

Joint Universities Accelerator School

JUAS 2025

18. – 24. February 2025

Normal-conducting accelerator magnets

Case study: FEMM tutorial



Thomas Zickler

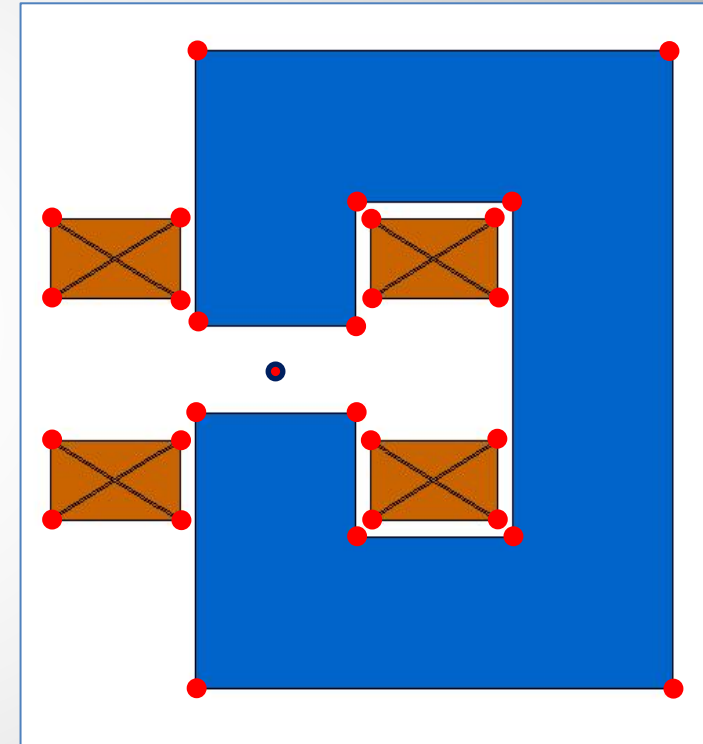
CERN



Results from Analytical Design

For the computer work with FEMM, you will need the following magnet parameters:

- Aperture height
- Pole width (as small as possible)
- Yoke dimensions (horizontal and vertical)
- Coil window width and height
- Coil dimensions (width and height)
- Coil position
- Coil excitation (ampere-turns)



Hint: prepare a sketch identifying the key-point coordinates (x/y) wrt the beam axis





How to follow this tutorial...

- You are supposed to follow this tutorial “**live**” by working directly in FEMM
- Supporting material (BH-curve, FEMM-examples, written tutorial) can be found in the .zip file on the [Indico page](#) of this course
- In case of questions, please let us know
- If you got lost or stuck, please let us know
- However, you can always:
 - get help from these slides using the 3 provided samples
 - consult the “Case study FEMM tutorial 2025.pdf”
 - read the official FEMM manual on [FEMM wiki page](#)
- Please note that the magnet parameters (dimensions, ampere-turns, etc) in this tutorial will be different from your magnet parameters



Introduction



2D Numerical calculations with FEMM:

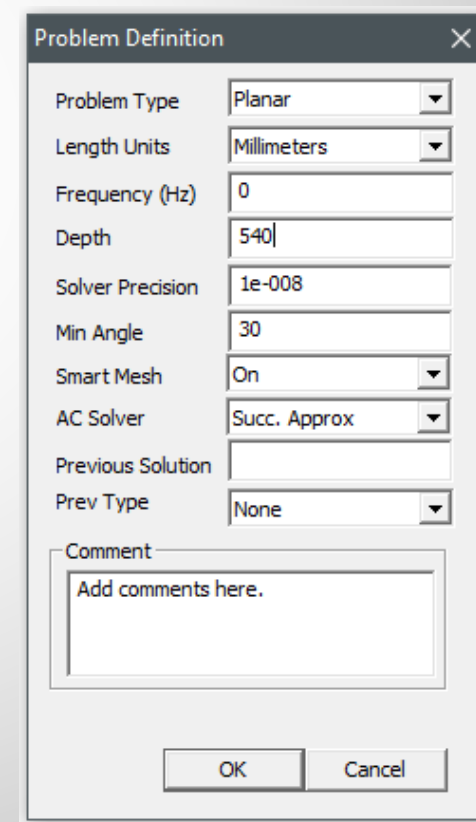
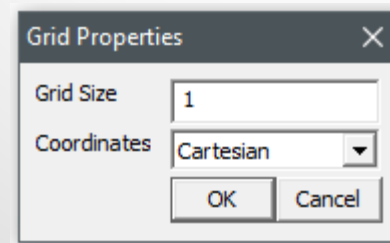
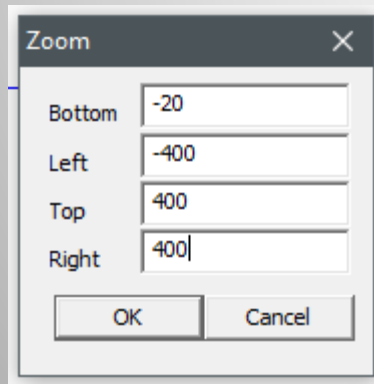
- FEMM: 2D FE code for magnetics, electrostatic, heat flow and current flow problems with graphical pre- and post-processors
- Licensed under the terms of the [Aladdin Free Public License](#)
- Input via GUI or scripts (Lua or Octave scripting engine) or .dxf import
- More info (wiki) and download from the web:
<http://www.femm.info/wiki/HomePage>



Get Started



- Download, install and run the FEMM application
- *Create a new problem (Magnetics Problem)*
- Define problem type, units and model parameters in *Problem Definition*
- Select *view*, select *grid size* and *Snap to grid*
- *Save under “Case study example.FEM”*

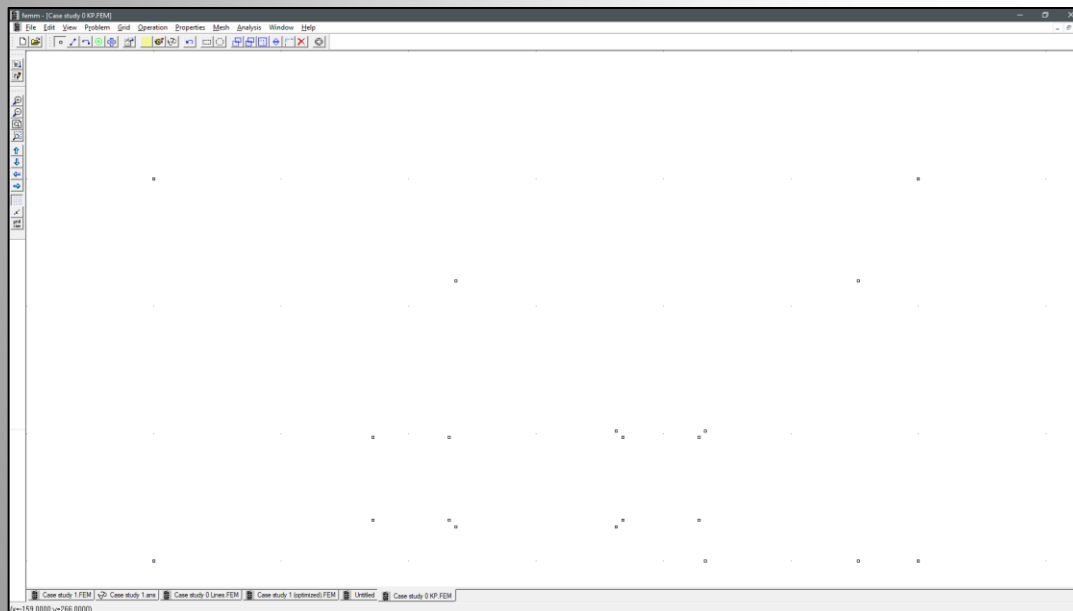




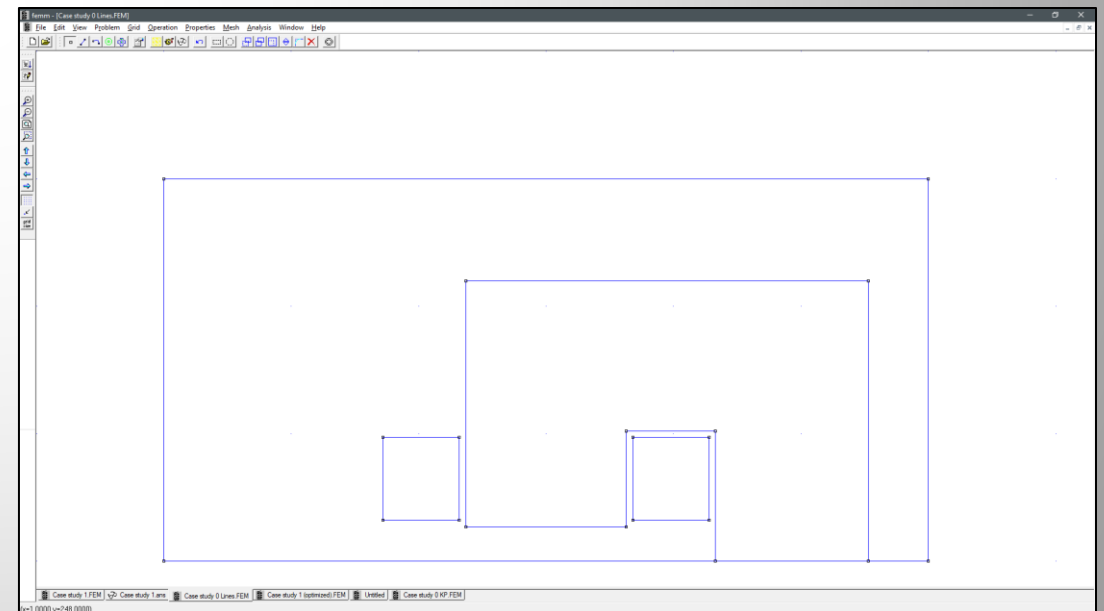
Model Boundaries



- Set the key-points of your yoke, coil and background areas using the key-point coordinates derived in the analytical design
- Remember: you can profit from symmetry conditions
- Connect the key-points accordingly with straight lines or arcs



Case study example (KP).FEM



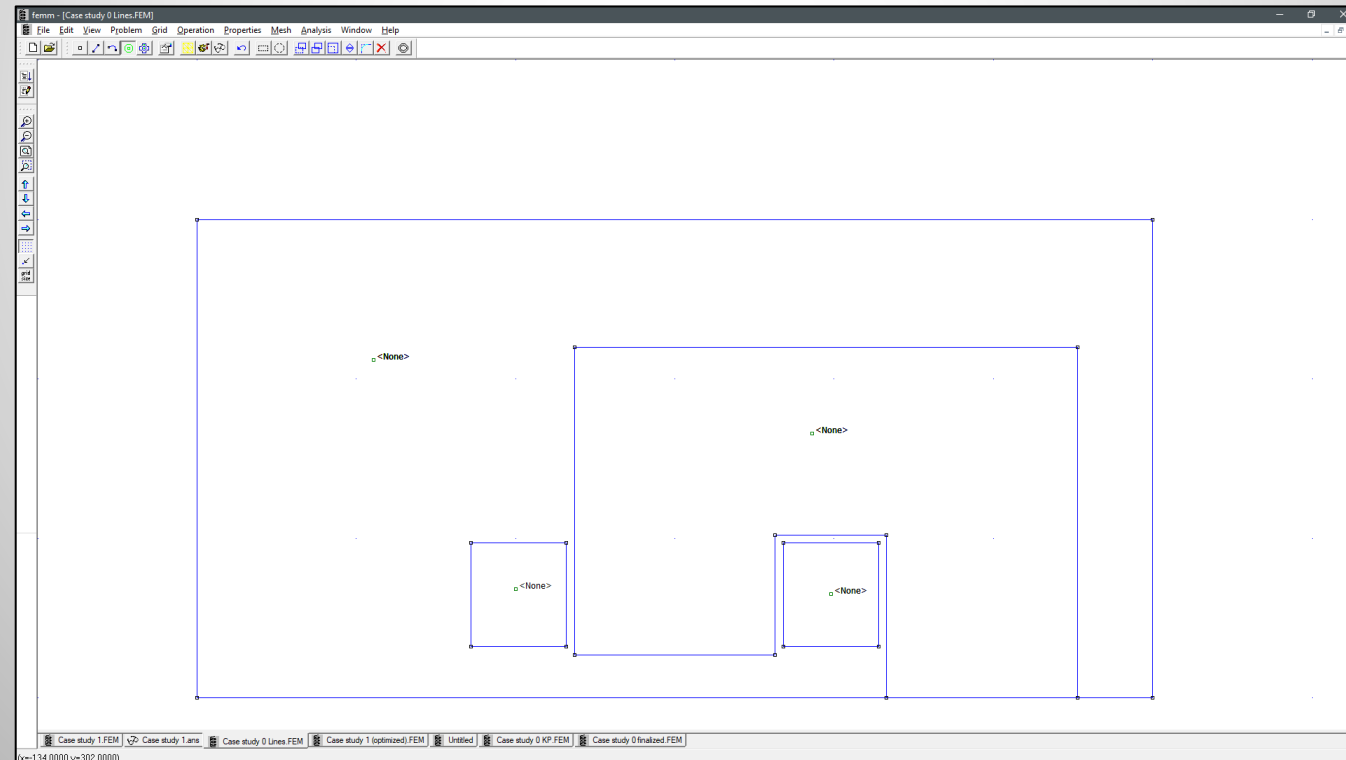
Case study example (contour).FEM



Block Labels



- Place block labels on each of the areas which have been previously defined (yoke, coils, background)





Material & Circuit Properties



- Select the required materials from the *Properties / Materials Library*: Air, Copper & Cold rolled low carbon strip steel
- Edit/modify the material properties according to your needs (in particular the yoke material)

The screenshot displays four windows from a software application:

- Materials Library:** A tree view showing various materials. 'Cold rolled low carbon strip steel' is selected under the 'Metals Handbook DC Magnetization Curves' category.
- Block Property:** A configuration window for 'Cold rolled low carbon strip steel'. It shows 'B-H Curve' set to 'Nonlinear B-H Curve'. Linear properties include Relative μ_x and μ_y both set to 1, and ϕ_{hx} and ϕ_{hy} both set to 0. Nonlinear properties include ϕ_{hmax} set to 0. Coercivity H_c is 0 and electrical conductivity σ is 8.41 MS/m. Special attributes are set to 'Laminated in-plane' with a lam thickness of 1 mm and lam fill factor of 0.98.
- B-H Curve Data:** A table showing the B-H curve data for 'Cold rolled low carbon strip steel'.

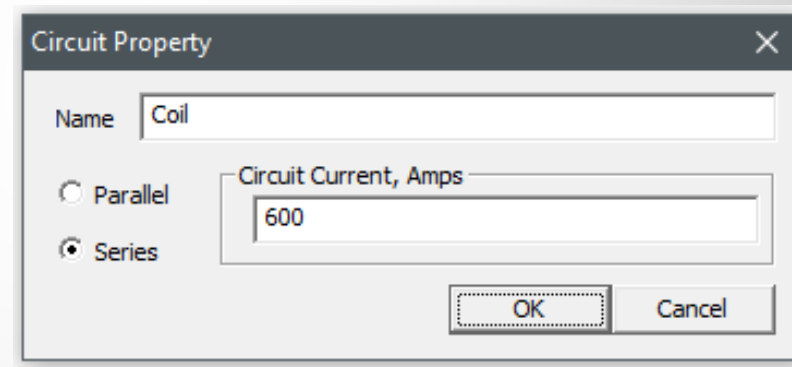
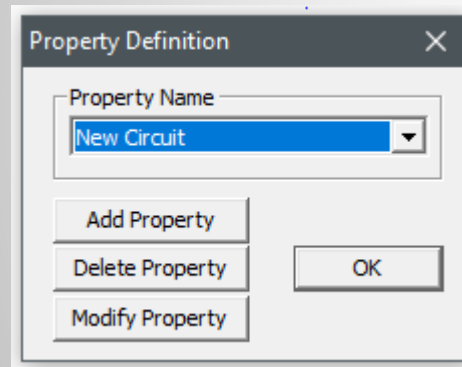
B, Tesla	H, Amp/m
0.000000	0.000000
0.258794	164.930000
0.301805	173.636667
0.336667	180.926667
0.424952	200.530000
0.747318	287.386667
1.011385	412.143333
1.201777	591.590000
1.268035	690.833333
- ferroplot:** A graph showing the B-H curve for 'Cold rolled low carbon strip steel'. The x-axis is 'H, Amp/Meter' (0 to 300,000) and the y-axis is 'B, Tesla' (0 to 3). The curve shows a sharp initial rise followed by a gradual, non-linear increase.



Material & Circuit Properties



- Add a *Circuit Property* for the coils





Material & Circuit Properties

- Associate these properties with the individual block labels and define mesh sizes
- Attention: for a **negative** coil current you need to change the sign in the “Number of Turns” field!

Properties for selected block

Block type: Air

Mesh size: 10

Let Triangle choose Mesh Size

In Circuit: <None>

Number of Turns: 1

Magnetization Direction: 0

In Group: 0

Block label located in an external region

Set as default block label

OK Cancel

Properties for selected block

Block type: Copper

Mesh size: 5

Let Triangle choose Mesh Size

In Circuit: Coil

Number of Turns: 30

Magnetization Direction: 0

In Group: 0

Block label located in an external region

Set as default block label

OK Cancel

Properties for selected block

Block type: Cold rolled low carbon strip

Mesh size: 2

Let Triangle choose Mesh Size

In Circuit: <None>

Number of Turns: 1

Magnetization Direction: 0

In Group: 0

Block label located in an external region

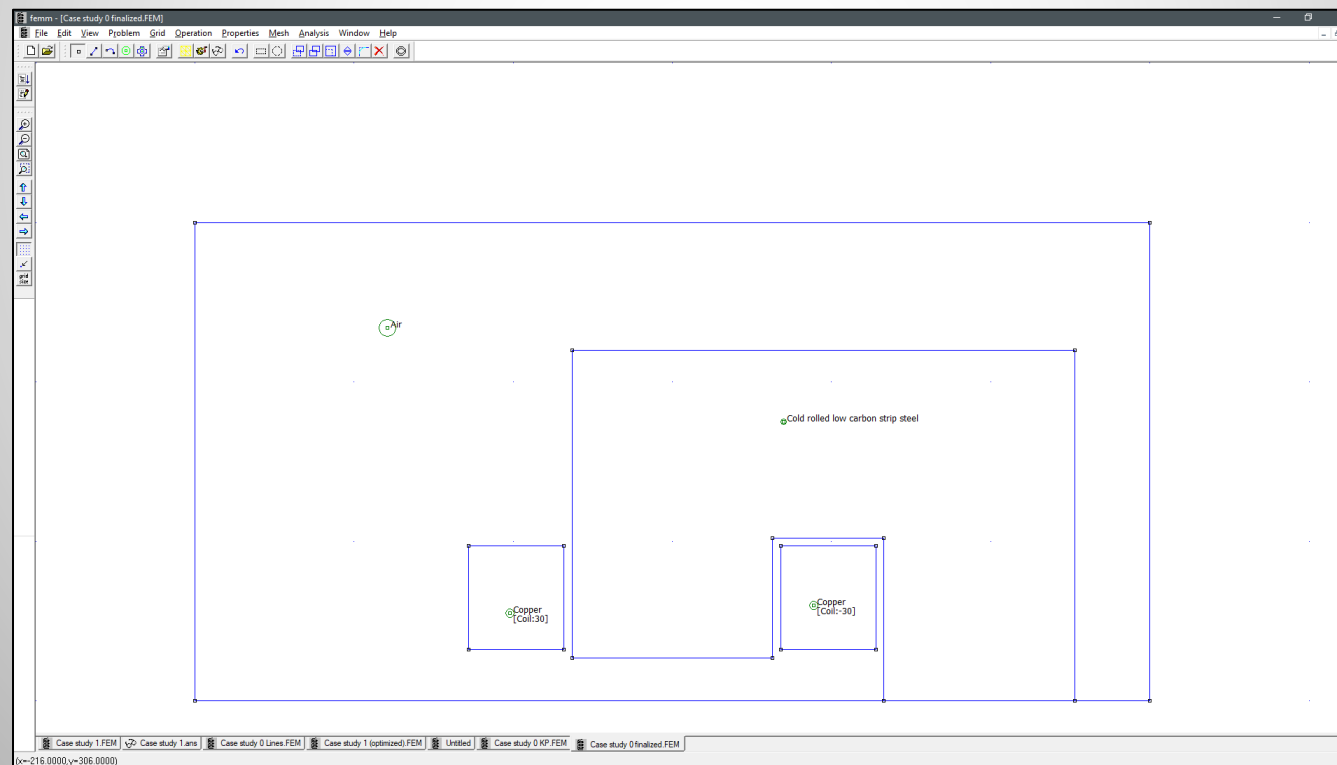
Set as default block label

OK Cancel



Material & Circuit Properties

- Associate these properties with the individual block labels and define mesh sizes

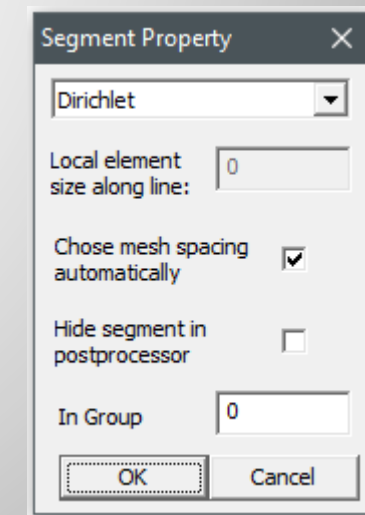
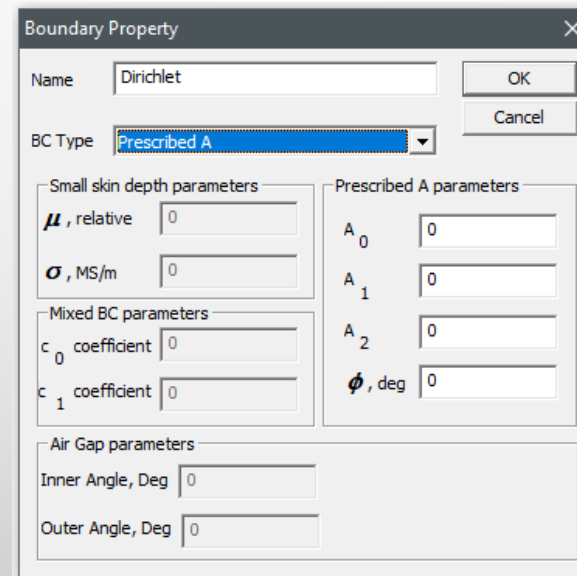
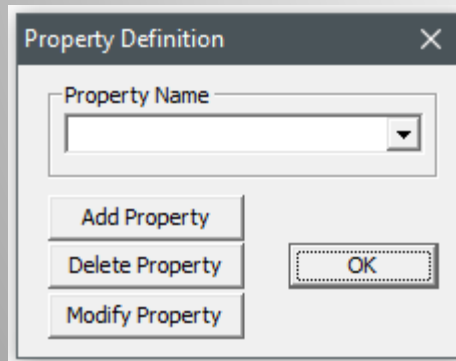




Boundary Conditions

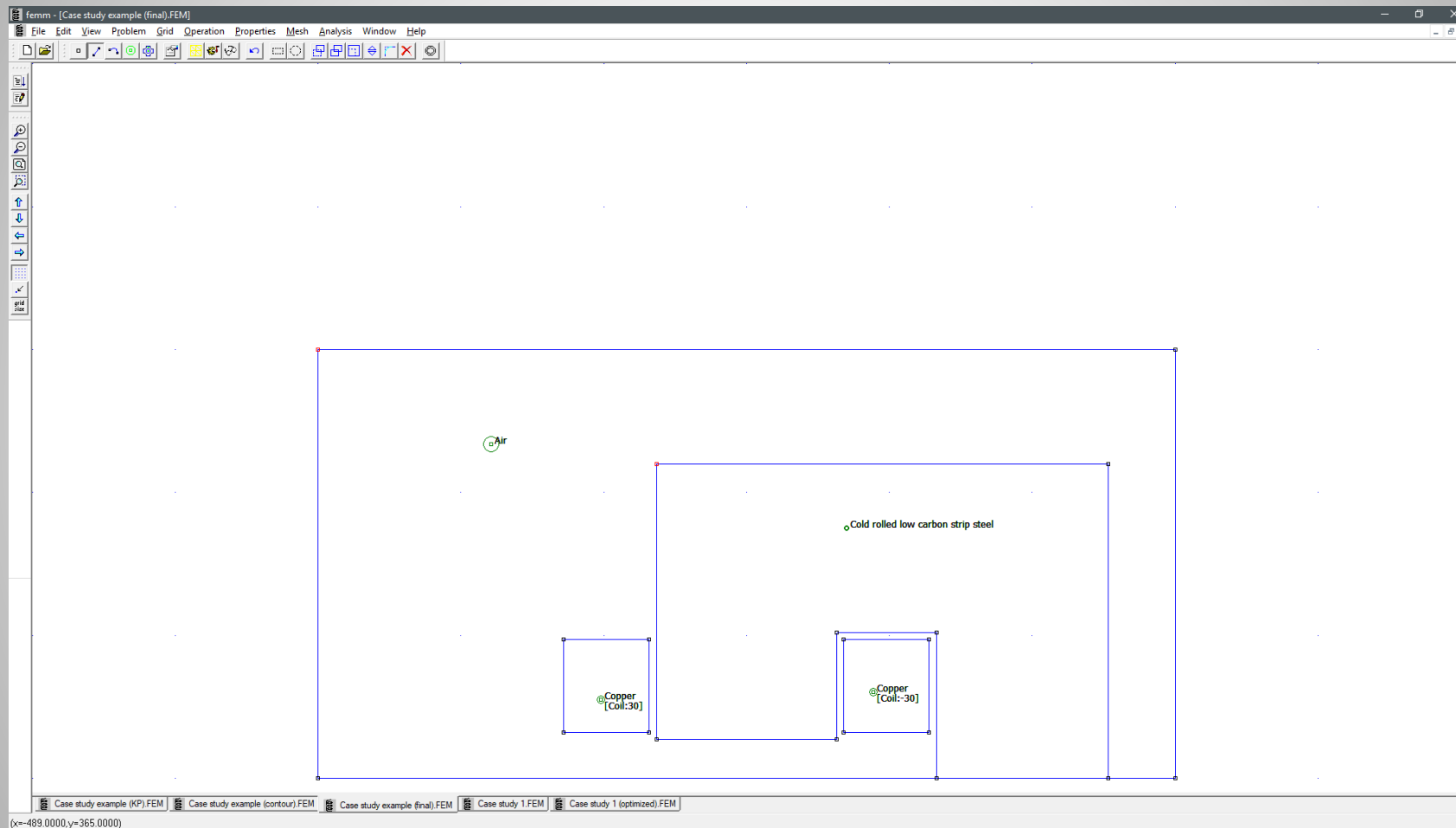


- Define the required boundary conditions from *Properties/Boundaries*:
 - Dirichlet condition = no normal flux component, only tangential flux component)
 - Neumann condition = no tangential flux component, only normal flux component) is assigned automatically by default
- Associate the correct boundary conditions to your model boundary lines:
 - Dirichlet condition for boundaries with zero magnetic flux through the plane
 - Neumann condition is assigned automatically by default if no other condition has been defined





Final model



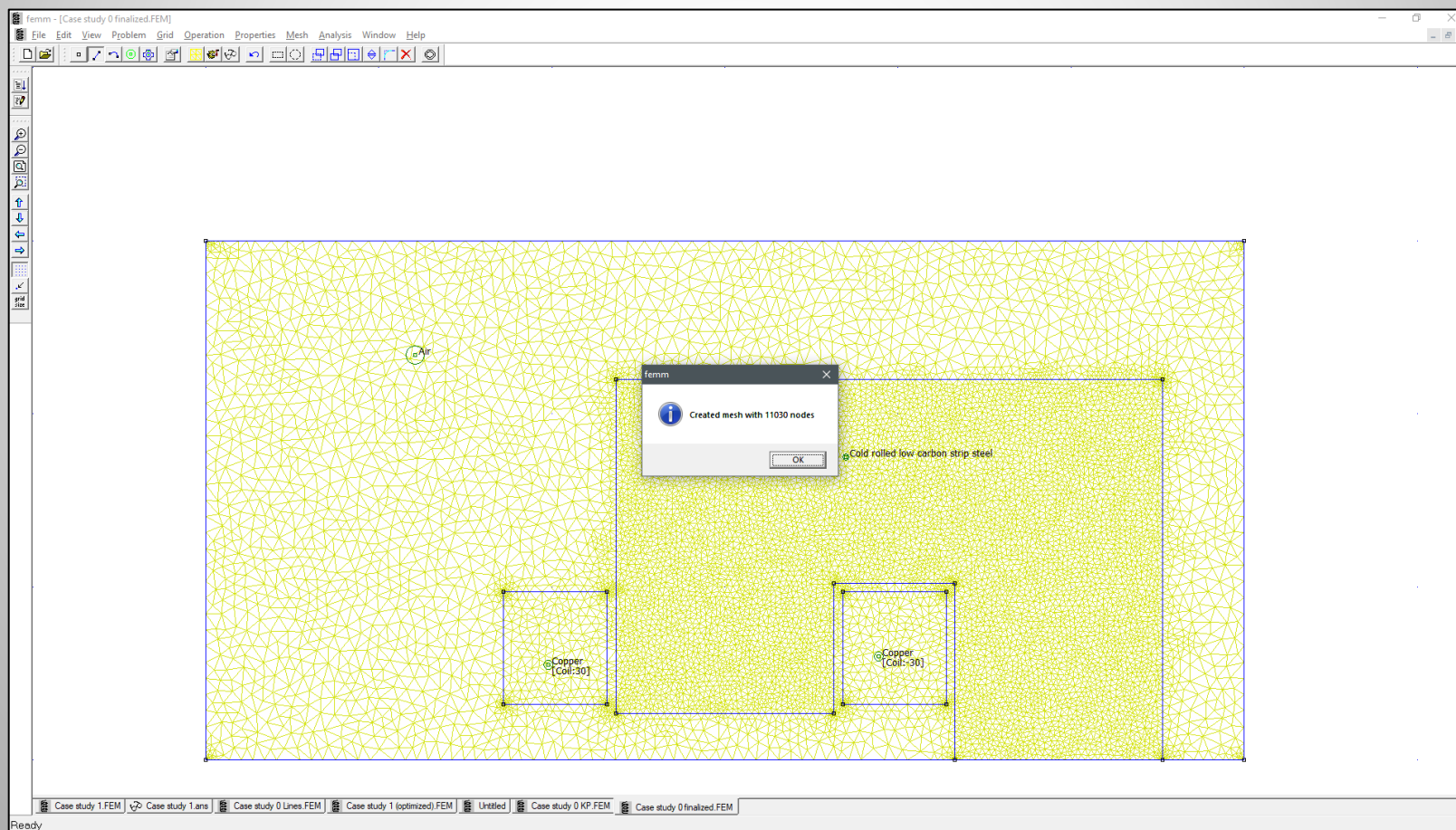
Case study example (final).FEM



Mesh & Solver



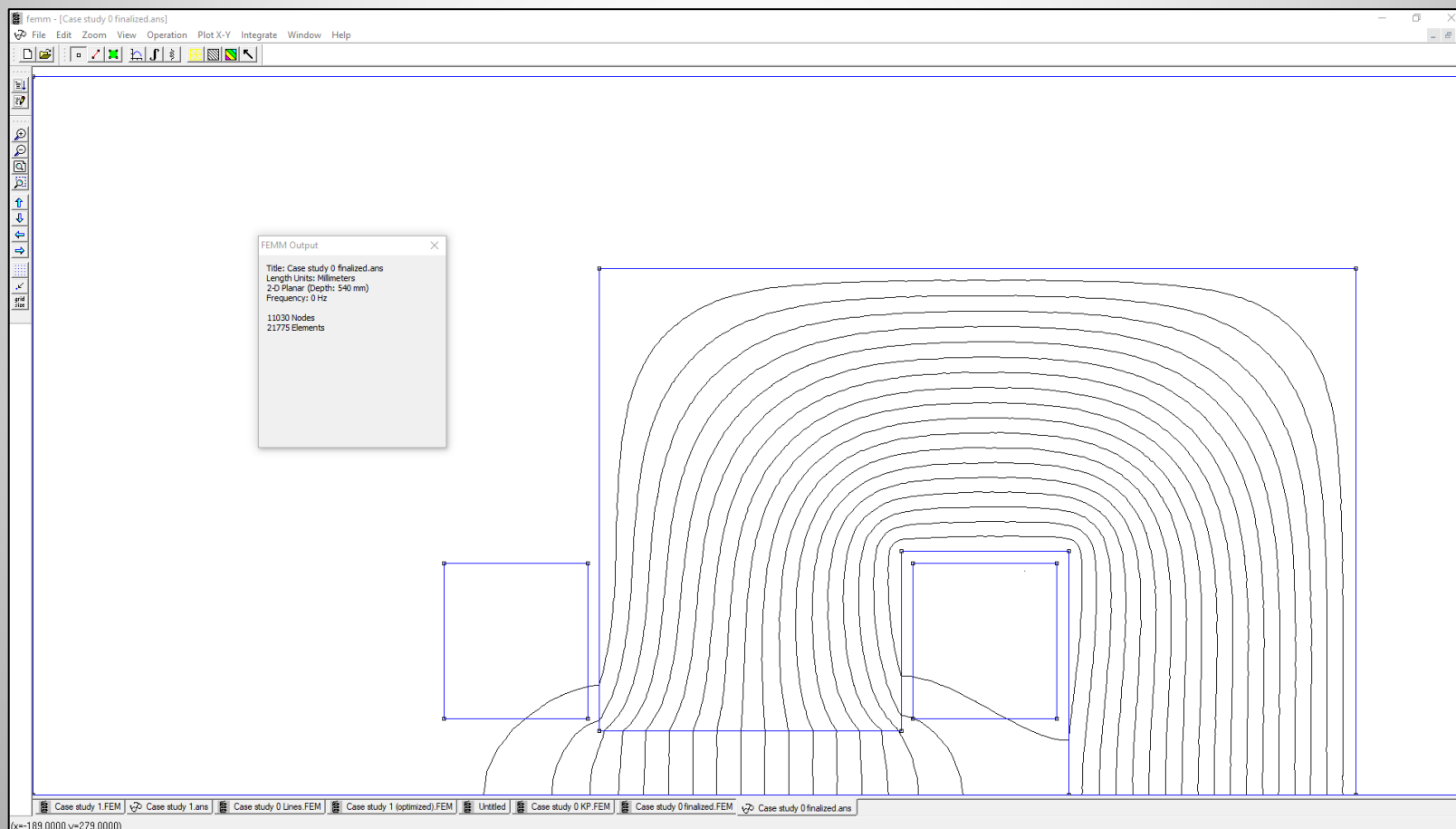
- Generate the mesh
- Run the FEA Solver





Result Analysis

- Start the post-processor
- With the help of flux lines verify if the model is physically reasonable





Result Analysis



- By probing point values, check if the field in the center corresponds to your expectation
- Analyse the coil terminal properties
- Probe point value in the coil region

```
FEMM Output
Point: x=0, y=0
A = -0.0758786 Wb/m
|B| = 0.823568 T
Bx = -1.58276e-005 T
By = 0.823568 T
|H| = 655375 A/m
Hx = -12.5952 A/m
Hy = 655375 A/m
mu_x = 1 (rel)
mu_y = 1 (rel)
E = 269873 J/m^3
J = 0 MA/m^2
```

```
Circuit Properties
Circuit Name
Coil

Results
Total current = 600 Amps
Voltage Drop = 2.57825 Volts
Flux Linkage = 2.44501 Webers
Flux/Current = 0.00407502 Henries
Voltage/Current = 0.00429708 Ohms
Power = 1546.95 Watts

OK
```

```
FEMM Output
Point: x=-100, y=64
A = 0.000120841 Wb/m
|B| = 0.121936 T
Bx = 0.115071 T
By = 0.0403356 T
|H| = 97033.3 A/m
Hx = 91570.6 A/m
Hy = 32098.1 A/m
mu_x = 1 (rel)
mu_y = 1 (rel)
E = 5915.91 J/m^3
J = 4.61538 MA/m^2
Winding Fill = 100.00%
```



Result Analysis

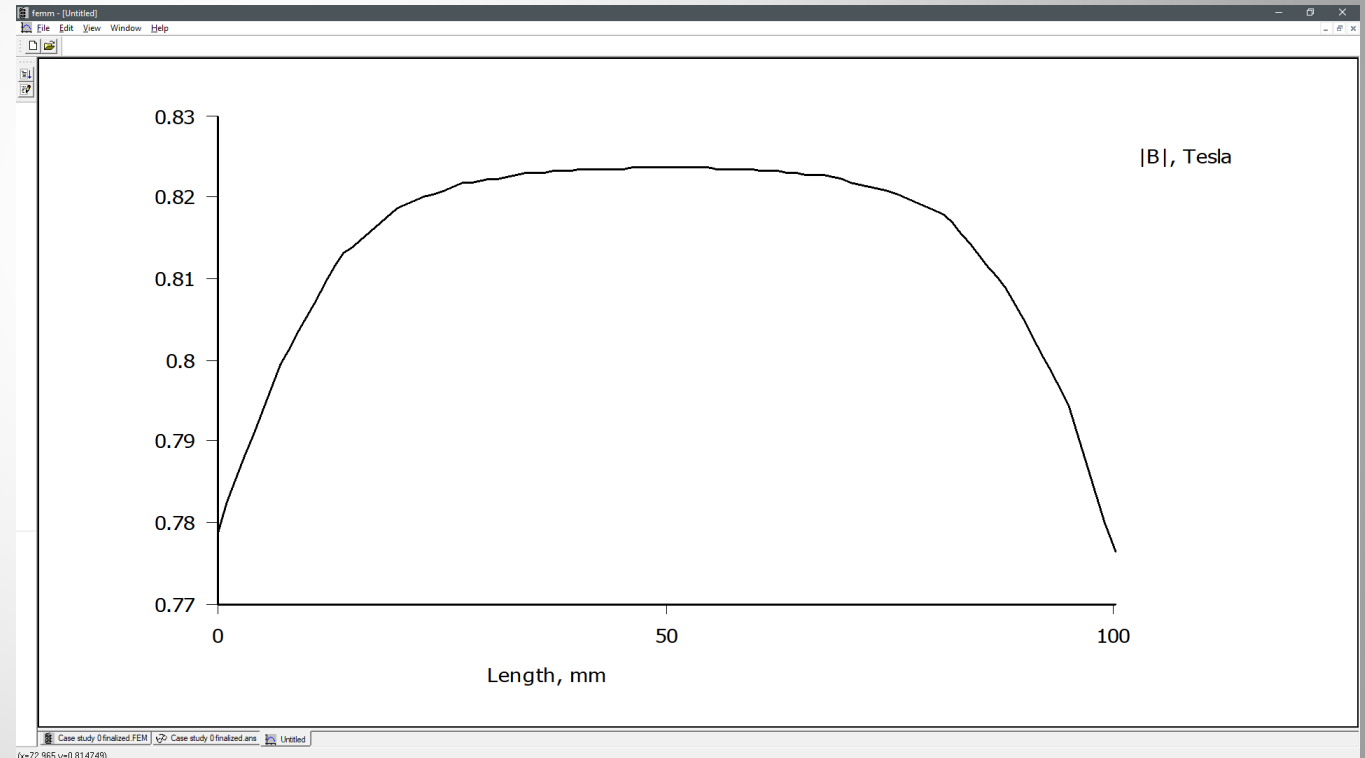


- Plot the field values along a contour (e.g. mid plane) and analyse the field “quality”

Enter Point dialog boxes showing coordinates for two points: (-50, 0) and (50, 0).

X-Y Plot of Field Values dialog box configuration:

- Plot Type: $|B|$ (Magnitude of flux density)
- Number of points in plot: 100
- Write data to text file:
- File Formatting: Multicolumn text w/ legend

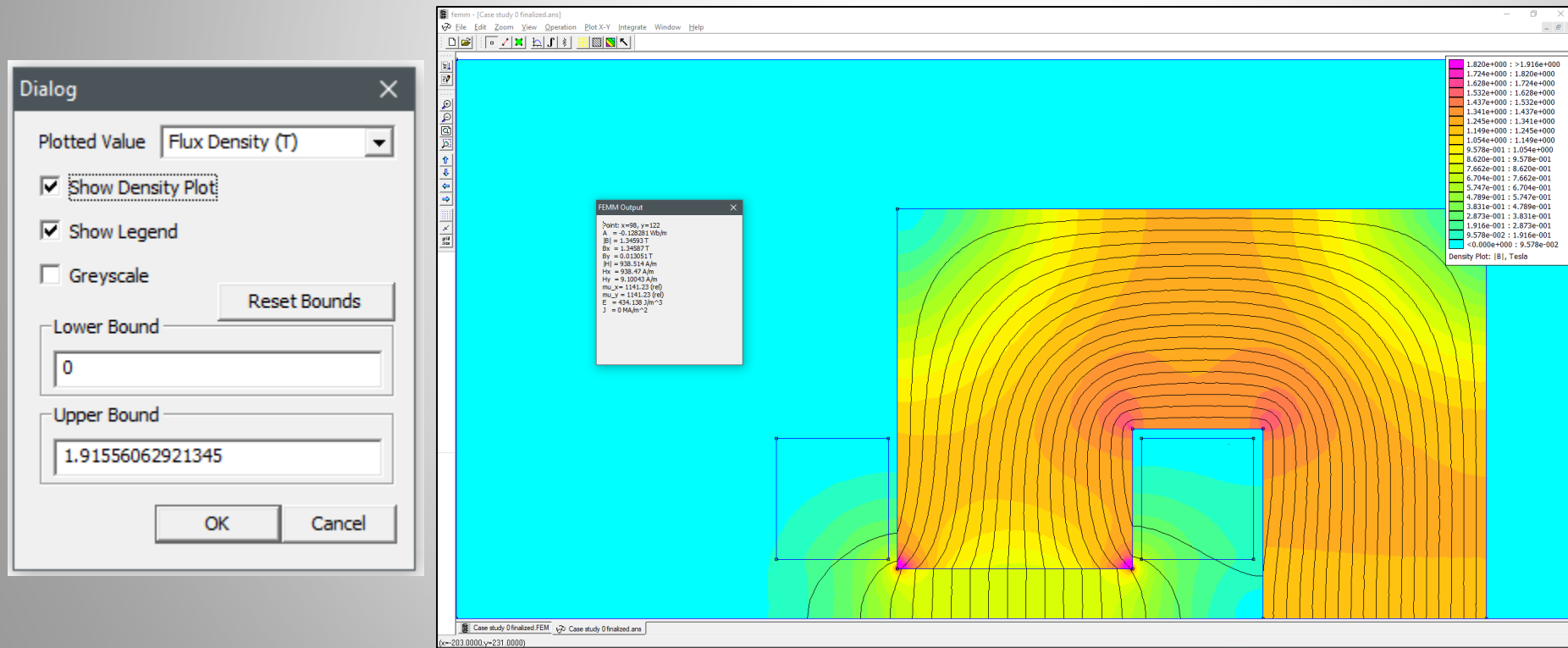




Result Analysis



- Plot the flux lines and check for saturated areas
- Probe specific point values in the yoke and check if the local field is within the saturation limits



FEMM Output

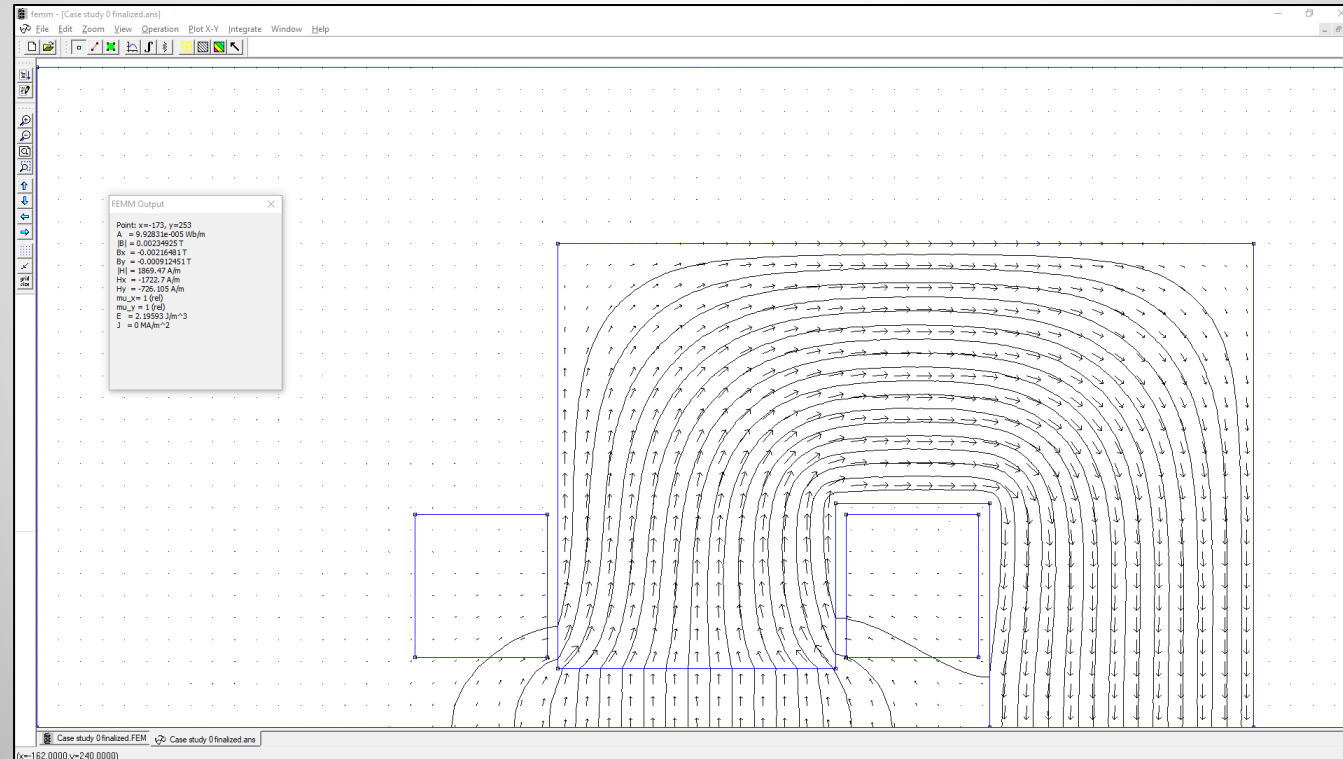
Point: x=98, y=122
A = -0.128281 Wb/m
|B| = 1.34593 T
Bx = 1.34587 T
By = 0.013051 T
|H| = 938.514 A/m
Hx = 938.47 A/m
Hy = 9.10043 A/m
mu_x = 1141.23 (rel)
mu_y = 1141.23 (rel)
E = 434.138 J/m³
J = 0 MA/m²



Result Analysis



- Alternatively you can also plot the field vectors

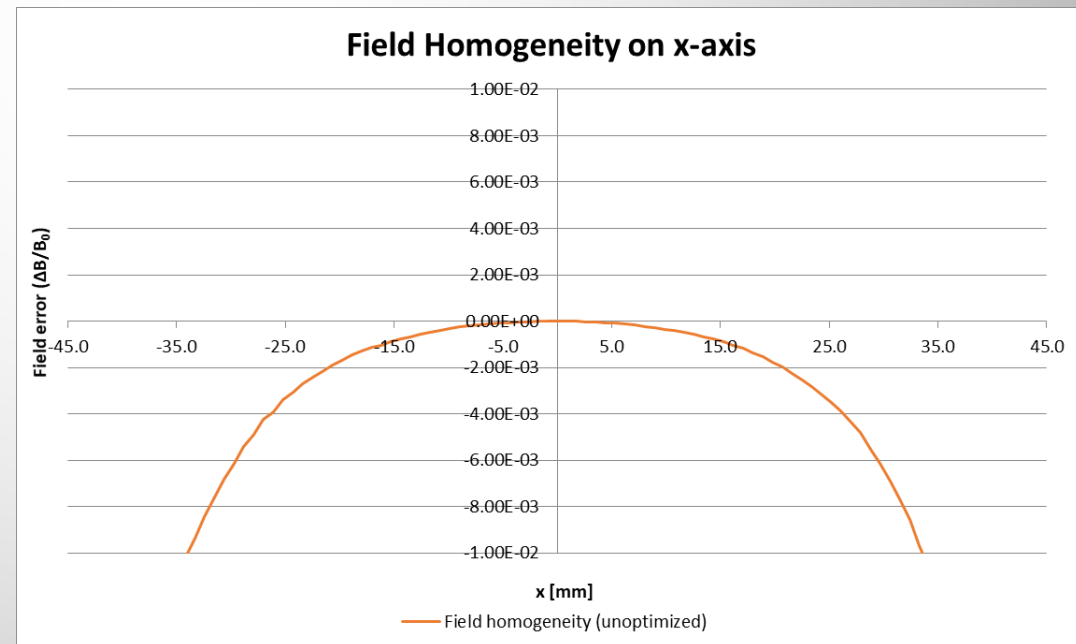
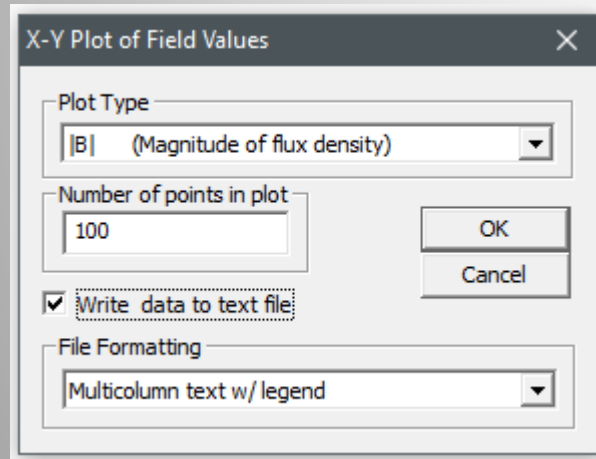




Advanced Analysis



- Plotting only the field is often not sufficient to evaluate the field quality
- Better: plot the field homogeneity $\frac{\Delta B}{B_0} = \frac{B_y(x, y)}{B_y(0,0)} - 1$
- Unfortunately, you cannot do that with FEMM, but with Excel
- Work-around: export the field values from FEMM and do the math in Excel

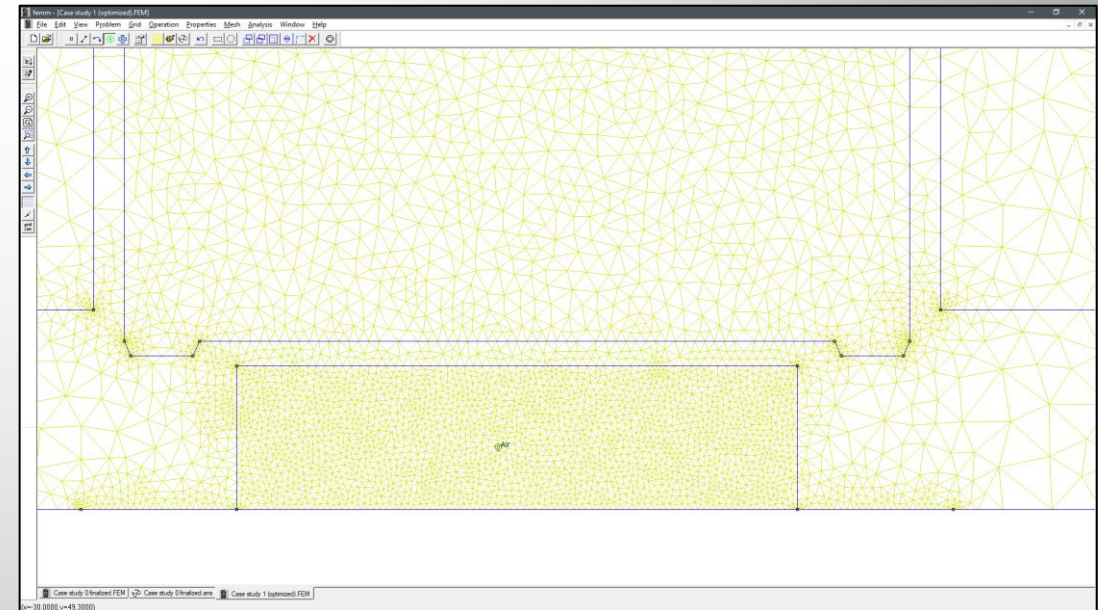
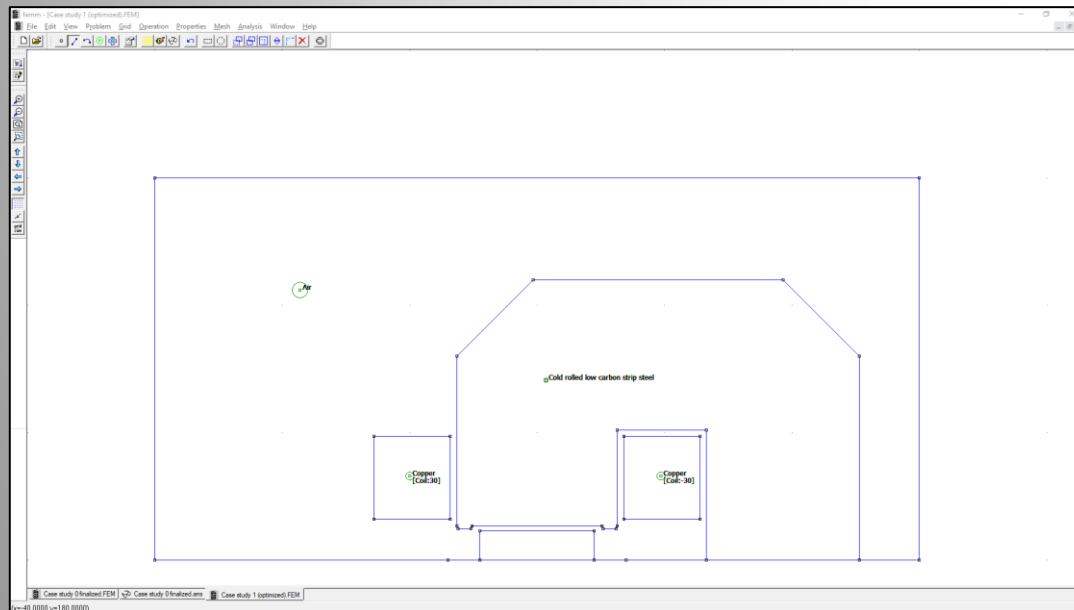




Optimization



- Optimization includes:
 - Avoiding saturated areas (if possible) by providing a sufficiently large cross-section in the circuit
 - Remove excess of iron in regions where is no or only low flux density
 - Adapt the ratio *coil width* : *coil height* if necessary
 - Shape the poles (by adding shims) in order to reach the required field quality
 - Reduce the *pole width* to a minimum
 - Add regions of special interest (good-field-region)

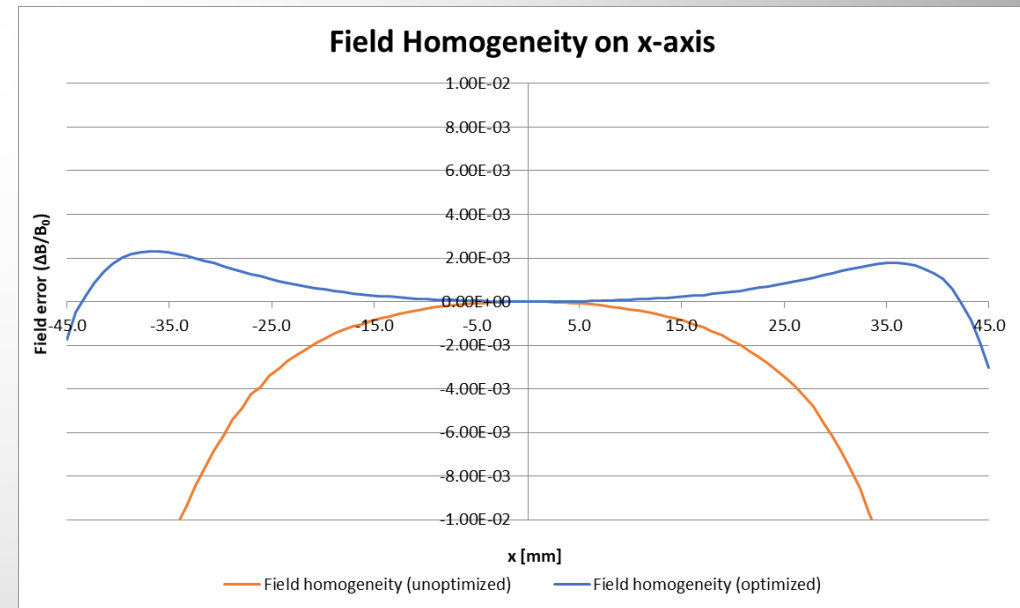
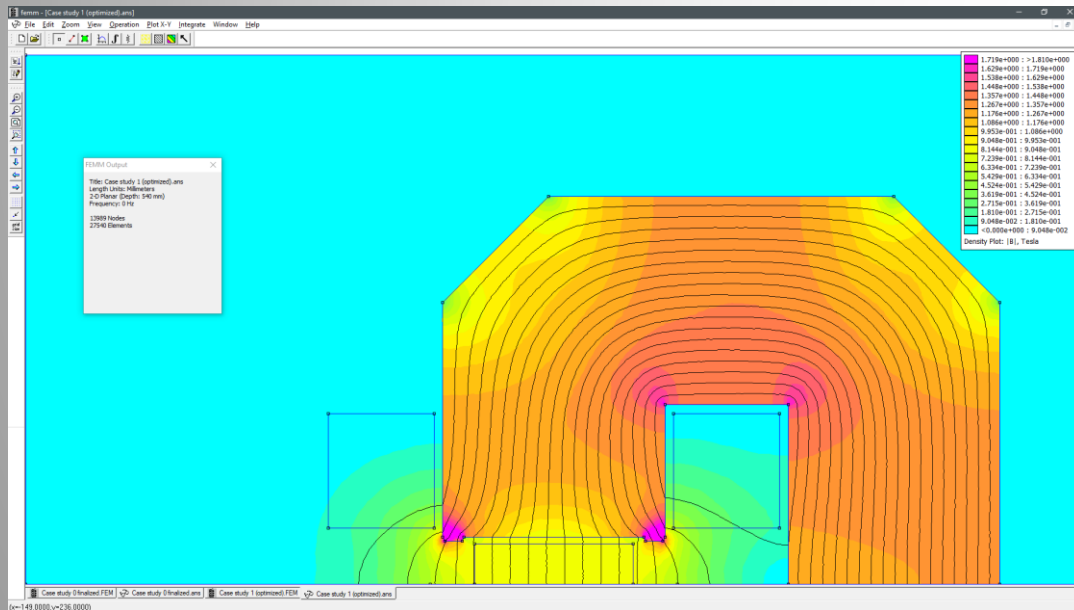




Final Results



- Do not forget: the field quality needs to be evaluated
 - for the **entire operation range** (B_{min} to B_{max})
 - not only on the midplane, but also on the **boundary of the GFR**





Design report

Students are expected to deliver a written magnet design report which should include at least:

- Detailed magnet parameter list summarizing the outcome of the analytical design
- Explanation for your design choice
- Magnet cross-section based on analytical calculations with yoke and coil shape
- Optimized cross-section (pole profile) based on numerical computations fulfilling the field quality requirements
- Results from the numerical simulation (field quality plot) for the entire operation range
- Note: the reports will be evaluated and contribute to the total score together with the results of the exam
- Please send the final report (1 per group) in electronic form **plus the FEMM input file (*.FEM)** of your final FE-model to the **JUAS secretary**
- Submission deadline: **Monday, 3rd March 2025 at 12:00 (sharp!)**