



Piezoceramic Tube

Introduction

This example involves a static 2D axisymmetric analysis of a piezoelectric actuator using the Piezoelectricity multiphysics interface. It models a radially polarized piezoelectric tube, as described by S. Peclamedu and co-authors ([Ref. 1](#)). An application area where radially polarized tubes are employed is in nozzles for fluid control in inkjet printers.

Model Definition

GEOMETRY

The tube has a height of 0.62 mm and an inner and outer radius of 0.38 mm and 0.62 mm, respectively. It is represented in an axisymmetric geometry by a single off-axis rectangle, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

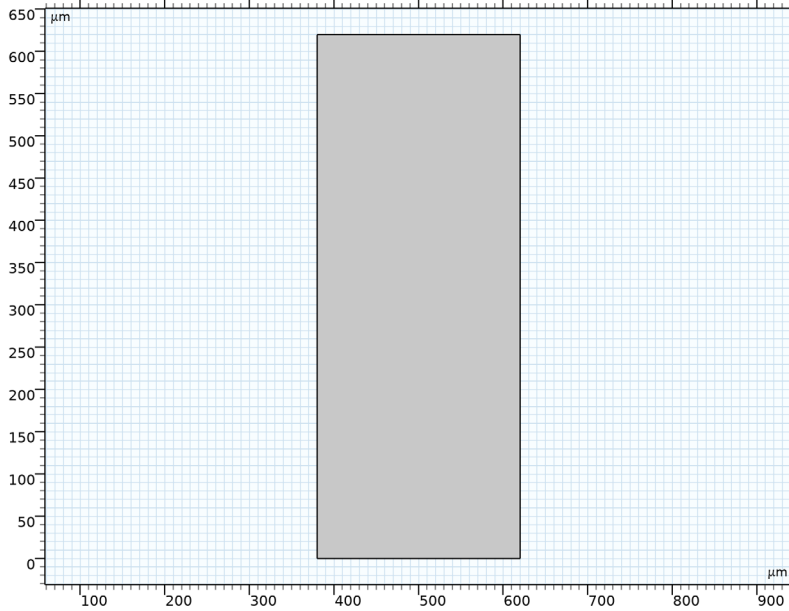


Figure 1: The axisymmetric geometry. Length units on x- and y-axes are shown in μm .

BOUNDARY CONDITIONS

The model studies two cases distinguished by different boundary conditions. Case 1 represents the direct piezoelectric effect, and Case 2 represents the inverse piezoelectric effect.

Case 1 — Direct Piezoelectric Effect:

- Structural mechanics boundary condition — constrain the bottom surface from moving axially (in the z direction), but also add an internal fluid pressure of 0.1 MPa.
- Electrostatics boundary condition — ground the inner and outer surfaces.

Case 2 — Inverse Piezoelectric Effect:

- Structural mechanics boundary condition — constrain the bottom surface from moving axially (in the z direction).
- Electrostatics boundary condition — apply a 1 V potential difference between the tube's inner and outer surfaces.

MATERIAL ORIENTATION

The material library data in COMSOL Multiphysics is entered in a form that assumes that the crystal polarization is aligned with the global coordinate z axis. For the radially polarized case treated in this model, the orientation must be rotated so that the material polarization direction is aligned with the r direction (radially polarized). To do so, specify the coordinate system in the Piezoelectric Material feature. By selecting the coordinate system as the predefined zx -plane system, you rotate the material so that its z direction is aligned with the r direction of the model, and the material's x direction is aligned with the model's z direction.

The piezoceramic material in this example (PZT-5H) is a transversely isotropic material, which is a special class of orthotropic materials. Such a material has the same properties in one plane (isotropic behavior) and different properties in the direction normal to this plane. Thus you can use either the zx -plane material orientation or the zy -plane material orientation; both give the same solution.

Results and Discussion

[Figure 2](#) shows the radial displacement due to the applied pressure in Case 1, and [Figure 3](#) shows the corresponding induced electric potential. Both the radial displacement and potential are shown along a cut line 300 μm above the base of the tube in [Figure 4](#) and [Figure 5](#), receptively.

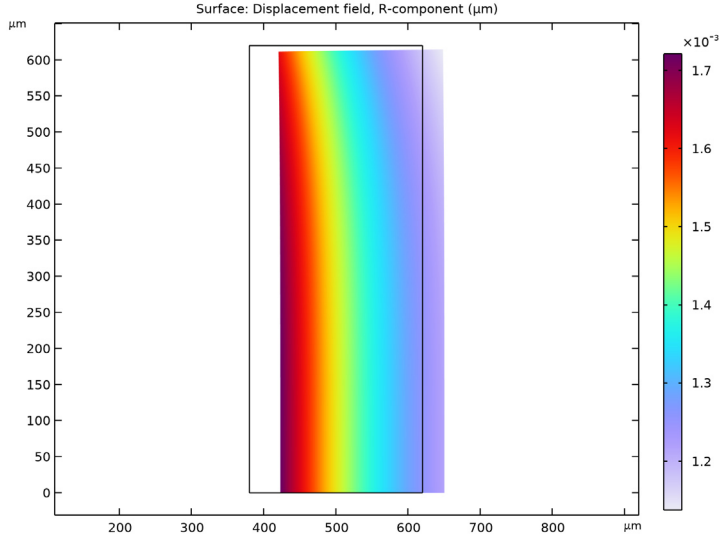


Figure 2: Deformed shape and radial displacement due to an internal pressure of 0.1 MPa (Case 1 — the direct piezoelectric effect).

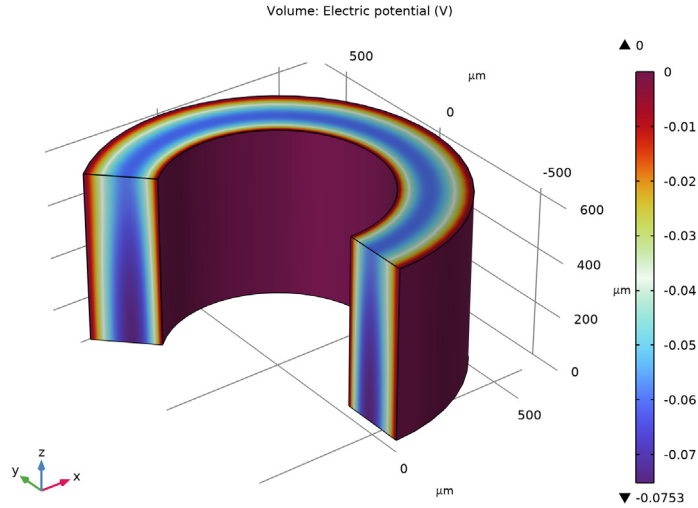


Figure 3: Induced electric potential within the deformed tube due to an internal pressure of 0.1 MPa (Case 1 — the direct piezoelectric effect).

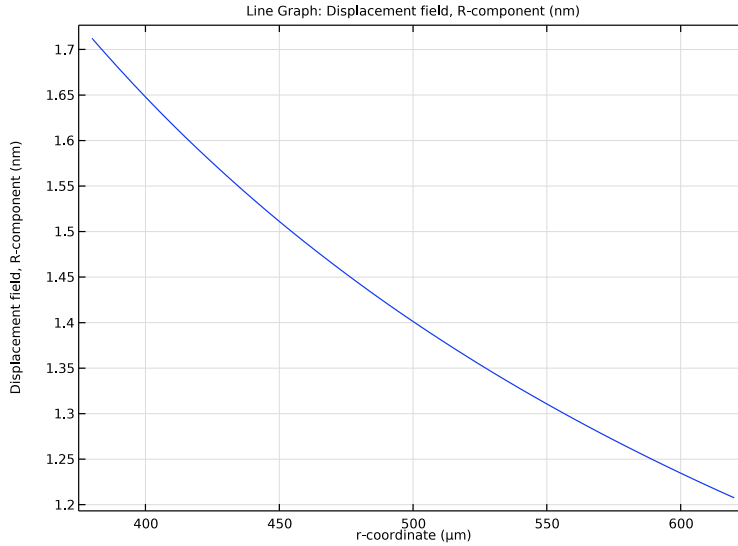


Figure 4: Radial displacement as a function of r -coordinate at a height of $300\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ above the base of the tube. The results are for Case 1 — the direct piezoelectric effect.

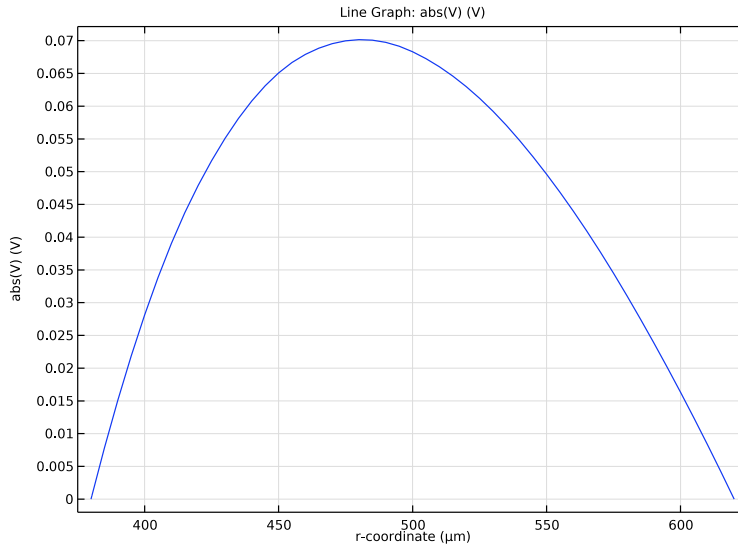


Figure 5: Electric potential as a function of r -coordinate at a height of $300\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ above the base of the tube. The results are for Case 1 — the direct piezoelectric effect.

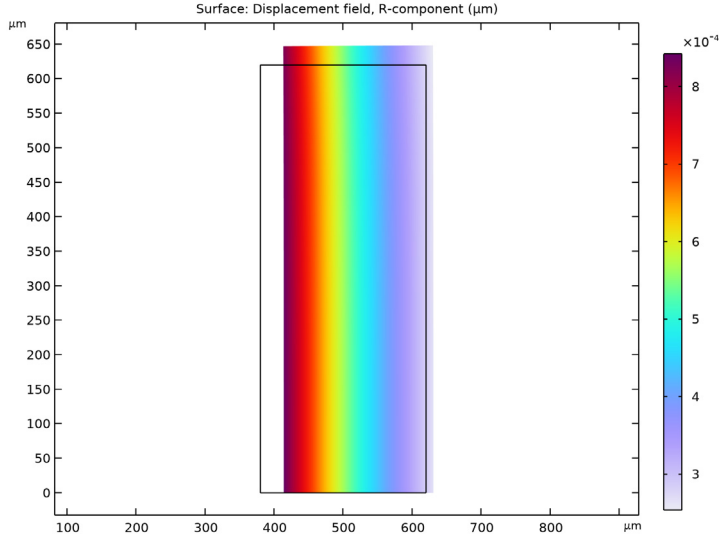


Figure 6: Deformed shape and radial displacement of the piezoceramic-tube actuator due to the radial electric field (Case 2 — Inverse Piezoelectric Effect).

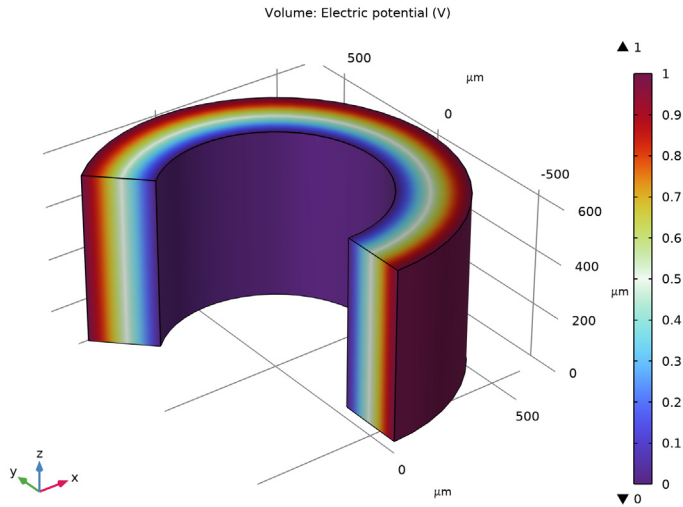


Figure 7: Electric potential applied to the tube to induce the displacements shown in Figure 6 (Case 2 — Inverse Piezoelectric Effect).

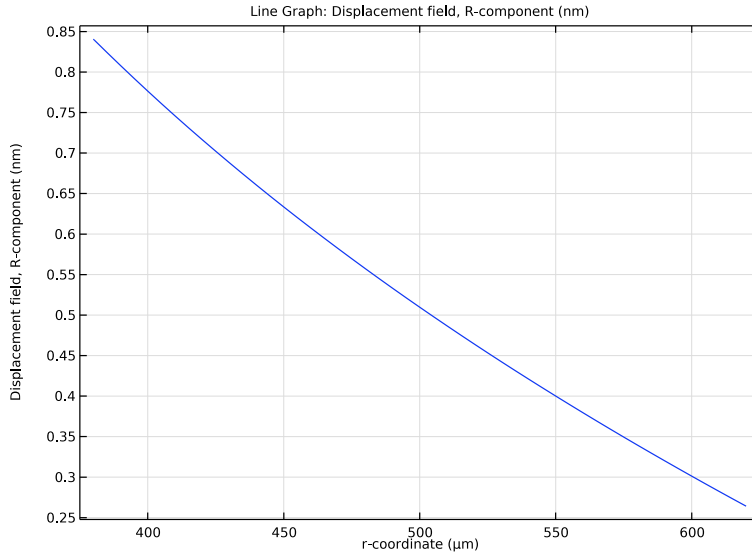


Figure 8: Radial displacement as a function of r -coordinate at a height of $300\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ above the base of the tube. The results are for Case 2 — the inverse piezoelectric effect.

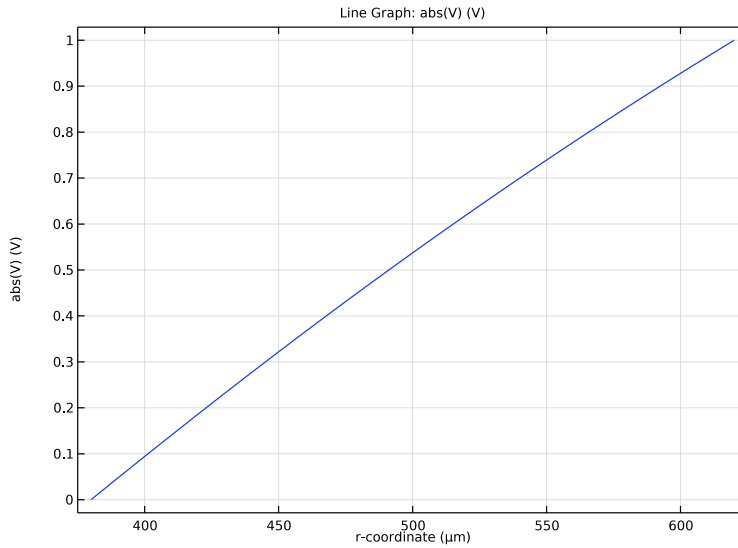


Figure 9: Electric potential as a function of r -coordinate at a height of $300\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ above the base of the tube. The results are for Case 2 — the inverse piezoelectric effect.

Figure 6 shows the radial displacement resulting from the applied potential shown in Figure 7. The radial displacement and potential are shown along a cut line 300 μm above the base of the tube in Figure 8 and Figure 9, respectively.

These results show good agreement with those from S. Peelamedu (Ref. 1).

Reference


1. S.M. Peelamedu, C.B. Kosaraju, R.V. Dukkipati, and N.G. Naganathan, “Numerical Approach for Axisymmetric Piezoceramic Geometries towards Fluid Control Applications”, *Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Part I: J. Systems and Control Engineering*, vol. 214, no. 2, pp. 87–97, 2000.

Application Library path: MEMS_Module/Piezoelectric_Devices/
piezoceramic_tube




Modeling Instructions

From the **File** menu, choose **New**.

NEW

In the **New** window, click  **Model Wizard**.

MODEL WIZARD

- 1 In the **Model Wizard** window, click  **2D Axisymmetric**.
- 2 In the **Select Physics** tree, select **Structural Mechanics>Electromagnetics–Structure Interaction>Piezoelectricity>Piezoelectricity, Solid**.
- 3 Click **Add**.
- 4 Click  **Study**.
- 5 In the **Select Study** tree, select **General Studies>Stationary**.
- 6 Click  **Done**.



GEOMETRY 1

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** click **Geometry 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Geometry**, locate the **Units** section.

- 3 From the **Length unit** list, choose **μm**.



Create the tube by adding an off-axis rectangle in the axisymmetric geometry.

Rectangle 1 (r1)

- 1 In the **Geometry** toolbar, click  **Rectangle**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Rectangle**, locate the **Size and Shape** section.
- 3 In the **Width** text field, type 240.
- 4 In the **Height** text field, type 620.
- 5 Locate the **Position** section. In the **r** text field, type 380.
- 6 Click  **Build All Objects**.

Add a PZT 5H to the model.

ADD MATERIAL

- 1 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Material** to open the **Add Material** window.
- 2 Go to the **Add Material** window.
- 3 In the tree, select **Piezoelectric>Lead Zirconate Titanate (PZT-5H)**.
- 4 Click **Add to Component** in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Material** to close the **Add Material** window.

SOLID MECHANICS (SOLID)

Piezoelectric Material 1


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)>Solid Mechanics (solid)** click **Piezoelectric Material 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Piezoelectric Material**, locate the **Coordinate System Selection** section.
- 3 From the **Coordinate system** list, choose **Material ZX-plane System (comp1_zx_sys)**.

By selecting the material orientation as the *zx*-plane, you rotate the material so that its *z* direction is aligned with the *r* direction of the model, and the material's *x* direction is aligned with the model's *z* direction.

This example comprises two studies: the direct effect and inverse effect. All loadings for both studies are defined together and then a selection of relevant features will be done in the study settings.


Add a pressure follower load to the inner surface of the cylinder.

Boundary Load 1

- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Boundary Load**.
- 2 Select Boundary 1 only.
- 3 In the **Settings** window for **Boundary Load**, locate the **Force** section.
- 4 From the **Load type** list, choose **Pressure**.
- 5 In the p text field, type 0.1 [MPa].

Constrain the lower surface of the tube with a roller boundary condition.

Roller 1


- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Roller**.
- 2 Select Boundary 2 only.

ELECTROSTATICS (ES)

Ground both the inner and outer surfaces of the cylinder.


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Component 1 (comp1)** click **Electrostatics (es)**.

Ground 1

- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Ground**.
- 2 Select Boundaries 1 and 4 only.

Add an electric potential feature on the outer boundary. This will override the existing **Ground** feature.

Electric Potential 1

- 1 In the **Physics** toolbar, click  **Boundaries** and choose **Electric Potential**.
- 2 Select Boundary 4 only.
- 3 In the **Settings** window for **Electric Potential**, locate the **Electric Potential** section.
- 4 In the V_0 text field, type 1.

MESH 1

Create a mapped mesh.


Mapped 1

- 1 In the **Mesh** toolbar, click  **Mapped**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Mapped**, click  **Build All**.

STUDY 1

The first study simulates the direct effect. All mechanical loads are kept and the electric potential feature is disabled in solver settings. It is automatically replaced by the ground feature that was previously overridden.

Step 1: Stationary

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 1** click **Step 1: Stationary**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Stationary**, locate the **Physics and Variables Selection** section.
- 3 Select the **Modify model configuration for study step** check box.
- 4 In the tree, select **Component 1 (comp1)>Electrostatics (es)>Electric Potential 1**.
- 5 Right-click and choose **Disable**.
- 6 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Compute**.


RESULTS

Radial Displacement (Direct Effect)

The default plot groups show stress in the tube and the induced electric potential. Adapt these for comparison with [Ref. 1](#). First replace stress plot by radial displacement.

- 1 In the **Settings** window for **2D Plot Group**, type Radial Displacement (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Surface 1

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Radial Displacement (Direct Effect)** node, then click **Surface 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Surface**, click **Replace Expression** in the upper-right corner of the **Expression** section. From the menu, choose **Component 1 (comp1)>Solid Mechanics>Displacement>Displacement field - m>u - Displacement field, R-component**.
- 3 In the **Radial Displacement (Direct Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.

Stress, 3D (Direct Effect)


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Stress, 3D (solid)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type Stress, 3D (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Electric Potential (Direct Effect)



- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Electric Potential (es)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **2D Plot Group**, type Electric Potential (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Electric Potential, 3D (Direct Effect)


Change the dataset of the potential plot in order to see a 3D cut view of the potential.

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Electric Potential, Revolved Geometry (es)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type Electric Potential, 3D (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.
- 3 In the **Electric Potential, 3D (Direct Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.
Create a cross section through the geometry to use for line plots of the electric potential and displacement.


Cut Line 2D 1

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **Cut Line 2D**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Cut Line 2D**, locate the **Line Data** section.
- 3 In row **Point 1**, set **r** to 380 and **z** to 300.
- 4 In row **Point 2**, set **r** to 620 and **z** to 300.
Visualize the cross section line.
- 5 Click  **Plot**.
Add line plots of the radial displacement and the potential along the cross section.

Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)

- 1 In the **Results** toolbar, click  **1D Plot Group**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **1D Plot Group**, type Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Line 2D 1**.

Line Graph 1

- 1 Right-click **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)** and choose **Line Graph**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Line Graph**, click **Replace Expression** in the upper-right corner of the **y-Axis Data** section. From the menu, choose **Component 1 (comp1)>Solid Mechanics>Displacement>Displacement field - m>u - Displacement field, R-component**.
- 3 Locate the **y-Axis Data** section. From the **Unit** list, choose **nm**.
- 4 Locate the **x-Axis Data** section. From the **Parameter** list, choose **Expression**.
- 5 In the **Expression** text field, type **r**.
- 6 In the **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.


Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)

In the **Model Builder** window, right-click **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)** and choose **Duplicate**.



Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect)

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect) I**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, type Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Line Graph I

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect)** node, then click **Line Graph I**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Line Graph**, locate the **y-Axis Data** section.
- 3 In the **Expression** text field, type $\text{abs}(V)$.
- 4 In the **Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.
Finally add a new study to compute the results for the inverse effect.



ADD STUDY

- 1 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Study** to open the **Add Study** window.
- 2 Go to the **Add Study** window.
- 3 Find the **Studies** subsection. In the **Select Study** tree, select **General Studies>Stationary**.
- 4 Click **Add Study** in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Add Study** to close the **Add Study** window.

STUDY 2

The second study simulates the inverse effect. All electrical loads are kept and the pressure load feature is disabled in solver settings. It is automatically replaced by the **Free** boundary feature that was previously overridden.

Step 1: Stationary


- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Study 2** click **Step 1: Stationary**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Stationary**, locate the **Physics and Variables Selection** section.
- 3 Select the **Modify model configuration for study step** check box.
- 4 In the tree, select **Component 1 (comp1)>Solid Mechanics (solid)>Boundary Load 1**.
- 5 Click  **Disable**.
- 6 In the **Home** toolbar, click  **Compute**.

RESULTS

Radial Displacement (Inverse Effect)

In the **Settings** window for **2D Plot Group**, type Radial Displacement (Inverse Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Surface 1

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, expand the **Radial Displacement (Inverse Effect)** node, then click **Surface 1**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Surface**, click **Replace Expression** in the upper-right corner of the **Expression** section. From the menu, choose **Component 1 (comp1)>Solid Mechanics>Displacement>Displacement field - $m > u$ - Displacement field, R-component**.
- 3 In the **Radial Displacement (Inverse Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.


Stress, 3D (Inverse Effect)

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Stress, 3D (solid)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, type Stress, 3D (Inverse Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Electric Potential (Inverse Effect)

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Electric Potential (es)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **2D Plot Group**, type Electric Potential (Inverse Effect) in the **Label** text field.

Electric Potential, 3D (Inverse Effect)

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Electric Potential, Revolved Geometry (es)**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **3D Plot Group**, locate the **Data** section.
- 3 From the **Dataset** list, choose **Revolution 2D 2**.
- 4 In the **Label** text field, type Electric Potential, 3D (Inverse Effect).
- 5 In the **Electric Potential, 3D (Inverse Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.

Create a second **Cut Line 2D** for the new solution.

Cut Line 2D 1

In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results>Datasets** right-click **Cut Line 2D 1** and choose **Duplicate**.

Cut Line 2D 2

- 1 In the **Model Builder** window, click **Cut Line 2D 2**.
- 2 In the **Settings** window for **Cut Line 2D**, locate the **Data** section.

3 From the **Dataset** list, choose **Study 2/Solution 2 (sol2)**.

Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)


In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** right-click **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect)** and choose **Duplicate**.

Radial Displacement, Cut (Inverse Effect)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Radial Displacement, Cut (Direct Effect) I**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, type Radial Displacement, Cut (Inverse Effect) in the **Label** text field.

3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Line 2D 2**.

4 In the **Radial Displacement, Cut (Inverse Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.

Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect)

In the **Model Builder** window, right-click **Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect)** and choose **Duplicate**.

Voltage, Cut (Inverse Effect)

1 In the **Model Builder** window, under **Results** click **Voltage, Cut (Direct Effect) I**.

2 In the **Settings** window for **ID Plot Group**, type Voltage, Cut (Inverse Effect) in the **Label** text field.

3 Locate the **Data** section. From the **Dataset** list, choose **Cut Line 2D 2**.

4 In the **Voltage, Cut (Inverse Effect)** toolbar, click  **Plot**.

