What is AFP & ATL?
Automated Fiber Placement (AFP) and Automated Tape Layup (ATL) are methods to fabricate near-net-shape fiber-reinforced parts using a CNC machine to apply layers of material to a mold. Material (or "tows") can be placed over contoured shapes and allows for manufacturing of complex geometry. During these processes, material is applied through the end of the machine and compacted onto the form.
VERICUT Composite Programming (VCP)

VCP gives composite part designers complete control over their part. With a wide variety of path laying algorithms, engineers can ensure that they capture the design intent of their composite work piece. Using tools inside of VCP, the part designer or engineer can easily create and experiment with various AFP path options. They can also evaluate the effects of AFP manufacturing on a composite part’s design intent.

The user can measure and evaluate the effects of AFP path trajectory, material steering, surface curvature, course convergence and other process constraints as they would be applied in manufacturing.

VCP can be used to program any number of machines. It includes support for probing, knife trimming paths, laser projection, and Automated Tape Laying (ATL) machines. Data exportation is also available for further in-depth evaluation by the user’s existing analysis methods and tools.

VERICUT Composite Simulation (VCS)

VCS gives an entire organization the confidence needed to run composite NC machines correctly the first time. Regardless of the programming system used (VCP or others), users can validate NC code to identify issues, such as: collisions, NC syntax errors, and material placement quality. Because the material is applied to the layup form via NC program instructions in a virtual CNC simulation environment, the simulated part can be measured and inspected to ensure the NC program follows manufacturing standards and requirements. A report showing simulation results and statistical information can be created automatically to help build confidence with operators and management. VCS can be used to simulate any number of machines, and includes support for probing, knife trimming paths, laser projection, Automated Fiber Placement (AFP), and Automated Tape Laying (ATL) machines.

VCP Process Features

- Reads CATIA, STEP, Siemens NX, Pro E, Creo, SolidWorks, ACIS and other surface models
- Reads Fibersim, CATIA, and other external ply geometry and information including:
  - Boundary geometry
  - Ply direction, and
  - Star points
- Generates layup paths based on manufacturing engineering specifications, including:
  - Rosette projection at specified angles
  - Parallel to guiding curve
  - Follows the natural path of the form’s surface
- Creates NC code for any machine vendor, including: Electroimpact, MTorres, Accudyne, AFPT, and others!

VCS Analysis Features:

- Reads CAD geometry of the layup form, machine axes, and work cell
  - For collision detection and material application simulation
- Uses VERICUT virtual machine and control emulation to simulate the layup machinery
  - Can be configured for virtually any CNC syntax and machine kinematics configuration
- Reads the NC program from any source and simulates the layup process based on actual NC program commands
  - Validate the actual NC program that will run on the layup equipment
  - Add material to the form based on NC program commands
  - Material is added in discrete layers/sequences, constructing the workpiece exactly like the physical process
- Checks the process for compaction roller/form conformance and direction
  - Verify roller orientation to path
  - Verify path correctness to the form and previously applied sequences/layers of material
  - Check roller conformance for bridging or excessive compaction
- Measures and inspects added material for manufacturing requirements
  - Measure overlap, gap, and thickness
  - Detect steering radius violations
- Exports reports of machine warnings and errors generated during simulation

NC Program Simulation

- Keep process problems off the shop floor and avoid:
  - Breaking expensive tooling and machine parts
  - Wasting expensive machine time proofing out programs
  - Adding delays to an already tight schedule
  - Wasting costly material on incorrect NC programs

Custom Training

CGTech’s hands-on training gives you the knowledge & skills to maximize VERICUT Composite Programming & VERICUT Composite Simulation’s potential.

Summary

- VERICUT Composite Applications offers the tools needed to program, verify, and simulate your actual NC programs
- Nominal layup can be virtually validated
- Proven solution in the aerospace industry