



MEPLA PRO

2025

Comparison of calculation results

March 2025

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1 Circular plate – under bending and membrane effects

In [Theory of Plates and Shells, Stephen P. Timoshenko, S.Woinowsky-Krieger](#) an analytic solution under large displacements for the deflection w_0 has been given for a clamped circular plate of thickness $h = 5$, radius $a = 500$ and under uniform pressure q .

$$w_0 = \frac{qa^4}{64D} \frac{1}{1 + 0.488 \frac{w_0^2}{h^2}} \quad (232)$$

where D is the plate stiffness

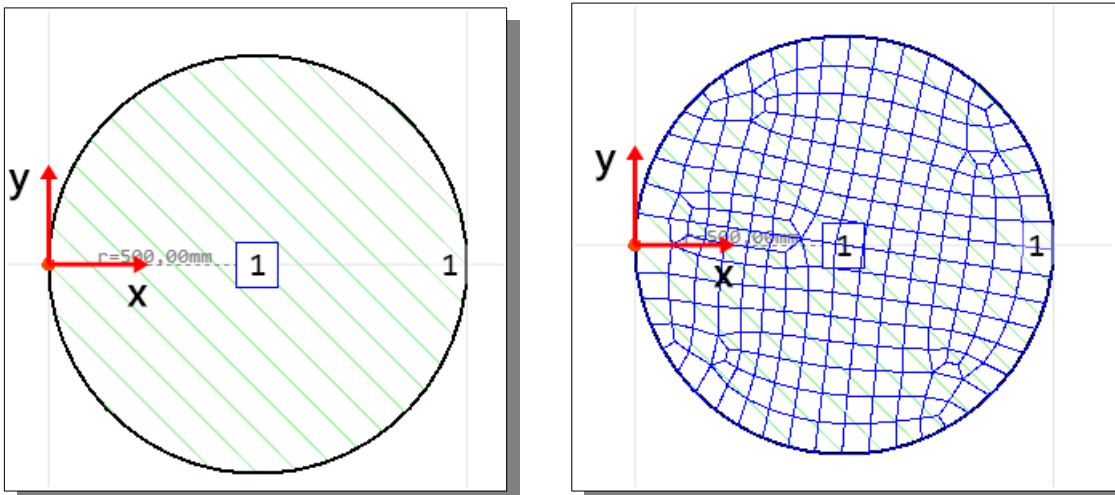
$$D = E / (1-\nu^2) * h^3/12$$

and E is here taken as 70000 and $q = 0.001$.

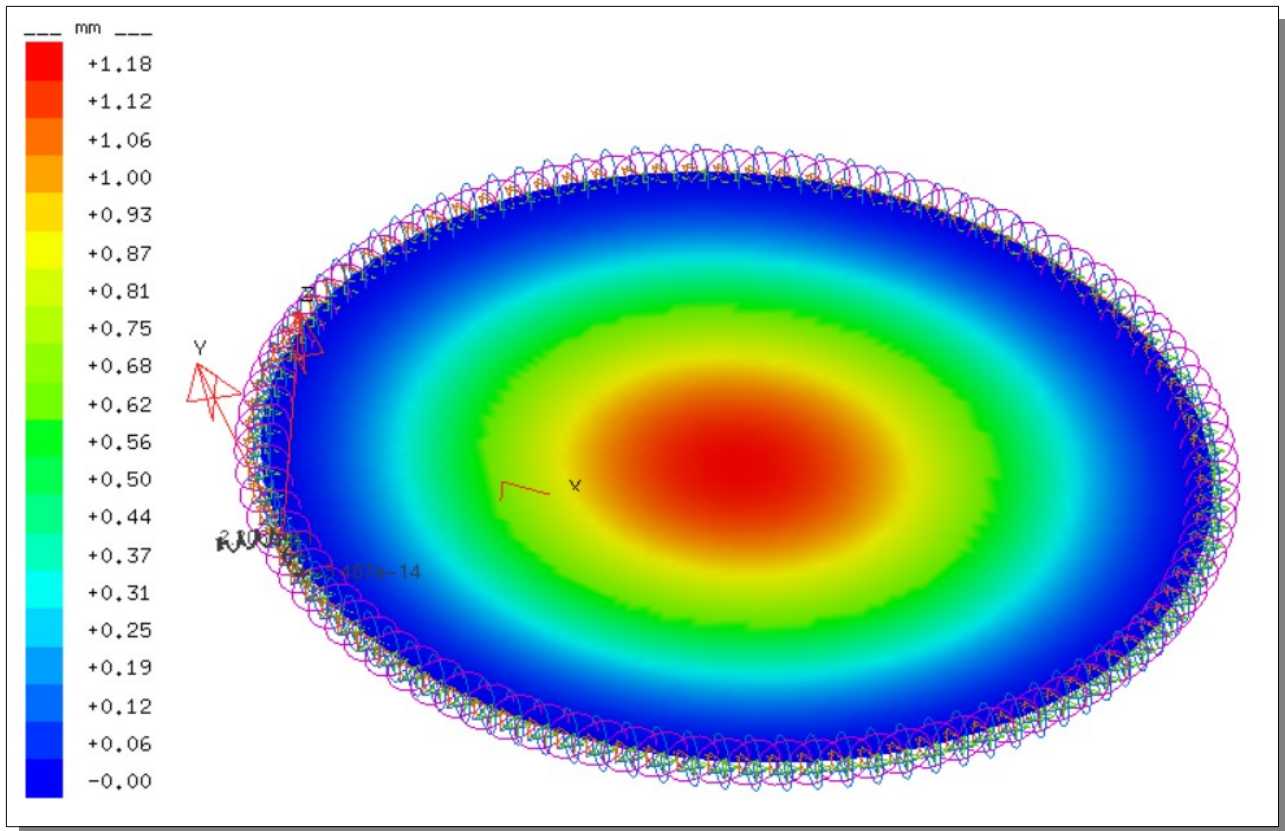
For this solution a Poisson's ratio of $\nu = 0.3$ is used.

Solving this quadratic equation will lead to a deflection under large deformation effects of $w_0 = 1.18 \text{ mm}$.

Mepla Pro is using boundary condition typ 1 for a clamped solution.



Deformation obtained here is: **1.18 mm**



2 Circular plate – pure membrane effects

In the same publication there is found a solution for pure membrane effects, so under neglecting any bending effect for very thin plates:

$$0.583 \left(\frac{w_0}{h} \right)^3 \approx 0.176 \frac{q}{E} \left(\frac{a}{h} \right)^4 \quad \text{and} \quad w_0 = 0.665a \sqrt[3]{\frac{qa}{Eh}}$$

For a plate thickness $h = 1.0$ mm the deformation w_0 is found to **6.40** mm.

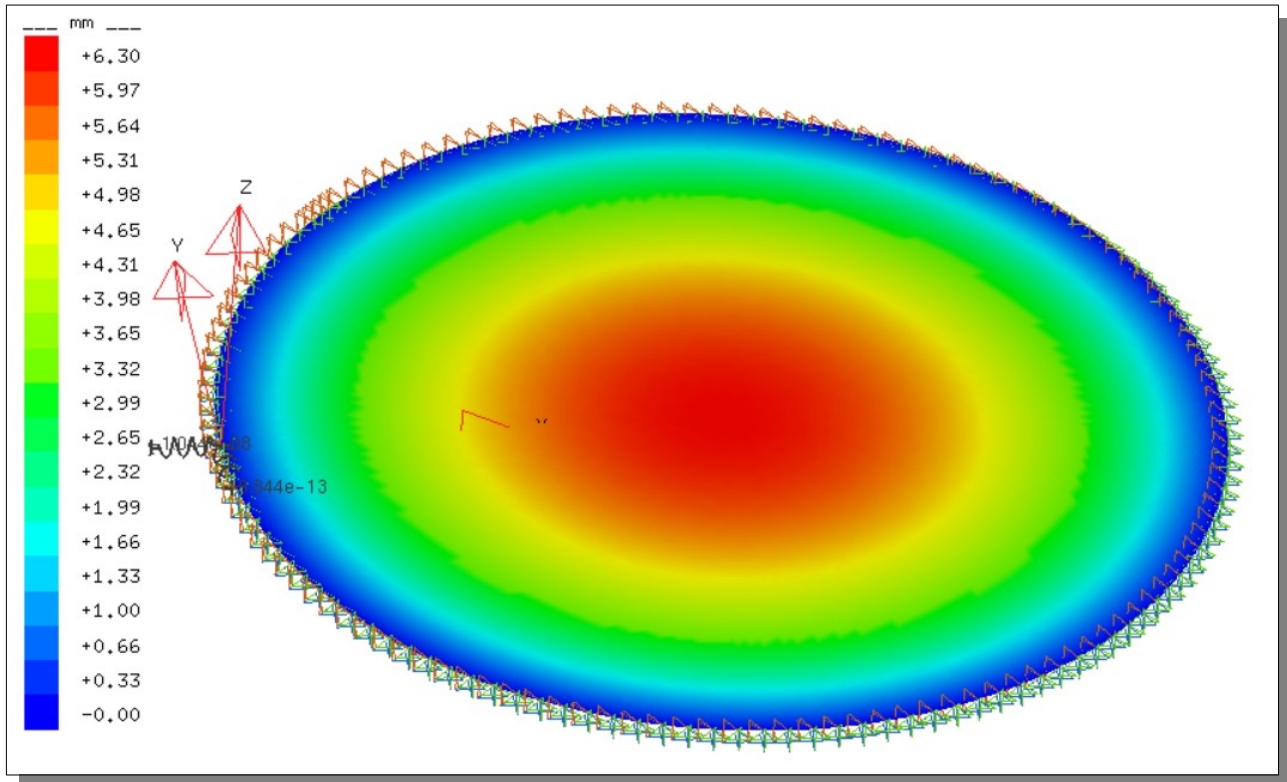
And a more complete solution of the same problem using $\nu = 0.25$

$$w_0 = 0.662a \sqrt[3]{\frac{qa}{Eh}} \quad (236)$$

leads to **6.37** mm.

Mepla Pro is using typ 7 support to allow free membrane behaviour without clamping effects as requested. The face load used here is the same as above $q = 0.001$.

The deformation found here under high geometrically non-linear effects is **6.30 mm**.

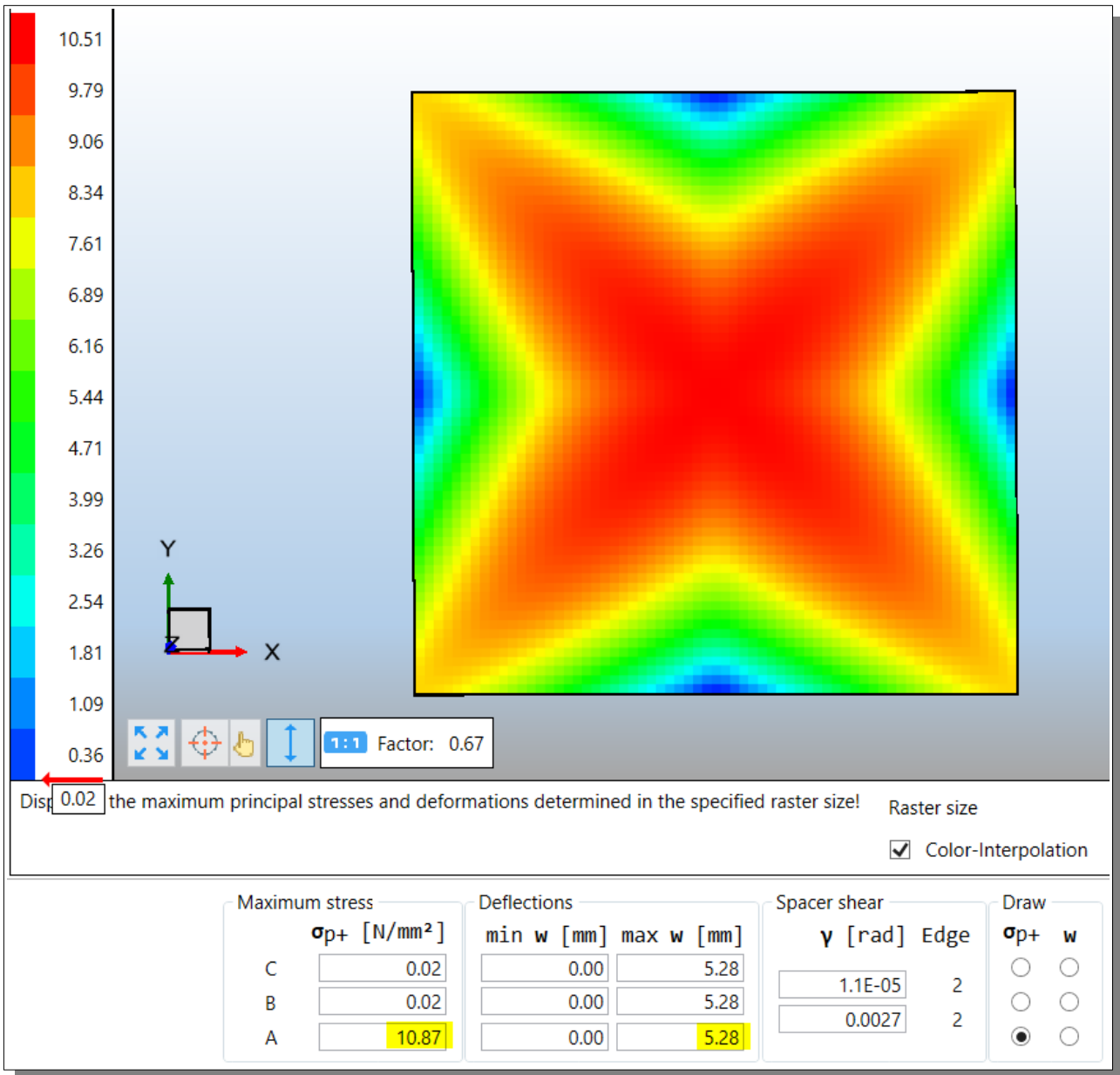


3 Quadratic plate – linear geometrically

For a quadratic system of 1000x1000 mm the plate differential equation is solved by Fourier Series using Mepla Iso. The thickness of the plate is again 5mm and the uniform load is 1 KN/m². The plate is simply supported all around.

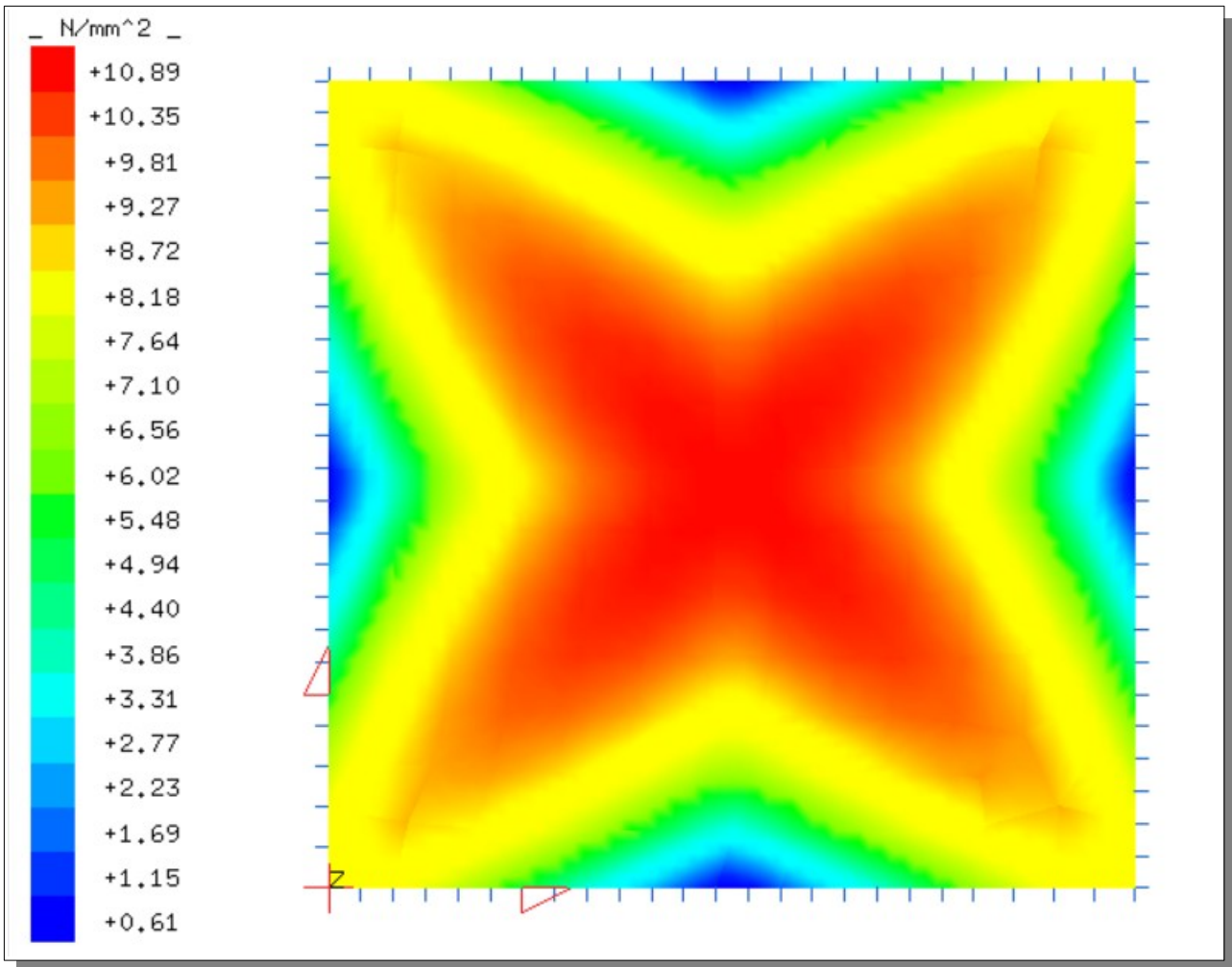
Deflections under linear theory are **5.28 mm**

Stresses in the center are **10.51 N/mm²**.



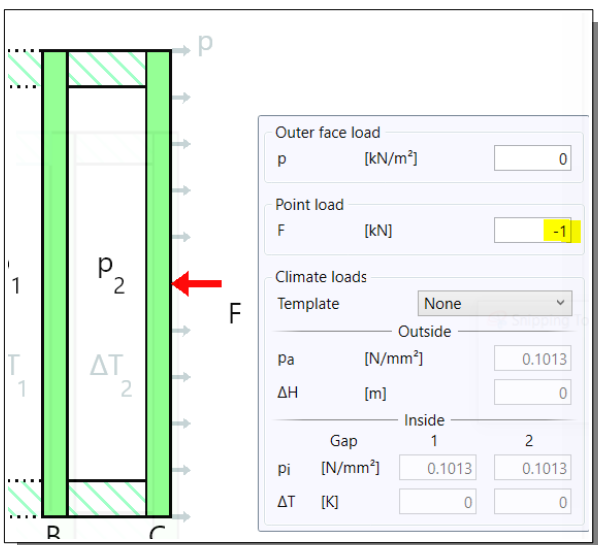
Solving the same in **MEPLA PRO** leads to

a deformation in the center of **5.26 mm** and stresses of **10.89 N/mm²**.

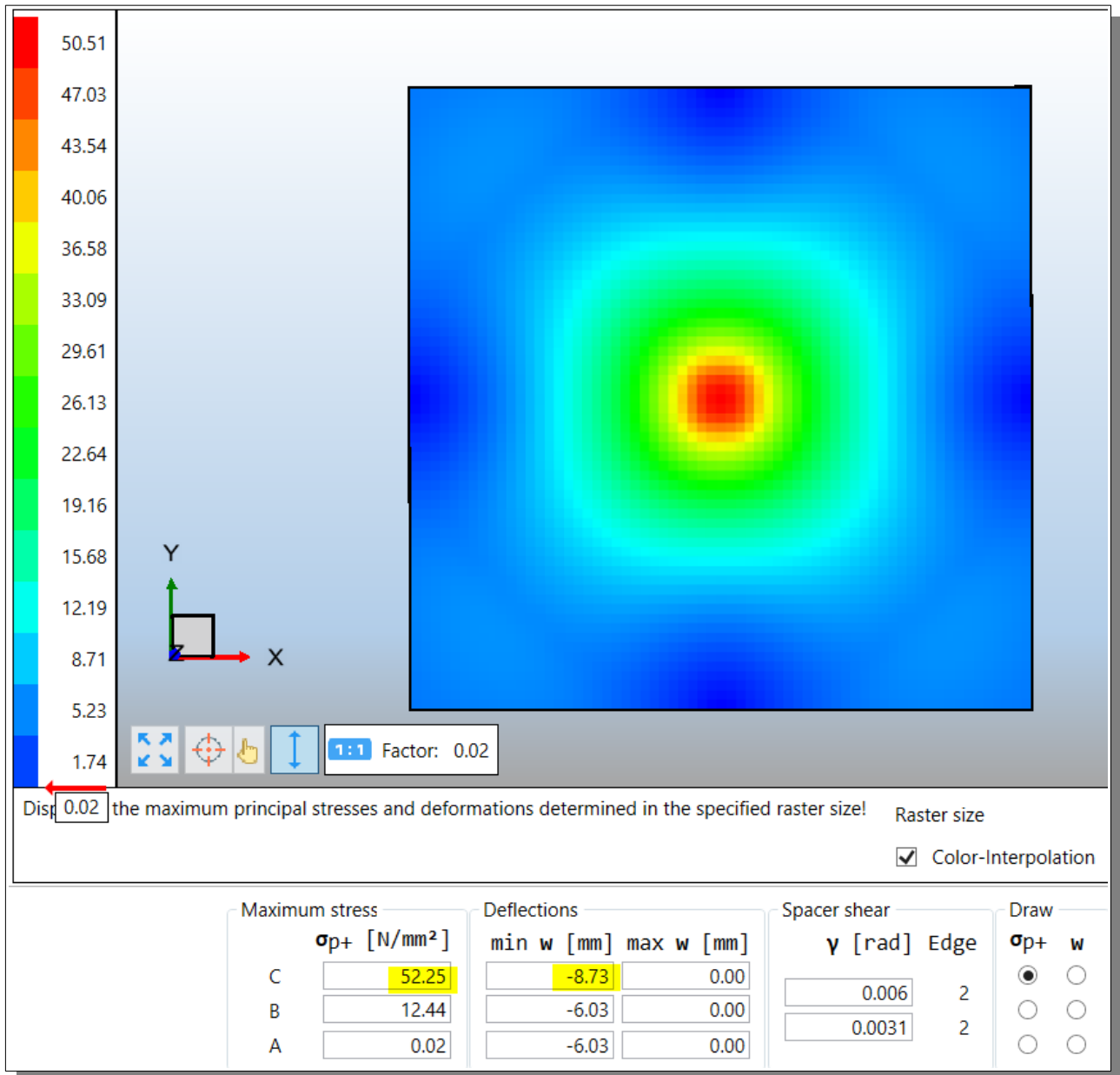


4 Quadratic insulated glass – linear geometrically

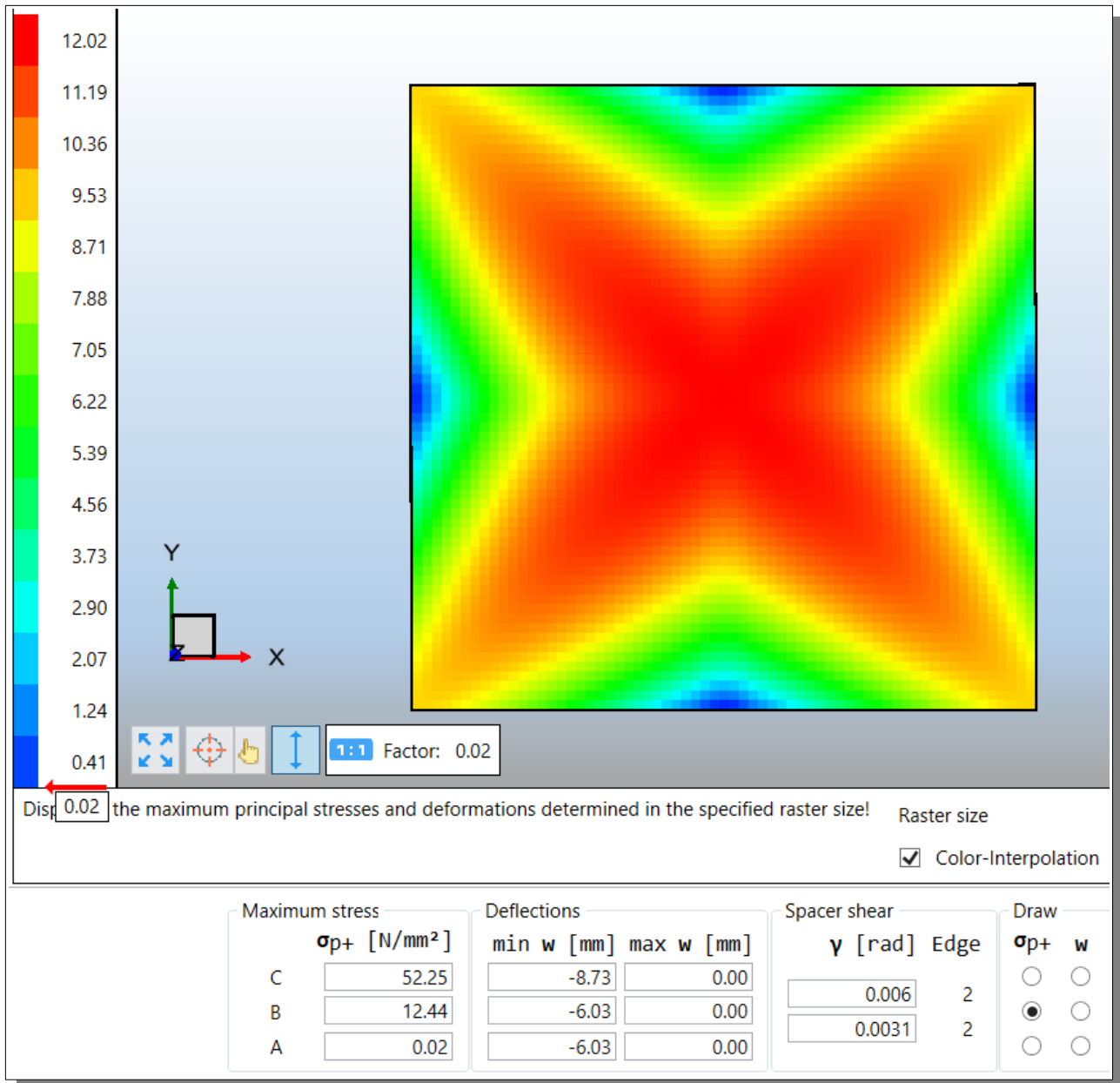
An insulated glass of 2 x 5 mm with a 16 mm gap is regarded. The outside plate is loaded by 1.0 kN on an area of 100 x 100 mm. Size as above.



The resulting deformations in the outside glass are **8.73 mm** and by stresses of **50.51 N/mm²**.



The inside glass is hereby only loaded by the compressed air in the gap – so a uniform face load. A climate load has not been set.



Deformations are **6.03 mm** and stresses inside **12.44 N/mm²**.

Comparing this with **MEPLA PRO**, also on a linear basis results in

- deformations outside **8.80 mm** and stresses of **53.18 N/mm²**
- deformations inside **5.99 mm** and stresses **12.35 N/mm²**

Also here the inside glass is only loaded uniformly by the compressed air in the gap.

