



CivilFEM®

# BULK STORAGE SILO

# Introduction

Storage silos have been present all over the world for more than a century.

They are present in transport chains from the beginning of the chain, as well as in intermediate stages and obviously, at the end of the process. In all of these stages, silos are used as storage devices.

In this case study we are going to modelize the behaviour when an earthquake occurs.

# Data

## Bulk:

- Material: Concrete
- Density: 16 kN/m<sup>3</sup>

## Silo:

- Diameter: 2,4 m
- Height: 8,0 m

## Hopper:

- Diameter: 2,4 m
- Discharge hole: 0,20 m

## Top:

- Height: 0,15 m

## Materials:

- Steel S 275 JR
- Steel S 355 JR

## Steel section:

- 2 UPN 120 (Pilars)
- Circular 8 mm (Braces)

## Ground :

- Acceleration: 0,25·g
- Type B

# CivilFEM powered by Marc

With CivilFEM powered by Marc we can perform a complete analysis of the silo.

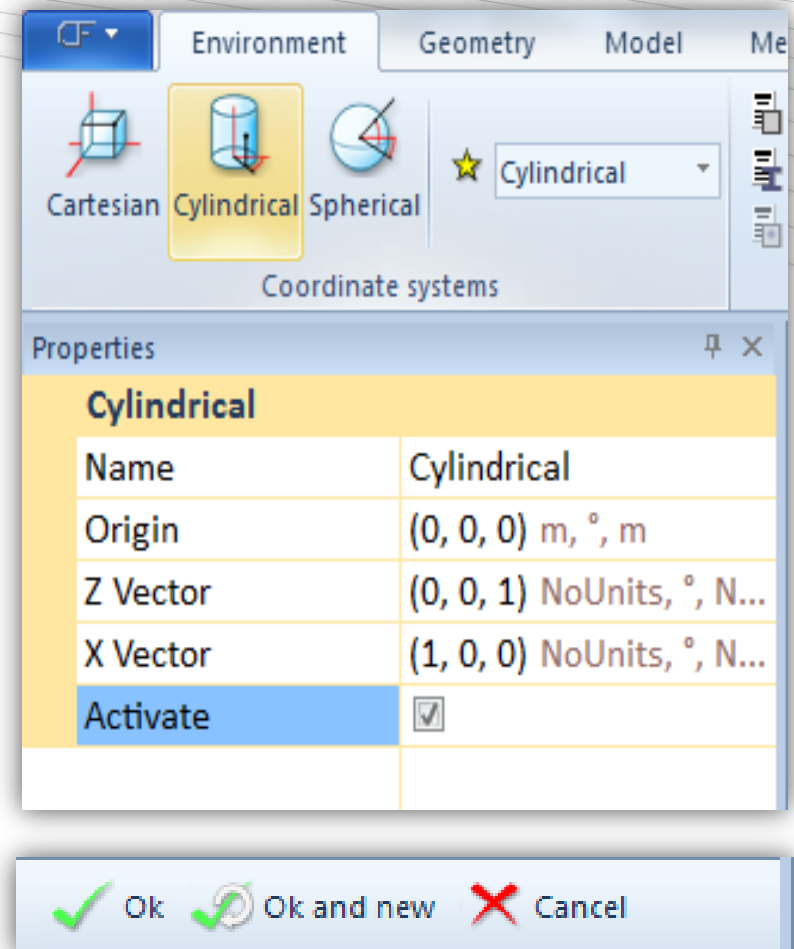
All design stages are performed with CivilFEM powered by Marc, from geometry definition to the solving step.

It is also possible to make a seismic analysis according to Eurocode 8 EN 1998-1: 2004.

# Geometry

First of all, for convenience sake we should change the coordinate system from Global Cartesian to Cylindrical Coordinates and place the origin at (0,0,0).

1. Click on **Environment** tab.
2. Enter the parameter values.
3. Check the **Activate** box.
4. Click on **OK**.

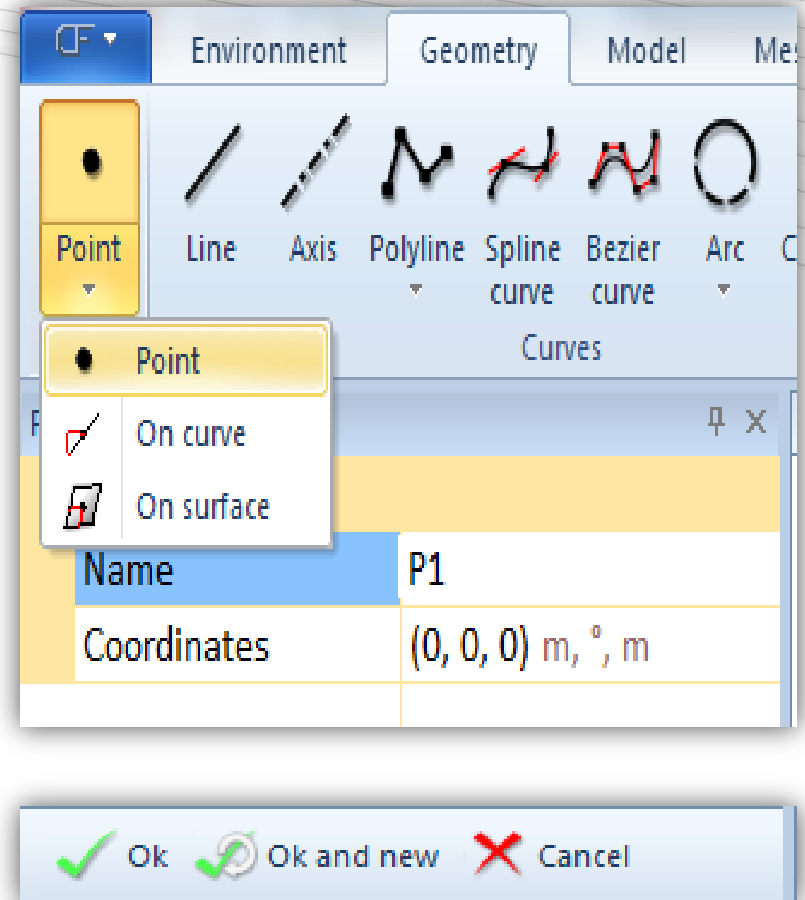


# Points

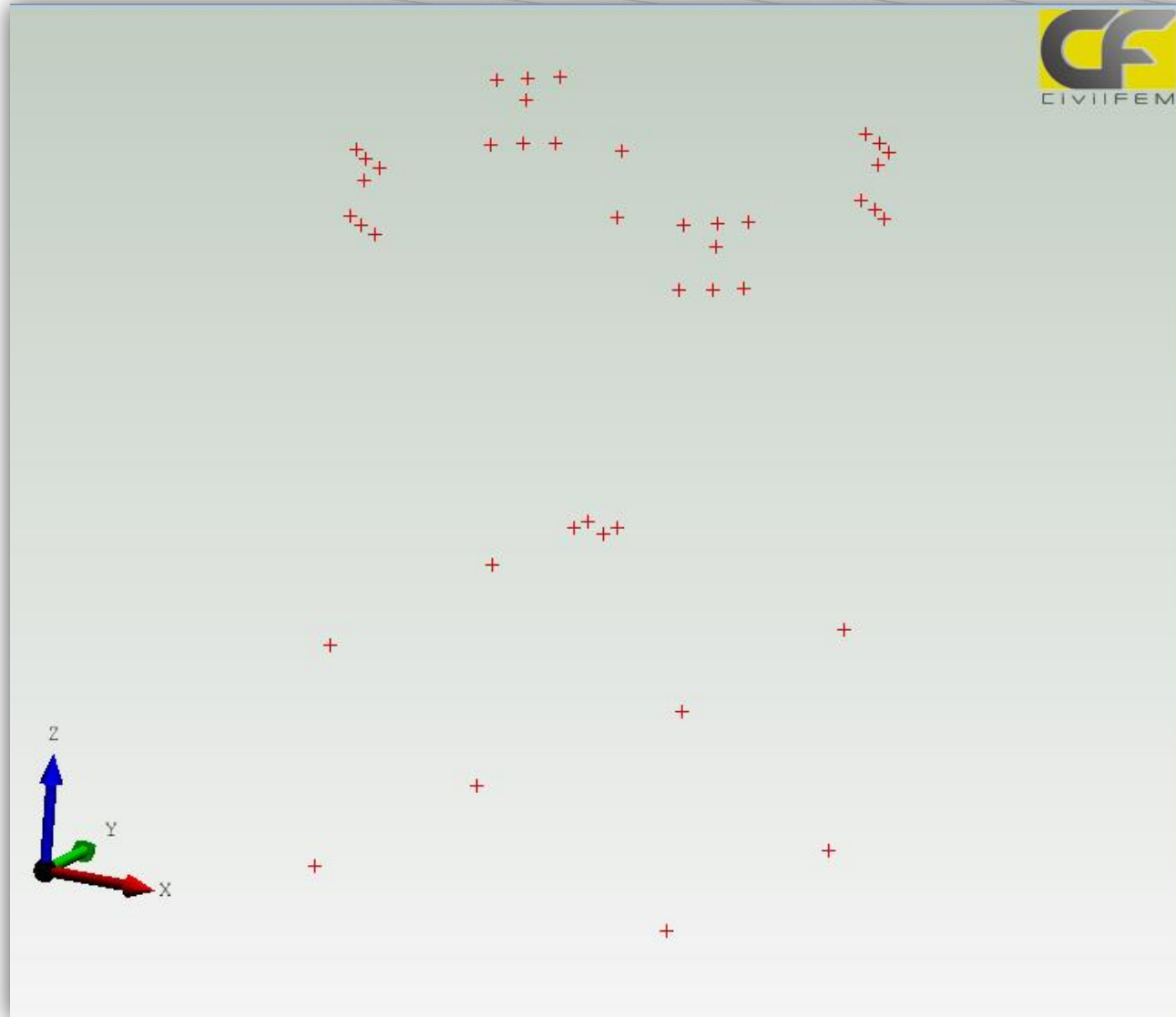
In order to create the points, follow these steps:

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Point** tab.
3. Click on **Point** again.
4. Enter the **name** and **coordinates**.
5. Click on **OK**.

Remember that we are in the Cylindrical system:  $(x, \theta, z)$



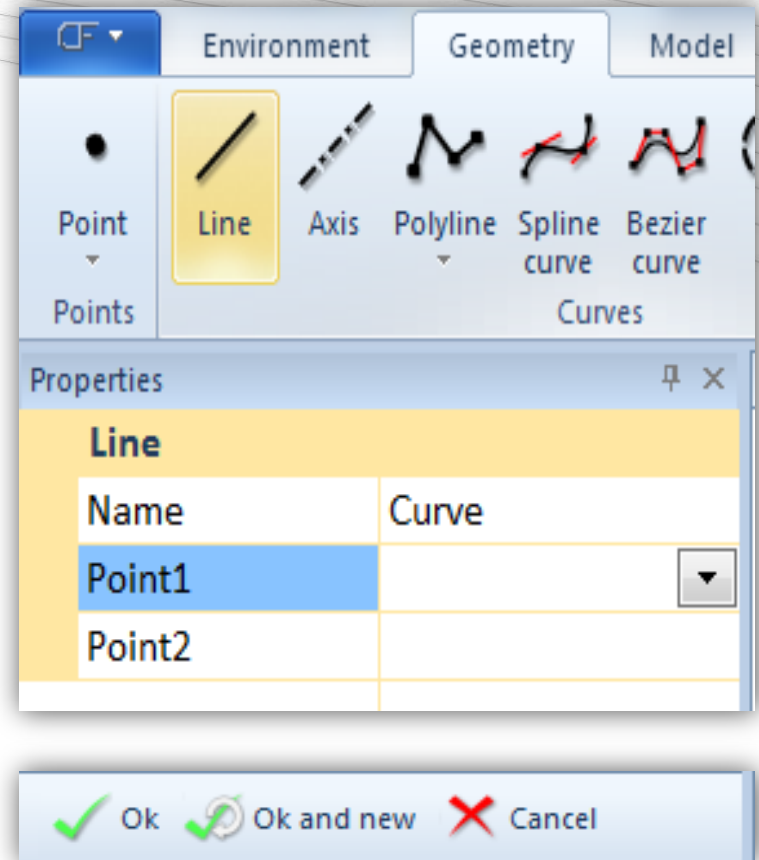
# Points



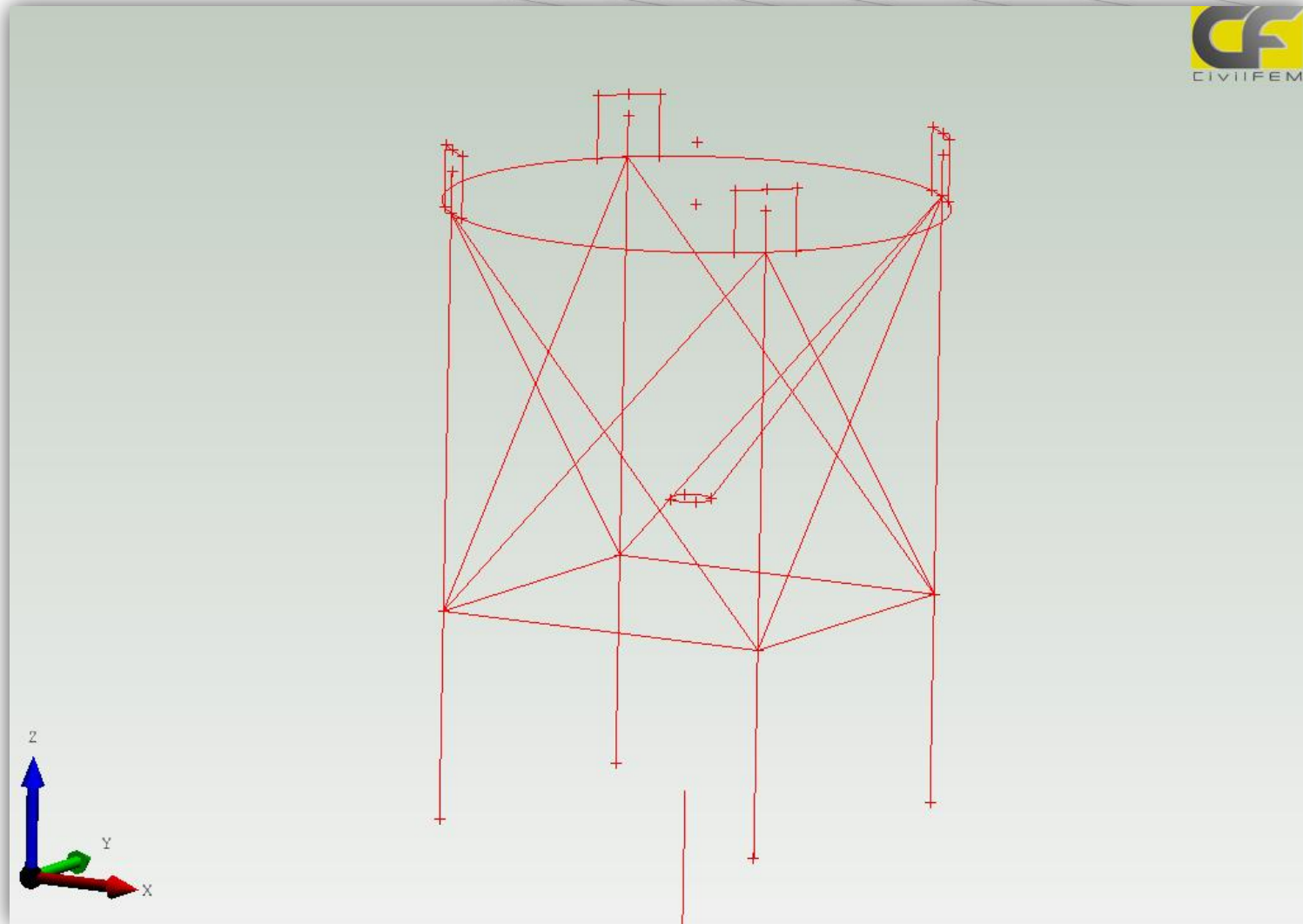
# Lines

To create the lines:

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Line** tab.
3. Check the **Referenced** box.
4. Enter the line name.
5. Select the points that define the line.
6. Click on **OK**.



# Lines



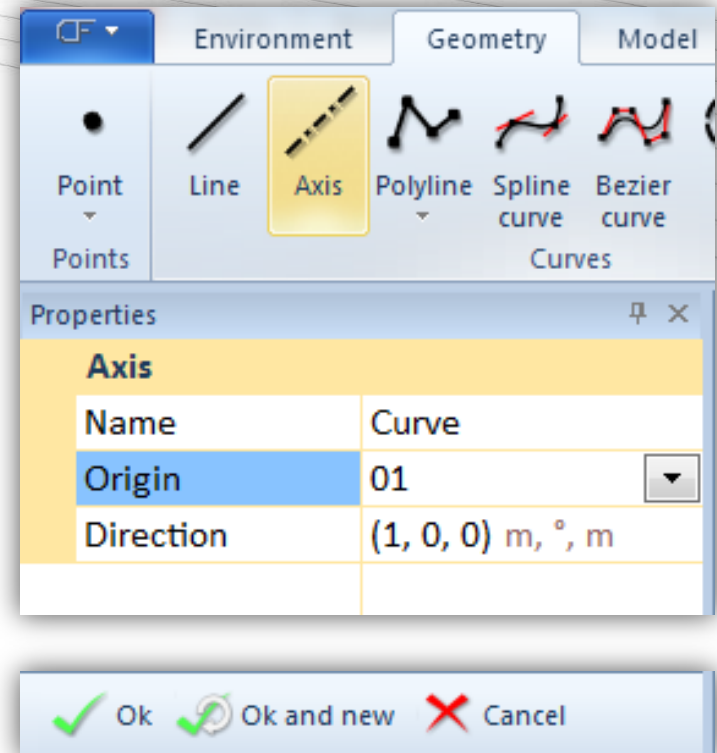
# Axis

To create the Axis:

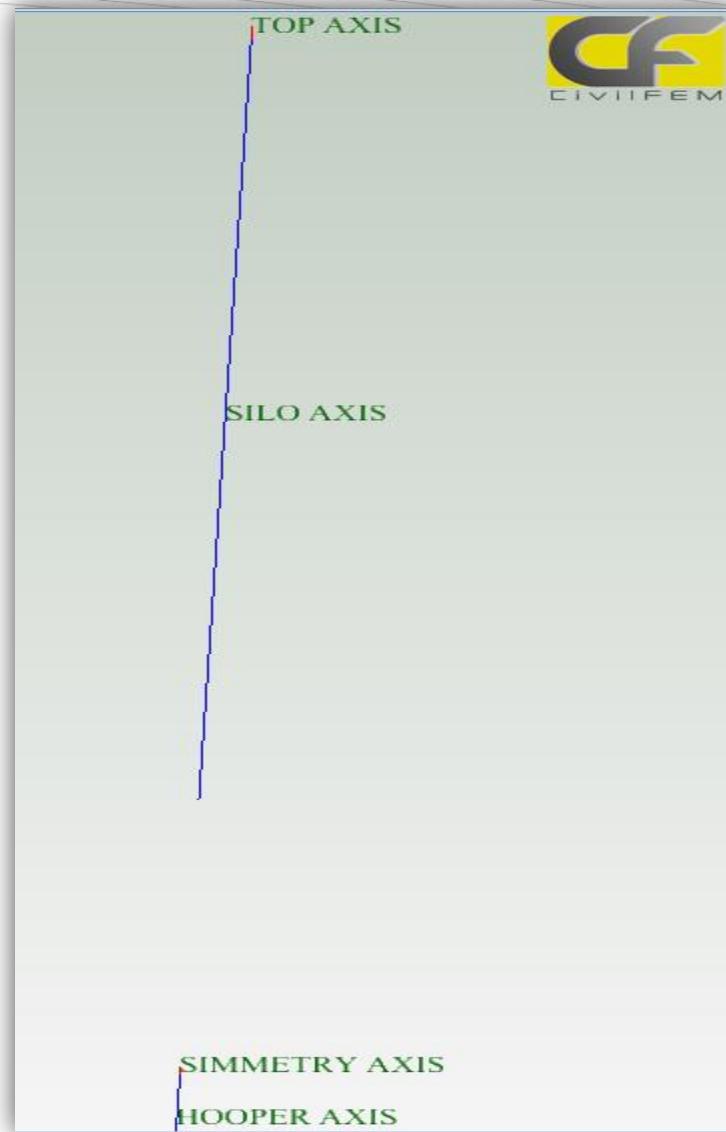
1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Axis** tab.
3. Enter the axis **Name**.
4. Enter the coordinates of the **Direction Vector**
5. Click on **OK**.

Create four axis:

Silo body, hopper body, top body and a symmetry axis.



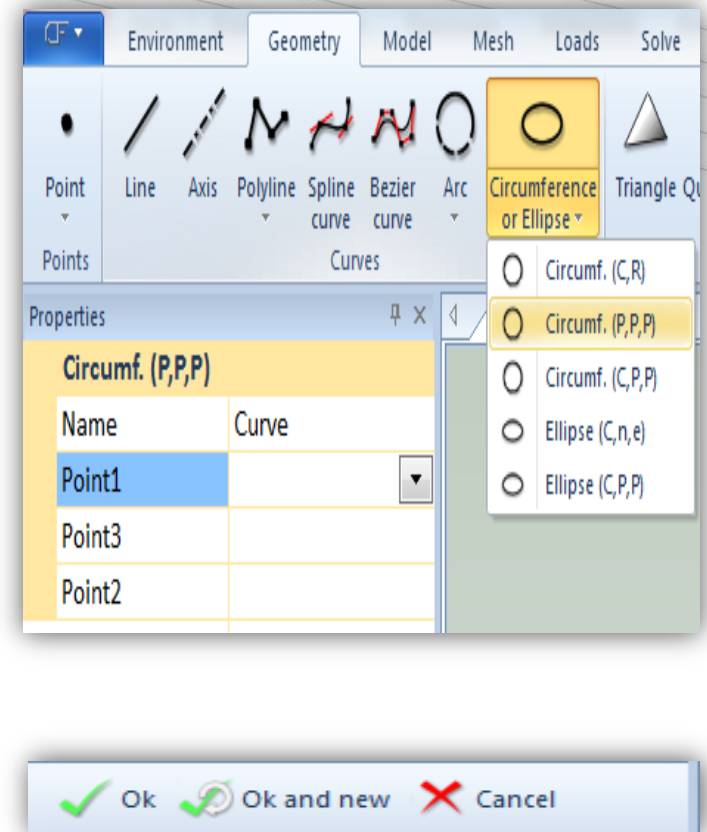
# Axis



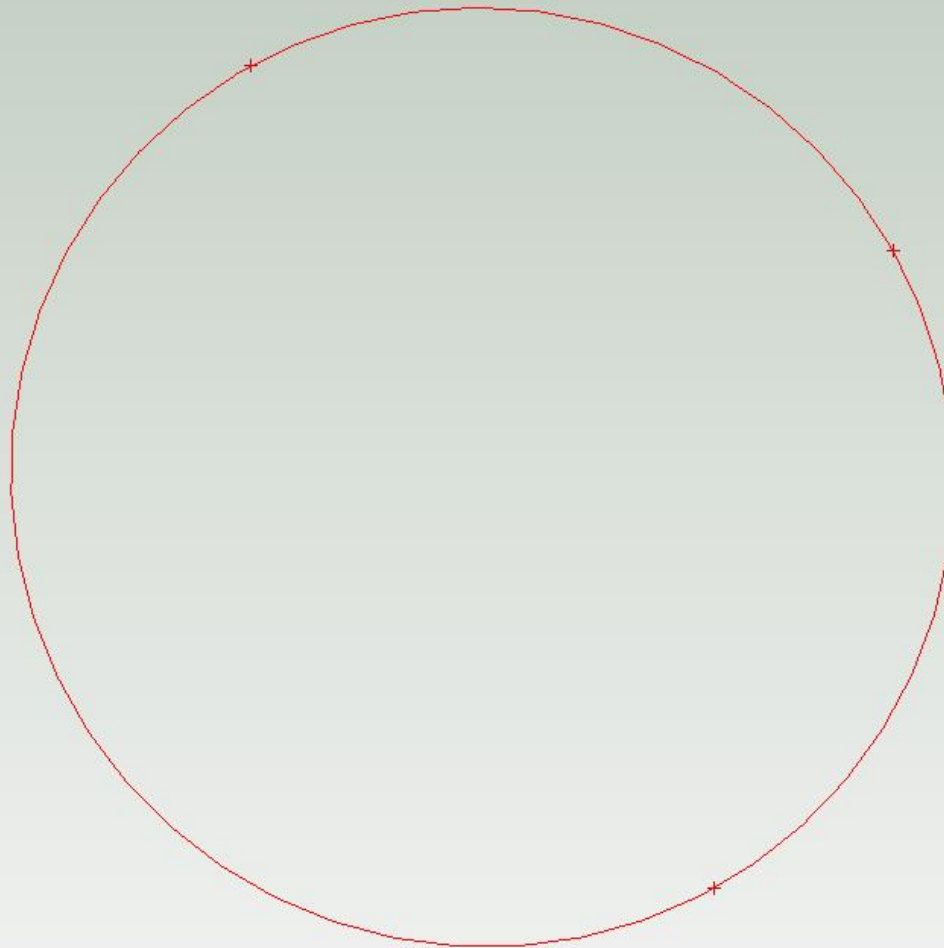
# Circles

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Circumference or Ellipse** tab.
3. Click on **Circum. (P, P, P)**.
4. Enter the axis **Name**.
5. Enter **Start vertex**, **End point** and **coordinates** of the **center**.
6. Click on **OK**.

Check the **Direction** box.



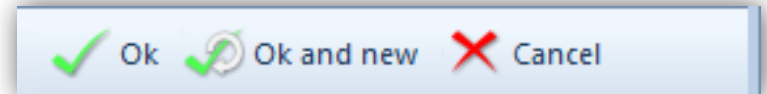
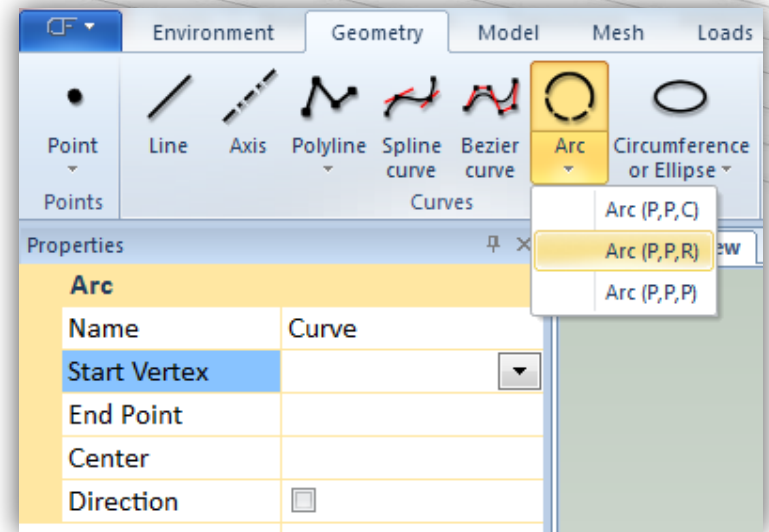
# Circles



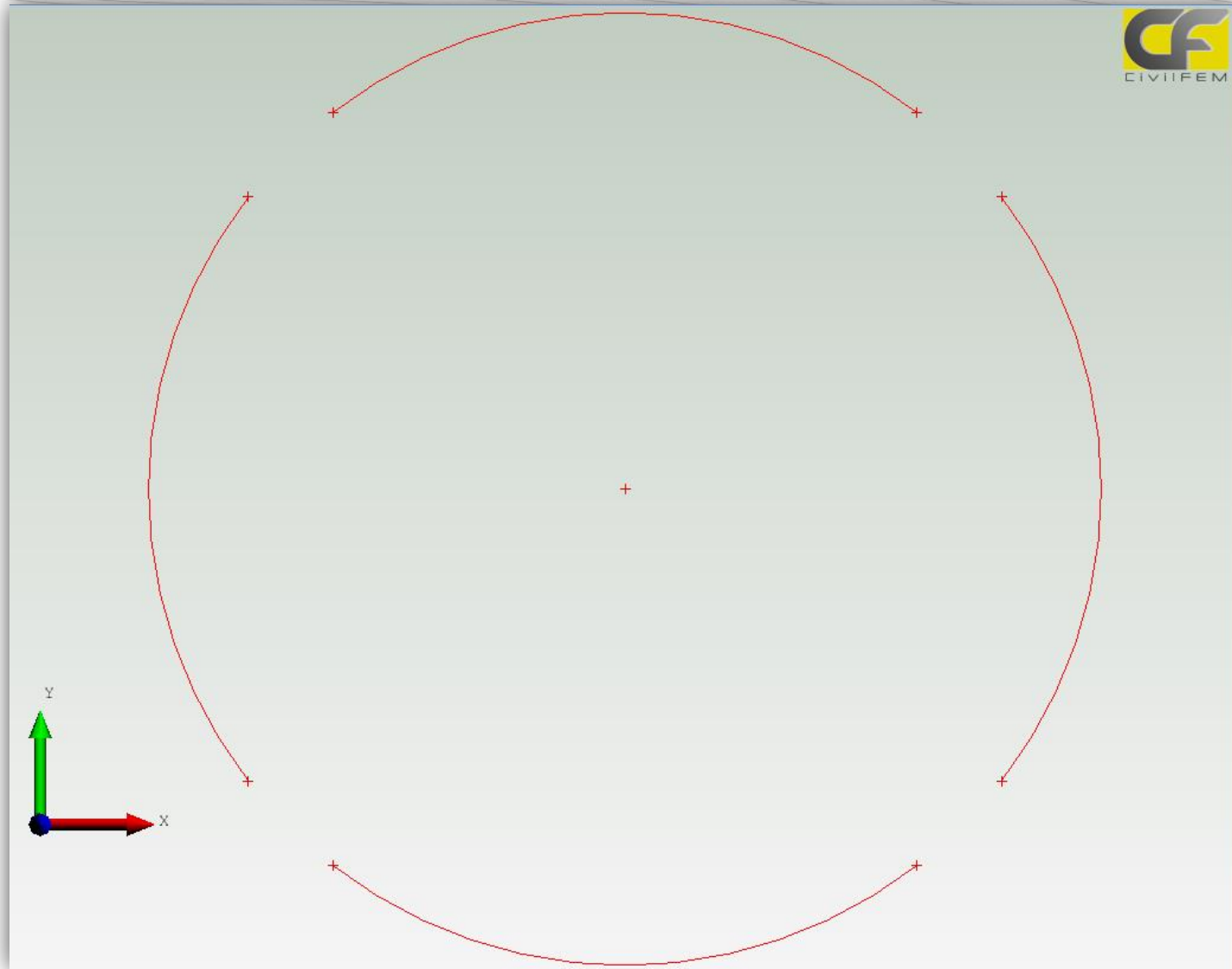
# Arcs

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Arc** tab.
3. Enter the axis **Name**.
4. Enter **Start vertex**, **End point** and **coordinates** of the **center**.
5. Click on **OK**.

Check the **Direction** box.



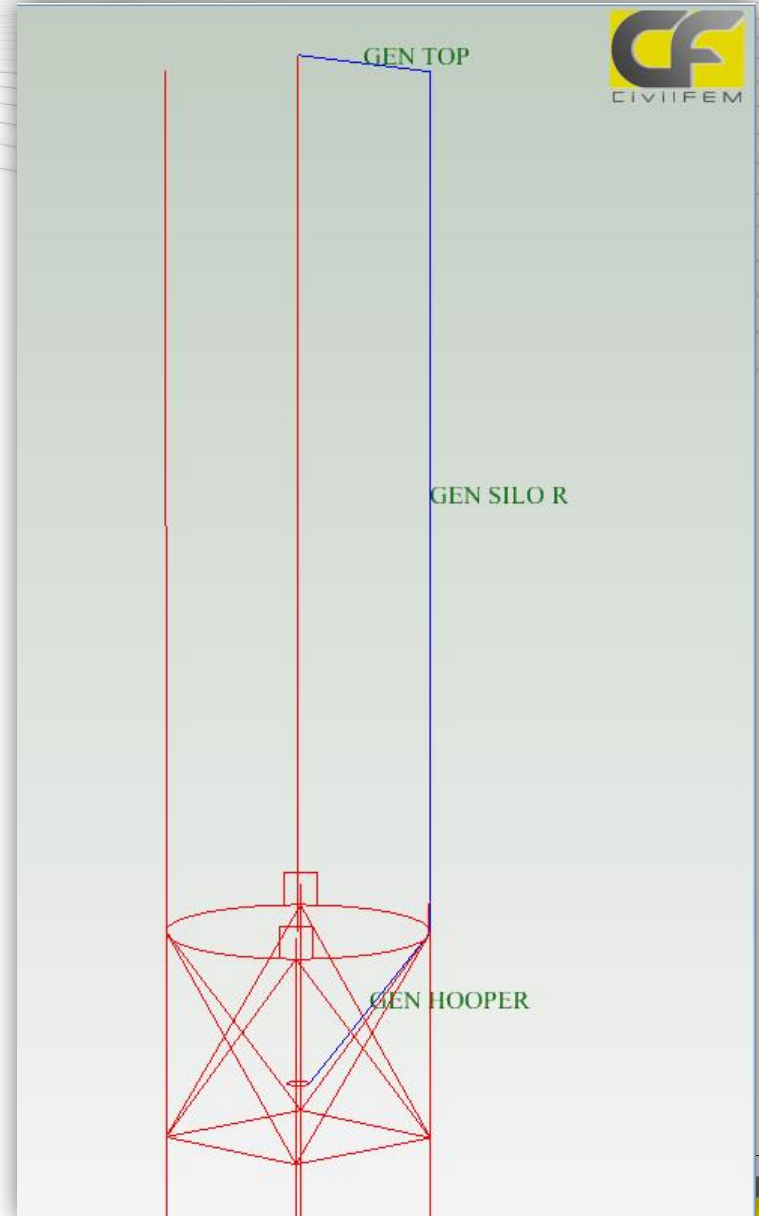
# Arcs



# Generatrix

Now create three generatrices for the revolution surfaces that will form the body of the silo, hopper and top body.

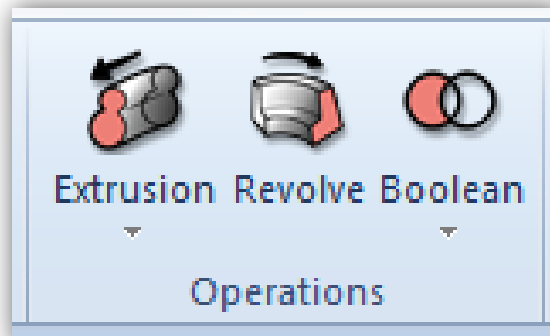
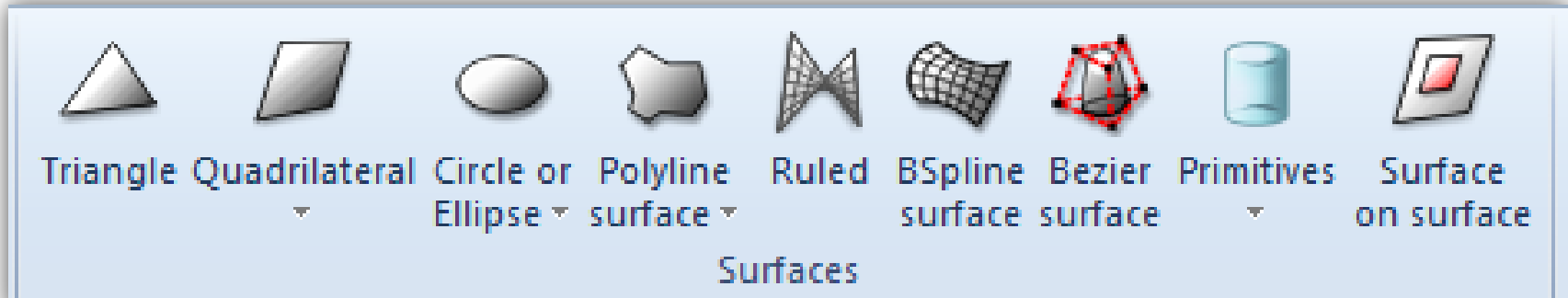
The procedure is the same as the procedure for defining lines.



# Surfaces

In CivilFEM with Marc we have different ways to create surfaces.

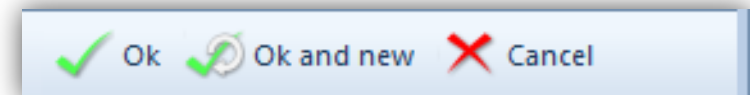
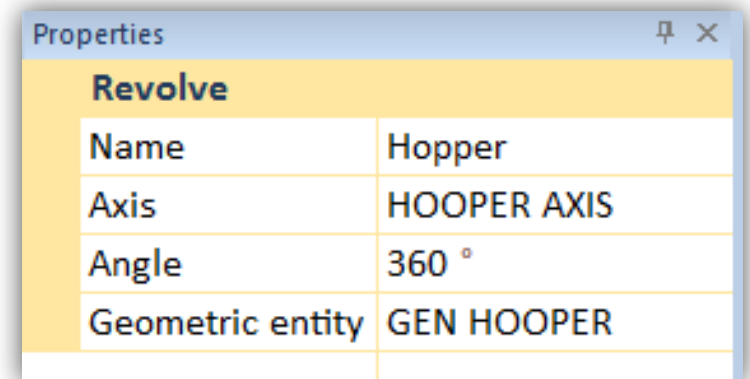
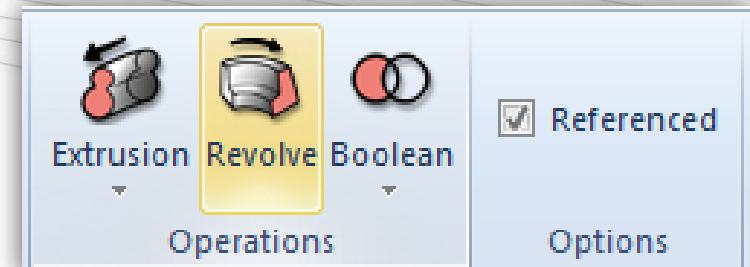
Clicking on the Geometry tab, different tools for the creation of surfaces are shown



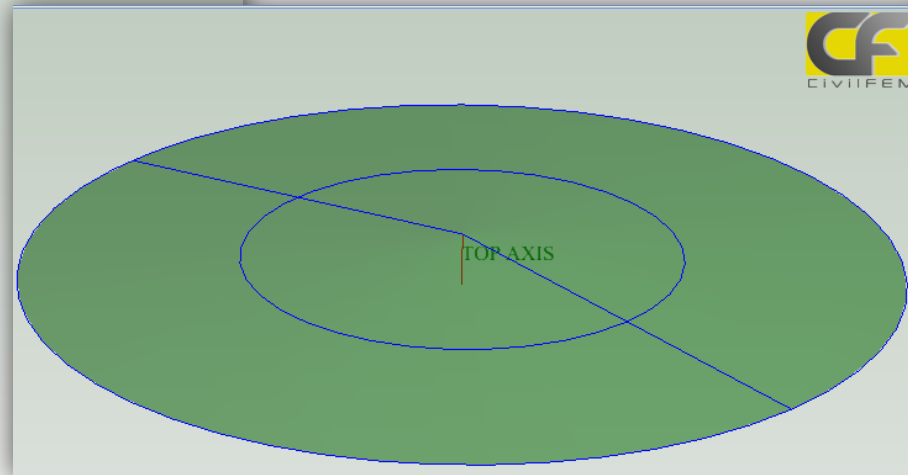
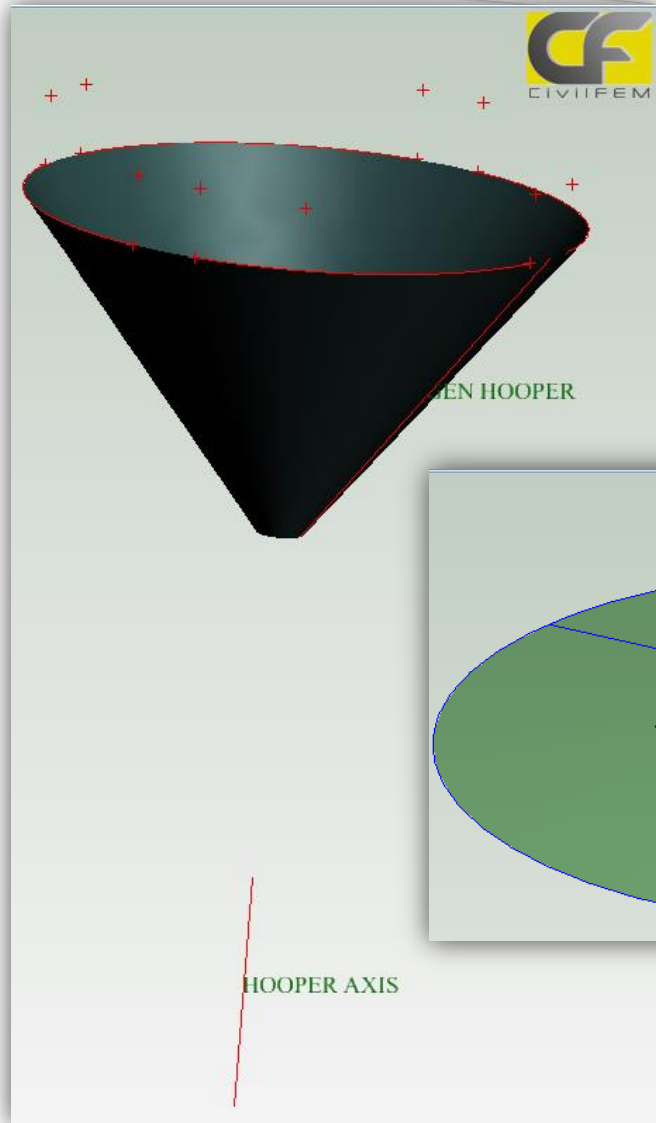
# Surfaces

For defining the silo, hopper and top body, follow these steps:

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Revolve** tab.
3. Check the **Reference** box.
4. Enter **name**, **axis**, **angle** of revolution and the **generatrix**, in this order.
5. Click on **OK**.



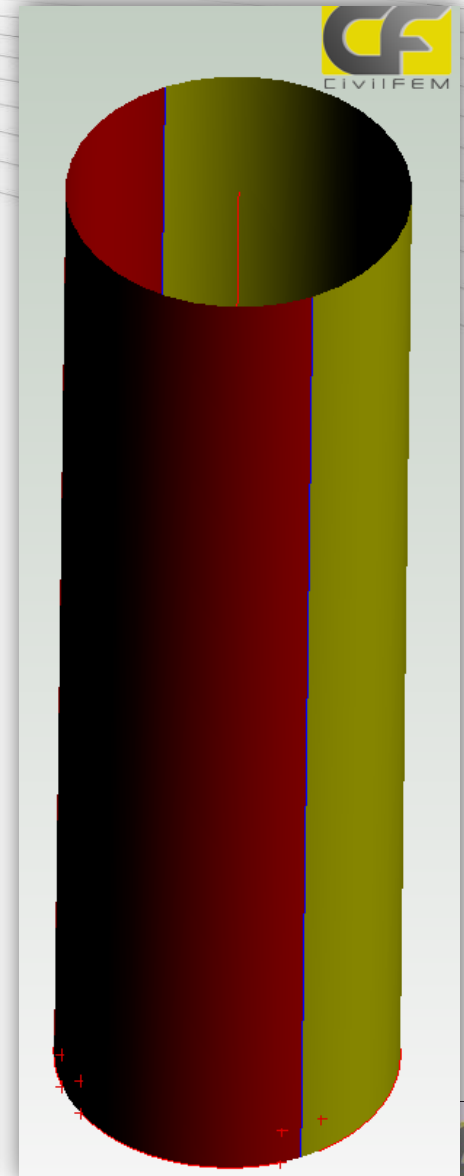
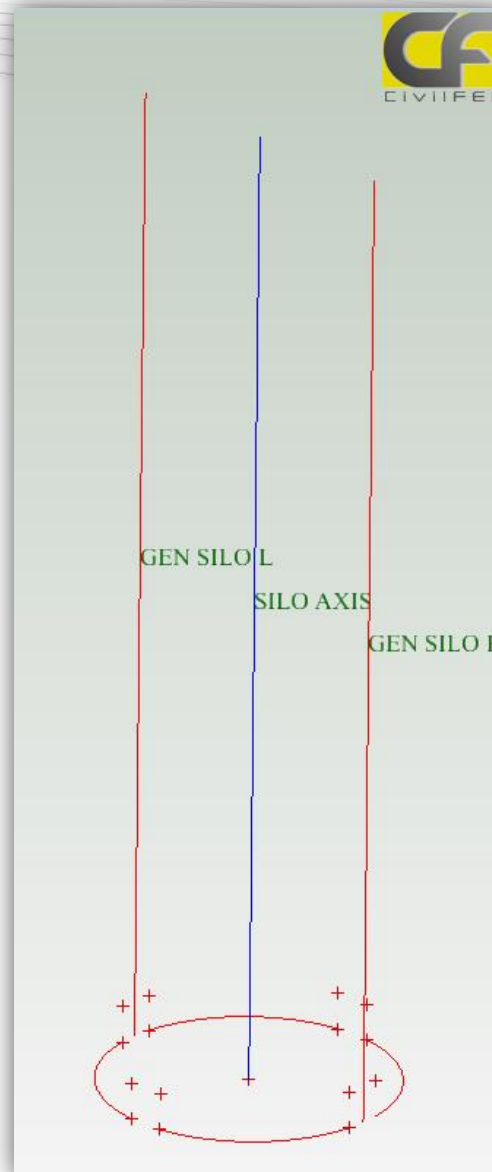
# Surfaces



# Surfaces

Futhermore, we need to create two auxiliary surfaces to apply the wind load.

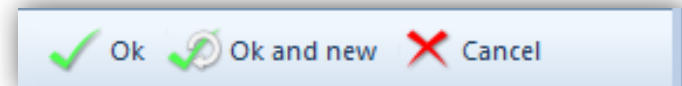
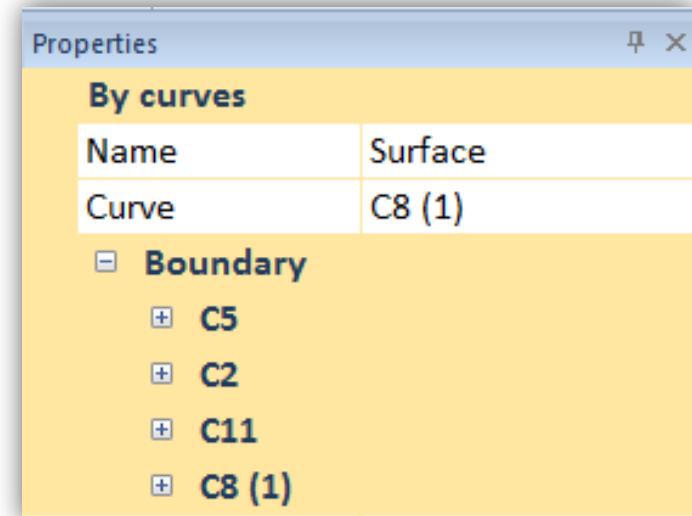
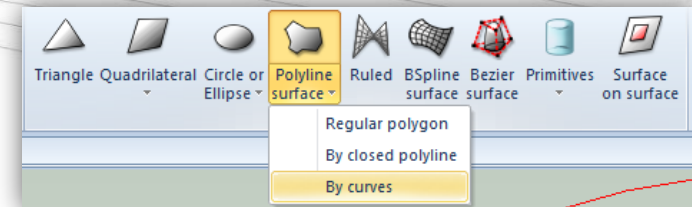
This surfaces will be defined by two half-cylinders created by revolution of two lines rotated 180°.



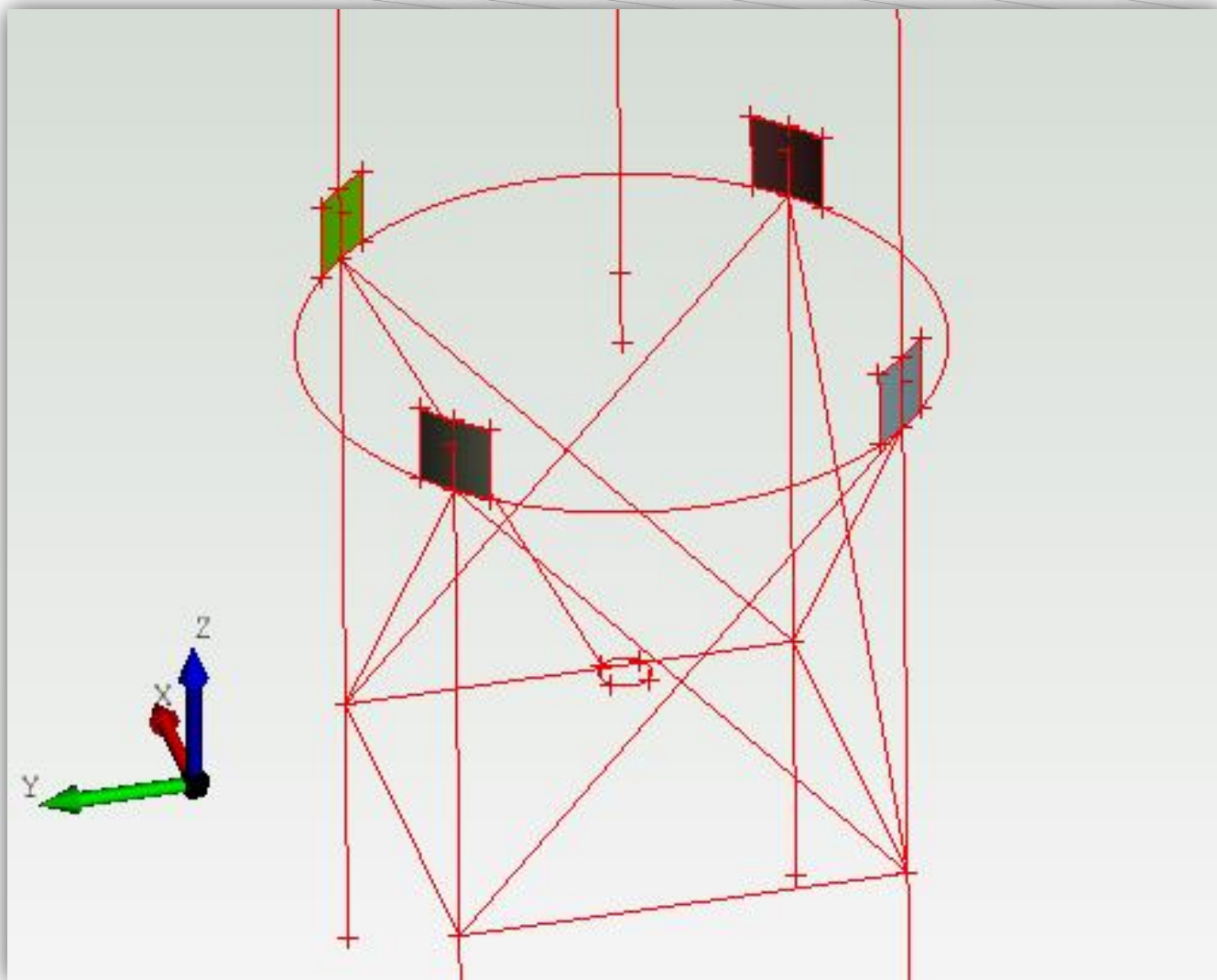
# Surfaces

In order to define the stiffeners follow these steps:

1. Click on **Geometry** tab.
2. Click on **Polyline Surface** tab.
3. Select **By curves**.
4. Select surface boundaries.
5. Click on **OK**.



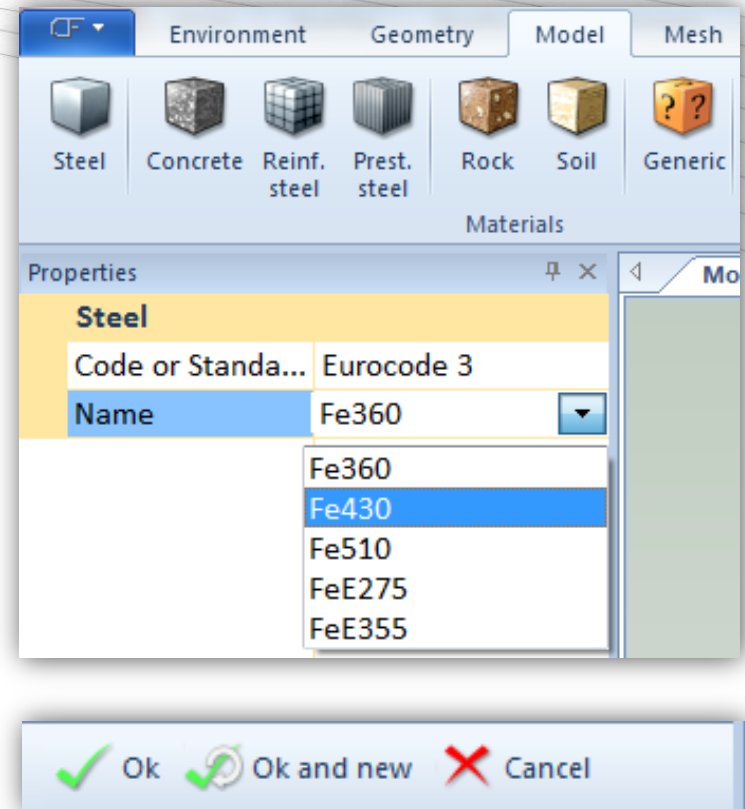
# Surfaces



# Materials

We have to create materials for the silo.

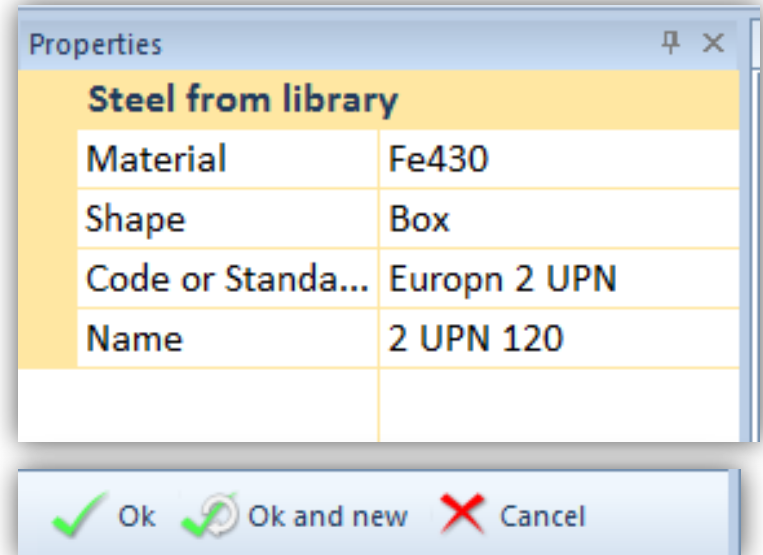
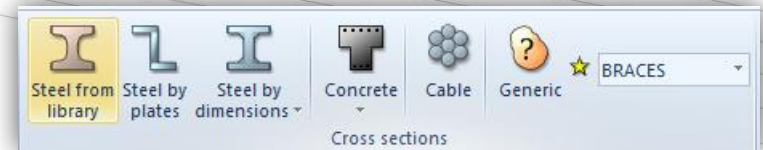
1. Click on **Model** tab.
2. Click on **Steel** tab.
3. Select **Eurocode 3**.
4. Select **Fe 430** for silo.
5. Click on **OK and new**.
6. Select **Fe 510** for braces and stiffeners.
7. Click on **OK**.



# Sections

To create the **pilar** sections, follow these steps:

1. Click on **Model** tab.
2. Click on **Steel from library** tab.
3. Select **Fe 430**.
4. In shape select **Box**.
5. **Code** European 2 UPN
6. **Name** 2 UPN 120
7. Click on **OK**.



# Sections

To create the **brace** sections, follow these steps:

1. Click on **Model** tab.
2. Click on **Steel from library** tab.
3. Select **Fe 430**.
4. In shape select **Box**.
5. **Code** European 2 UPN
6. **Name** 2 UPN 120
7. Click on **OK**.



Properties	
<b>Cable</b>	
Name	Braces
Material	Fe510
Outer diameter	0.06 m

✓ Ok   ✓ Ok and new   ✗ Cancel

# Sections

To create the **brace** sections, follow these steps:

1. Click on **Model** tab.
2. Click on **Steel from library** tab.
3. Select **Fe 430**.
4. In shape select **Box**.
5. **Code** European 2 UPN
6. **Name** 2 UPN 120
7. Click on **OK**.



Properties	
<b>Cable</b>	
Name	Braces
Material	Fe510
Outer diameter	0.06 m

✓ Ok    ✓ Ok and new    ✗ Cancel

# Structural elements

Once we have defined all the geometry entities, materials and sections, we have to create the structural elements.

1. Click on **Mesh** tab.
2. Choose between **Beam**, **Truss** or **Shell**.

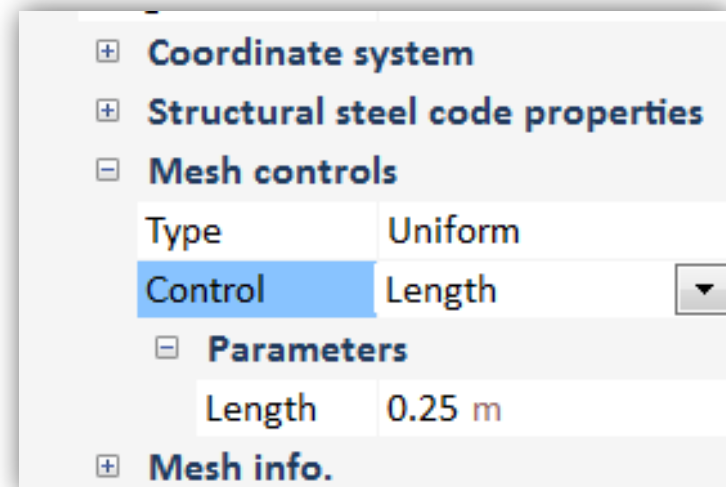
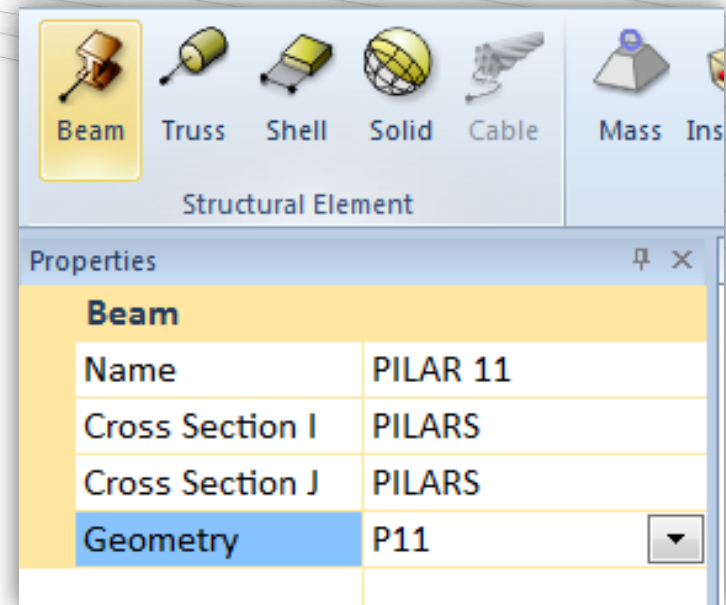
Choose Beam for pilars, Truss for braces and Shell for bodies of the silo, hooper and top.



# Structural elements

## Beams:

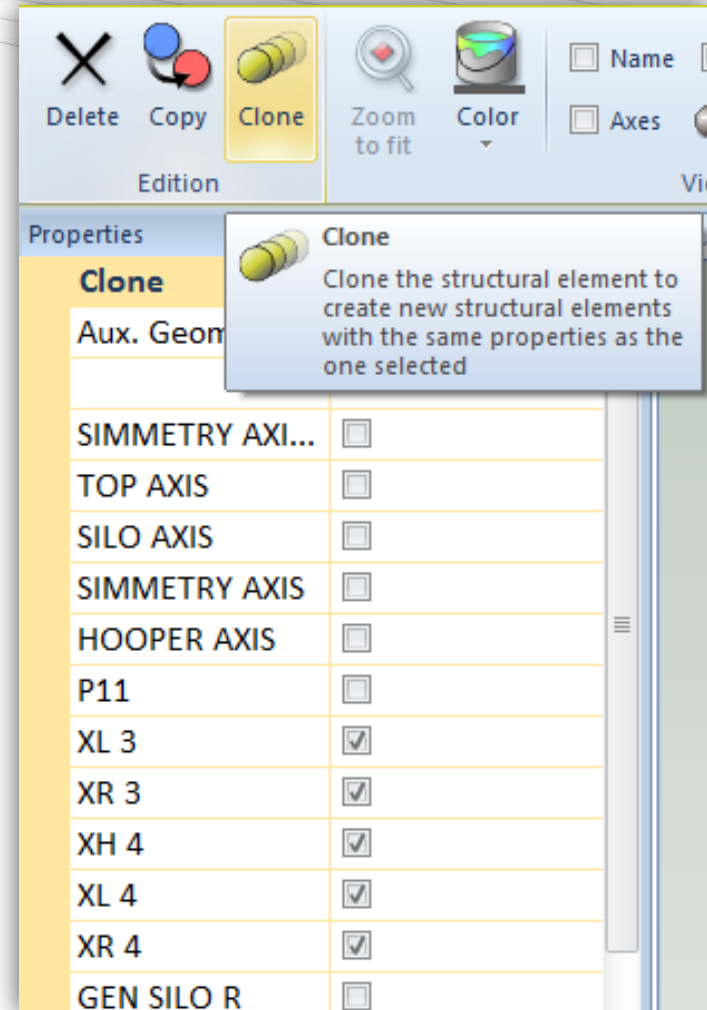
1. Click on **Beam**.
2. Select the **Section**.
3. Choose the **Geometry** to convert to structural element.
4. In **Properties > Mesh controls** select **Uniform** as **Type** and **Length** as **Control**
5. In **Parameters** enter as length 0,25 m.



# Structural elements

Now we can clone the structural element and its properties instead of creating all beams one by one.

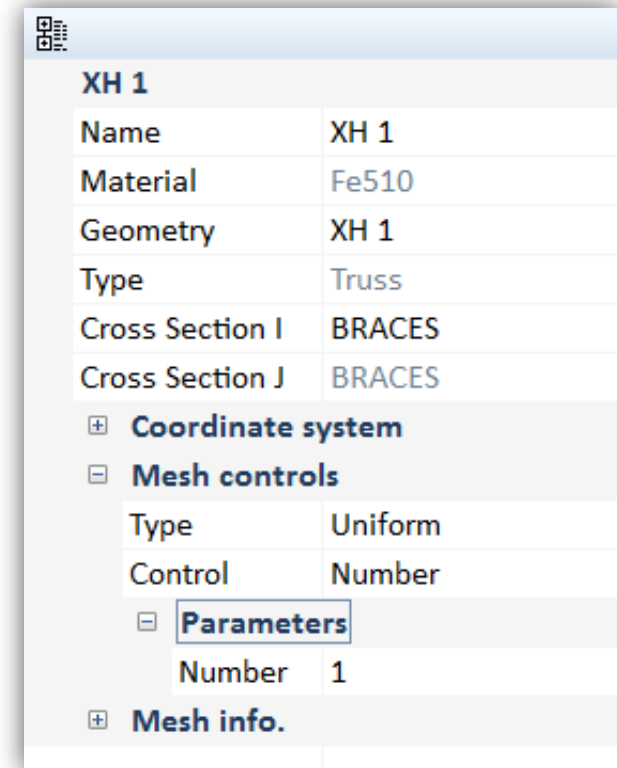
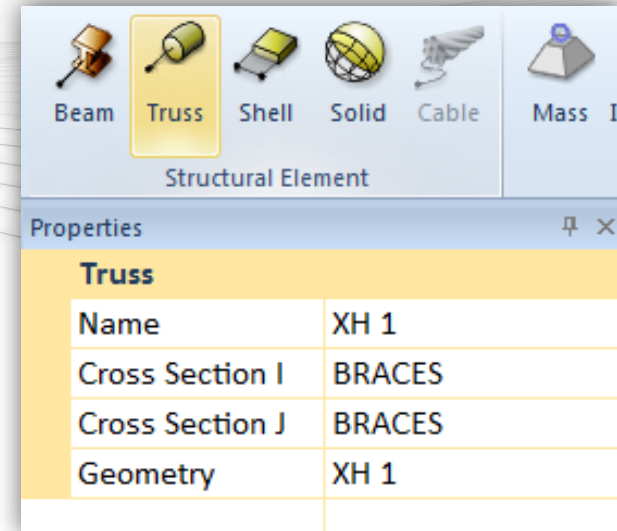
1. Click on the structural element.
2. Click on **Clone**.
3. Select the geometry entities
4. Click on **OK**.



# Structural elements

## Truss:

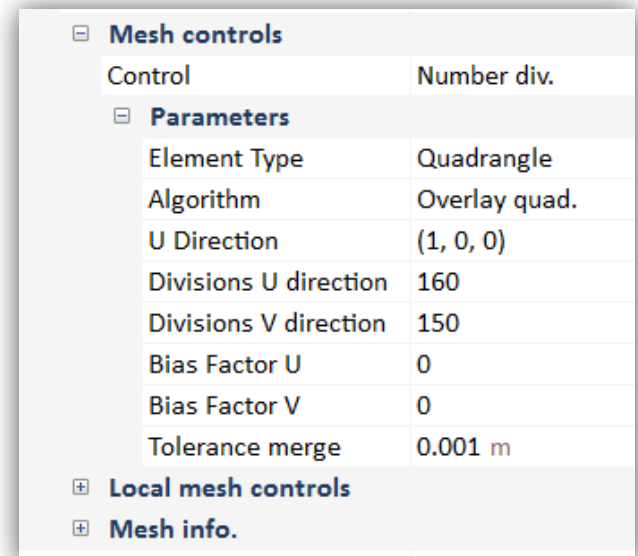
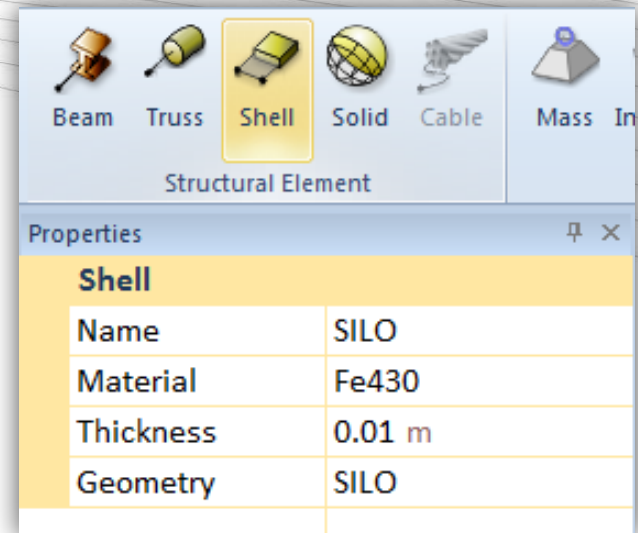
1. Click on **Truss**.
2. Select the **Section**.
3. Choose the **Geometry** to convert in structural element.
4. In **Properties > Mesh controls** select **Uniform** as **Type** and **Number** as **Control**.
5. In **Parameters** enter 0,25 m as **Number**
6. **Clone** for all braces.



# Structural elements

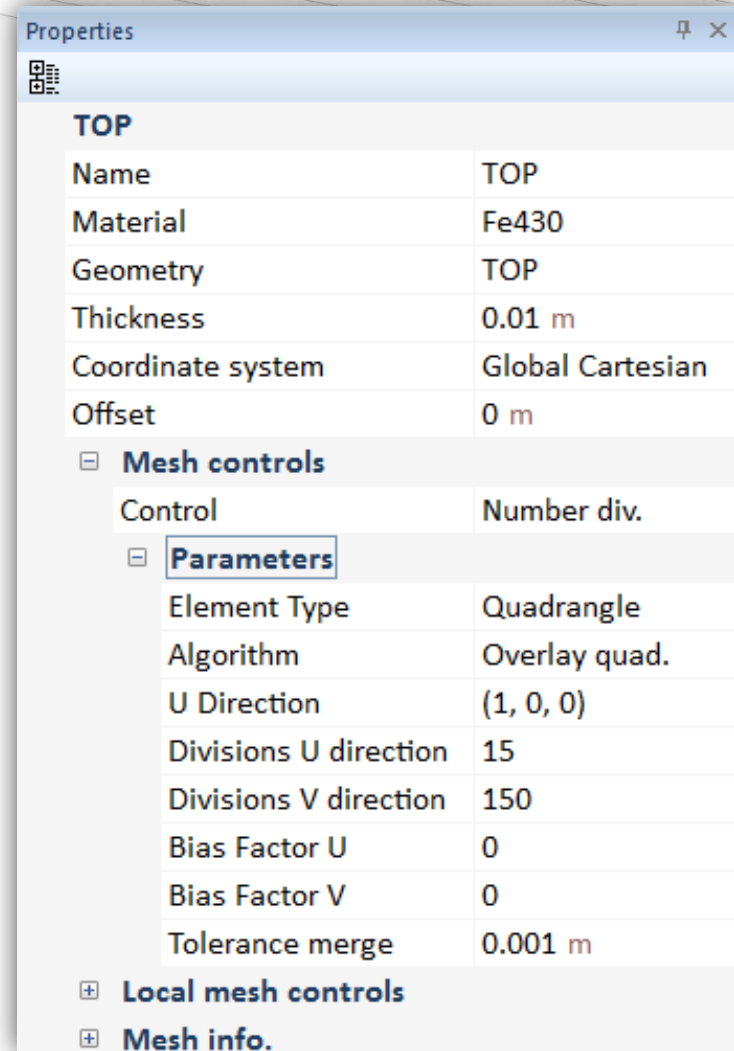
## Shell:

1. Click on **Shell**.
2. Select the **Material**.
3. Enter **Thickness** value
4. In **Properties > Mesh controls** select **Number of divisions** as **Control**.
5. Select **Quadrangle** as **Element Type**.
6. Define **Divisions** on **U** and **V** directions as **160** and **150** respectively.
7. **Clone** for all braces.



# Structural elements

For **Top** and **Hopper** shells, the procedure is the same: change the value of the **V Division** direction to 15 and **Direction U** to 150.



Properties	
<b>TOP</b>	
Name	TOP
Material	Fe430
Geometry	TOP
Thickness	0.01 m
Coordinate system	Global Cartesian
Offset	0 m
[-] <b>Mesh controls</b>	
Control	Number div.
[-] <b>Parameters</b>	
Element Type	Quadrangle
Algorithm	Overlay quad.
U Direction	(1, 0, 0)
Divisions U direction	15
Divisions V direction	150
Bias Factor U	0
Bias Factor V	0
Tolerance merge	0.001 m
[+] <b>Local mesh controls</b>	
[+] <b>Mesh info.</b>	

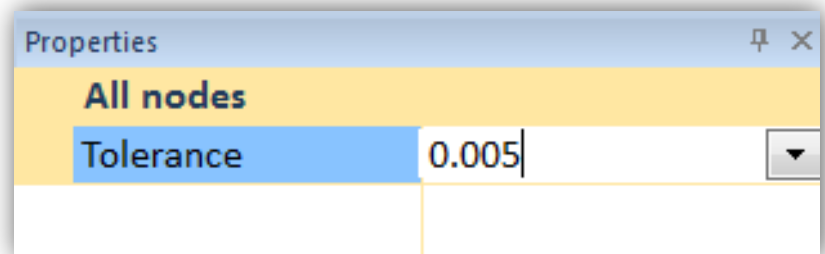
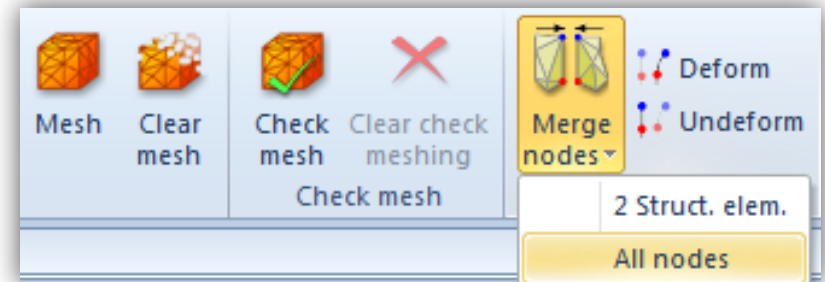
# Mesh

1. Click on **Mesh** tab.
2. Click on **Mesh** again.

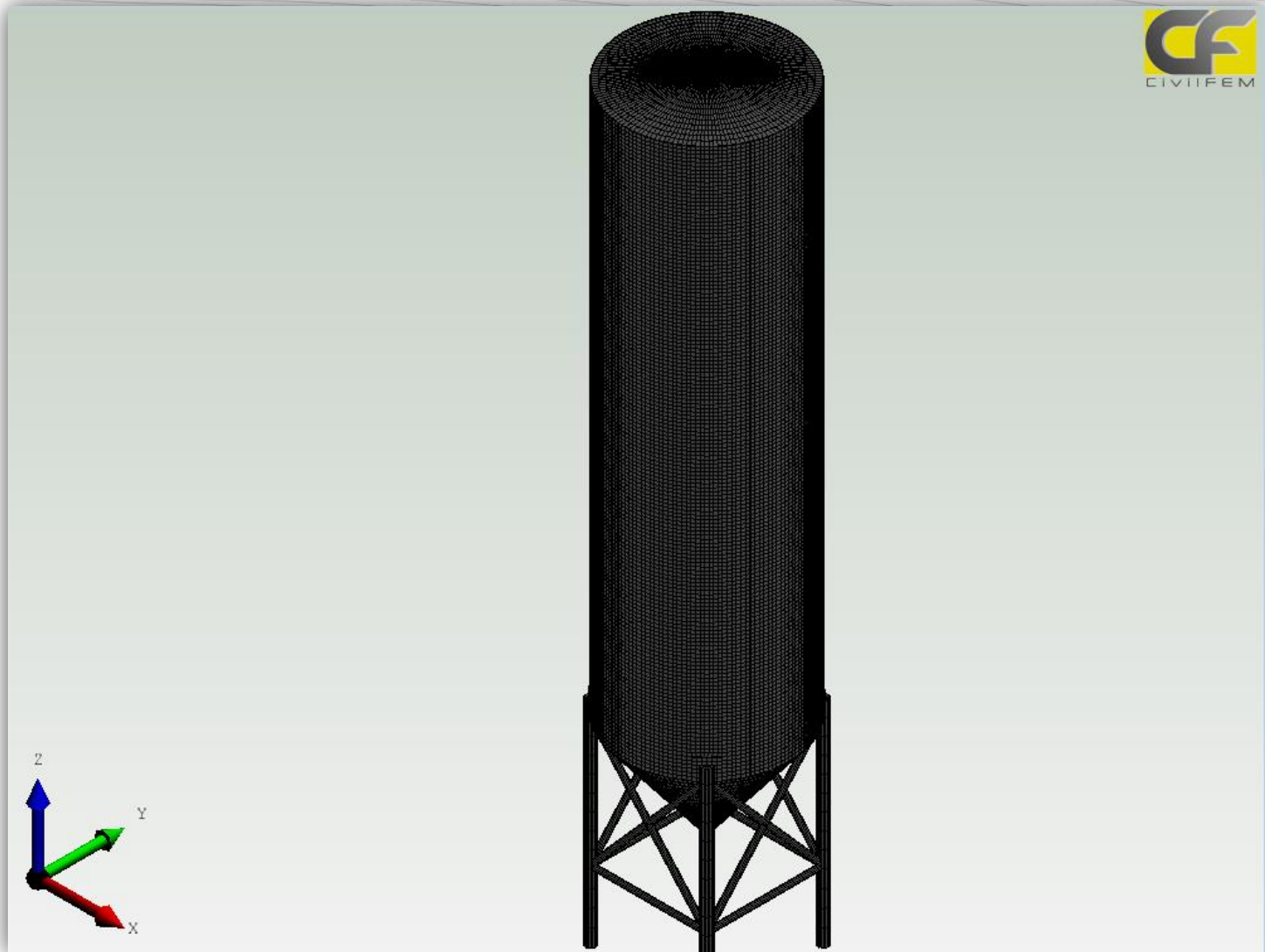


Once the model is meshed:

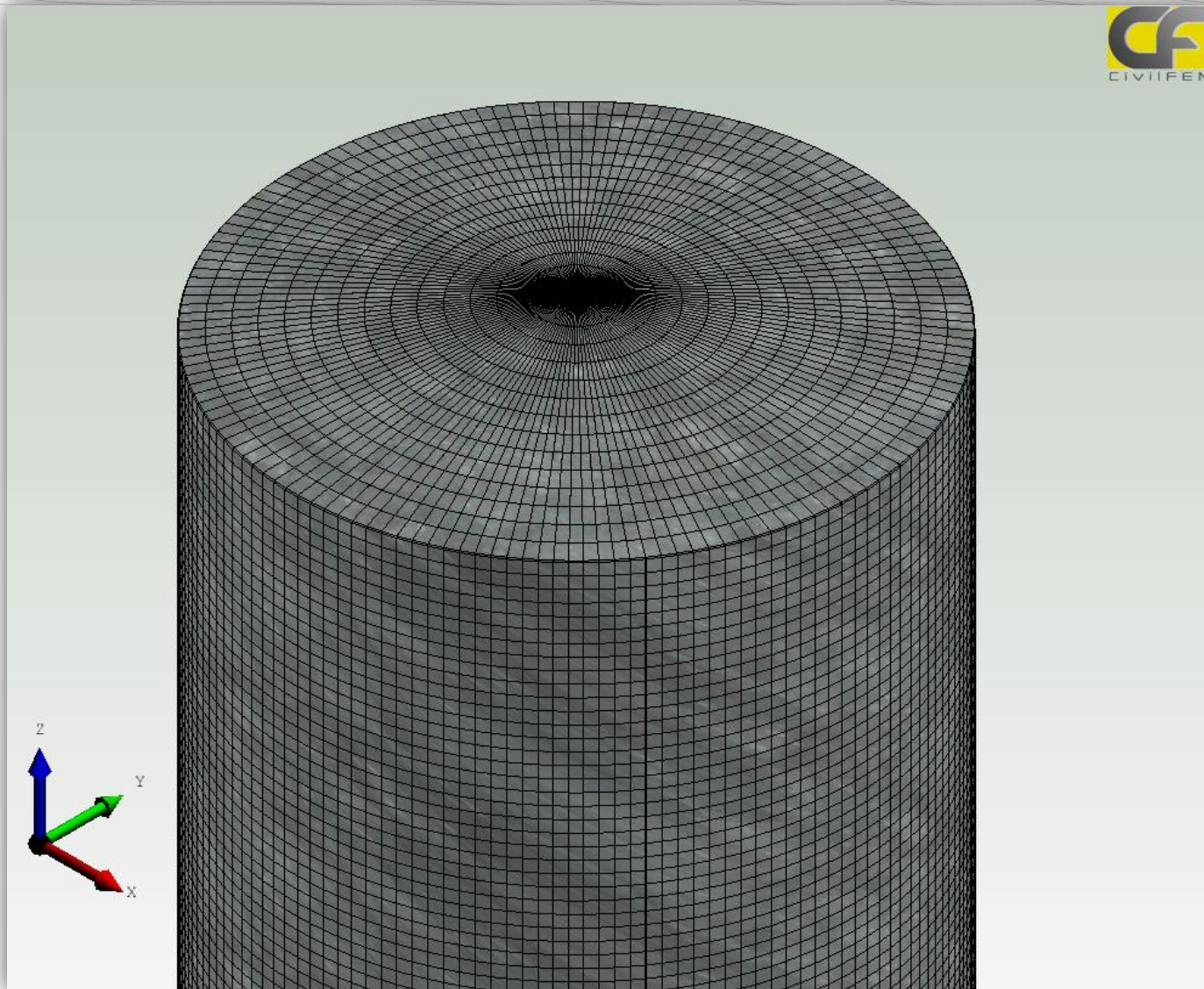
1. Click on **Merge nodes** tab.
2. Click on **All nodes**.
3. Enter 0.005 for **Tolerance**



# Mesh



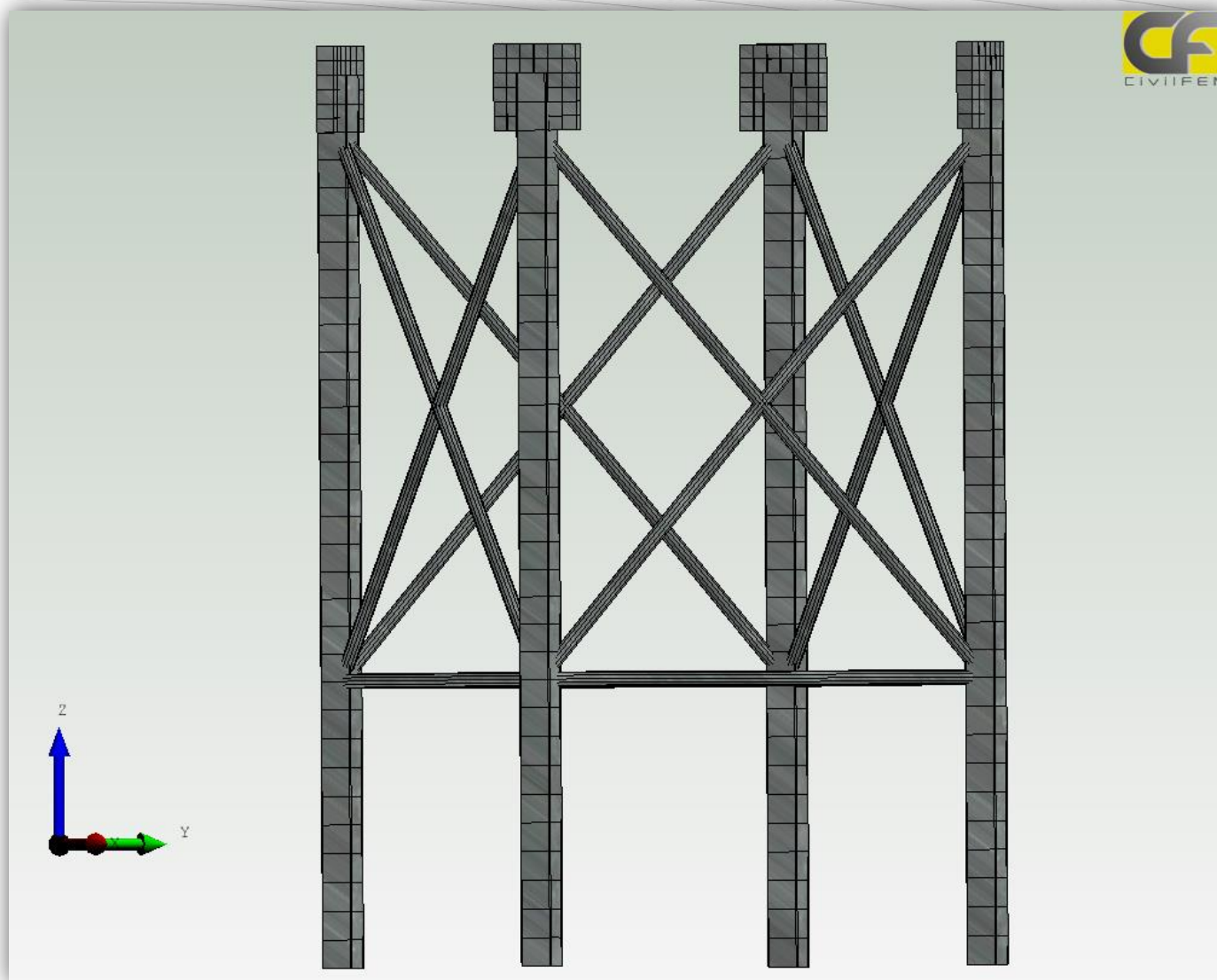
# Mesh



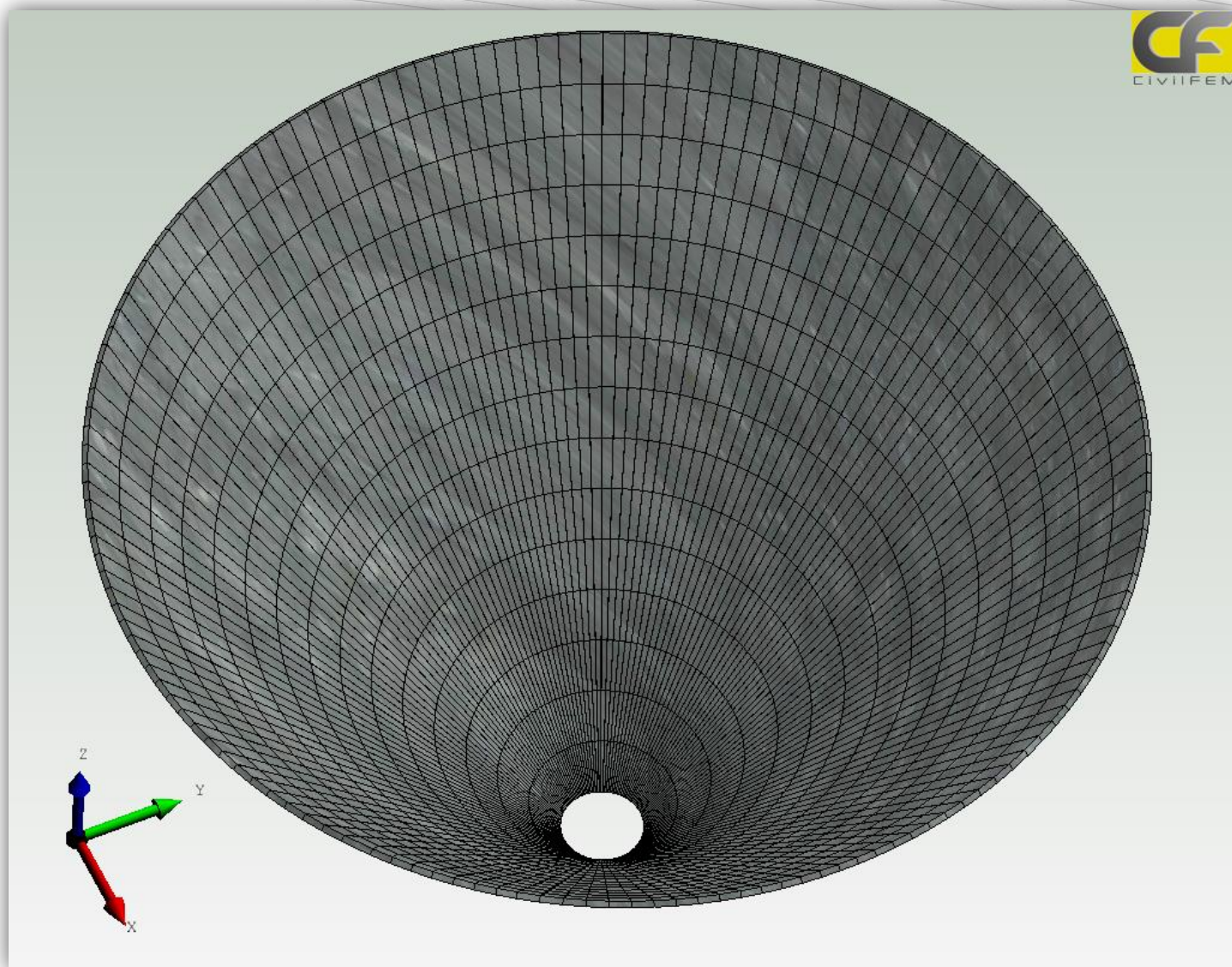
# Mesh



# Mesh



# Mesh



# Loads

In this stage we are going to create the loads that will be applied to the silo.

The loads to consider are: self weight, concrete weight, wind load (windward and leeward), and seismic load:

**SW:** Self weight

**CW:** Concrete Weight

**W:** Wind (Windward and Leeward)

**SHP:** Static horizontal pressure

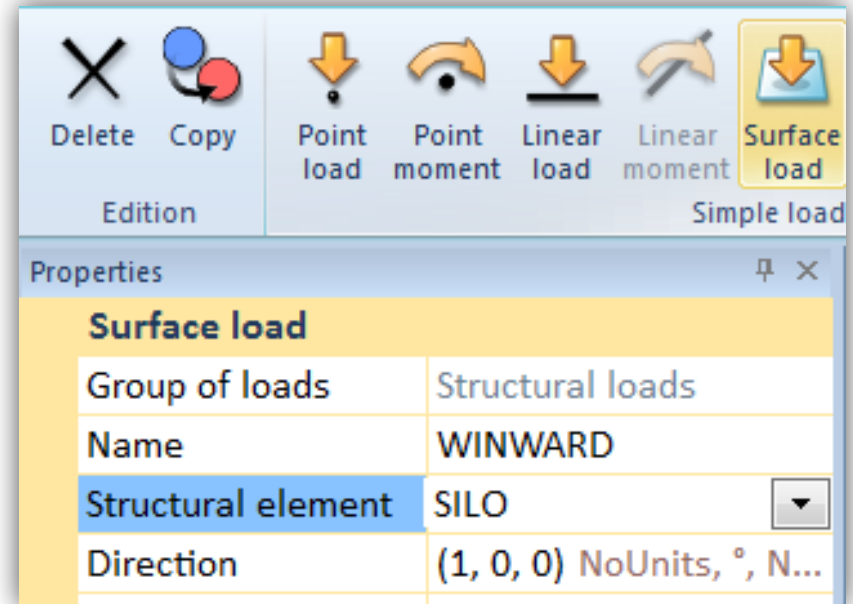
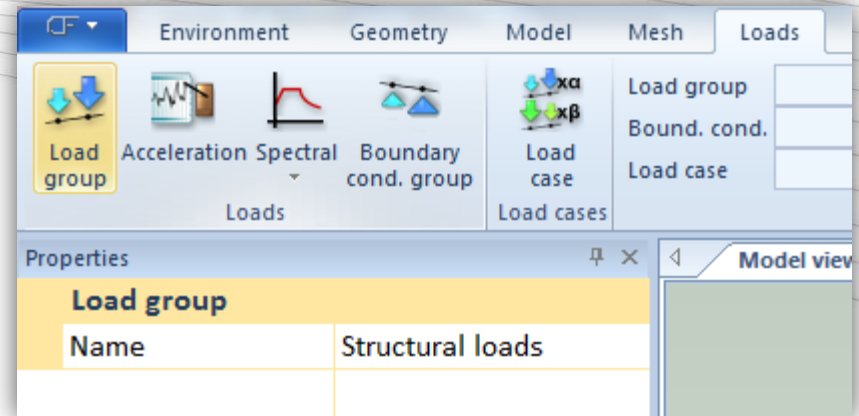
**DHP:** Dynamic horizontal pressure ( $DHP = 1,40 \cdot SPH$ )

**S:** Seismic load

# Wind load

We create the wind load.

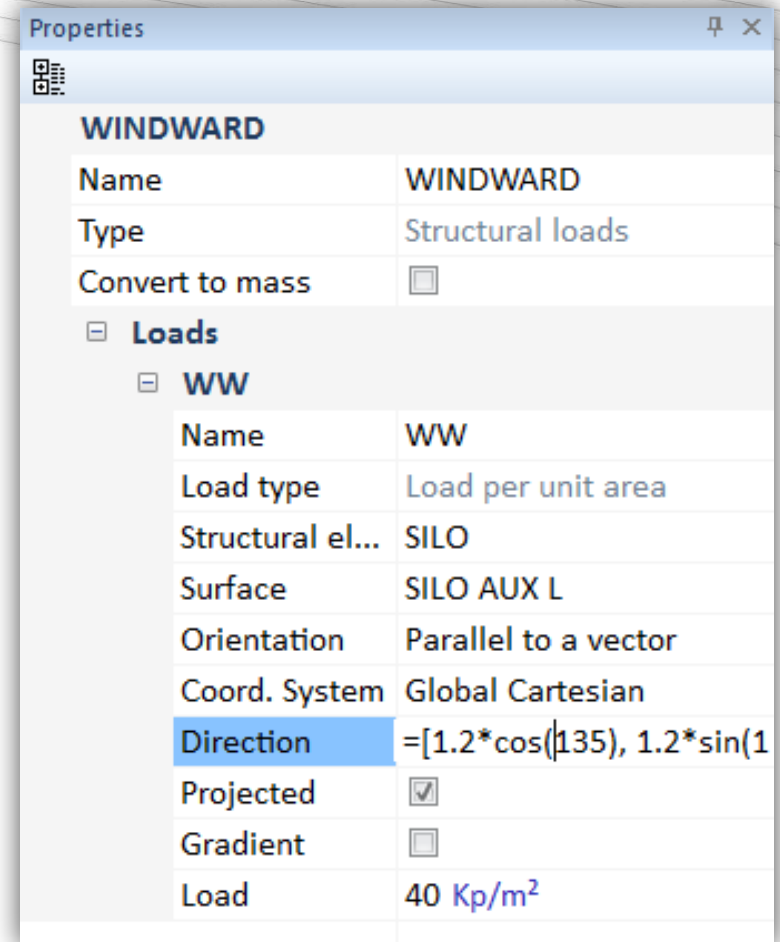
1. Click on **Loads** tab.
2. Click on **Load group** tab.
3. Click on **OK**.
4. Click on **Surface load** tab.
5. Put a **Name**.
6. Select the structural element where the load will be applied.
7. Click on **OK**.



# Loads

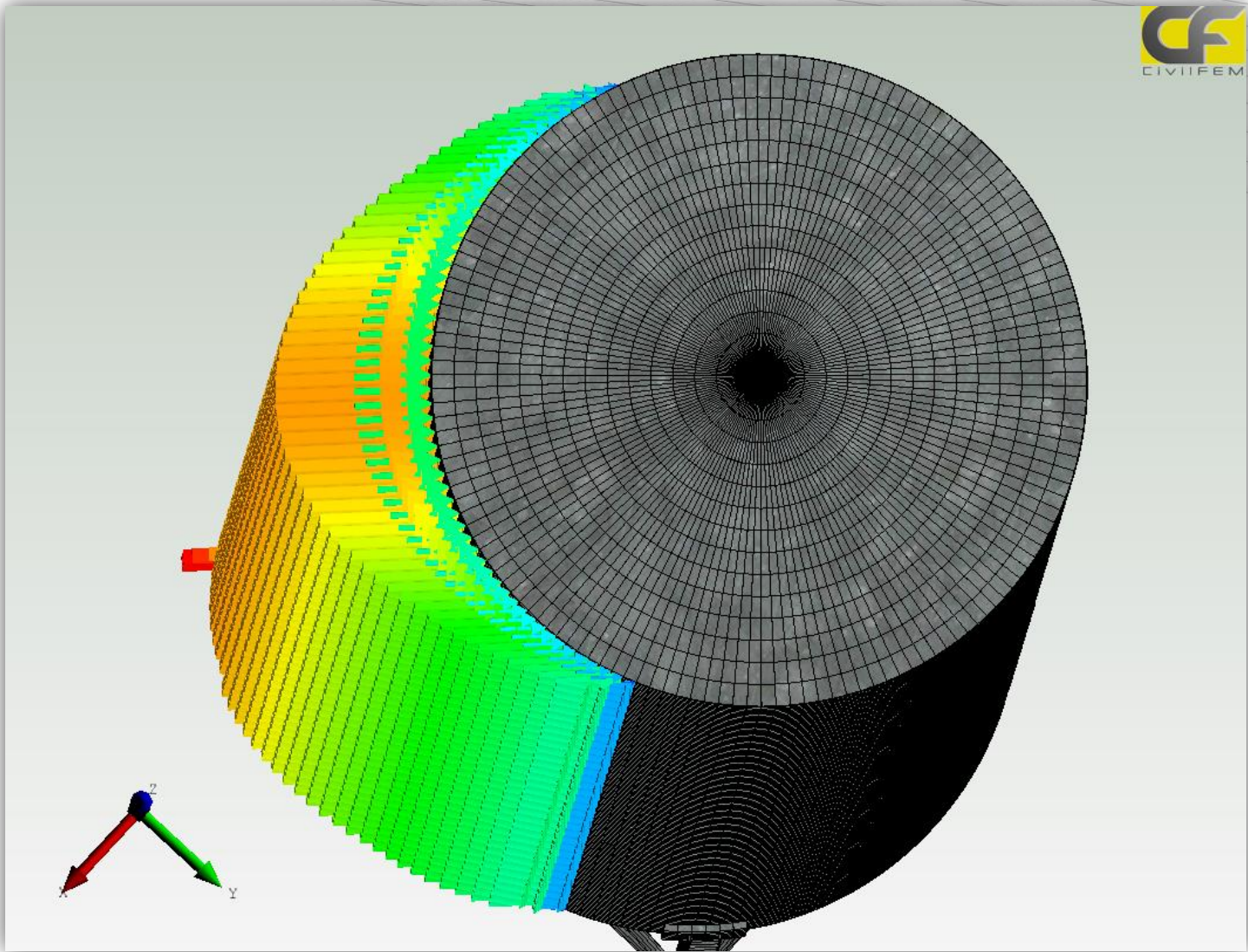
We now edit the load **Properties**:

1. Display **Loads**.
2. Select **SILO AUX L** as **Surface**.
3. In orientation, select **Parallel to a vector**.
4. In **Direction** enter  $[1,2 \cdot \cos(135), 1,2 \cdot \sin(135), 0]$
5. Check **Projected** box.
6. And finally enter the value of the load, in this case 40 kp/m<sup>2</sup>.



WINDWARD	
Name	WINDWARD
Type	Structural loads
Convert to mass	<input type="checkbox"/>
[-] <b>Loads</b>	
[-] <b>WW</b>	
Name	WW
Load type	Load per unit area
Structural el...	SILO
Surface	SILO AUX L
Orientation	Parallel to a vector
Coord. System	Global Cartesian
Direction	$= [1.2 \cdot \cos(135), 1.2 \cdot \sin(135), 0]$
Projected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gradient	<input type="checkbox"/>
Load	40 Kp/m <sup>2</sup>

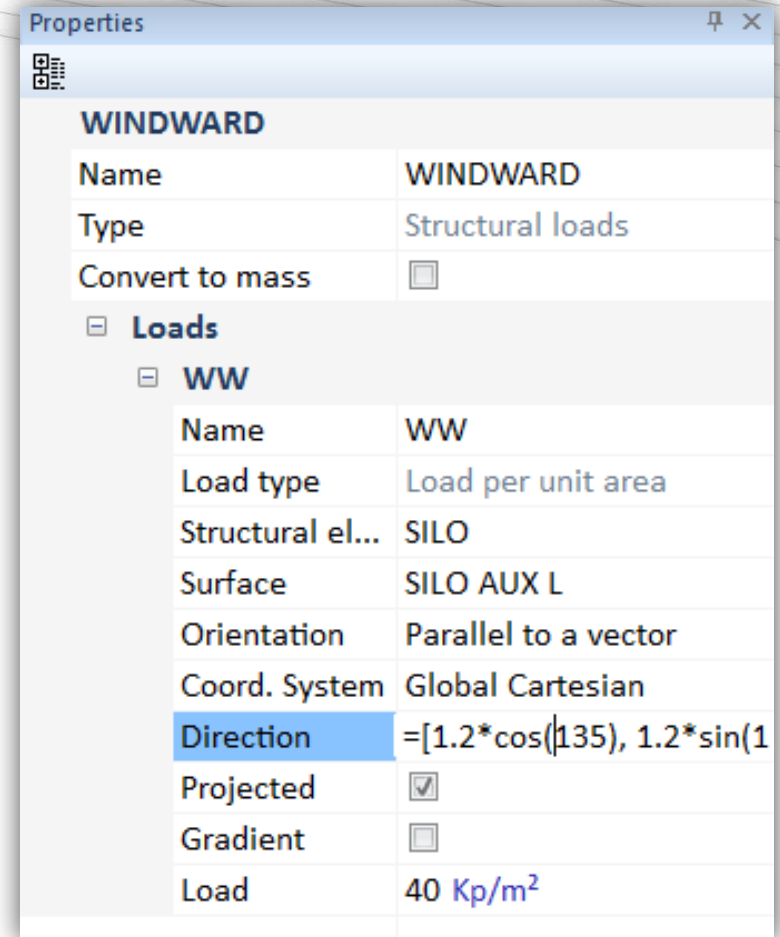
# Windward load



# Leeward load

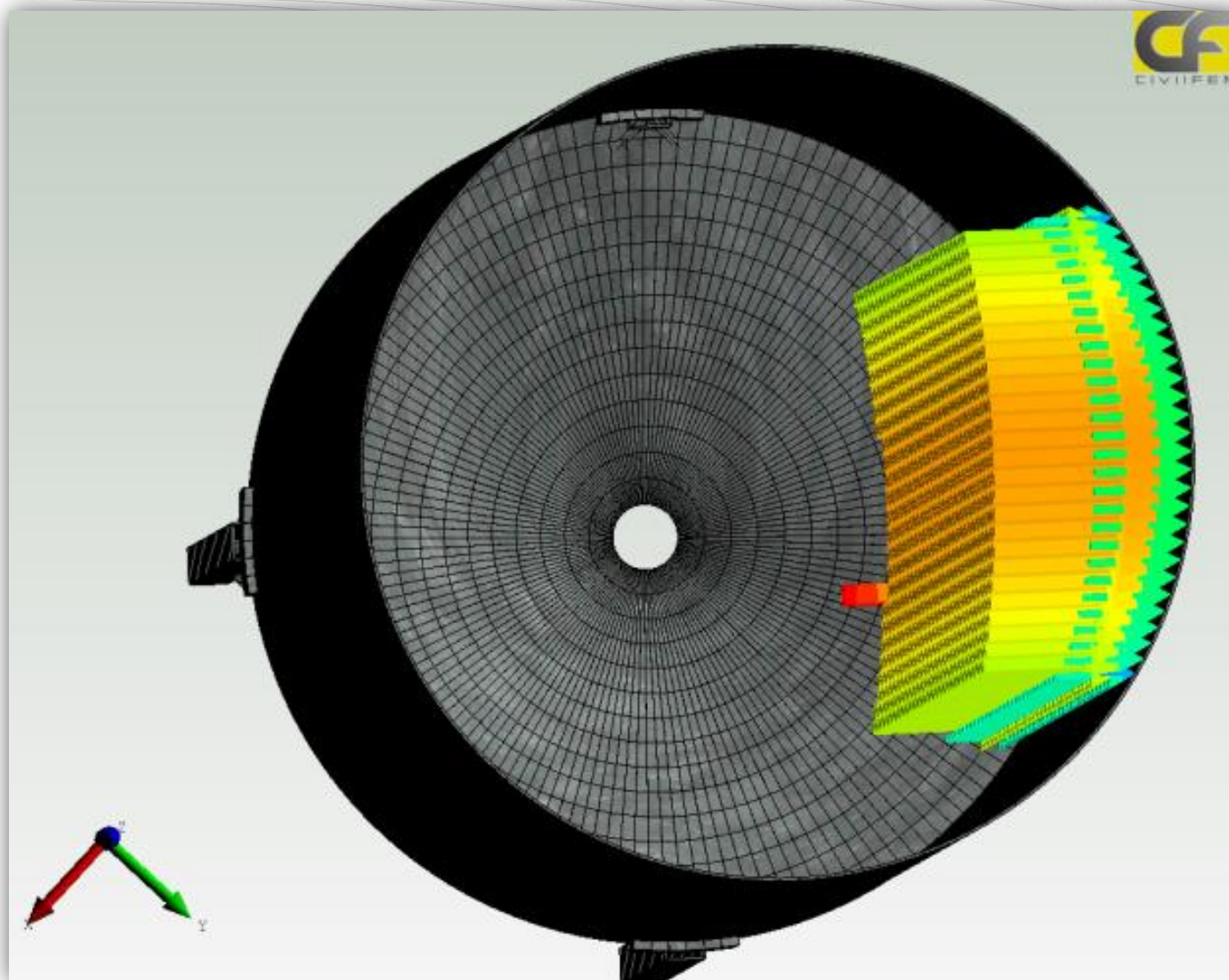
We define the Leeward load in the same way, but in this case, we have to select the other side of the silo.

1. Display **Loads**.
2. Select **SILO AUX R.** as **Surface**
3. In orientation, select **Parallel to a vector**.
4. In **Direction** enter  $[1,2 \cdot \cos(135), 1,2 \cdot \sin(135), 0]$
5. Check **Projected** box.
6. And finally enter the value of the load, in this case 20 kp/m2.



Properties	
<b>WINDWARD</b>	
Name	WINDWARD
Type	Structural loads
Convert to mass	<input type="checkbox"/>
[-] <b>Loads</b>	
[-] <b>WW</b>	
Name	WW
Load type	Load per unit area
Structural el...	SILO
Surface	SILO AUX L
Orientation	Parallel to a vector
Coord. System	Global Cartesian
Direction	$= [1.2 \cdot \cos(135), 1.2 \cdot \sin(135), 0]$
Projected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gradient	<input type="checkbox"/>
Load	40 Kp/m <sup>2</sup>

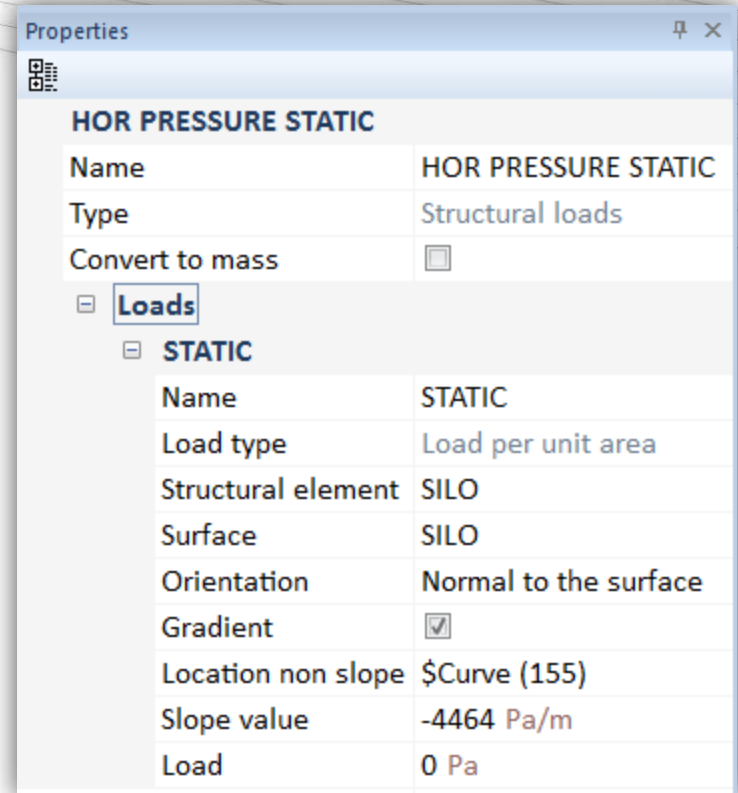
# Leeward load



# Static horizontal pressure

This is also a surface load applied inside of silo.

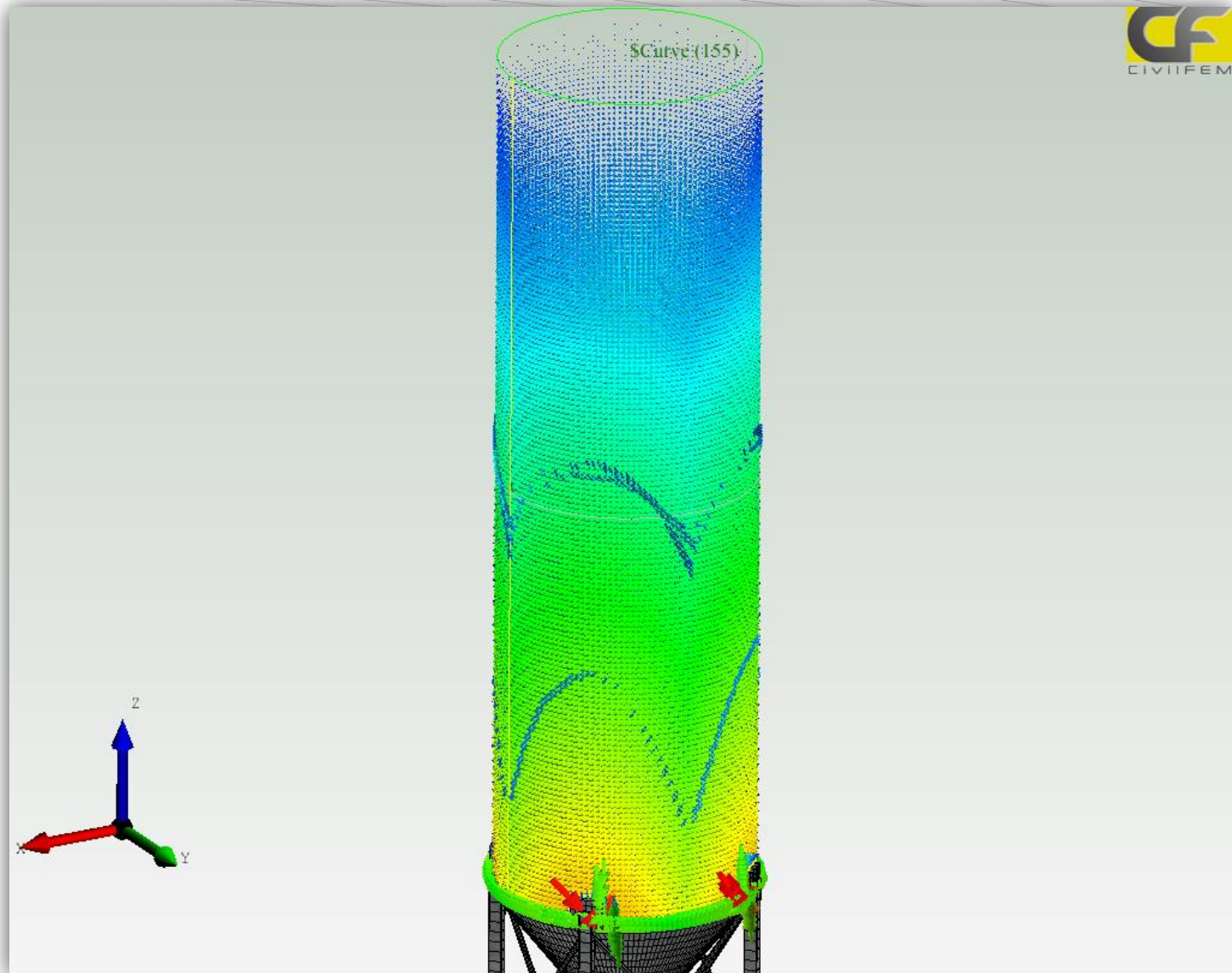
1. Create the Superficial load.
2. Display Properties.
3. Select Silo as Structural element and Surface.
4. Select Normal to the surface as Orientation.
5. Check Gradient box.
6. Choose the upper auxiliar curve of the silo in Location non slope.
7. Enter -4464 Pa/m as Value.



The screenshot shows the 'Properties' dialog box for a 'HOR PRESSURE STATIC' load. The dialog is organized into sections: 'HOR PRESSURE STATIC' (overall settings), 'Loads' (expanded), and 'STATIC' (load details). The 'Convert to mass' checkbox is unchecked. Under 'Loads', the 'STATIC' section is expanded, showing various parameters for the load.

HOR PRESSURE STATIC	
Name	HOR PRESSURE STATIC
Type	Structural loads
Convert to mass	<input type="checkbox"/>
[-] Loads	
[-] STATIC	
Name	STATIC
Load type	Load per unit area
Structural element	SILO
Surface	SILO
Orientation	Normal to the surface
Gradient	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Location non slope	\$Curve (155)
Slope value	-4464 Pa/m
Load	0 Pa

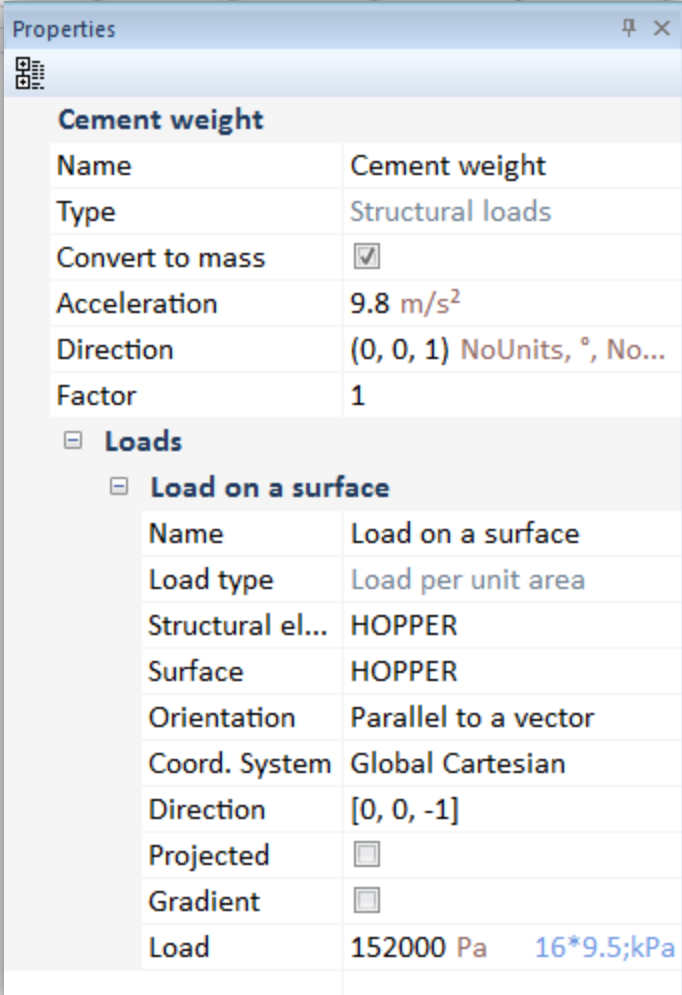
# Static horizontal pressure



# Cement load

Once again, create a **Surface load** and go to **Properties**:

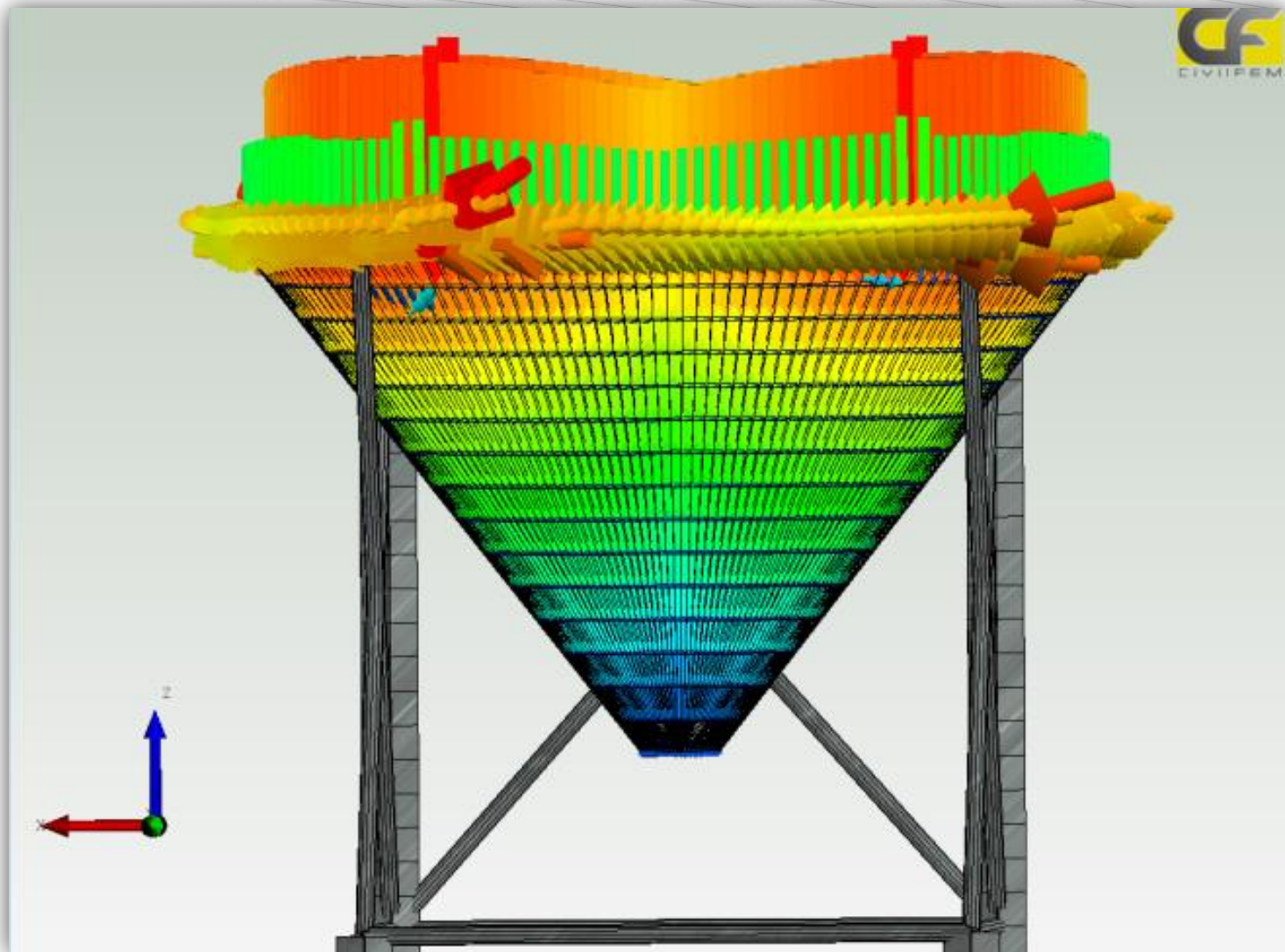
1. Check **Convert to mass** box.
2. Display **Loads**.
3. Select Hopper as **Surface**.
4. In **Orientation**, select **Parallel to a vector**.
5. **Direction** [0, 0 -1]
6. Enter the **Load**, 152 kPa.



The screenshot shows the 'Properties' dialog box for a 'Cement weight' load. The 'Convert to mass' checkbox is checked. The 'Acceleration' is set to 9.8 m/s². The 'Direction' is (0, 0, 1). The 'Factor' is 1. Under the 'Loads' section, 'Load on a surface' is expanded, showing 'Name' as 'Load on a surface', 'Load type' as 'Load per unit area', 'Structural el...' as 'HOPPER', 'Surface' as 'HOPPER', 'Orientation' as 'Parallel to a vector', 'Coord. System' as 'Global Cartesian', 'Direction' as [0, 0, -1], 'Projected' and 'Gradient' as unchecked, and 'Load' as 152000 Pa (16\*9.5;kPa).

Cement weight	
Name	Cement weight
Type	Structural loads
Convert to mass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Acceleration	9.8 m/s²
Direction	(0, 0, 1) NoUnits, °, No...
Factor	1
[-] Loads	
[-] Load on a surface	
Name	Load on a surface
Load type	Load per unit area
Structural el...	HOPPER
Surface	HOPPER
Orientation	Parallel to a vector
Coord. System	Global Cartesian
Direction	[0, 0, -1]
Projected	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gradient	<input type="checkbox"/>
Load	152000 Pa 16*9.5;kPa

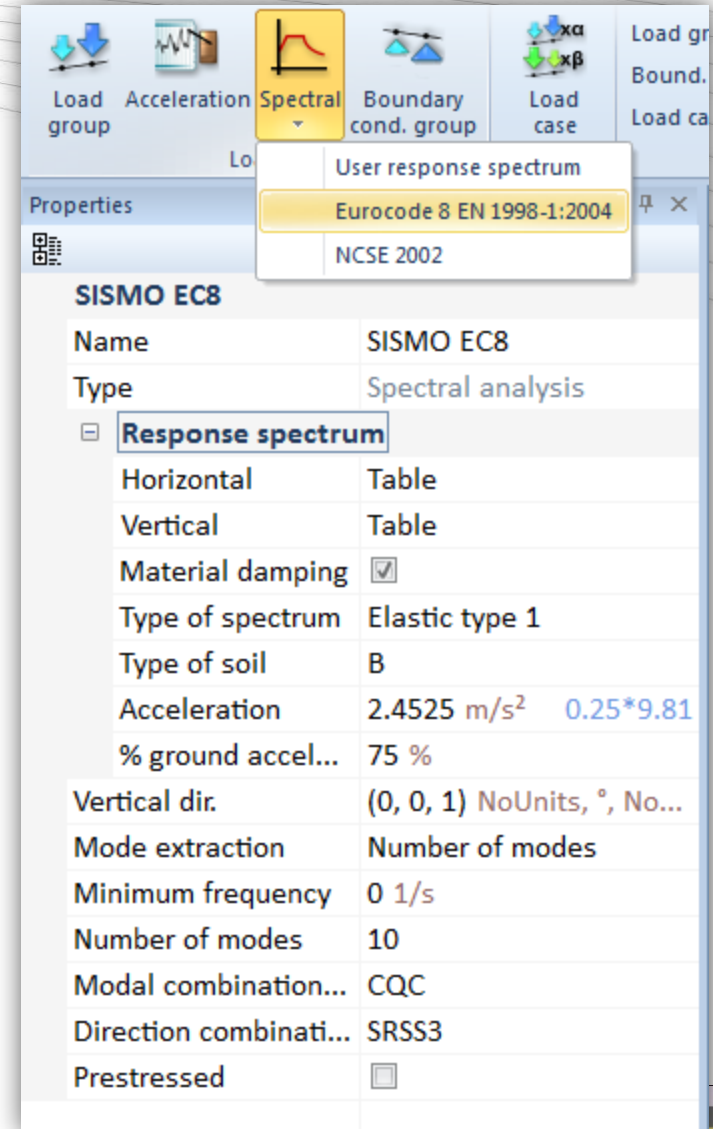
# Cement load



# Seism

To create the seismic load according to Eurocode 8, follow these steps:

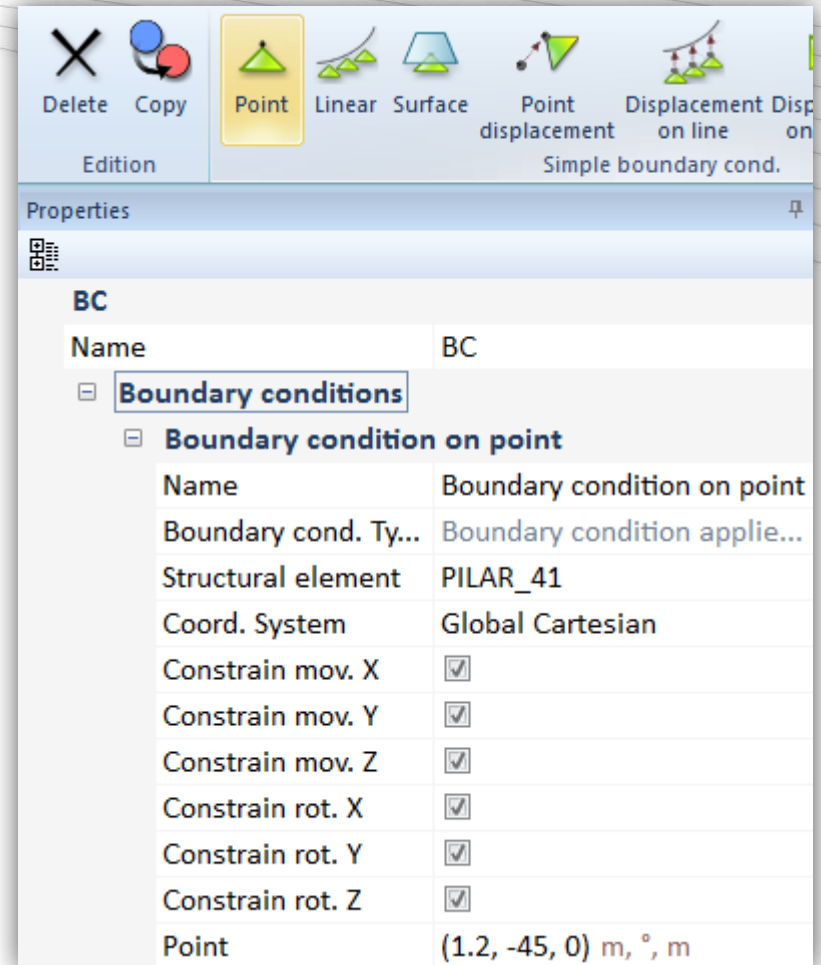
1. Click on **Loads** tab.
2. Click on **Spectral** tab.
3. Click on **Eurocode 8**.
4. Click on **OK**.
5. Display **Properties**.
6. Select **Elastic type 1** as **Type of spectrum**.
7. Choose **Type of soil B**.
8. In **Acceleration**, enter  $0,25 \cdot 9,81$ .
9. **Number of modes: 10**



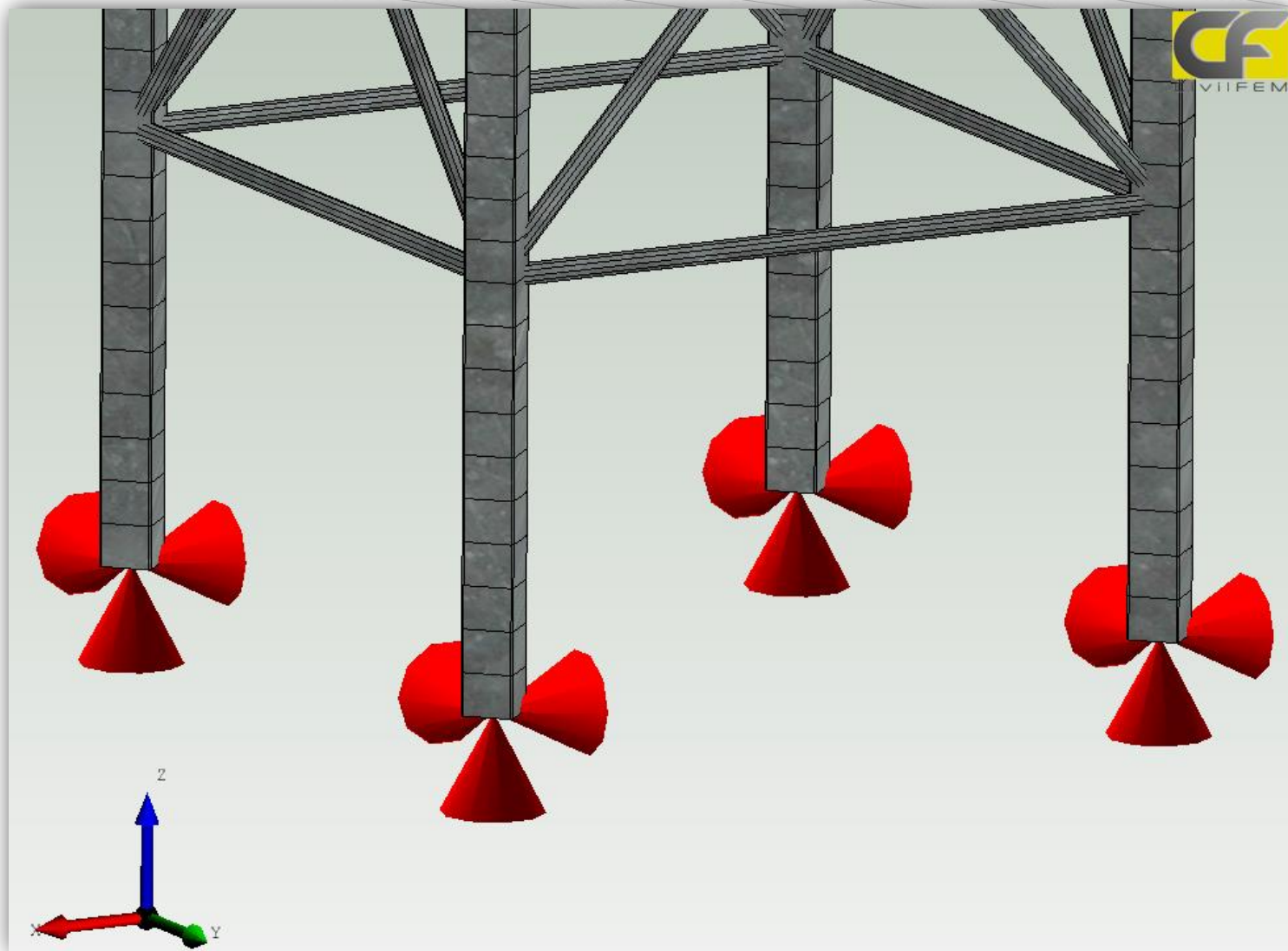
# Boundary Conditions

It is essential to establish boundary conditions in the model.

1. Click on **Loads** tab.
2. Click on **Boundary conditons** tab.
3. Click on **OK**.
4. Display **Properties**.
5. Select a **Structural element**: Pillars.
6. **Constrain** all movements and rotations.
7. Repeat for all pillars.



# Boundary Conditions



# Load cases

The last step before solving is creating the load cases.

We will have 4 load cases:

**Self weight + seismic load:**  $SW + S$

**Full static + seismic load :**  $SW + CW + SHP + S$

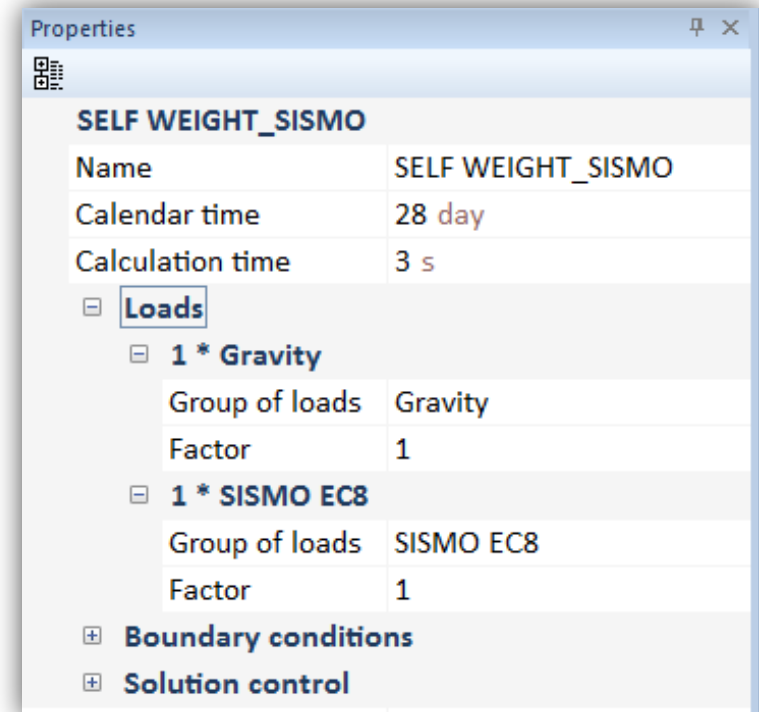
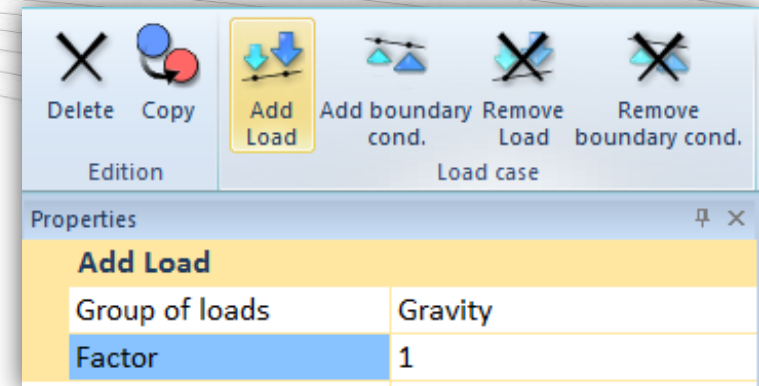
**Discharge + seismic load :**  $SW + CW + 1,40 \cdot SHP + S$

**Wind:**  $1,35 \cdot SW + 1,35 \cdot CW + 1,5 SHP + 1,5 W$

# Load cases

Follow these steps:

1. Click on **Loads** tab.
2. Click on **Load cases** tab.
3. Click on **OK**.
4. Display **Properties**.
5. Click on **Add load**.
6. Choose **Gravity** as self weight.
7. **Factor**: 1, 1.35, 1.50, etc.
8. Click on **OK**.
9. Repeat for all load cases.



# Load cases

Properties

**FULL STATIC\_SEISM**

Name	FULL STATIC_SEISM
Calendar time	28 day
Calculation time	2 s

[-] **Loads**

- [-] **1 \* Gravity**

Group of loads	Gravity
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* SISMO EC8**

Group of loads	SISMO EC8
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* HOR PRESSURE STATIC**

Group of loads	HOR PRESSURE STATIC
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* HOPPER LOAD**

Group of loads	HOPPER LOAD
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* Cement weight**

Group of loads	Cement weight
Factor	1

[+] **Boundary conditions**

[+] **Solution control**

Properties

**DISCHARGE\_SISMO**

Name	DISCHARGE_SISMO
Calendar time	28 day
Calculation time	1 s

[-] **Loads**

- [-] **1 \* Gravity**

Group of loads	Gravity
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* HOPPER LOAD**

Group of loads	HOPPER LOAD
Factor	1
- [-] **1.4 \* HOR PRESSURE STATIC**

Group of loads	HOR PRESSURE STATIC
Factor	1.4
- [-] **1 \* SISMO EC8**

Group of loads	SISMO EC8
Factor	1
- [-] **1 \* Cement weight**

Group of loads	Cement weight
Factor	1

[+] **Boundary conditions**

[+] **Solution control**

Properties

**Wind**

Name	Wind
Calendar time	28 day
Calculation time	5 s

[-] **Loads**

- [-] **1.35 \* Cement weight**

Group of loads	Cement weight
Factor	1.35
- [-] **1.35 \* Gravity**

Group of loads	Gravity
Factor	1.35
- [-] **1.5 \* LEEWARD**

Group of loads	LEEWARD
Factor	1.5
- [-] **1.5 \* WINDWARD**

Group of loads	WINDWARD
Factor	1.5

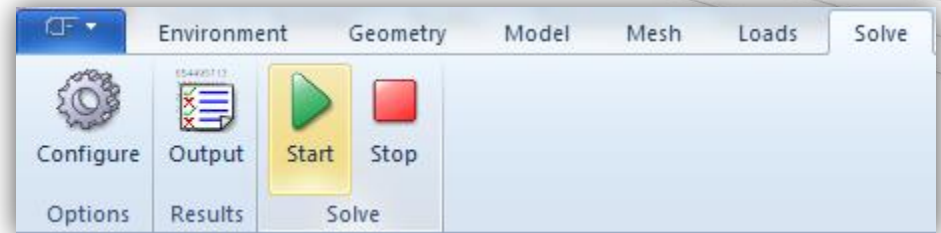
[+] **Boundary conditions**

[+] **Solution control**

# Solving

Finally, we have to solve the model.

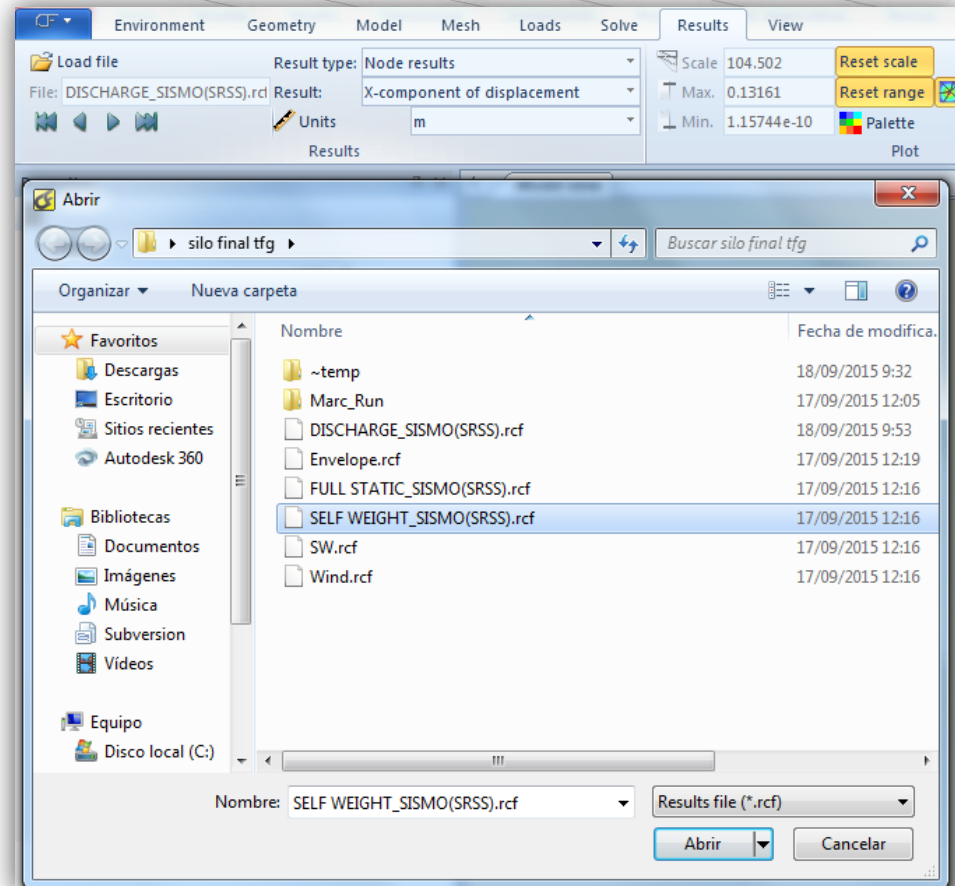
1. Click **Solve** tab.
2. Click on **Start** tab.



# Results

Once results have been obtained, we can load them into CivilFEM:

1. Click on **Results** tab.
2. Click on **Load file**.
3. Choose the file path and select the file.
4. Click on **Open**.

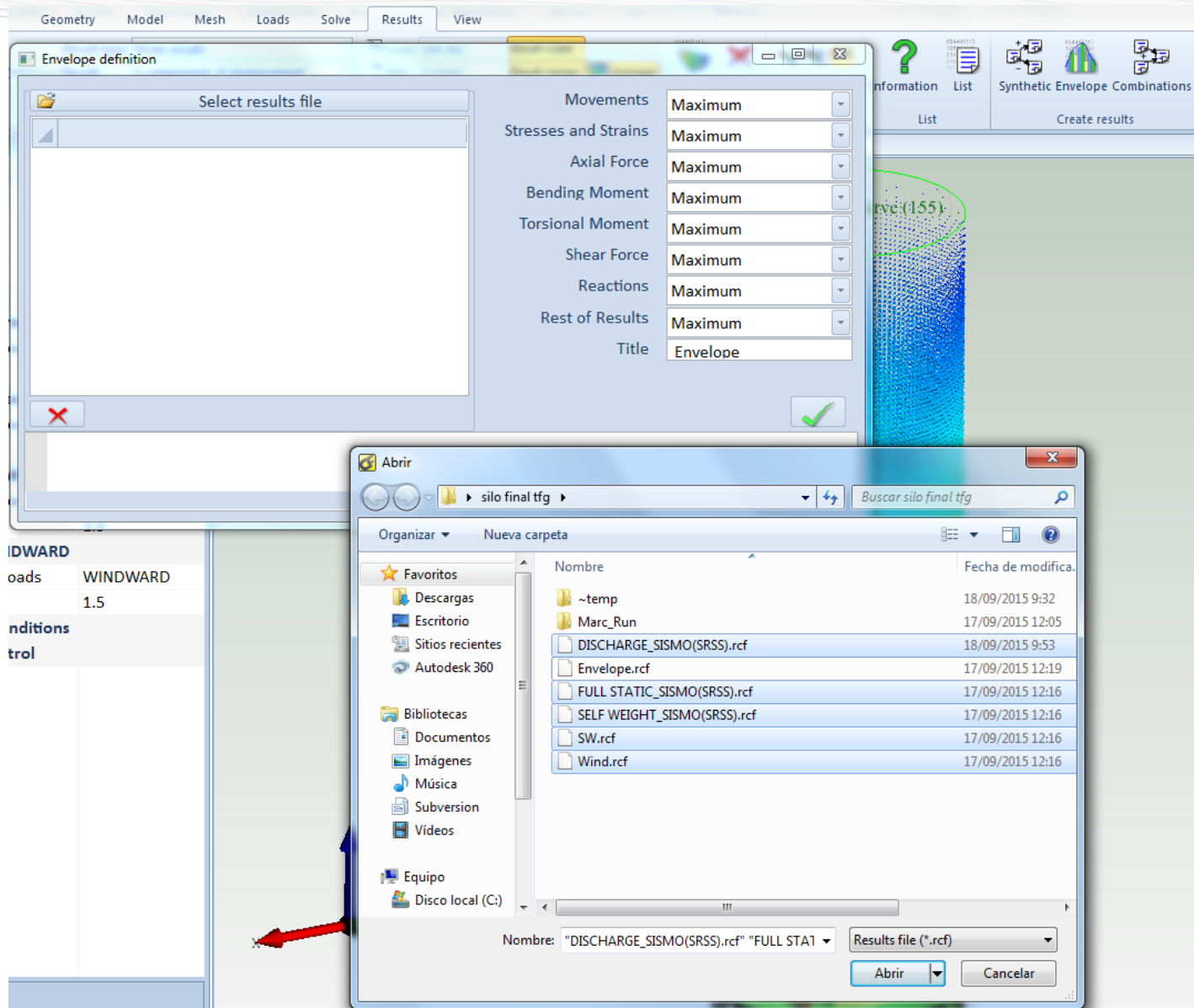


# Envelope

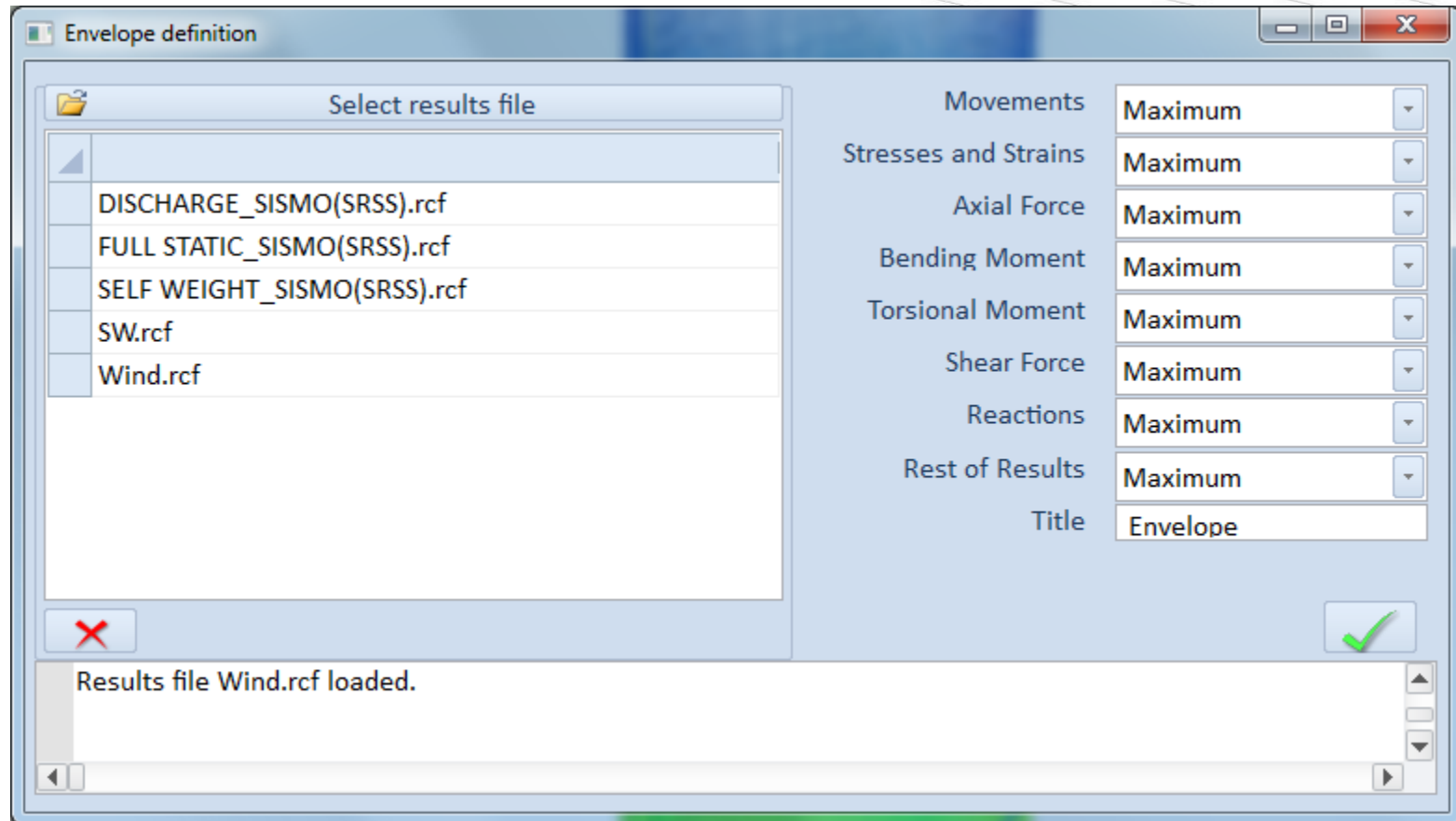
We can review the result files one by one or create an **Envelope** that includes all results of all load cases. We can choose if we want maximum or minimum values.

1. Click on **Results** tab.
2. Click on **Envelope** tab.
3. Click on **Select results file**.
4. Choose the path of the files and select all results files.
5. Click on **Open**.
6. Click on the Green check.
7. Finally, load the envelope file like in the previous slide.

# Envelope



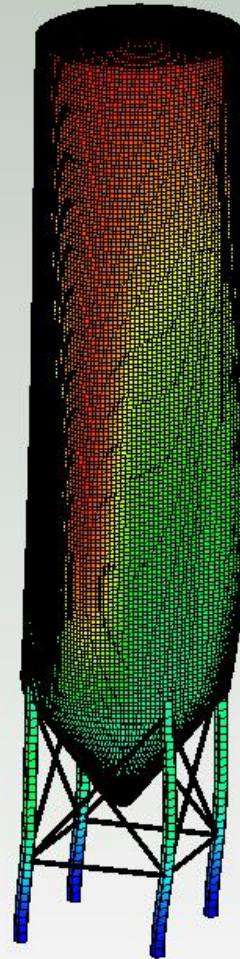
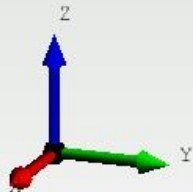
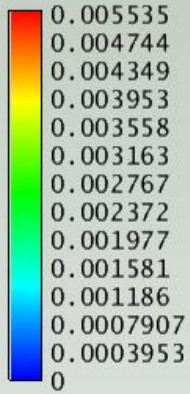
# Envelope



# X component displacement



X-component of displacement [m]

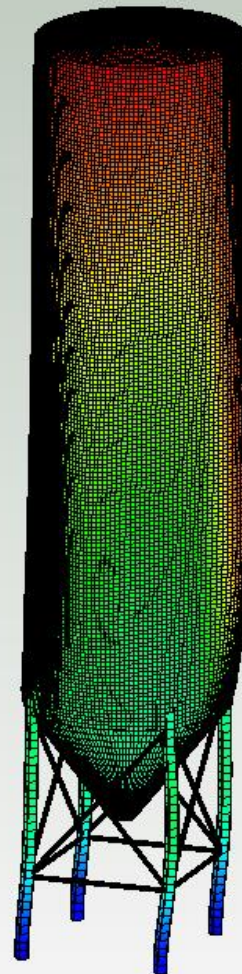
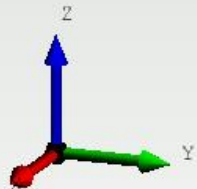
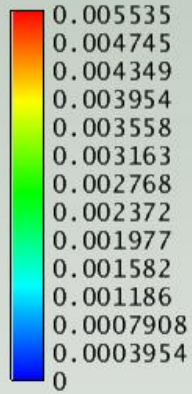


Envelope

# Y component displacement



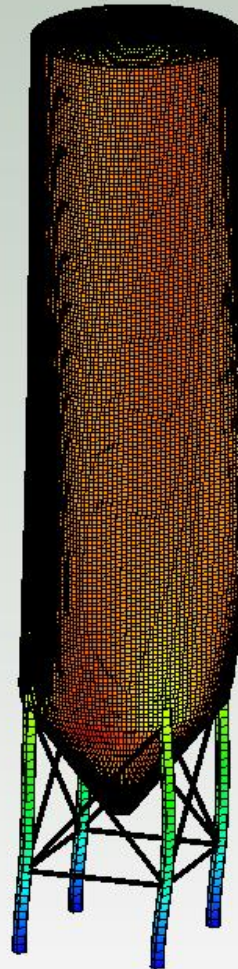
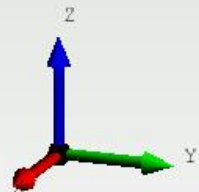
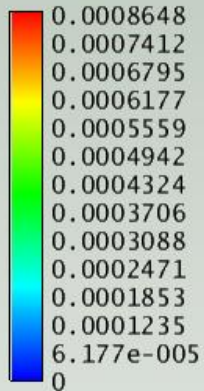
Y-component of displacement [m]



Envelope

# Z component displacement

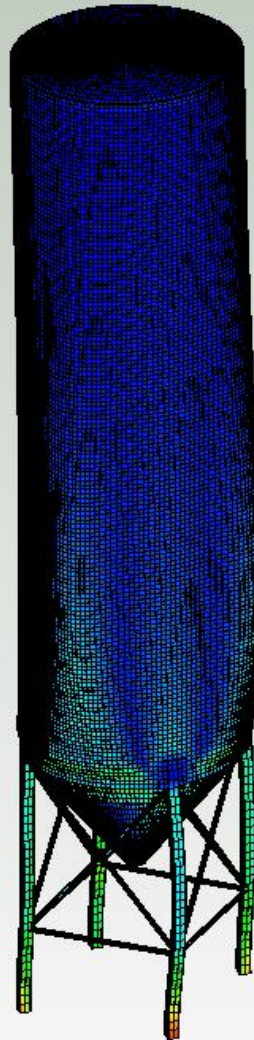
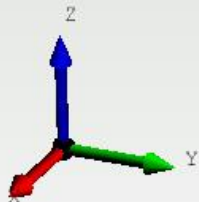
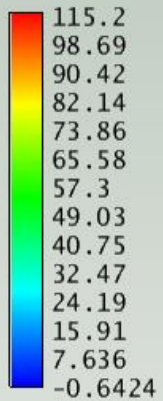
Z-component of displacement [m]



Envelope

# X stress component (I)

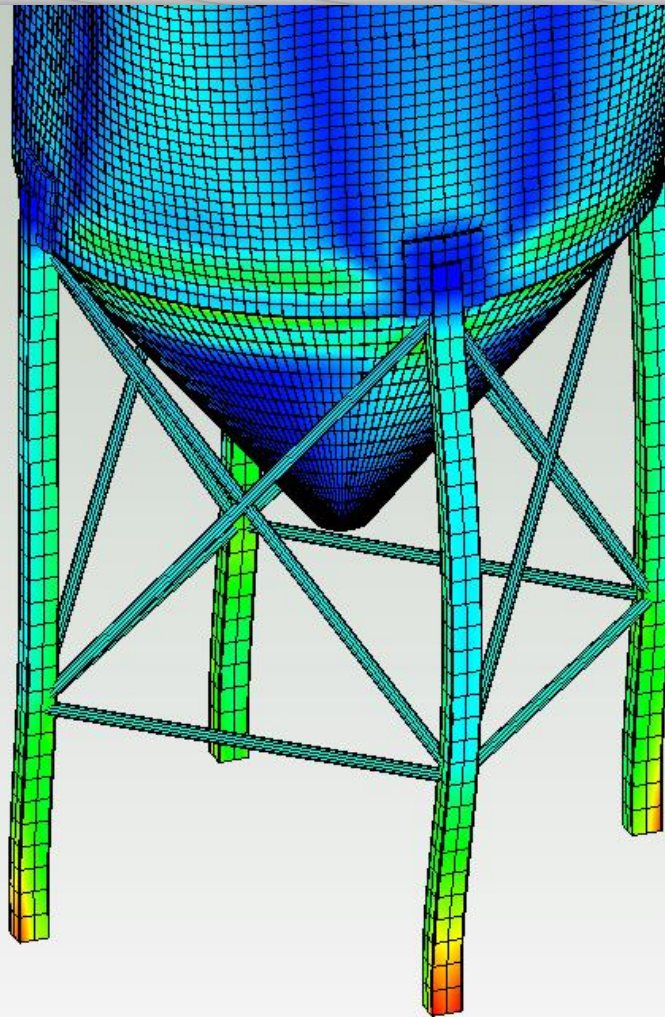
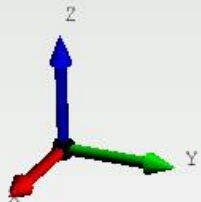
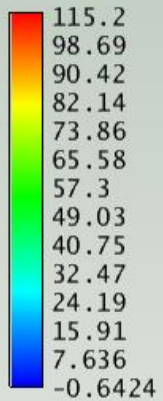
X component of stress [MPa]



Envelope

# X stress component (II)

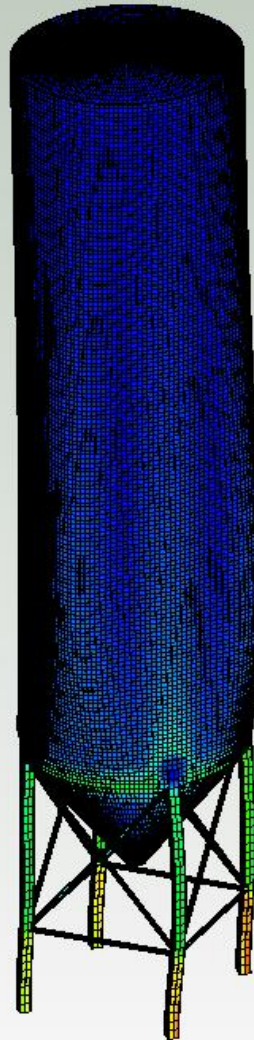
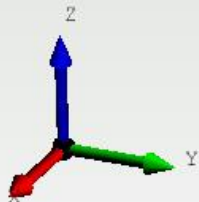
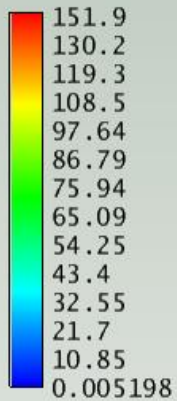
X component of stress [MPa]



Envelope

# Von Mises equivalent stress (I)

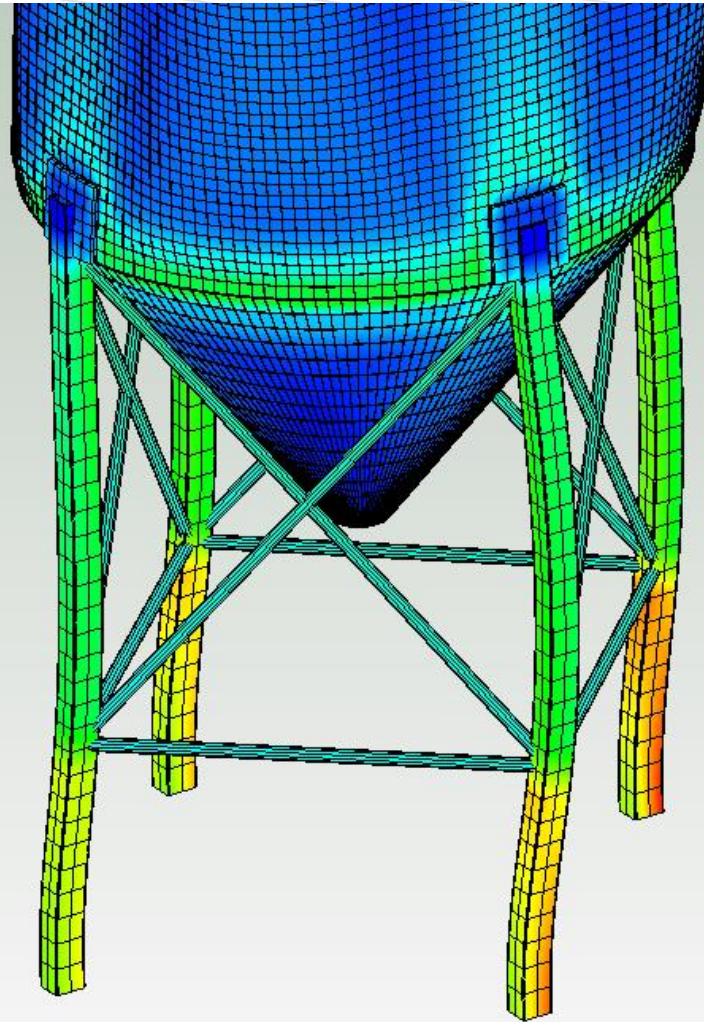
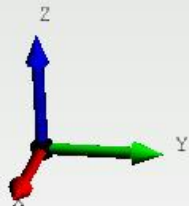
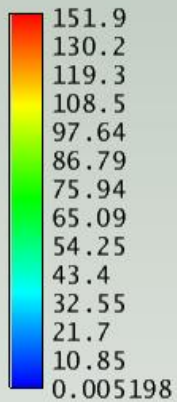
von Mises equivalent stress [MPa]



Envelope

# Von Mises equivalent stress (II)

von Mises equivalent stress [MPa]



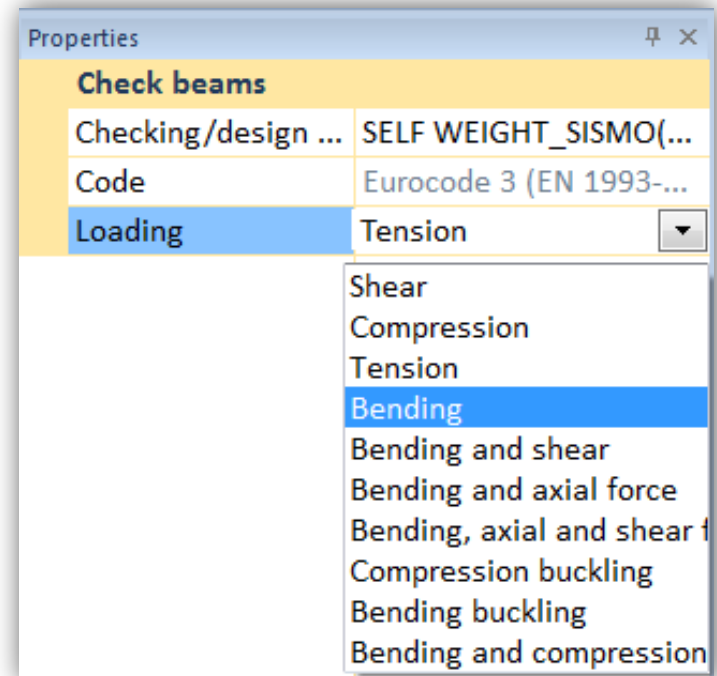
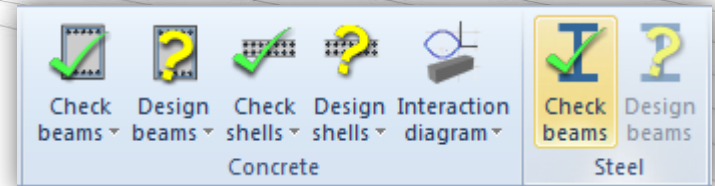
Envelope

# Check

Once a file result is loaded, we can check the structure against a standard. In the Results tab:

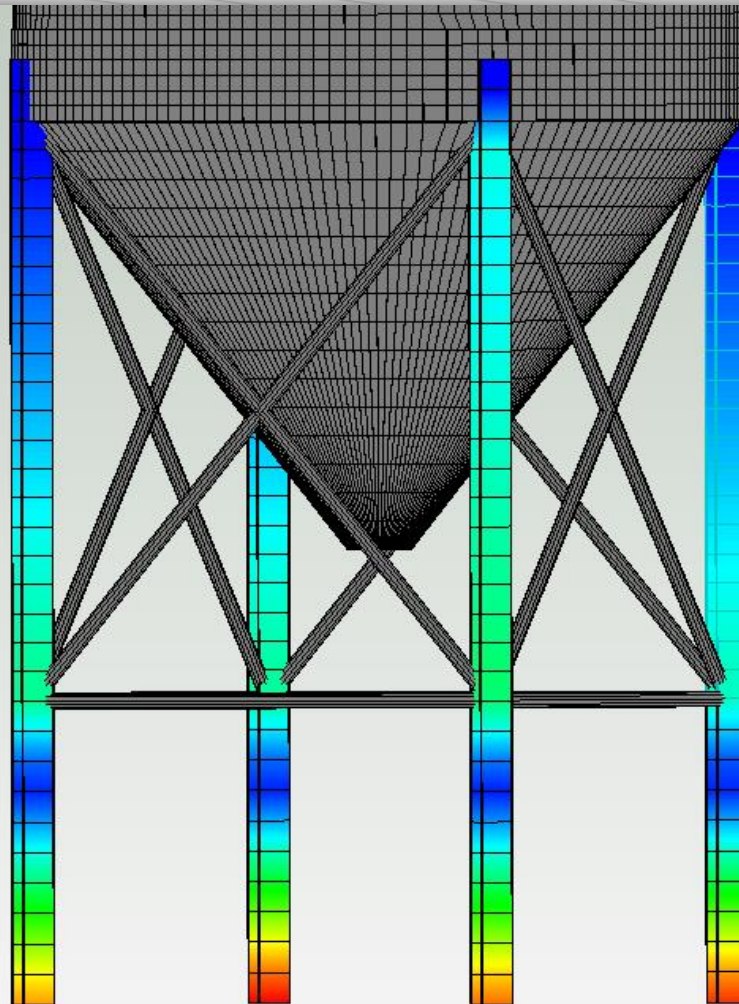
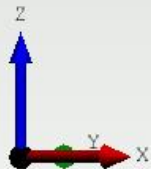
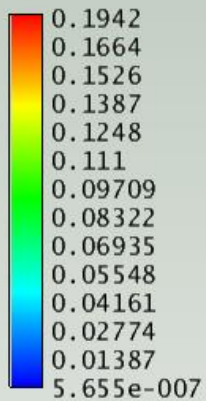
1. Click on **Check beams**.
2. In **Properties** select the **Loading** that we want to check.

In this case we need to check Bending, Compression buckling and Bending, axial and shear force combined. An envelope will be made afterwards.



# Bending Check

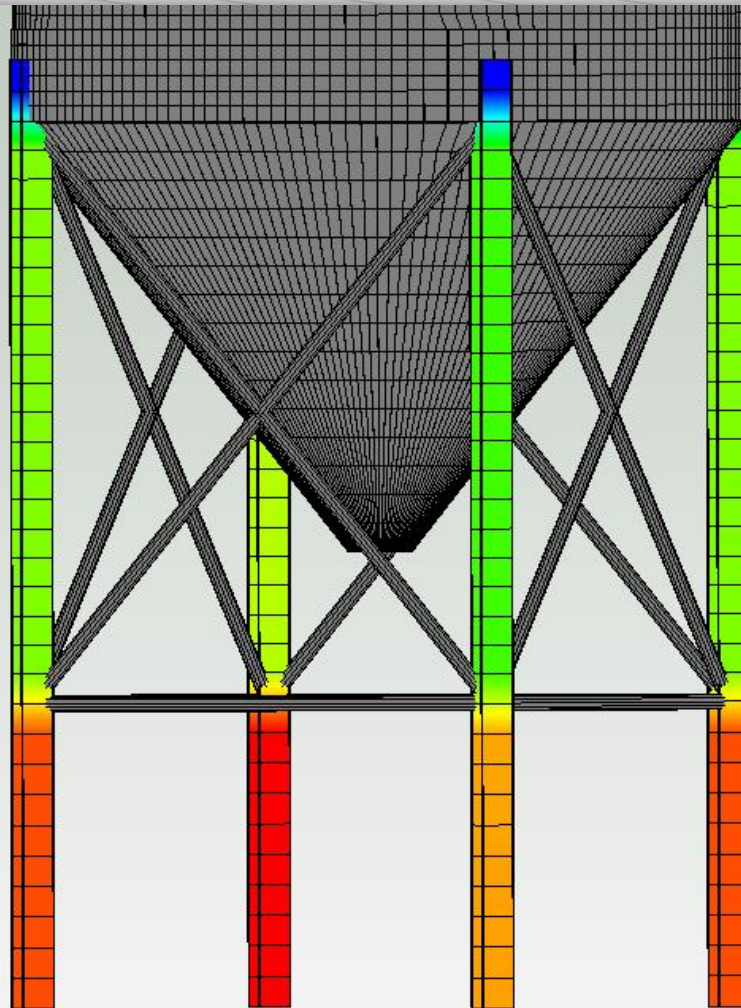
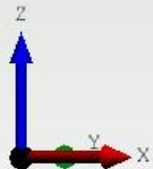
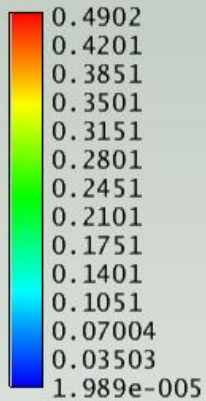
Total criterion



Check Bending

# Bending buckling check

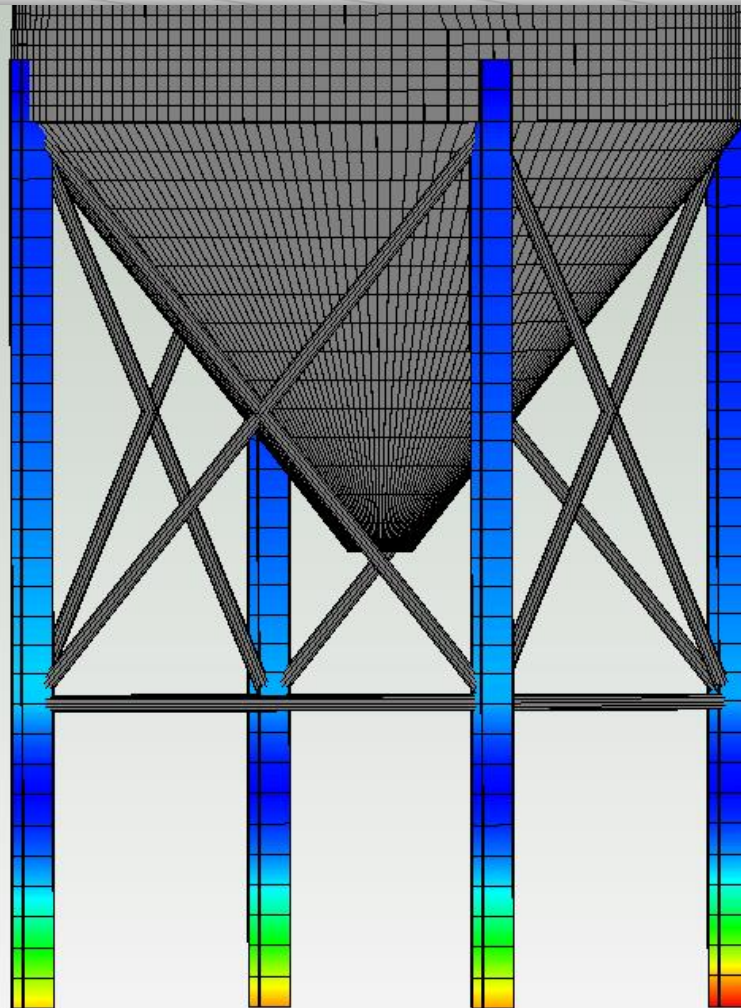
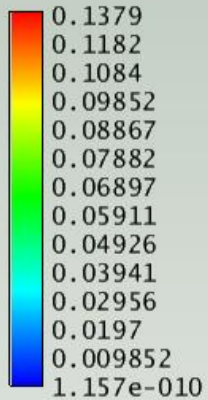
Total criterion



Check bend buck

# Bending + Axial + Shear check

Total criterion



Bending Axial Shear

# Conclusions

As we can see in the results, all displacements caused by the seismic load are admissible. In the same way, the generated stresses are lower than the Von Mises comparative stress.

On the other hand, all the loads have a total criterion value lower than 1,0. This means that the structure is correctly designed.