

Facet the surface into sections, to fix planar elements to the preliminary curvature. 'Stretch' the facets into a minimum energy surface by pretensioning. If the spans are small, this tension is sufficient.

If they are large, a tightening plus an upward pressure is necessary to smooth out 'wrinkles' in the surface.

The sequence of solution is: form finding program followed by a non-linear curve fitting, then analysis, and back again to curve fitting, switching between the two until a satisfactory answer is found.

The surface produced is an optimum engineered surface, intact with the geometric definitions of its free edges. Now the 'strings' can vanish.

Note: 'free' edges could be artificially inserted over a sub-region of the form to work out areas of local geometry.

With this technique we look ahead.

