organization
 - 3 Levels of expertise
 - Have as much as possible done by the design engineer
 - Medium and Expert level to support Base level

Expert Level:
Simulation Engineers

Medium Level:
Experienced Design Engineers

Base Level:
Trained Design Engineers



- Simulation experts
 - In-house service suppliers
 - Not member of project team, co-operate closely
 - Lots of different jobs, one hour to months
 - Simultaneously working on different jobs

▪ Credo: ~~Simulation~~ ⇒ *Special Design Task*

- *Special?*
 - Needs numerical methods
 - Requires expert knowledge
 - Requires special software
 - Involves optimization, iterative procedures etc.

- **Thermal Optimization**
 - Roof modules (high power LEDs)
 - High power electronics (high power density electronics)
 - Active heating eg. for sensor applications

not shown, sorry!

-
- **Capacitive Sensors**
 - **Coil Design and Optimization for Inductive Power Transfer**

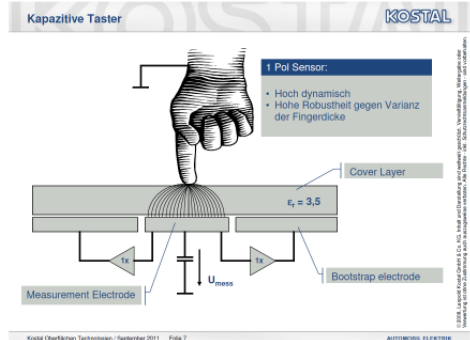


Functions, User Interfaces and Operating Concepts are transferred from Smartphones to Cars

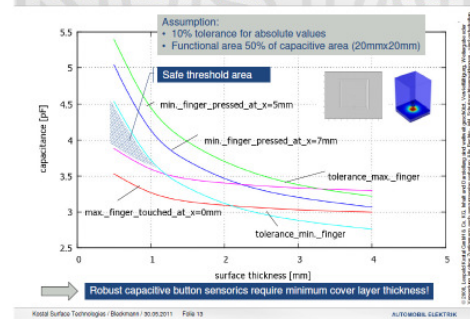
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Principle

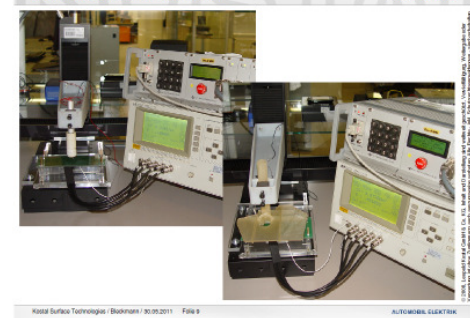
Touch



1P Sensor Threshold Definition Systematics

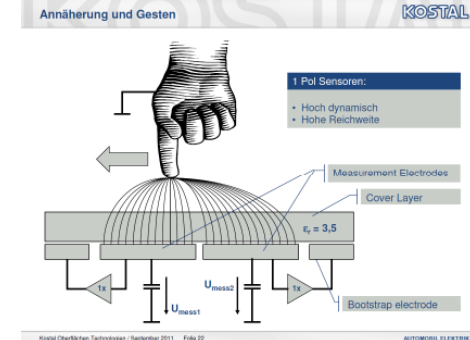


3D Test Jig for Sensor Verification

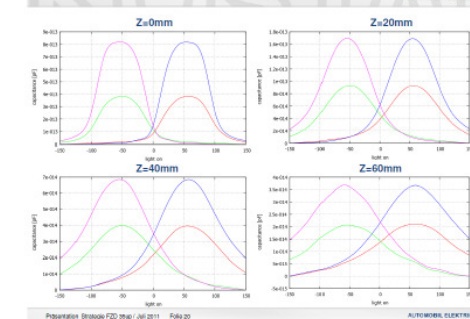


Simulation

Proximity / Gesture



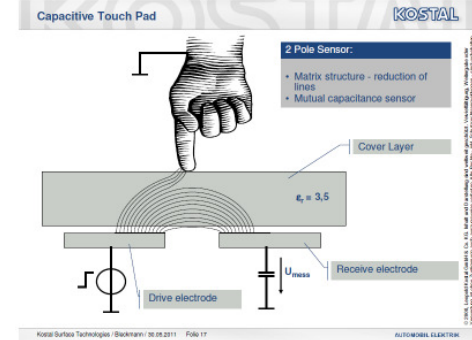
Touch Pad Multi Finger Gesture



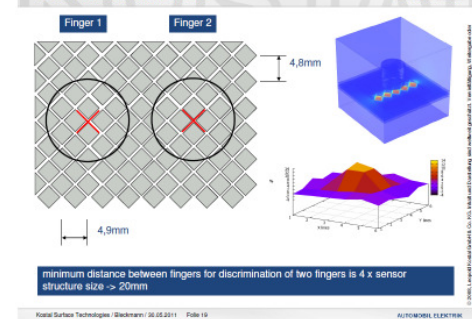
3D Test Jig for Sensor Verification



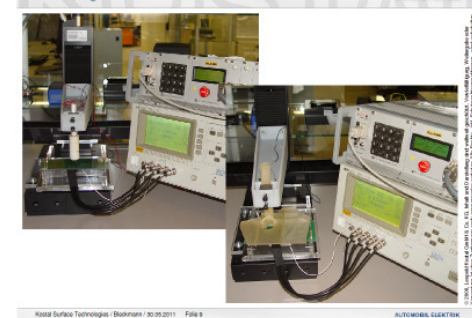
Touchpad



Touch Pad Multi Finger Gesture



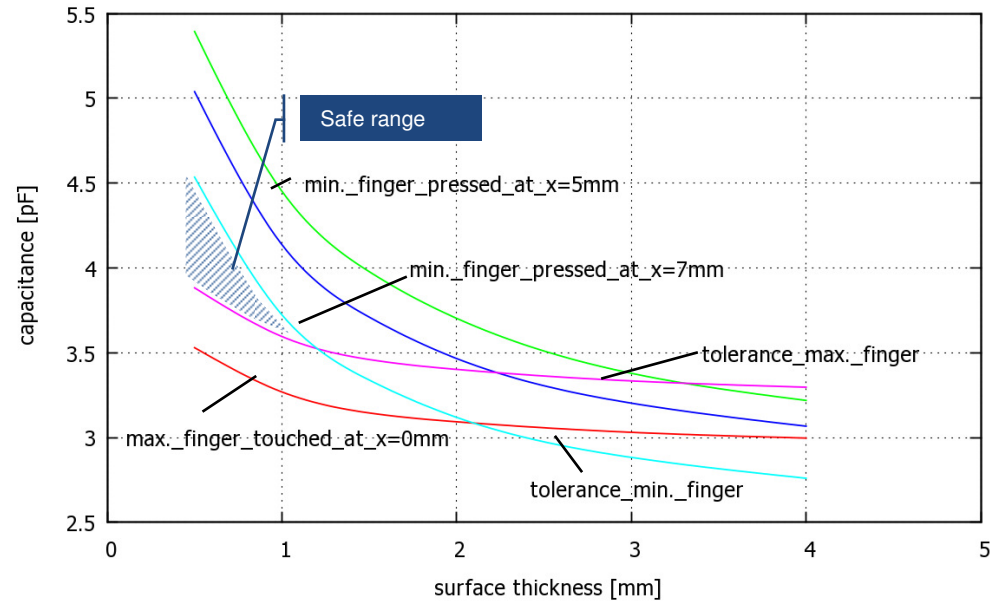
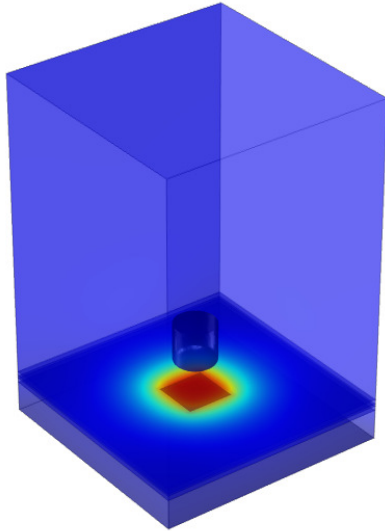
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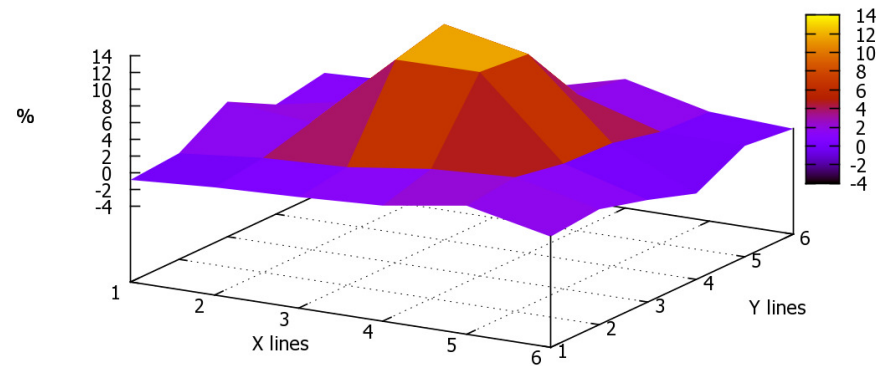
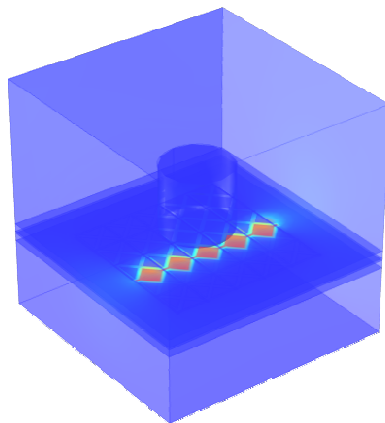
Verification

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Touch



Touchpad

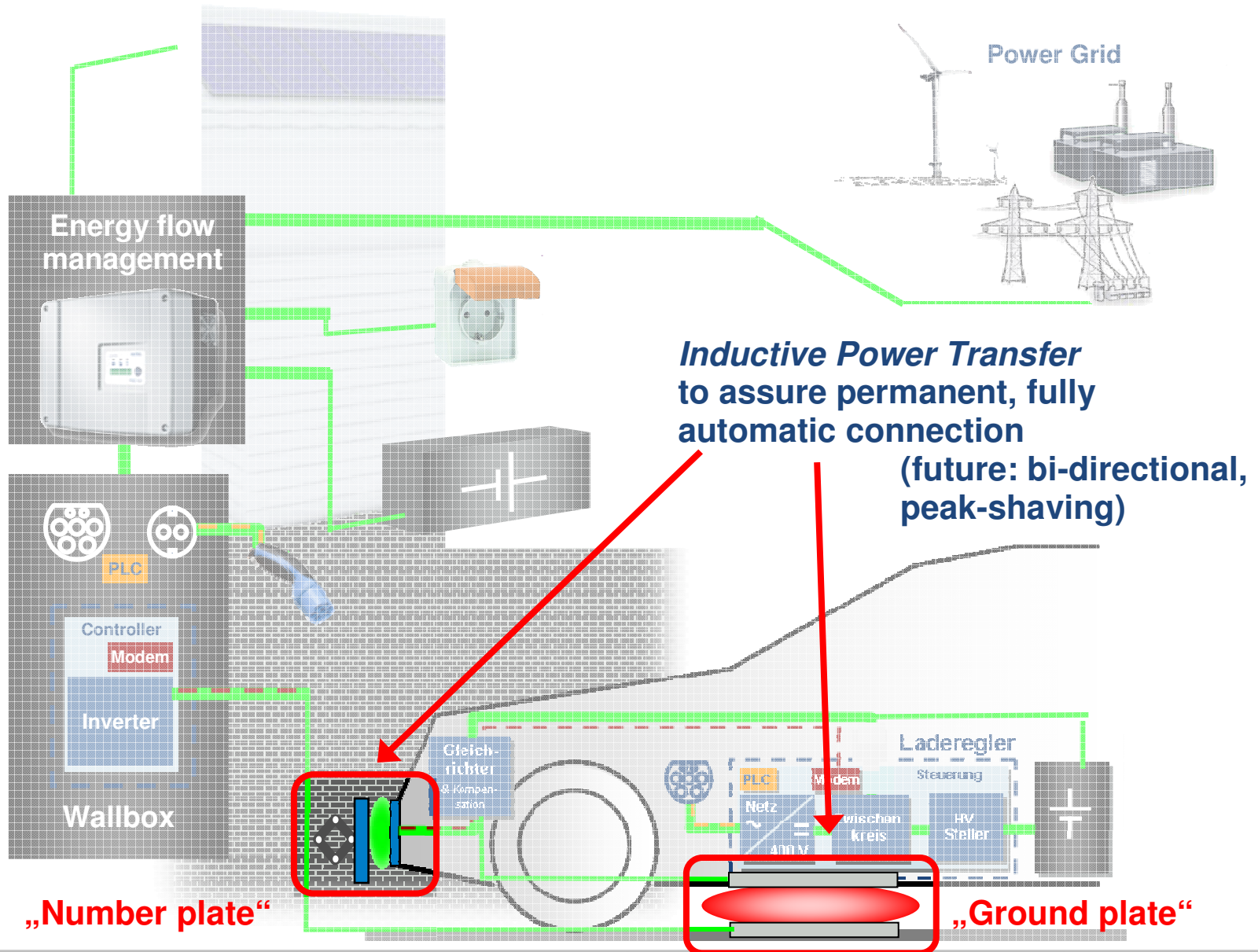


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- **Thermal Optimization**
 - Roof modules (high power LEDs)
 - High power electronics (high power density electronics)
 - Active heating eg. for sensor applications

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- **Capacitive Sensors**
 - **Coil Design and Optimization for Inductive Power Transfer**



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- **Requirements:**
 - 3.5 kW (7 kW, 21 kW?)
 - Safe & Reliable
 - Efficiency > 92%
 - Large positioning tolerances
 - Minimum mass
 - Low cost

- **Coil System**
 - Transformer with air gap
 - Low coupling
 - High stray field ⇒ high reactive power
 - 40 ... 150 kHz

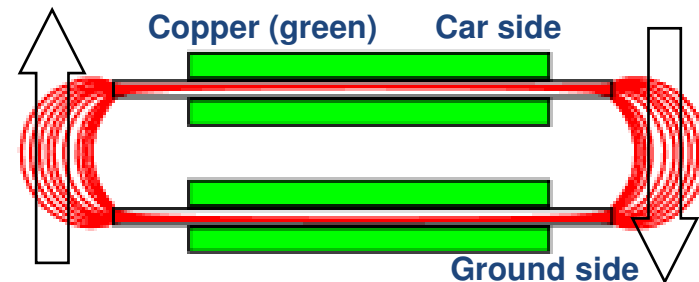
- **Electronics**
 - Primary side: 230V AC + rectifier + inverter
 - Secondary side: rectifier + 400V DC
 - Digitally controlled
 - No real-time communication between primary + secondary side!

- **Efficiency determined by losses:**
 - DC resistance, Skin and Proximity effects
 - Magnetization
 - Eddy currents in shielding and environment
 - Electronics (semiconductors)

Typical „Ground plate“ specifications:

- ca. 30 x 30 cm car side coil
- ca. 80 x 80 cm ground coil
- 10-15 cm air gap
- +/- 15 cm lateral tolerances
- 30° yaw angle

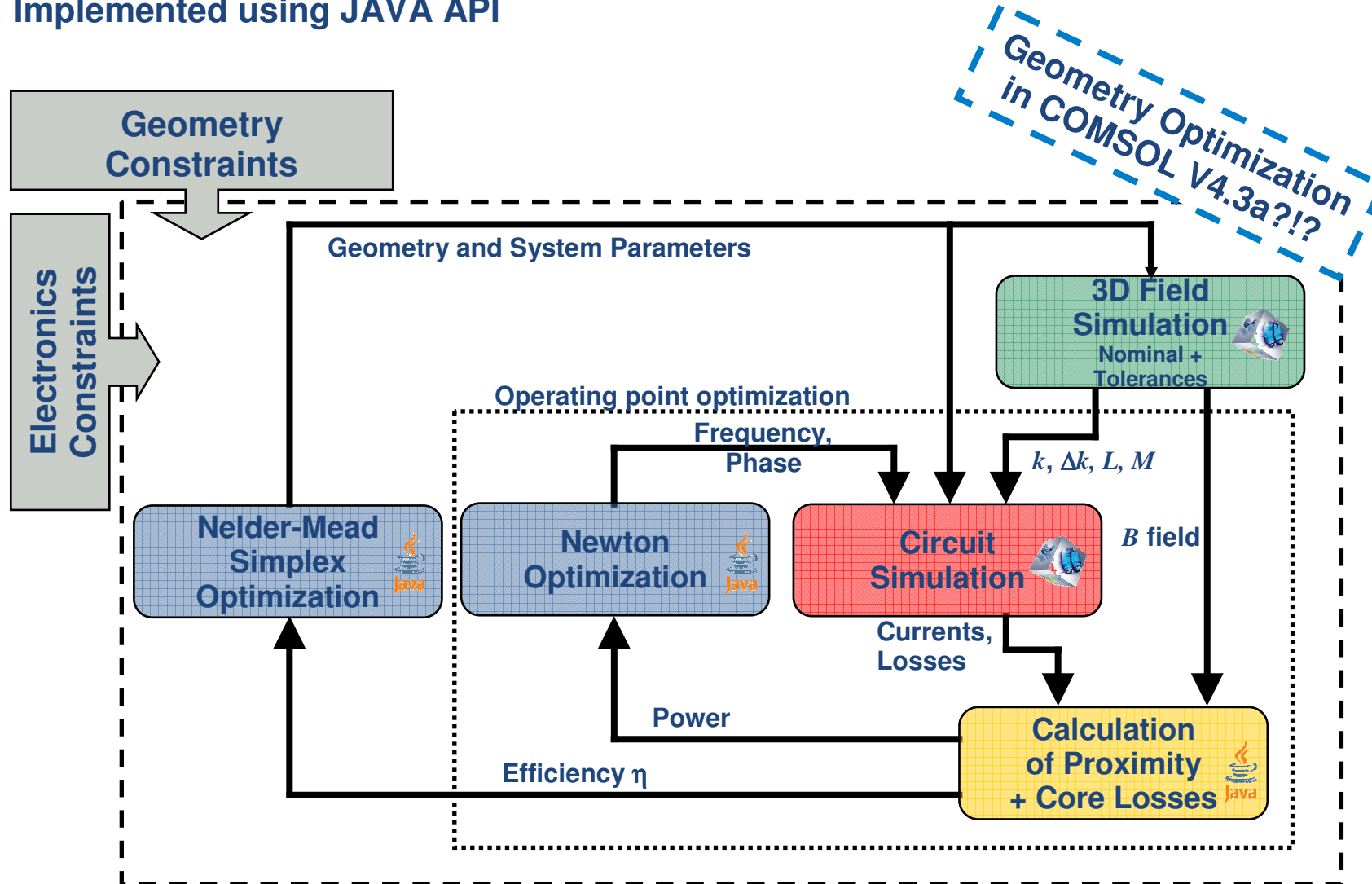
Typical „Ground plate“ design: magnetic quadrupol



Field Energy	$W_i = \frac{1}{2} \int \vec{H}_i \cdot \vec{B}_i dV,$	$i \in [1;2;12]$
Inductance	$L_i = \frac{2W_i}{I_i^2},$	$i \in [1;2]$
Mutual Inductance	$M = \frac{W_{12}}{I_1 I_2} - \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{I_1}{I_2} L_1 + \frac{I_2}{I_1} L_2 \right)$ $\stackrel{(I_1=I_2=I)}{=} \frac{W_{12}}{I^2} - \frac{L_1 + L_2}{2}$	
Coupling	$k = \frac{M}{\sqrt{L_1 L_2}}$	

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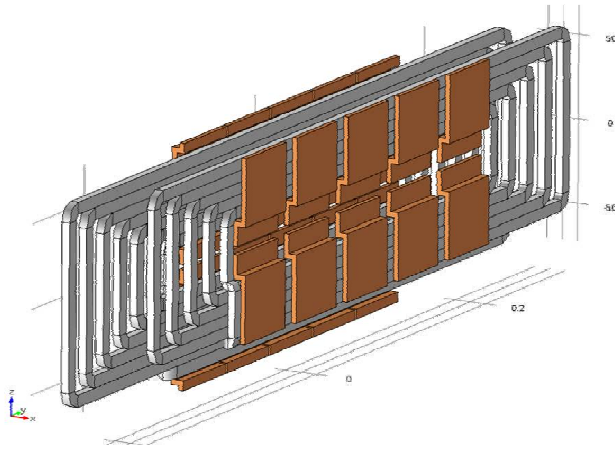
- Fully automatical numerical optimization of **system efficiency**
- Implemented using JAVA API



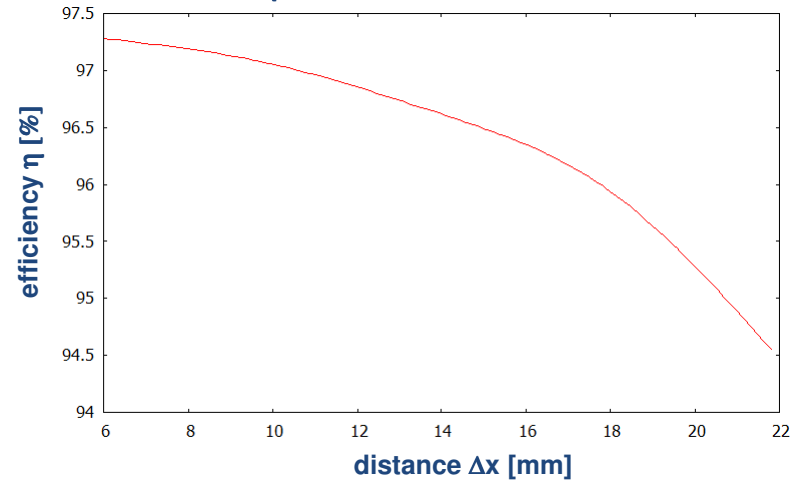
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Efficiency η : ca. 96,9 % in nominal position („DC-DC“ efficiency!)

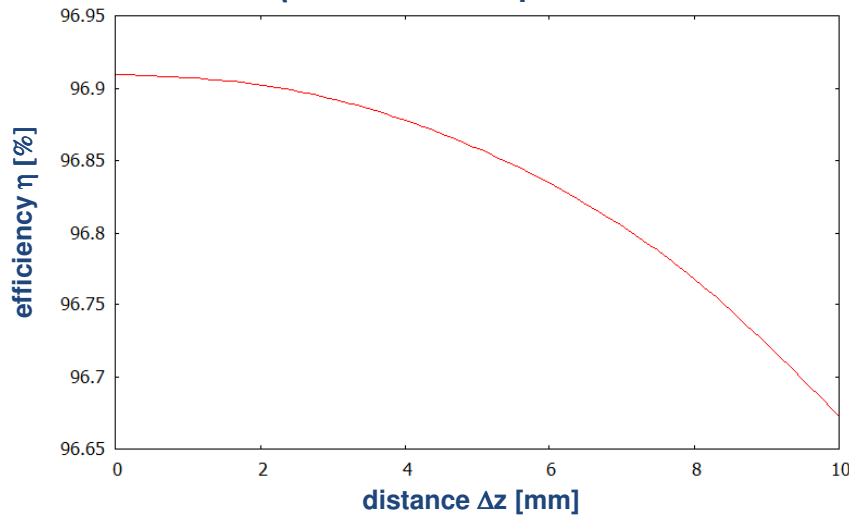
Design



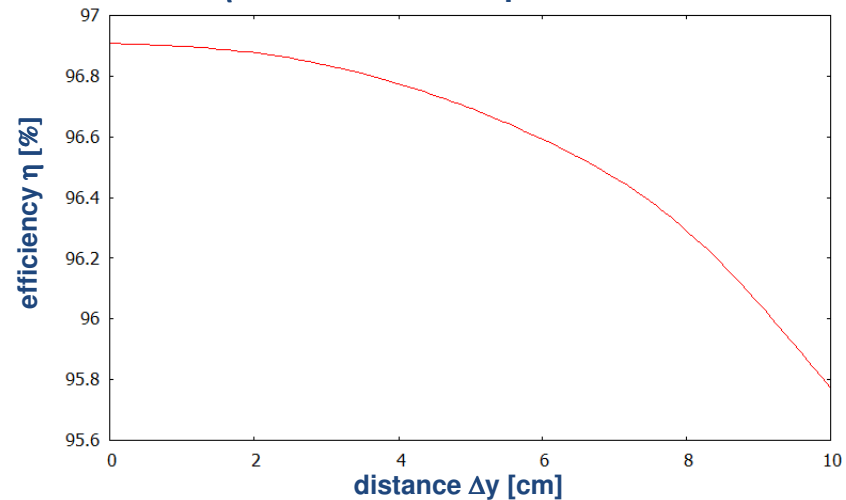
η vs. horizontal distance



η vs. vertical displacement



η vs. horizontal displacement



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Thank you for your attention!

**Credits: M. Bleckmann, D. Klagges,
C. Lexow, Dr. I. Münster,
Dr. S. Steinke, F. Wendland,
et. al.**

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