



*Budapest University of Technology and Economics  
Department of Structural Engineering*

# **Optimal stiffener geometry based on nonlinear analysis of longitudinally stiffened plates under compression**

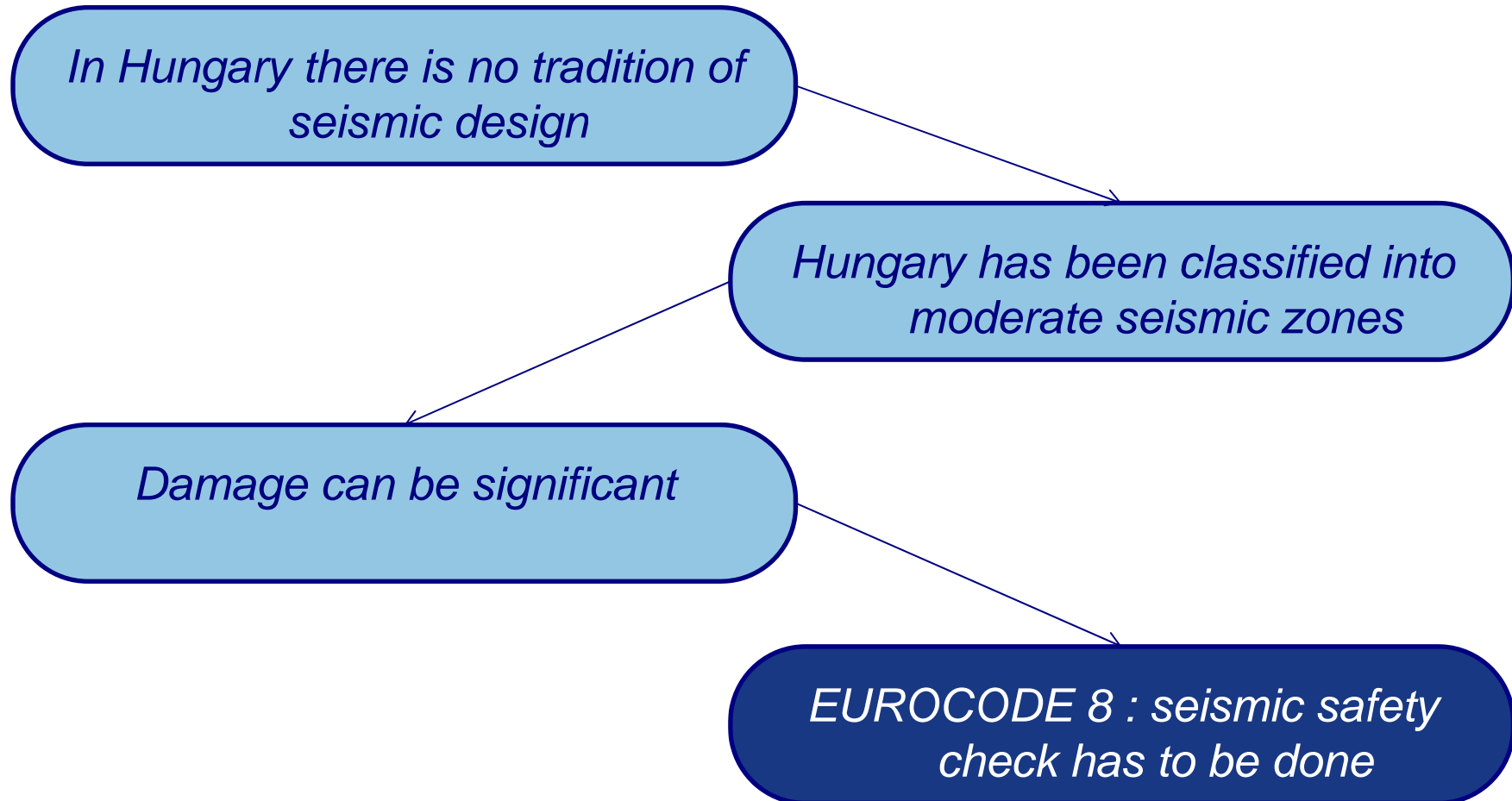
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***Supervisor  
Dr. Vigh László Gergely***

***PhD workshop in Vilnius, 2012***



# *Earthquake analysis of bridges in moderate seismic zones*



# *Earthquake analysis of bridges in moderate seismic zones*

## *1. Analysis of extant bridges*

*Database about extant bridges*

*Representative structures*

*Numerical analysis (spectral and time-history)*

*Critical structural types and details*

*Damage prediction*



*Alternative reinforcing/retrofit methods*

## *2. New design conceptions*

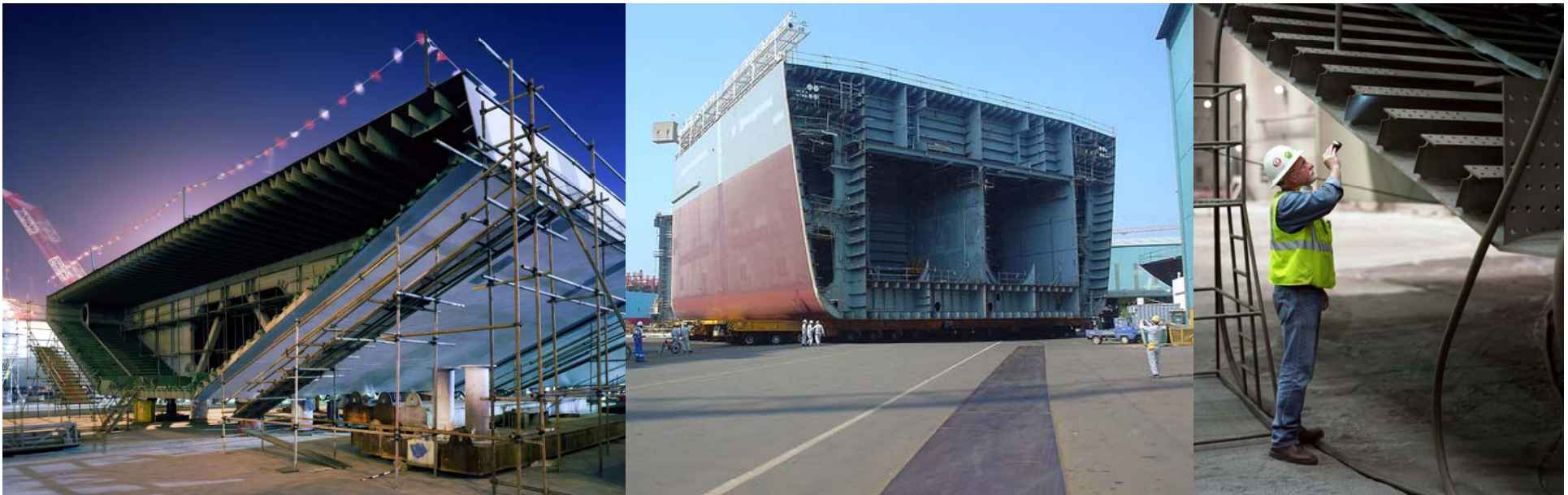
# *Stiffened plates*

*Thin-walled structures*

Ultimate load/Material consumption  
Stability failure is dominant

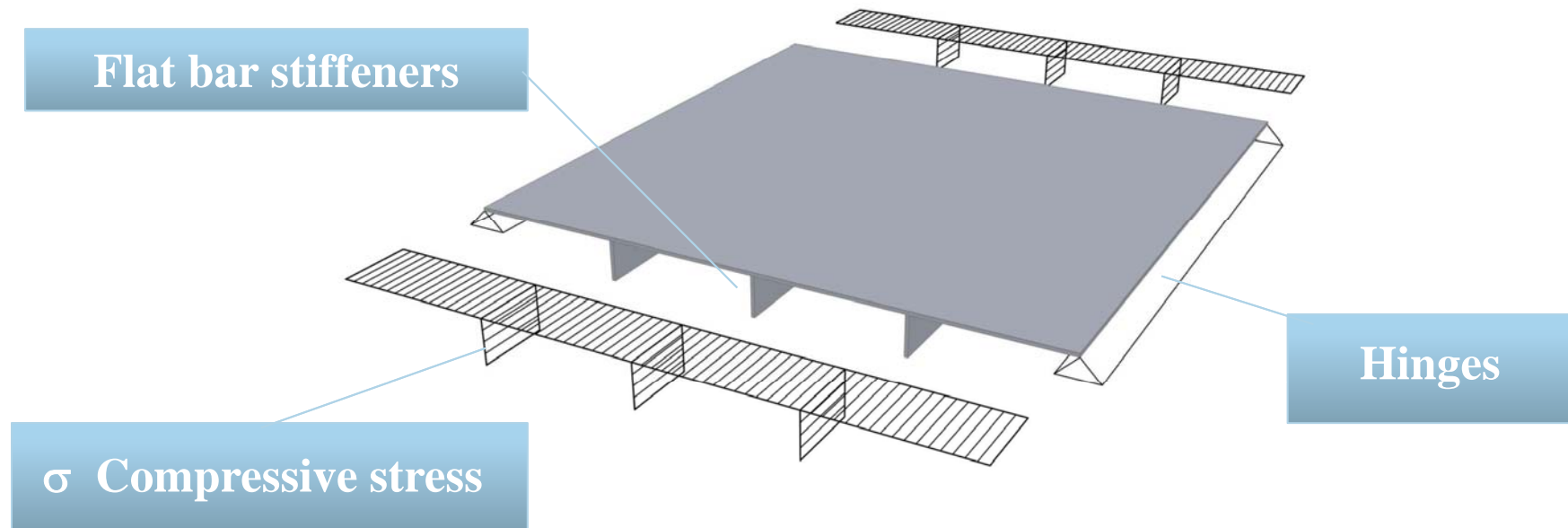
*Ultimate load, failure*

Stiffness ratios



## Aim of the studies

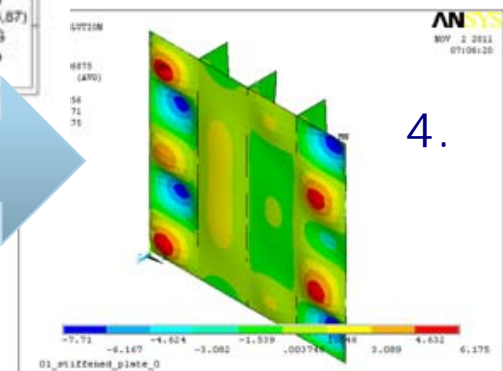
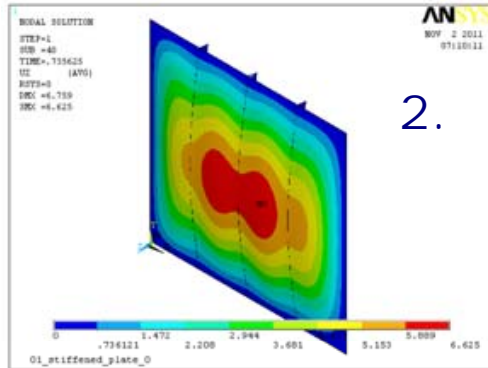
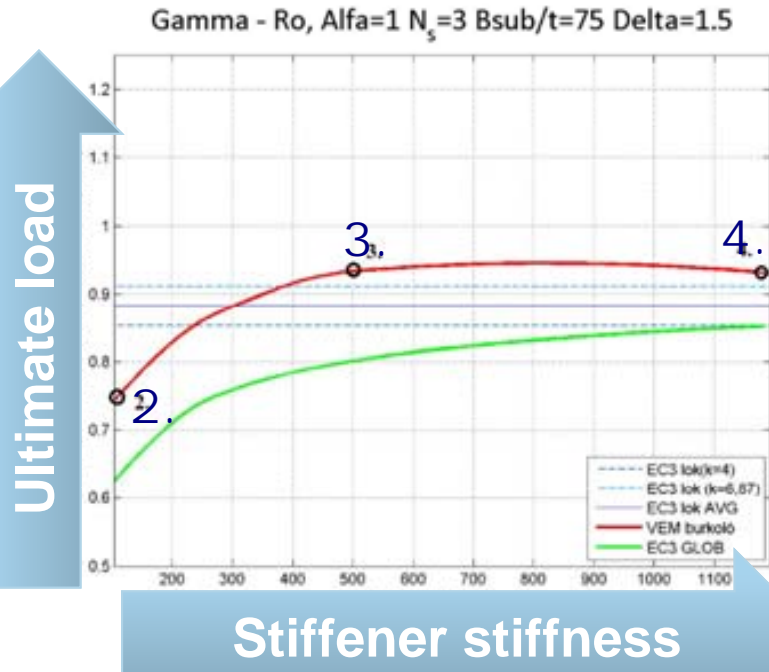
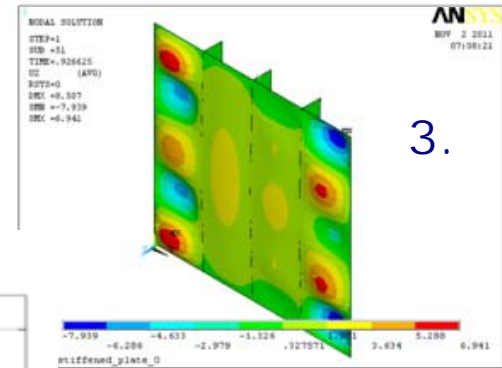
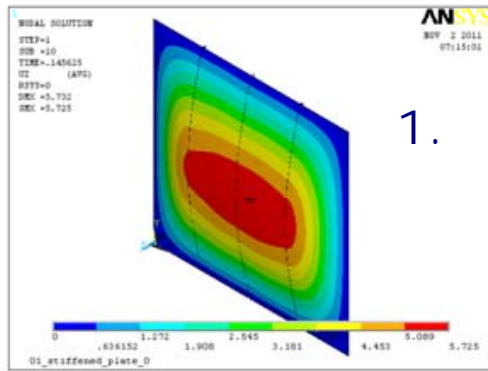
Longitudinally stiffened plate, pure compression.



Parameters characterizing the stiffness relations :

$$\gamma = \frac{EI_y}{D_p b}; \quad \delta = \frac{A_x}{bt_p}; \quad D_p = \frac{Et_p^3}{12(1 - \nu^2)};$$

# Optimal stiffener geometry



# Methods to calculate the optimal relative stiffness

## By elastic critical stress

- $$\gamma_c^* = \frac{1}{n_s + 1} \left[ \frac{\alpha^2}{m_{ov}} \left( 4(n_s + 1)^2 (1 + \delta(n_s + 1)) - 2 - \frac{\alpha^2}{m_{ov}} \right) - 1 \right]$$
- Perfect geometry, linear elastic material
- Not applicable directly for design

## By ultimate loads $\Rightarrow$ GMNI analysis

- Post-critical load bearing capacity
- Imperfections, non-linear, plastic material model
- Can be used for design directly

# ULS according to EC3-1-5

## Effective cross-section method

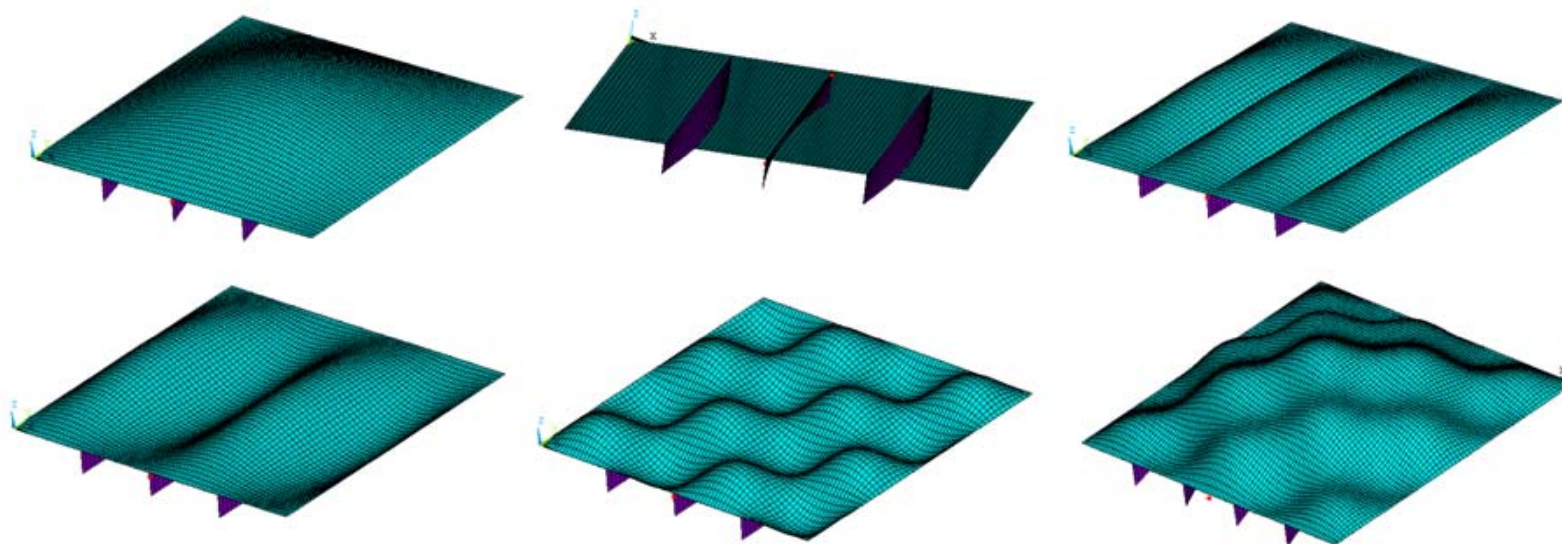
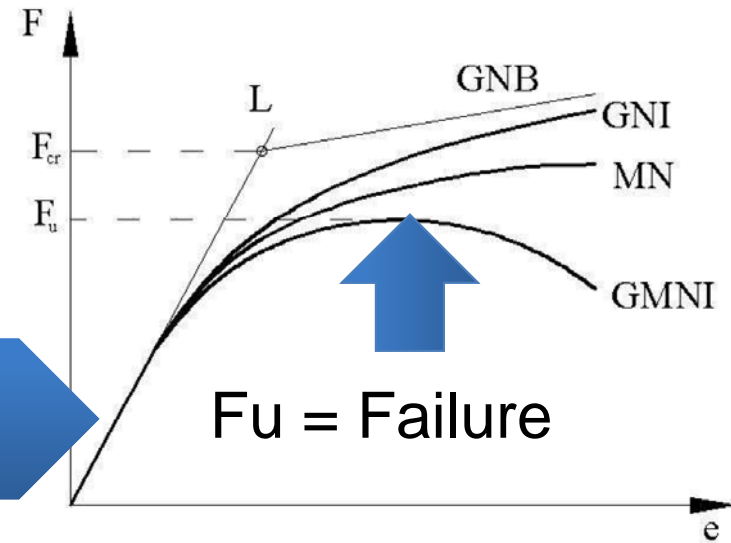
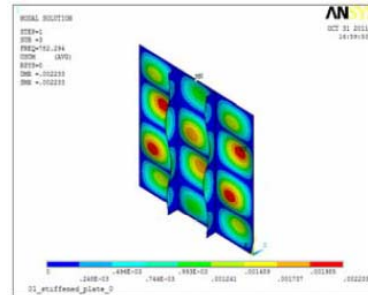
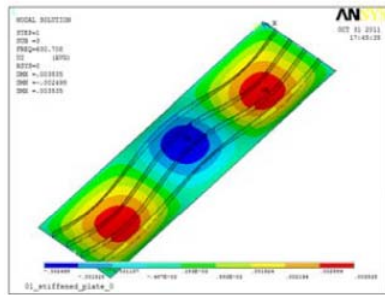
It takes into account the buckling of the elements and their interactions.

### Stability failures according to EC3-1-5

Local	Global	Stiffener
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Buckling of subpanels between the stiffeners</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Plate type behaviour</li><li>• Column type buckling behaviour</li><li>• Interaction</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Distortional buckling</li><li>• <b>Minimum geometric requirements</b></li><li>• <b>Should be avoided!</b></li></ul>

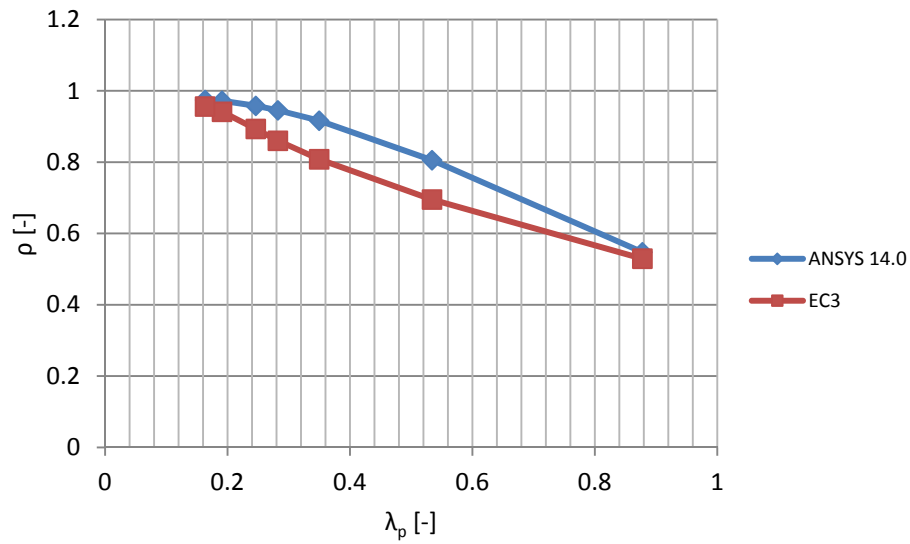


# Numerical model

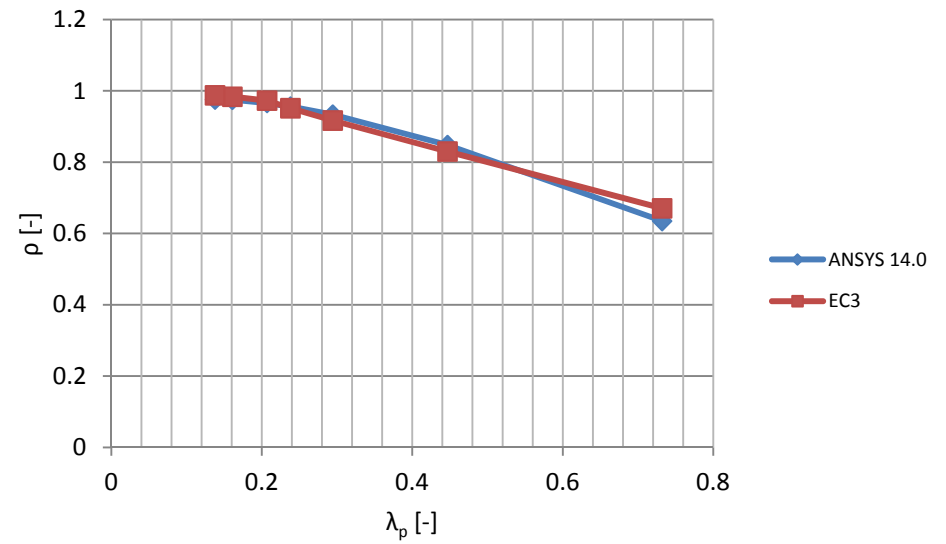


# Results 1

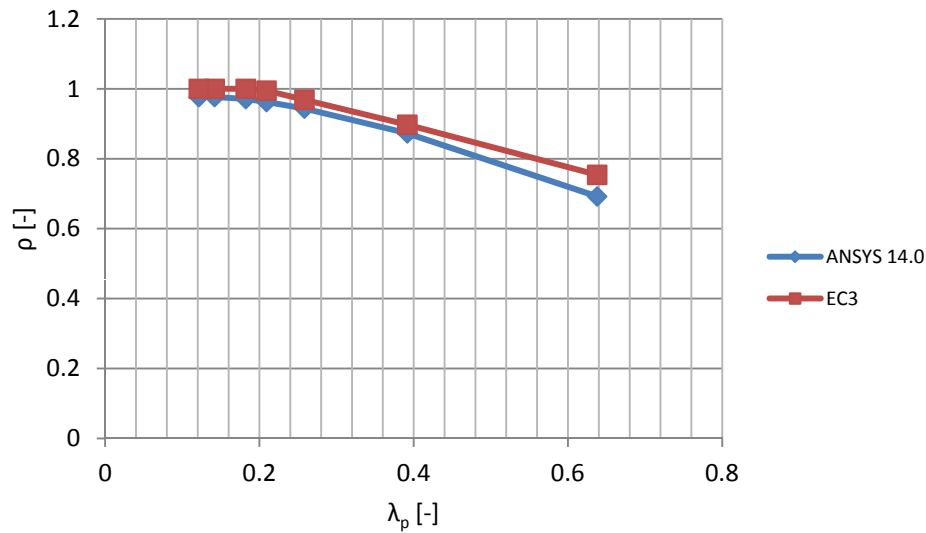
$\rho$  reducing factor – plate slenderness



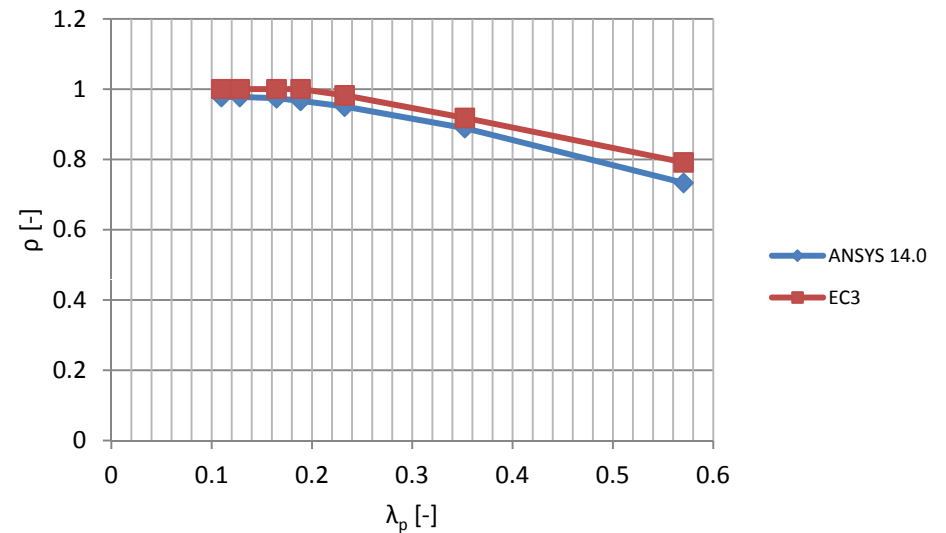
$\rho$  reducing factor – plate slenderness



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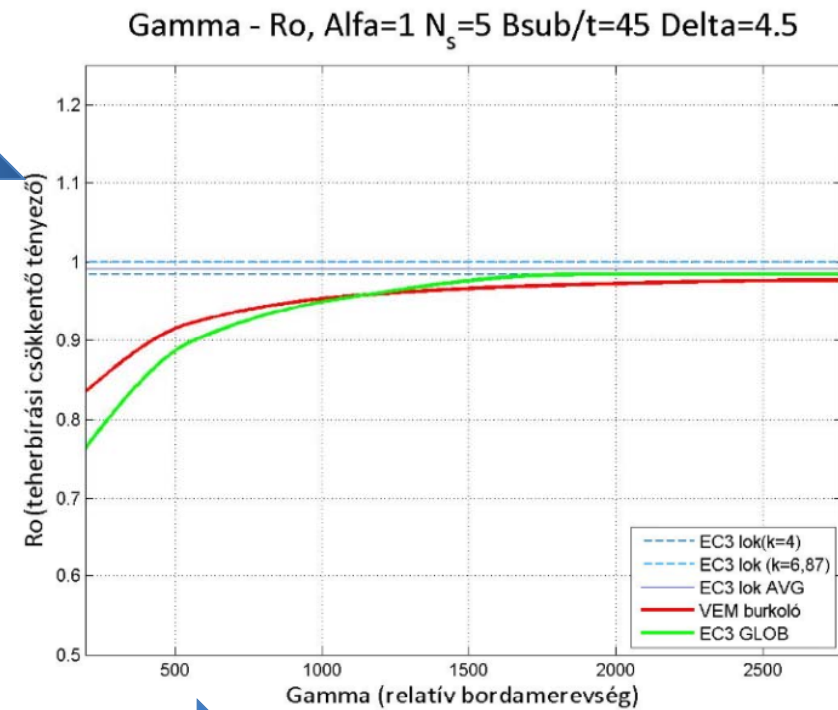
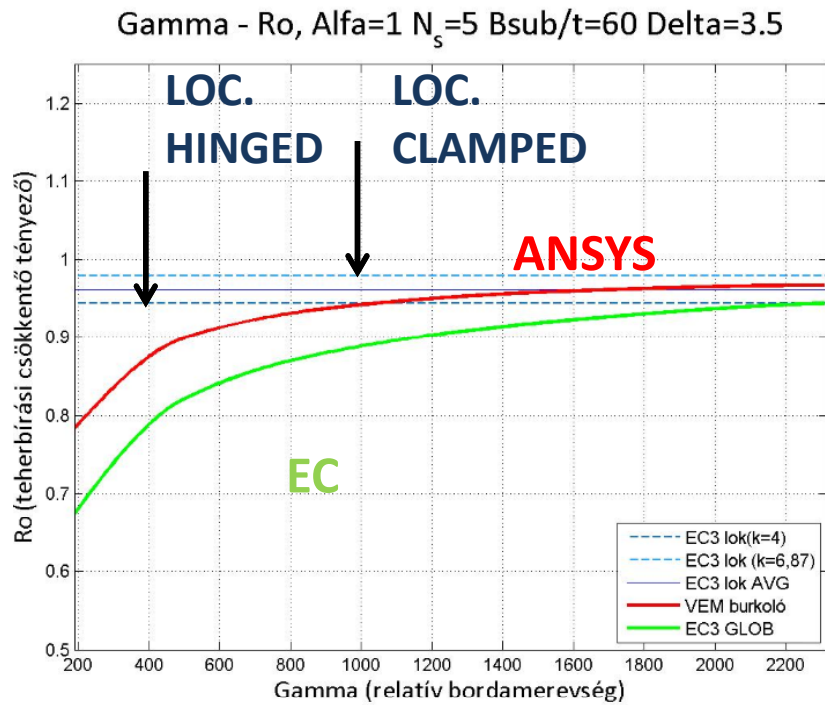


$\rho$  reducing factor – plate slenderness



# Results 2

## Plates with higher and lower slenderness

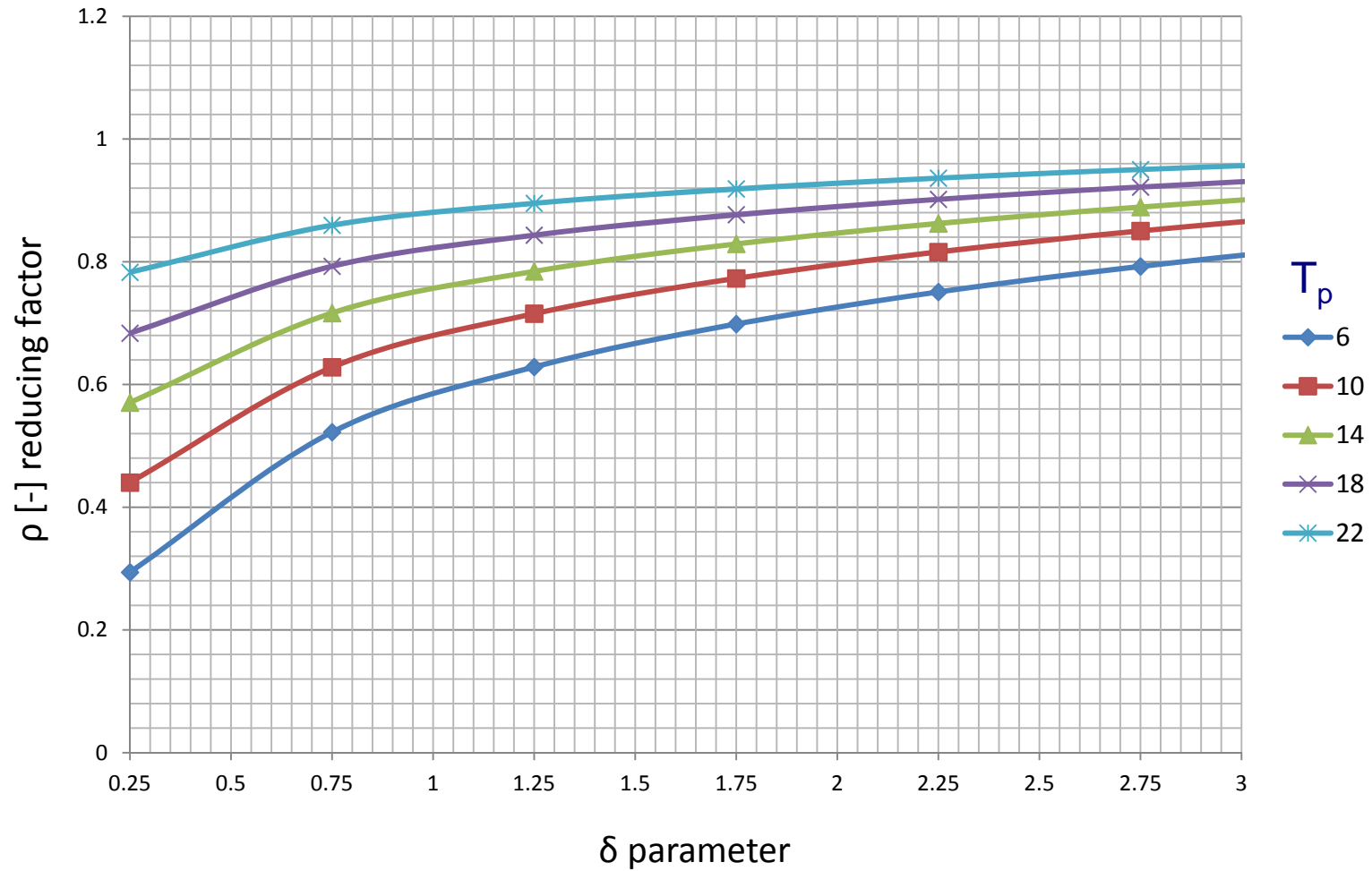


Stiffener stiffness



# Results 3

$\rho$  reducing factor –  $\delta$  parameter ( $\alpha = 1$ ,  $ns = 3$ ,  $b = 4000$ )



*Thank you for your attention!*

***Acknowledgement :***

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