

# Shape Optimization of a NURBS Modelled Coronary Stent Using Kriging and Genetic Algorithm

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**Abstract:** In this paper, structural shape of stent has been optimized using NURBS for parameterization of stent structure and target those objectives which are critical for vascular injury. NURBS modeling is done using python coding in RHINO 3D software. For later part of the design, Solidworks is used. The objectives considered in our study are dogboning, foreshortening and arterial wall stresses, all of which are strongly linked to vascular injury leading to restenosis. We use control point weights, strut thickness and strut width as design variables for Latin Hypercube sampling (LHS) in order to generate dataset for Stent deployment simulations. In our study, we generate 80 design data points using LHS in Matlab R2014a. Finite element analysis of stent deployment process is then carried out using ANSYS for all 80 designs of stent generated using LHS. Thereafter, we use Kriging for surrogate modeling and non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA-II) in MATLAB for multi-objective design optimization so as to minimize dogboning, foreshortening and arterial wall stresses. As a result, we obtain a range of pareto optimal design parameter values which can be used in clinical design guides so as to accommodate variations observed across different patients.

**Keywords:** Stent, Kriging, Foreshortening, Recoil Ratio, Maximum Stress, Optimization

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## 1. Introduction

Atherosclerosis is the buildup of cholesterol and fatty deposits (called plaque) on the inner walls of the arteries that restrict blood flow to the heart. Without adequate blood, the heart becomes starved of oxygen and the vital nutrients it needs to work properly, which, in turn, causes chest pain called angina. Angioplasty with stenting is most commonly recommended for patients who have a blockage in one or two coronary arteries. A stent is a small, metal mesh tube that acts as a scaffold to provide support inside the coronary artery. A balloon catheter, placed over a guide wire, is used to insert the stent into the blocked artery. Once in place, the balloon is inflated and the stent expands to the size of the artery and holds it open. The balloon is deflated and removed, and the stent stays in place permanently. Restenosis is a gradual re-narrowing of the stented segment that occurs mostly between 3 to 12 months after stent placement. Although, use of stents has decreased the chances of restenosis, when compared with balloon angioplasty alone, but it still continues to be a significant figure of 25% (Foin

et. al., 2014). Since, there are millions of stent deployment procedures being carried out worldwide, even rates of complications in low single digit percentages of the total represents a large cohort of patients. In this context, there is clearly room for improvement in the precision of stent delivery and optimization. Vascular injury caused due to depth of penetration of the stent wires or by an aggressiveness score, has consistently been found to determine the degree of restenosis and hence, restenosis is strongly linked to stent design (Schwartz et. al., 1994).

The design of stent is determined by its geometry, structure and material. In the present paper, we concentrate only on the geometrical and structural aspect. The stent we have used for this research is a balloon expandable stent with tube design. As per authors' knowledge, only few researchers have used non-uniform rational basis spline (NURBS) for stent optimization (Kelliher et. al., 2008; Pant et. al., 2012; Clune et. al., 2014) and, further, none of these authors have yet considered objectives specific for vascular injury. So, in our study, we optimize the structural shape of stent using NURBS for parameterization of stent structure and target those objectives which are critical for vascular injury.

NURBS modeling is done using python coding in RHINO 3D software. For later part of the design, Solidworks is used. The objectives considered in our study are dogboning, foreshortening and arterial wall stresses, all of which are strongly linked to vascular injury leading to restenosis. Further, in our design, we exploit the longitudinal and circumferential symmetry of stent by using a single repetitive segment in analysis and optimization to represent the overall stent. We use control point weights, strut thickness and strut width as design variables for Latin Hypercube sampling (LHS) in order to generate dataset for Stent deployment simulations. Latin Hypercube designs have become very popular among strategies for computer experiments. It allows the creation of experimental designs with as many points as desired along with the space filling properties. In our study, we generate 80 design data points using LHS in Matlab R2014a. Finite element analysis of stent deployment process is then carried out using ANSYS for all 80 designs of stent generated using LHS. Thereafter, we use Kriging for surrogate modeling and non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm (NSGA-II) in MATLAB for multi-objective design optimization so as to minimize dogboning, foreshortening and arterial wall stresses. As a result, we obtain a range of pareto optimal design parameter values which can be used in clinical design guides so as to accommodate variations observed across different patients. Results of the study show the merits of the NURBS based parameterization approach, which models a broader range of shapes than was previously possible with traditional approaches.

## 2. Geometric Modelling of Stent

This section describes the various aspects of a NURBS curve, its subsequent application to Stent modeling and the generation of three-dimensional design in this paper.

Non-Uniform Rational Basis Spline(NURBS) are popular industry standard tools that are used for the design and representation of geometry (Rogers David and Earnshaw, 1991). The properties of NURBS functions are same as that of integral B-splines, but with capability of representing a wider class of geometries.

NURBS curves can be controlled by changing the following parameters: -

1. Degree of the spline which is a positive whole number.
2. The control points which determine the shape of the curve. Changing the control points is the easiest method to change the shape of the overall curve.
3. Control points have weights associated with them. The relative weight of the control point defines the "attraction" of the curve towards that control point. The relative value of weights of the control points can be used to change the shape of the curve even when the control point position cannot be changed.
4. Knots

The overall stent structure can be generated by repeating a single element in the longitudinal and circumferential directions, as shown in fig 1. The stent used in the study has

an axial length of 8mm, inner radius of 0.75mm. There are 20 repeated segments which, when combined with a mid-plane radius of 1.458 mm, gives the mid-plane circumferential length of 0.458 mm. The model generation consists of the following steps:

1. The centreline of fundamental stent segment is modelled using a NURBS curve of degree 7 and using 8 control points.
2. The weights of the control points are assigned. Considering the anti-symmetry of the fundamental stent segment, weights of control points 0-3 are same as that of 7-4, in order.
3. The centreline is then offset both side by a distance which has been generated by Latin Hypercube Sampling as explained in further sections.

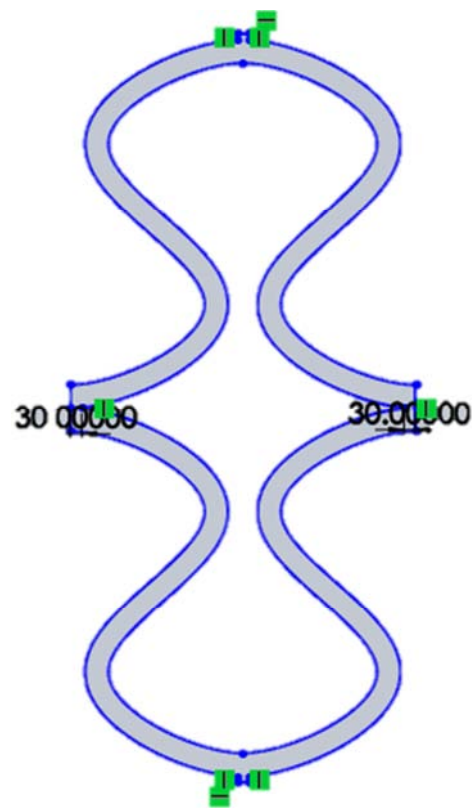


Figure 1. 2D Sketch of a Section of Stent.

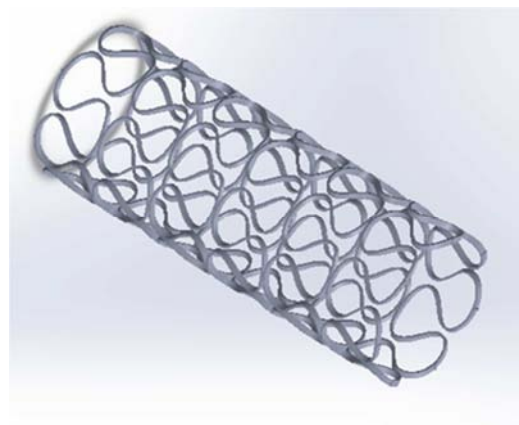
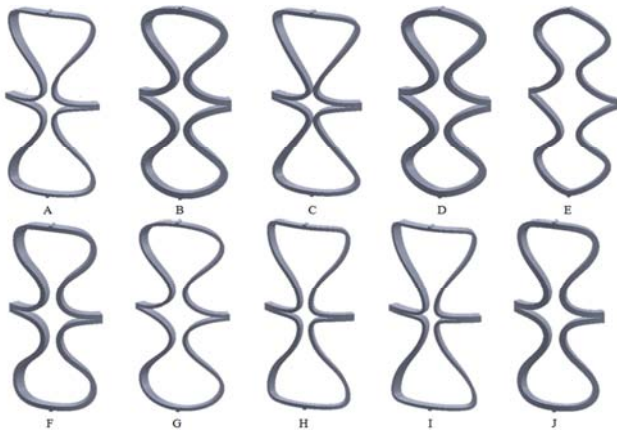


Figure 2. 3D Model of the Complete Stent.

This 2-D stent, Figure 1. Has been imported in Solidworks in the IGES format. Each repeating sketch was wrapped around surface extruded of cylinder of the required diameter which was 1.5mm for performing the analysis. The wrapped sketch was used to develop a surface which would be a 2-D surface representation of the stent model. Thicken feature was used to develop a 3-D model of the stent to obtain the required extrusion length in accordance to each data point generated by LHS technique as shown in Figure 2. It was then converted into parasolid text file for the analysis. The following table and Figure 3. give the values of the design parameters and the corresponding 3-Dimensional designs of the same:

**Table 1.** Design Parameters for the First 10 Designs in the Design Space of Research.

	W1	W2	W3	2-D Thickness	Extrusion Length
A	3.97	2.59	3.34	0.0302875	0.10725
B	1.34	4.16	3.09	0.0601875	0.09225
C	4.03	4.47	0.59	0.0429375	0.09325
D	0.84	3.28	2.47	0.0624875	0.10525
E	0.34	2.03	2.66	0.0515625	0.07125
F	2.22	1.84	4.66	0.0469625	0.10625
G	1.78	3.91	4.16	0.0314375	0.08675
H	4.78	1.03	4.47	0.0360375	0.07175
I	4.91	0.41	3.03	0.0320125	0.09825
J	1.72	1.47	2.03	0.0561625	0.07475



**Figure 3.** Ten Three Dimensional Models of Symmetric and Repeating Unit of the Coronary Stent.

An elasto-plastic material model along with bilinear isotropic strain hardening has been used to model the stent to study the large deformations during the analysis. Two Parameter Mooney Revlin model has been used to model the balloon to be inflated. The values of the parameters corresponding to the material of the stent and the balloon have been given in the following table.

**Table 2.** Mesh Parameters in ANSYS.

SNo.	Name of Parameter	Element Size/Value
1	Stent Body Sizing	0.04mm
2	Catheter Body Sizing	0.05mm
3	Mapped Face Meshing	Diaphragm-Balloon Interface
4	3-D Element Type	Solid 187/Solid 186

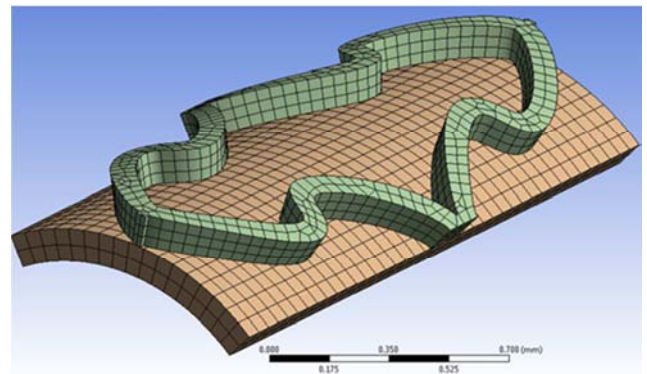
**Table 3.** Material Properties of the Stent-Balloon Assembly.

SNo	Name of Property	Value	Comments
1	Yield Strength	1.96E+08Pa	Stent
2	Tangent Modulus	6.92E+08Pa	Stent
3	C10	1.06MPa	Balloon
4	C01	0.114MPa	Balloon

### 3. Structural Analysis of Balloon Stent Model

ANSYS 14.0 has been used for performing the static finite element analysis the stent-catheter assembly for calculation of the values of foreshortening, recoil ratio and maximum von-mises stress.

The problem addressed in this paper involves bodies of dimensions in the order of microns; hence meshing of the stent-catheter assembly plays an important role to ensure high accuracy of the calculated parameters from the analysis. Table 2. Gives the meshing settings for the analysis performed.



**Figure 4.** Meshed Model of Stent-Balloon Assembly.

Due to computational restrictions, the entire stent-catheter assembly has been divided into repeating and cylindrically axis-symmetric units. Frictionless supports have been applied on the side faces and top face of the stent to indicate that an identical unit will repeat at the face where supports have been applied. Since a reduced symmetric portion of the entire stent has been considered for the analysis, translational displacements have been fixed on the right side and longitudinal translational displacements have been fixed on the top nodes in order to prevent rigid rotation along the longitudinal axis of the stent. This model assumes that the balloon does not experience any tangential or longitudinal displacement thereby expanding only in the radial direction.

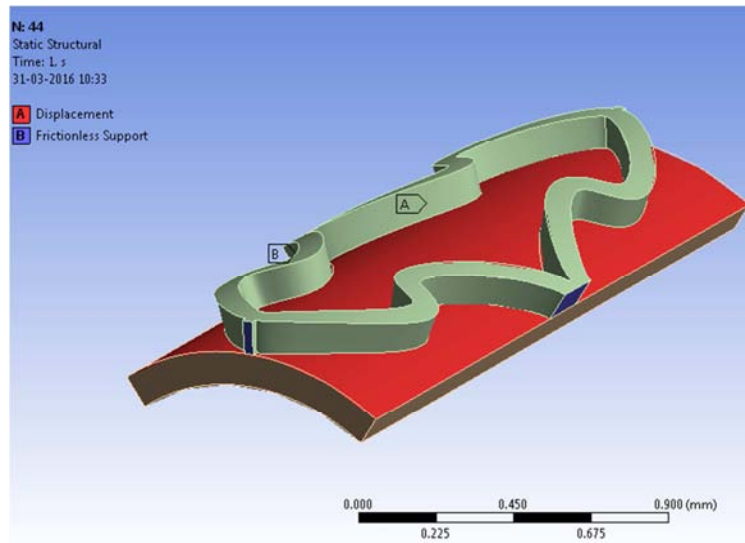
The aim of the angioplasty treatment is to open up the blockade due to the plaque in the coronary artery. A very realistic and practical scenario has been considered unlike most of the existing research in which analysis is performed for pressure acting on the catheter balloon. In this paper the catheter balloon has been inflated to achieve

a radial displacement of 0.3mm that is, the final diameter of the stent mesh will be 0.6mm more than its actual diameter. Hence, the stent will push the plaque thereby opening up the artery for blood flow. The balloon will expand for the first half of the cycle and for the second half of the cycle, it will relax to its original diameter.

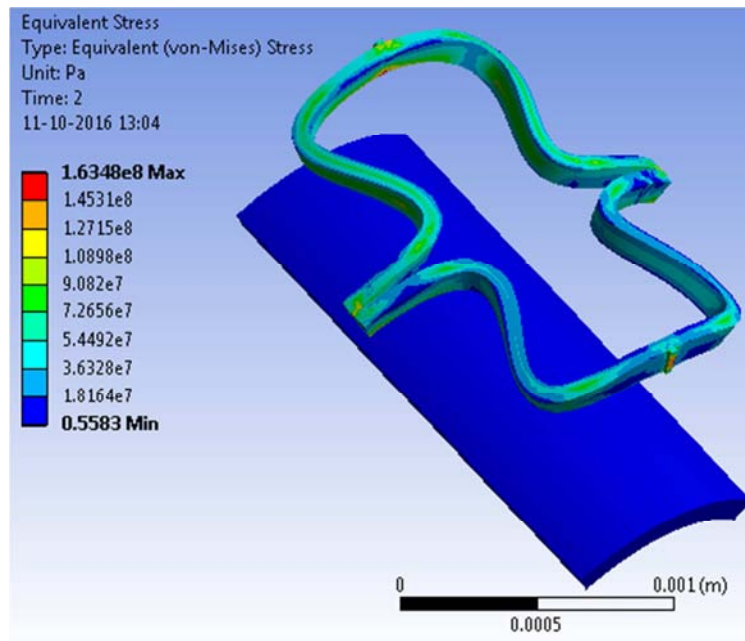
Surface to surface contact elements have been implemented in ANSYS where the elements are not allowed to penetrate into the target surface but target elements are allowed to penetrate. Frictionless contact has been modelled with the internal surfaces of stent being the contact while the external surface being the target. Penalty method has been used as a contact algorithm to determine a relationship between the contact surfaces using springs. Spring/Contact stiffness have been carefully determined to ensure that the penetration and slip are under safe limits.

**Table 4.** Analysis Settings.

SNo.	Name of Parameter	Value
1	Contact	Stent
2	Target	Balloon
3	Contact Type	Frictionless
4	Scope	Manual
5	Behaviour	Asymmetric
6	Formulation	Augmented Lagrange
7	Detection	Nodal-Projected Normal from Contact
8	Interference Treatment	Adjust to Touch
9	Normal Stiffness Factor	0.004
10	Number of Steps	2
11	Initial Number of Substeps	200
12	Minimum Substeps	20
13	Maximum Number of Substeps	1E+05
14	Solver Type	Iterative
15	Large Deflection	On



**Figure 5.** Boundary Supports of Stent-Balloon Assembly.



**Figure 6.** Stress After Completion of Inflation and Deflation Cycle.



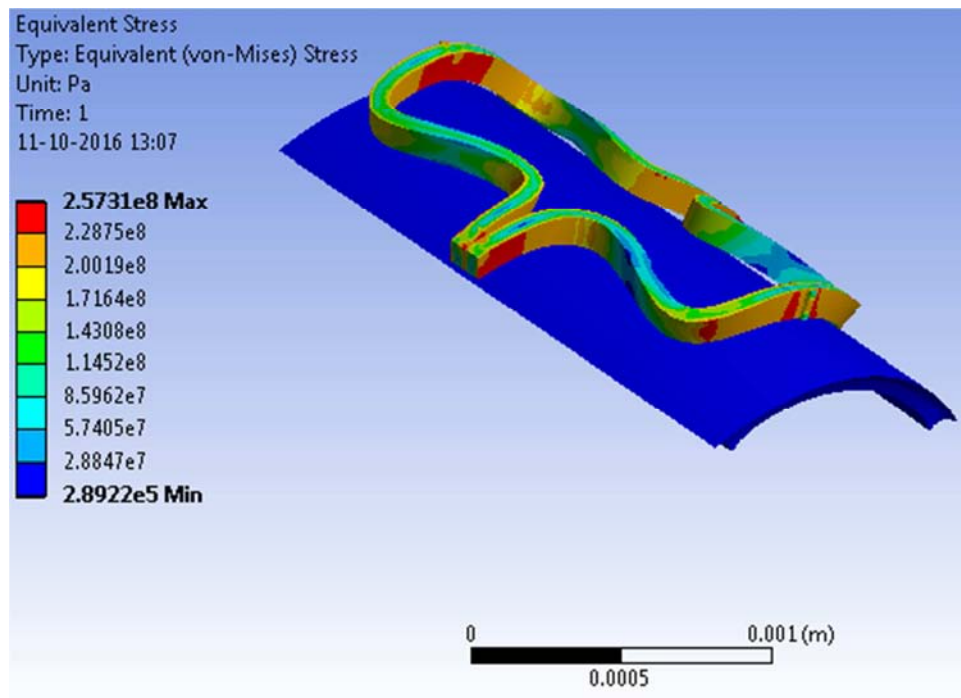


Figure 7. Stress at Maximum Inflation.

Figure 6-7 shows the simulation corresponding to one data point where the values of stress corresponding to the completion of cycle and the situation of maximum inflation has been depicted. Figure 8-10 depict the values of Radial Displacement, Maximum Stress and Change in length of the stent at the end of the entire inflation-deflation cycle accompanied with a graph showing the variation of the same through the entire cycle. It can be observed that the maximum stress acts at the curved regions of the stent and at

the faces corresponding to the symmetric lateral ends of the stent as the expansion of the balloon causes maximum strains at these locations. maximum diameter is attained at the end of the inflation cycle and it holds till the pressure on the balloon begins to decrease which is attributed to the elastic rebounding of the stent material. Large inelastic deformations induce residual stresses in the stent after the completion of cycle. It may also be possible that these residual stresses enable the stent to hold its shape.

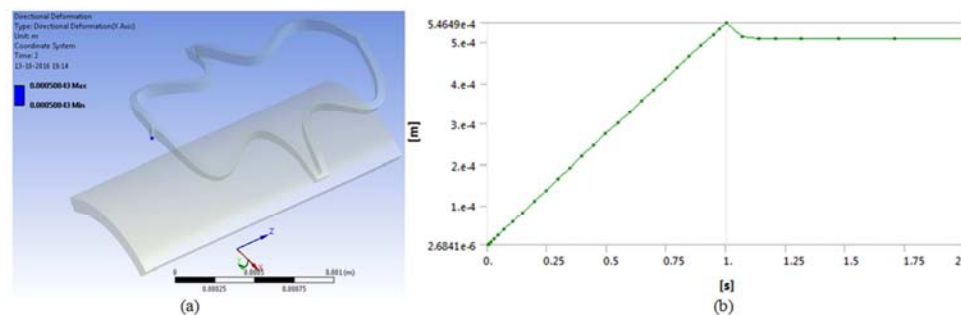


Figure 8. a) Radial Deformation of Stent at the End of Cycle b) Curve Depicting Change of Radial Deformation Over the Entire Cycle.

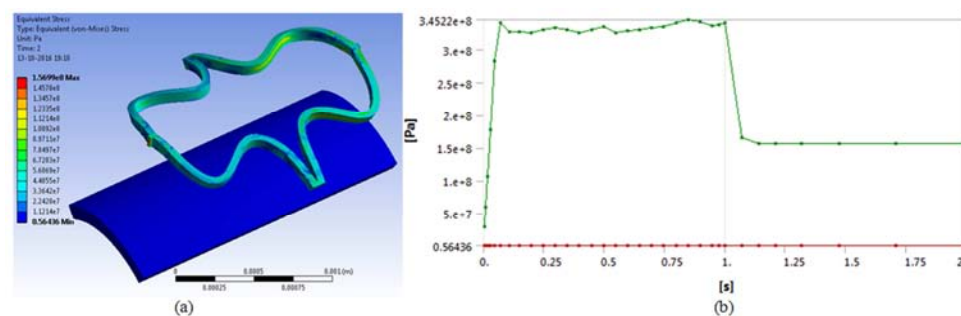


Figure 9. a) Von-Mises Stress acting on Stent at the End of Cycle b) Curve Depicting Change of Maximum Stress Over the Entire Cycle.

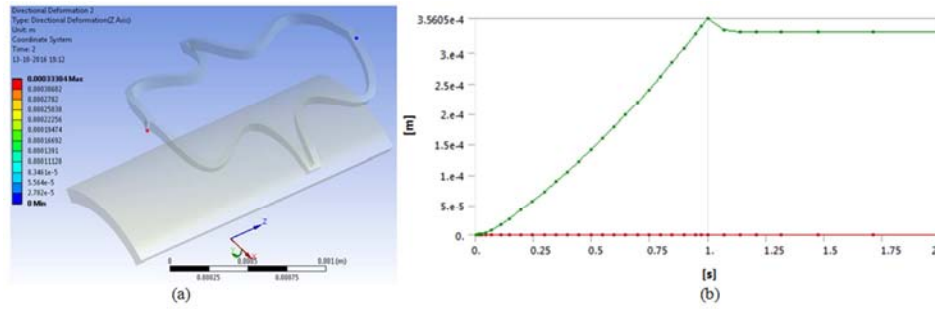


Figure 10. a) Longitudinal Deformation of Stent at the End of Cycle b) Curve Depicting Change of Longitudinal Deformation Over the Entire Cycle.

## 4. Selection of Design Parameters

Two sets of variables have been selected, the first set comprises of the control variables which define the design space and are determined by the manufacturers. The second set comprises of the uncertain variables which change in an uncertain manner but have a significant impact on the performance of the stent (Tammareddi et. al., 2016).

Three control weights, two-dimensional thickness and extrusion length have been selected as the design parameters which have been optimized in this research paper. According to the existing literature, the deployed stent is expected to have minimum recoil ratio, minimum value of maximum stress and a limited foreshortening which forms the base of the optimization model of this research paper (Li et. al., 2009). This implies that the deployed stent is desired to be stiff during recoil and compression while it is expected to be soft during the expansion process, lowest stresses and strains must be experienced by the stent during implantation and the stent should also withstand uniform radial pressure and retain its original shape (Clune et. al. 2014)

1. Recoil Ratio: - This refers to the ratio of the decrease in the diameter of the stent section when the balloon is fully inflated to the state when the balloon is deflated and diameter of the stent when the balloon is inflated to the maximum pressure.
2. Maximum Stress: - This is the maximum value of von-mises stress that any part of the stent experiences in an entire cycle. This parameter has been selected
3. Foreshortening: -This refers to the percentage by which the length of the stent decreases after completion of the inflation-deflation cycle in comparison to its original length.

$$\text{Foreshortening} = \frac{L_0 - L_{\text{unload}}}{L_0} * 100\%$$

## 5. Sample Generation

In our study, we use the Latin hypercube designs, which is one of the most popular space filling designs for deterministic computer simulation models. Latin Hypercube Sampling (LHS) is a stratified random procedure for efficient sampling of variables from their multivariate distributions. It was initially developed for efficiently selecting input variables for computer models for the purpose of Monte-Carlo simulations (McKay et. al., 2000; Iman and Conover, 1980). It is efficient when used for structural analysis for estimating standard deviations and mean values. (Olsson et al., 2003). Latin Hypercube designs have become very popular among strategies for computer experiments. One advantage it offers is the creation of experimental designs with as many points as desired along with the space filling properties. It has been used by several researchers for sampling of design data points for stent simulations. Eighty data sets were extracted in the four-dimensional workspace using the technique of Latin Hypercube Sampling in MATLAB. Table 5. Gives the selected range of values for generation of the design space and Table 6 gives the values of the output parameters which have been calculated after performing finite element analysis using ANSYS.

Table 5. Selected Range of Values to Develop the Design Space for the Analysis.

SNo	Name of Property	Maximum Value	Minimum Value
1	W1	4.968756	0.032244
2	W2	4.968756	0.032244
3	W3	4.968756	0.032244
4	Strut Width	0.0757125	0.0302875
5	Strut Thickness	0.10975	0.07025

Table 6. Analysis Table for the Entire Set of Latin Hypercube Sampling Generated Points.

W1	W2	W3	2D Thickness (mm)	Extrusion Length (mm)	Recoil Ratio	Maximum Stress (MPa)	Foreshortening
3.97	2.59	3.34	0.0302875	0.10725	0.169021088	351.03	0.040227984
1.34	4.16	3.09	0.0601875	0.09225	0.066610019	266.59	0.147298148
4.03	4.47	0.59	0.0429375	0.09325	0.106622241	279.61	0.066031458
0.84	3.28	2.47	0.0624875	0.10525	0.060008137	265.25	0.160624504
0.34	2.03	2.66	0.0515625	0.07125	0.065361275	350.19	0.208482854
2.22	1.84	4.66	0.0469625	0.10625	0.096794574	349.1	0.109387588
1.78	3.91	4.16	0.0314375	0.08675	0.143119198	349.85	0.120984887
4.78	1.03	4.47	0.0360375	0.07175	0.127622184	349.36	0.026534338

W1	W2	W3	2D Thickness (mm)	Extrusion Length (mm)	Recoil Ratio	Maximum Stress (MPa)	Foreshortening
4.91	0.41	3.03	0.0320125	0.09825	0.143152264	355.04	0.024938669
1.72	1.47	2.03	0.0561625	0.07475	0.072929995	332.21	0.10494736
0.41	2.72	4.72	0.0452375	0.07425	0.069644458	345.22	0.206503377
3.16	4.53	2.34	0.0676625	0.09375	0.0678	267.95	0.08122594
4.41	3.66	1.22	0.0705375	0.07875	0.071027222	282.93	0.06307003
4.47	1.28	2.09	0.0739875	0.08175	0.068480643	258.18	0.056109213
0.22	1.34	3.66	0.0544375	0.08625	0.055007423	334.22	0.223713602
2.34	4.66	2.91	0.0400625	0.08575	0.113560491	353.72	0.106704837
3.09	4.91	3.53	0.0406375	0.08475	0.121940013	353.71	0.096991907
3.28	2.97	4.78	0.0521375	0.09475	0.087273531	275.61	0.088268269
3.34	1.16	4.97	0.0665125	0.07525	0.067403722	322.98	0.073461053
3.84	0.59	2.53	0.0463875	0.07575	0.103172414	254.67	0.052651094
3.66	4.72	4.84	0.0527125	0.07275	0.087732178	362.63	0.076848052
1.84	2.84	0.66	0.0584625	0.08075	0.074978939	276.52	0.101391134
2.91	4.22	0.22	0.0688125	0.10075	0.067439161	280.24	0.087980913
0.91	0.53	1.34	0.0371875	0.07825	0.10333253	346.27	0.125975566
0.16	2.47	3.28	0.0596125	0.09725	0.053551223	336.45	0.202902617
4.84	1.09	2.41	0.0532875	0.09575	0.09155743	278.03	0.043541658
1.28	3.97	4.34	0.0458125	0.10325	0.092013536	342.38	0.15101115
2.59	0.28	2.78	0.0699625	0.10375	0.064289543	264.39	0.077996096
4.97	2.53	1.84	0.0481125	0.07975	0.102158694	284.92	0.053458624
1.09	2.22	2.97	0.0394875	0.08025	0.105737431	343.81	0.154746602
0.53	4.09	3.91	0.0578875	0.08825	0.061882475	341.4	0.181659299
1.47	3.78	0.41	0.0567375	0.08125	0.075229593	285.69	0.125503938
4.72	0.72	3.59	0.0412125	0.10475	0.113540651	291.62	0.051993041
1.91	1.22	0.84	0.0636375	0.10275	0.070307885	263.32	0.092392713
0.72	0.34	2.84	0.0757125	0.09175	0.044720707	274.94	0.174030689
0.28	3.09	1.53	0.0751375	0.07925	0.046521875	281.21	0.184895328
2.84	2.91	1.28	0.0348875	0.09625	0.14668412	357.14	0.074500081
2.03	0.91	3.47	0.0435125	0.07725	0.09743895	276.22	0.100676614
1.53	0.84	0.34	0.0325875	0.08875	0.148417316	349.26	0.072308972
2.28	2.34	1.16	0.0555875	0.08525	0.082119644	331.09	0.07436512
0.97	4.78	0.97	0.0343125	0.08975	0.126897748	360.58	0.158866148
3.91	2.16	0.72	0.0423625	0.10975	0.116594638	289.39	0.06265945
0.09	0.09	1.47	0.0693875	0.10025	0.034417262	314.2	0.247983103
2.53	0.03	3.97	0.0504125	0.10925	0.086696338	352.53	0.077432777
4.28	4.34	2.28	0.0475375	0.07775	0.10050858	282.25	0.070133622
1.59	2.41	1.66	0.0389125	0.08925	0.11815925	346.31	0.117910652
2.97	2.28	0.91	0.0509875	0.07225	0.083029335	272.63	0.071324388
1.66	3.16	4.91	0.0728375	0.09975	0.056249654	291.19	0.137458873
0.78	1.72	1.78	0.0331625	0.09425	0.123906706	366.66	0.151100007
1.97	1.97	3.84	0.0486875	0.10575	0.090570236	342.91	0.10747297
2.78	2.78	3.22	0.0670875	0.10875	0.066883726	262.97	0.089787747
1.41	4.28	1.09	0.0308625	0.10775	0.149091715	348.63	0.119733284
3.72	1.53	4.28	0.0590375	0.08725	0.07994039	327.17	0.068689753
4.09	3.22	4.22	0.0745625	0.07025	0.063880805	269.62	0.081847115
4.59	4.97	1.97	0.0417875	0.09025	0.115028881	274.82	0.338896959
3.03	0.66	4.03	0.0377625	0.07625	0.129907063	354.57	0.070519085
0.66	3.03	4.53	0.0607625	0.07675	0.057885158	270.14	0.179518199
3.59	1.78	2.22	0.0734125	0.08225	0.064943853	263.86	0.073343668
1.16	1.66	1.91	0.0573125	0.07325	0.067880702	279.31	0.131405765
4.22	0.47	3.16	0.0711125	0.09925	0.067228279	284	0.053750056
3.41	3.84	4.09	0.0354625	0.09875	0.14253598	353.17	0.078491226
2.66	4.84	3.78	0.0630625	0.09075	0.069183427	266.96	0.107596495
1.22	0.97	1.59	0.0440875	0.08275	0.091848135	348.32	0.122942139
0.59	3.53	3.72	0.0446625	0.10425	0.085332986	340.07	0.174819827
1.03	0.78	4.41	0.0366125	0.09275	0.10798572	335.61	0.139702186
4.16	4.41	2.72	0.0642125	0.10825	0.07529725	253.68	0.079548246
4.53	3.59	2.59	0.0538625	0.10675	0.090280319	278.63	0.068170673
3.53	1.91	1.41	0.0619125	0.08325	0.076326774	287.26	0.062684772
3.78	3.47	0.28	0.0653625	0.09125	0.076270106	257.38	0.068636358
2.09	2.66	0.47	0.0337375	0.08375	0.147250355	359.18	0.08779221
2.72	3.72	0.53	0.0716875	0.09525	0.065437956	272.41	0.095144589
4.34	1.41	1.72	0.0492625	0.10175	0.099164468	274.91	0.053594201
2.16	0.22	0.03	0.0613375	0.09775	0.082153598	253.28	0.052784978
4.66	3.34	4.59	0.0647875	0.07375	0.074632057	268.48	0.067451741
0.03	4.03	3.41	0.0659375	0.10225	0.049311376	276.09	0.209899579

W1	W2	W3	2D Thickness (mm)	Extrusion Length (mm)	Recoil Ratio	Maximum Stress (MPa)	Foreshortening
2.41	1.59	0.16	0.0383375	0.07075	0.124408669	299.77	0.069439797
3.22	2.09	0.09	0.0498375	0.08775	0.098225868	276.22	0.062520294
0.47	3.41	1.03	0.0550125	0.09675	0.067341003	274.69	0.171835664
3.47	0.16	2.16	0.0722625	0.10125	0.066572055	267.27	0.059258678
2.47	4.59	0.78	0.0682375	0.08425	0.067026377	272.32	0.101926201

## 6. Kriging and Design Optimization

A surrogate modelling approach based on Kriging has been used to approximate the underlying true objective functions which determine the behaviour of the stent. True objective values for optimization have been replaced with kriging response surfaces which prove to be computationally inexpensive (Pant et. al., 2011). The Kriging response surfaces were fit to each set of design points. the fitted response surfaces were checked for minimum values of mean squared resubstitution errors which was chosen as a parameter to determine their relevance for optimization. We encounter a multi-objective optimization problem which will enable the designer to select the best geometry of the stent under the defined However the solving the optimization problem requires nonlinear programming. The multiobjective problem has been solved using MATLAB implementation of NSGA-II algorithm. The Multi-Objective Genetic Algorithm model attempts to create a set of Pareto optima for a multi objective minimization. A solution can be considered Pareto optimal if there is no other solution that performs at least as well on every criterion and strictly better on at least one

criteria. In genetic algorithms, a chromosome is a set of parameters which define a proposed solution to the problem it is trying to solve (Konak et. al., 2006). The genetic operators such as cross-over, mutation and selection make use of the fitness evaluation of the chromosomes. Selection operators are more likely to choose the fit parents for cross-over, while mutation is inclined towards the least fit individuals.

A population size of 100 was evolved over 1000 generations through binary tour selection after which the 100 designs of the NSGA-II population converged to the set of optimum set of data points solving the trade-off between the output parameters.

## 7. Results and Discussion

Table 7. gives the pareto set of design parameters which represents the best set of design parameters which would give the minimum stress, recoil ratio and foreshortening. There would be no solution which would perform at least same on two of the three output parameters and better for the third parameter.

Table 7. Set of Optimized Design Parameters of the Coronary Stent.

W1	W2	W3	2D Thickness	3D Thickness	Recoil Ratio	Stress	Foreshortening
4.85045309	1.34938252	0.069887663	0.065624284	0.078660166	0.080636127	259.058218	0.001168782
0.94219827	0.03077415	1.859320492	0.079259242	0.107876836	0.030103302	312.2941185	0.144311796
0.94219827	0.03077415	1.859320492	0.079259242	0.107876836	0.030103302	312.2941185	0.144311796
2.43497796	0.14309346	1.139368208	0.068688985	0.103281809	0.052218597	286.6426743	0.070386926
1.21919295	0.26874915	1.498961033	0.074706166	0.104701521	0.034623996	300.437606	0.127447516
1.85748266	0.2624927	1.402904923	0.073859273	0.097863412	0.042032002	283.4862587	0.09294788
2.39772215	0.0735884	1.474960445	0.079075031	0.104658385	0.040275939	292.4081281	0.083754866
4.0692913	0.43660613	0.710243423	0.065557326	0.095024088	0.076649809	266.3445841	0.011072171
2.06500861	0.27219914	1.249395202	0.074700031	0.10451351	0.040953143	290.9686196	0.091810027
2.93903291	0.08160108	0.718442888	0.072710208	0.098167082	0.058571347	281.3892224	0.04641973
1.21630678	0.2202034	1.061313836	0.076018052	0.091924167	0.03826325	284.6565794	0.112502582
0.92334548	0.16809166	1.816274791	0.079258051	0.107347062	0.030317149	311.045029	0.144593795
1.0484675	0.03300276	1.549002883	0.077088627	0.10599583	0.032001678	307.0078624	0.1360929
0.88452743	0.06192011	1.751831371	0.078733014	0.101354064	0.032051722	304.8243793	0.155531665

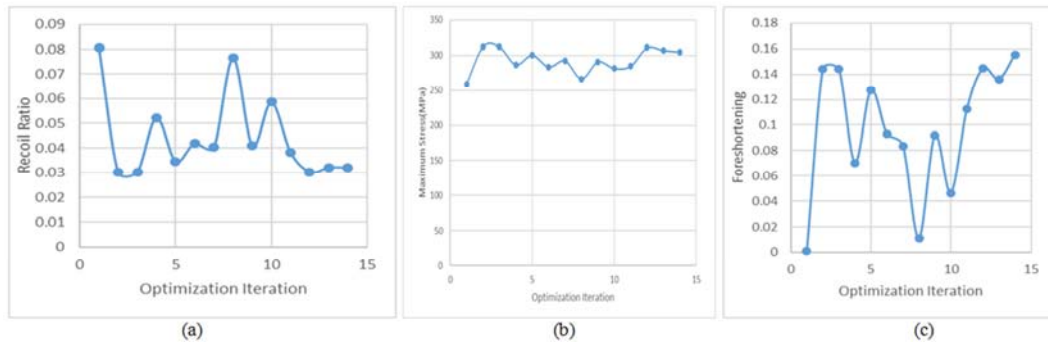
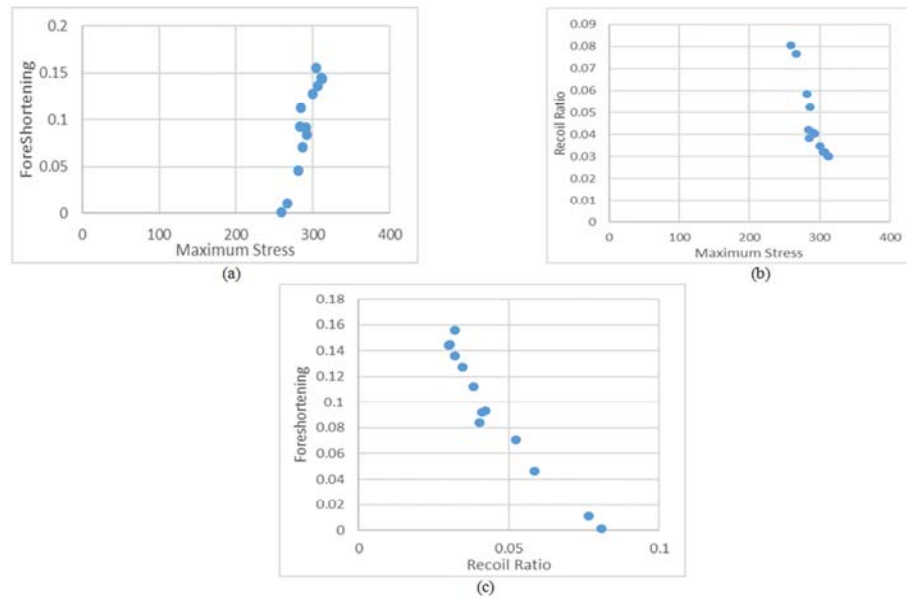


Figure 11. (a) Variation of Recoil Ratio in the Pareto Set of Optimized Design Parameters (b) Variation of Maximum Stress in the Pareto Set of Optimized Design Parameters (c) Variation of Foreshortening in the Pareto Set of Optimized Design Parameters.





**Figure 12.** (a) Relation Between Foreshortening and Maximum Stress (b) Relation Between Recoil Ratio and Maximum Stress (c) Relation Between Foreshortening and Recoil Ratio.

**Table 8.** Correlation Between Output Parameters.

	Maximum Stress	Foreshortening	Recoil Ratio
Maximum Stress	NA	+ve	-ve
Foreshortening	+ve	NA	-ve
Recoil Ratio	-ve	-ve	NA

It can be seen from Figure 11. (a), (b) and (c) that the recoil ratio is between 3% to 8%, maximum value of stress varies between 259MPa and 312MPa and the foreshortening values fall between 0.1% and 15%. We can observe from Figure 12. (a), (b) and (c) that when recoil ratio and maximum stress reach the minimum value for one set of observation, the foreshortening value reaches its maximum for the same data point clearly highlighting the need for assigning priorities/weights for each output parameter. The designer can select the desired set of values of the parameters to minimize the possibility of restenosis thereby maximizing the life of the stent depending on the importance that the designer wishes to assign to a specific parameter. Surface finish, method of manufacturing and type of materials are a few parameters which can be included to broaden the scope of this research.

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