# The Acoustic and Vibrational Effects of Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastic as a Sole Manufacturing Material for Acoustic Guitars

COMSOL Conference, Boston 2012 Jimmy O'Donnell; Graeme McRobbie University of the West of Scotland

## Introduction

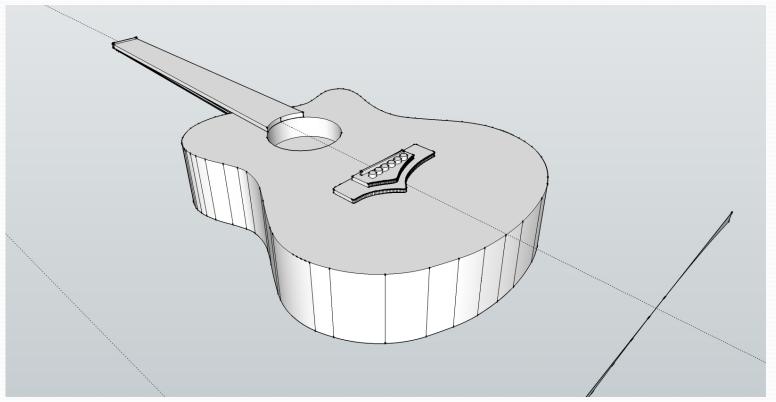
• Aim:

- Phase 2 of a continuing project
- Confirm validity and reliability of project from previous work
- Study top plate eigenfrequencies

## Model Design

- Soundboard constructed as a solid in AutoCAD
- Guitar measured with large 'outside' callipers
- Complex curves measured with a profile gauge
- CAD model imported into Rhinoceros and exported as an .igs file

• CAD image of guitar



COMSOL

- Structural Mechanics Module
  - Selected Physics; Solid Mechanics (Solid)
  - Preset Studies; Eigenfrequency

- Boundary Settings:
  - Free Constraint
    - Top, bottom of the of the sound board and interior boundary of the sound hole
  - Fixed Constraint
    - All outside edges of the soundboard

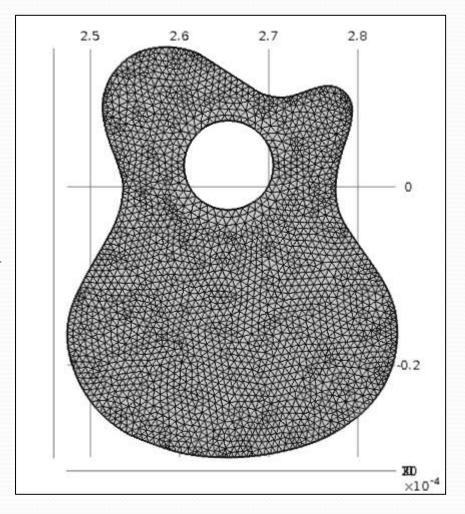
#### Material Contents

| Variable        | Value  | Units |
|-----------------|--------|-------|
| Young's Modulus | 1.01e9 | Pa    |
| Density         | 1015   | Kg/m³ |
| Poisson's Ratio | 0.28   |       |

#### Linear Elastic Material Model

| Variable                   | Value |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Anisotropic<br>Loss Factor | 0.02  |

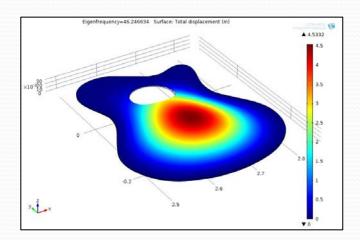
- Mesh Detail;
  - Free tetrahedral mesh
    - 14264 elements
    - 87900 degrees of freedom
    - Normal element size



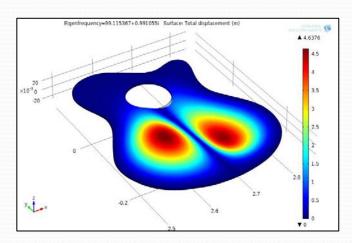
# Results

**Table 1** – Comparison of soundboard versus plate

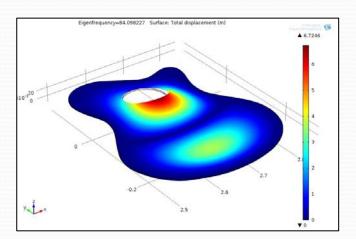
| Eigenfrequency No. | Soundboard | Plate |
|--------------------|------------|-------|
| 1                  | 46         | 35    |
| 2                  | 84         | 62    |
| 3                  | 100        | 79    |
| 4                  | 139        | 105   |
| 5                  | 151        | 107   |
| 6                  | 168        | 147   |
| 7                  | 175        | 148   |
| 8                  | 205        | 168   |
| 9                  | 240        | 172   |
| 10                 | 251        | 207   |



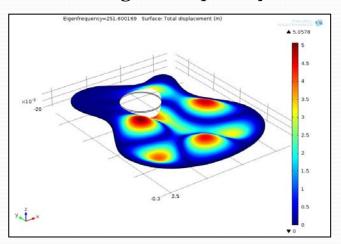
First Eigen-frequency



Third Eigen-frequency



Second Eigen-frequency



Tenth Eigen-frequency

## Phase 3 + Further Work

- Full guitar model
- Sound-field measurements
- Holographic Interferometry
- Fluid dynamics air/body interaction





#### Picture taken from:

Proceedings of the Second Vienna Talk, Sept. 19 –21, 2010, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna, Austria "Mode Studies of Plucked Stringed Instruments: Application of Holographic Interferometry" pp 129 - 132
Richardson, B. Cardiff University

## Conclusions

• This study has given positive results which will be confirmed through collaboration later this year.

High level of confidence for further work in this area

# Questions?

COMSOL CONFERENCE BOSTON 2012

Thanks for Listening jimmy.odonnell@uws.ac.uk