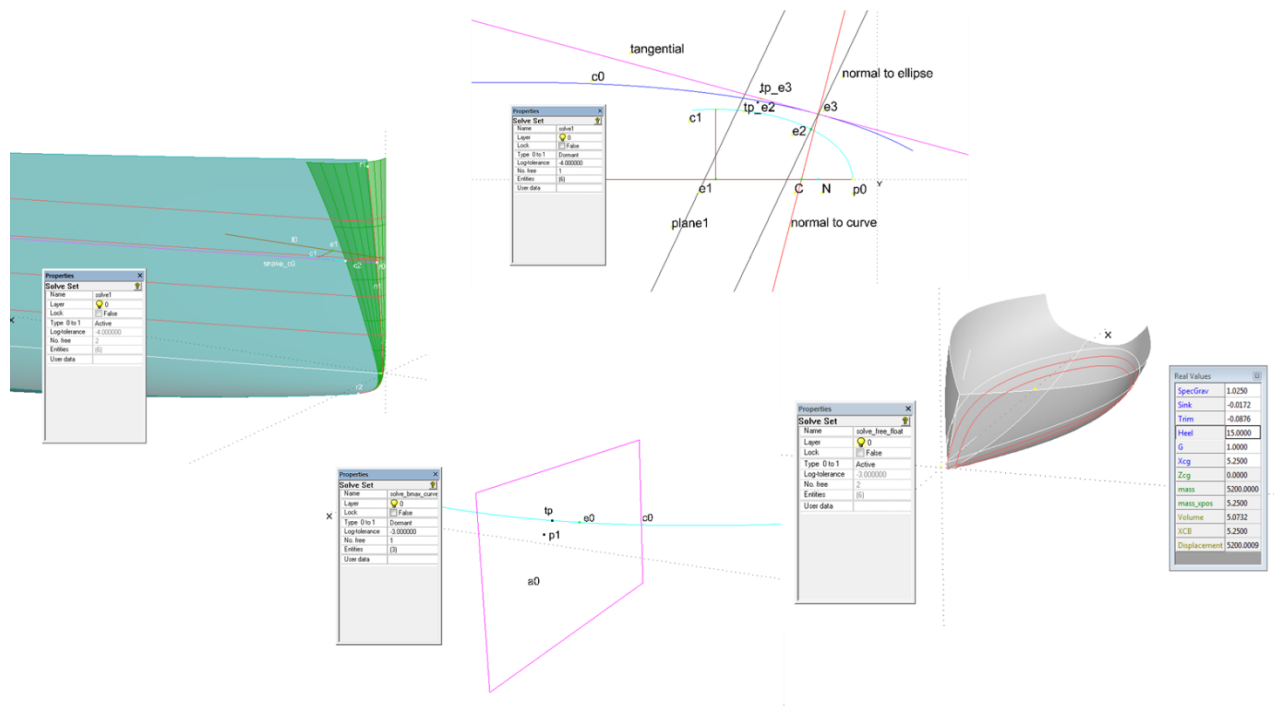


# The Solve Set Entity

## About iterative solutions of geometry problems

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## Introduction

There are geometry problems that are not easy to solve. For example, construct a line that runs through a certain point and is tangent to a circle. Or you can determine the maximum width of a curve or a trunk. You can try to approximate these geometrical constructions manually, but you have to repeat them if the basic geometry changes. MultiSurf offers a permanent, fixed solution for such geometry tasks - the entity Solve Set.

This tutorial was inspired by a MultiSurf user who asked how the waterlines of a boat hull can be rounded elliptically at the bow. The solution to this geometry problem makes it necessary to determine the point of contact between waterline curves and elliptical arcs. In order for this to be a permanent part of the model, a special entity must be used - a Solve Set.

As an introduction to the topic of Solve Sets, two simple examples are considered first. Then it is examined how the center and radius of a circle that touches a curve can be determined. Based on this, the point of contact between an ellipse and a curve is determined in order to then answer the question of the elliptical bow rounding. Finally, two examples are used to show how Solve Set objects can be used to determine the free floating position of a hull and to vary the shape of the hull for target values of displacement and LCB.

### Abbreviations used:

cp: control point (support point)

mc: master curve = support curve

cp1, cp2, ...: denotes 1st, 2nd, ... point in the list of supports of a curve. It is not an actual entity name.

mc1, mc2, ...: denotes 1st, 2nd, ... curve in the list of supports of a surface. It is not an actual entity name.

In the following the terms used for point, curve and surface types are those of MultiSurf. This may serve the understanding and traceability.

## The Solve Set entity

The Solve Set entity enables geometric constructions that are not possible with the point, curve and surface types available in MultiSurf alone.

### Solve Set – characteristic data:

*Name* -- as with any entity

*Layer* -- as with any entity

*Lock* -- as with any entity

*Type* – 0 (Dormant) or 1 (Active)

*Log Tolerance*

*No. Free* – Number of solve operations

*Entities* – Entities required for solve

*User data* – as with any entity

The Solve Set entity requires the objects needed for the solution to be entered in a specific structure:

(1) Free objects with a fixed number of float data: Point, Magnet, Bead, Ring, XPlane, YPlane, ZPlane. Depending on the number of float data, each contributes 1 to 3 degrees of freedom for a total of N degrees of freedom (unknowns).

(2) Constraints. These are N pairs of objects in the pattern ( point, plane/surface). Each pair represents one equality constraint: in the desired final configuration, each point will have zero clearance from its corresponding plane or surface.

At least one object in each target pair must be dependent on at least one of the free objects. Solve Set tries to adapt every free parameter so that all goals (zero distance) are achieved at the same time. This usually requires an iteration. If this iteration converges within the tolerance, the solution operation is successful and all objects involved remain in updated positions.

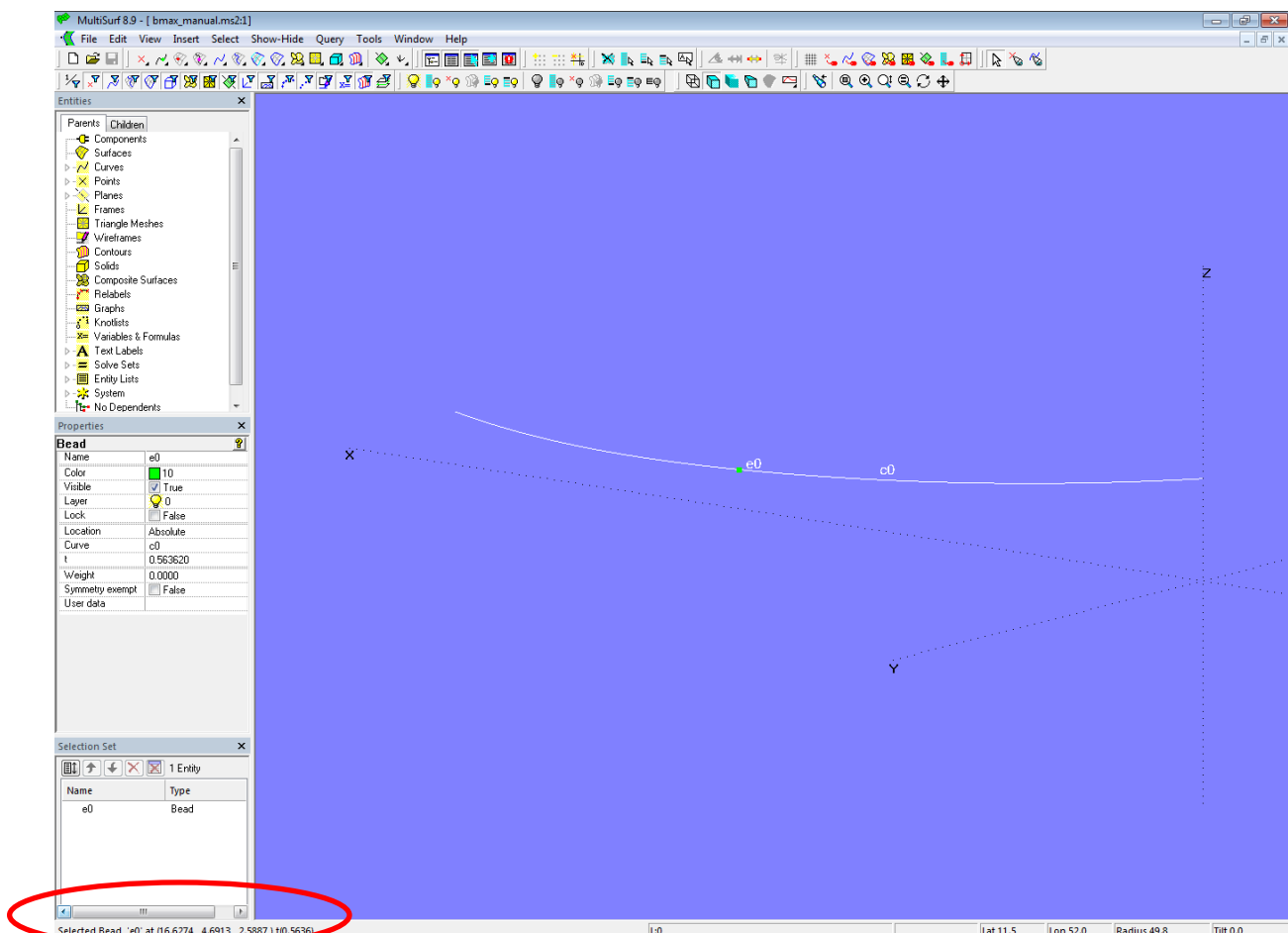
The Solve Set entity makes its solution a permanent part of the model when *Type* is set to "Active".

## Exercise 1 – maximum curve width

A simple problem – find the position of maximum width of a curve.

### Manual solution

Let us consider the model *curve\_bmax\_manual.ms2*. Where is the point on curve *c0* with maximum distance from the centerplane? The manual solution would be this: one places the Bead *e0* on the curve *c0* and moves it. The Y-value is shown in the coordinate display in the Status Bar.



Model *curve\_bmax\_manual.ms2* - determination of the maximum width with Bead *e0* and Status Bar

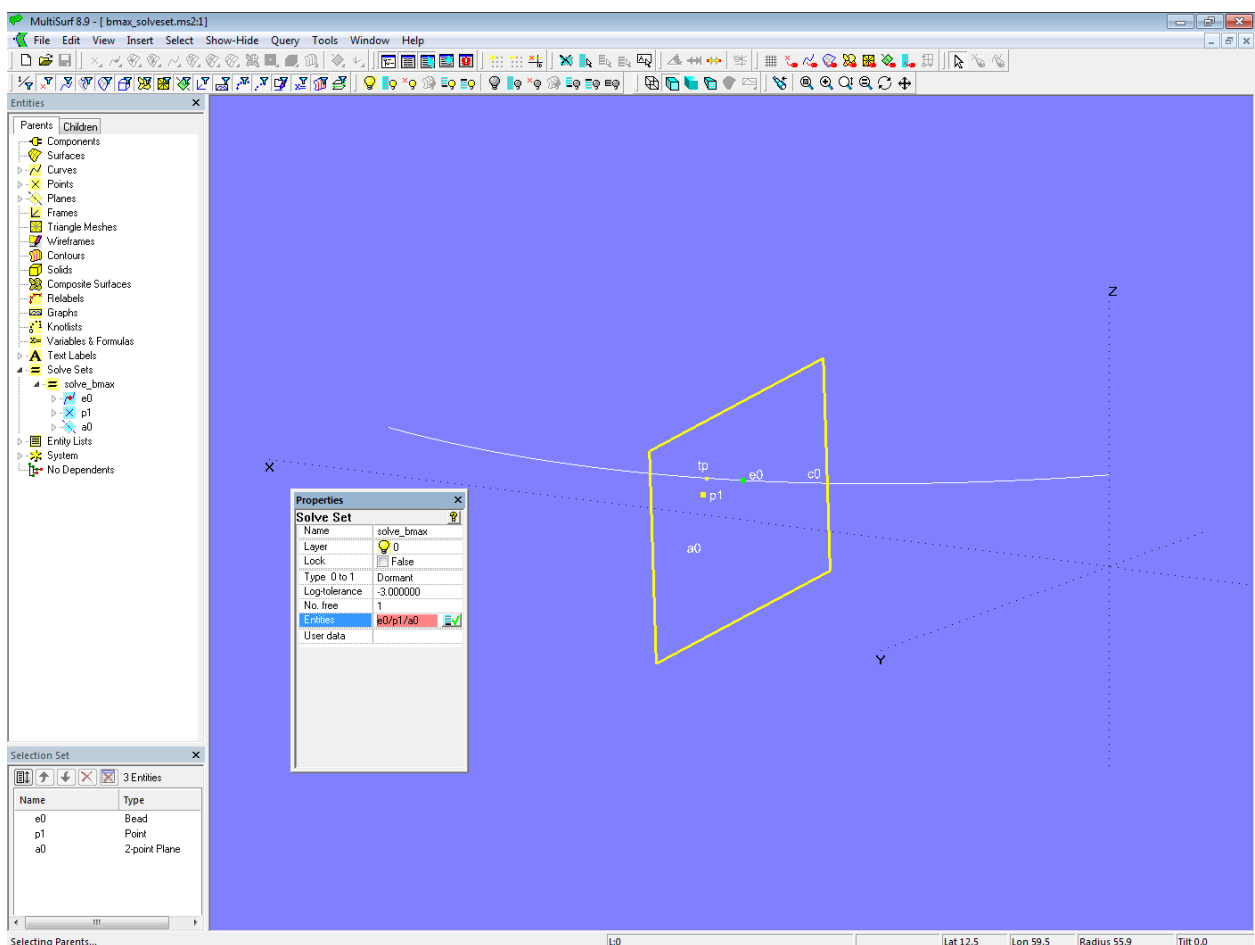
When the shape of curve **c0** is changed, the position of **e0** must be redefined.

### Solution with Solve Set

In model *curve\_bmax\_solve.set.ms2*, however, the position of **e0** at maximum width is automatically determined. The Solve Set entity is used for this purpose.

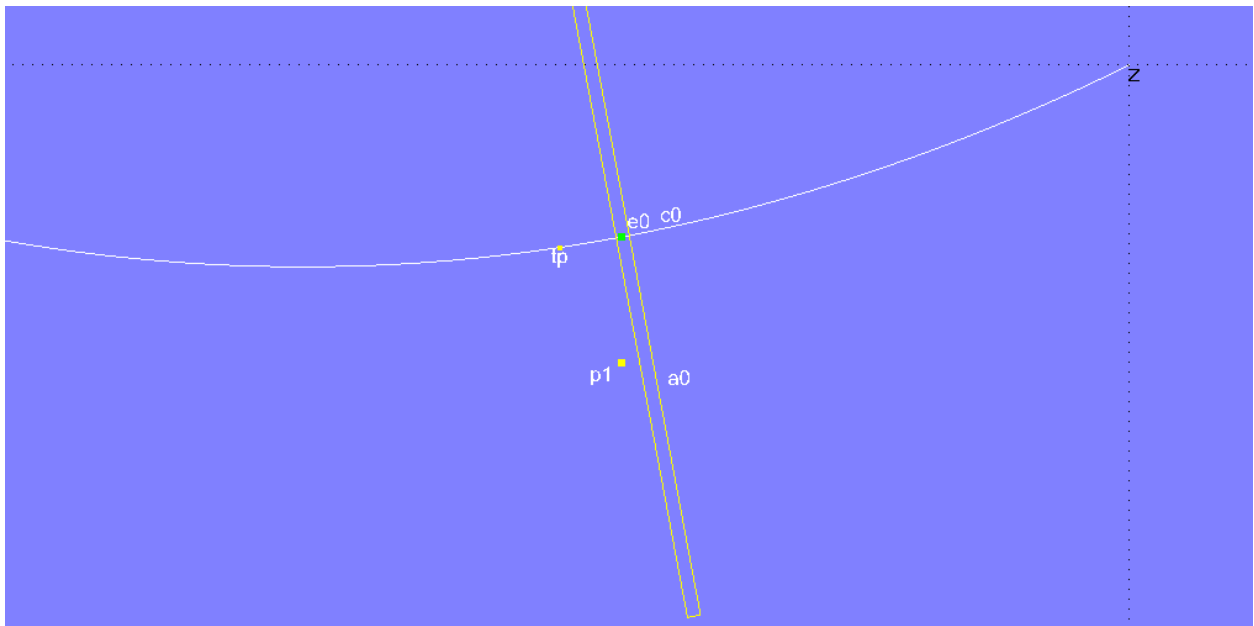
Let us take a closer look at the model. There is curve **c0**. The Bead **e0** lies on **c0**. It is support for the Tangent Point **tp**. The 2-point Plane **a0** is defined with **e0** and **tp**. It is therefore the normal plane of curve **c0** at curve point **e0**. There is also Point **p1**, which is offset from **e0** in Y-direction only.

The object list of the Solve Set *solve\_bmax\_curve* is: {**e0**; **p1**; **a0**}. This means: the Solve Set should move the free object Bead **e0** so that the distance between Point **p1** and 2-point Plane **a0** becomes zero.

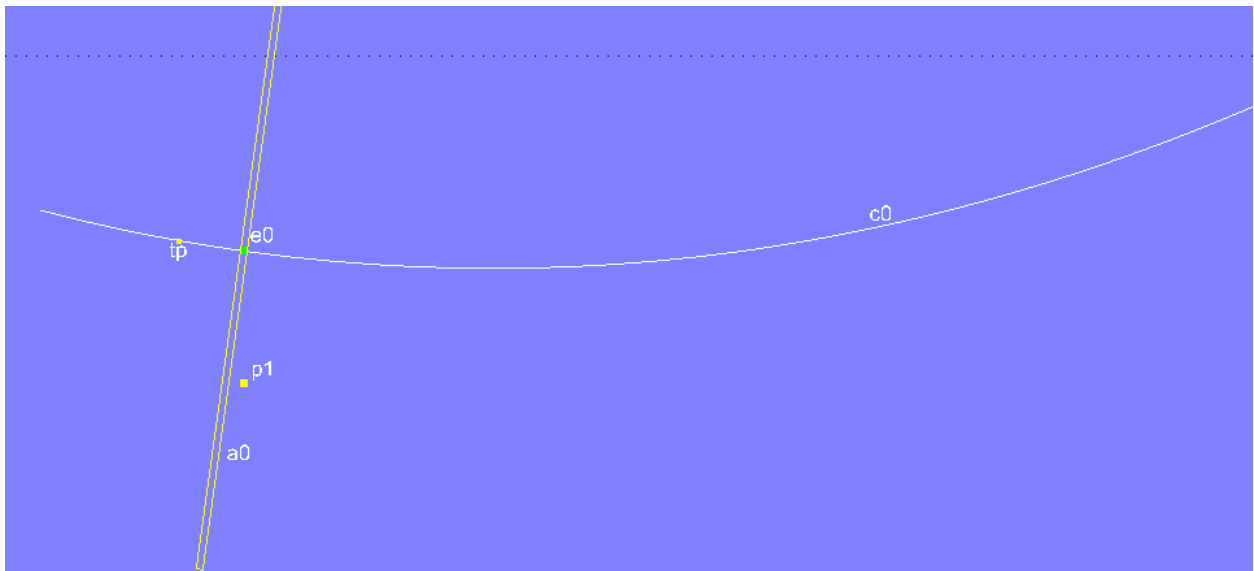


Model *curve\_bmax\_solve.set.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_bmax\_curve* inactive (Type = Dormant)

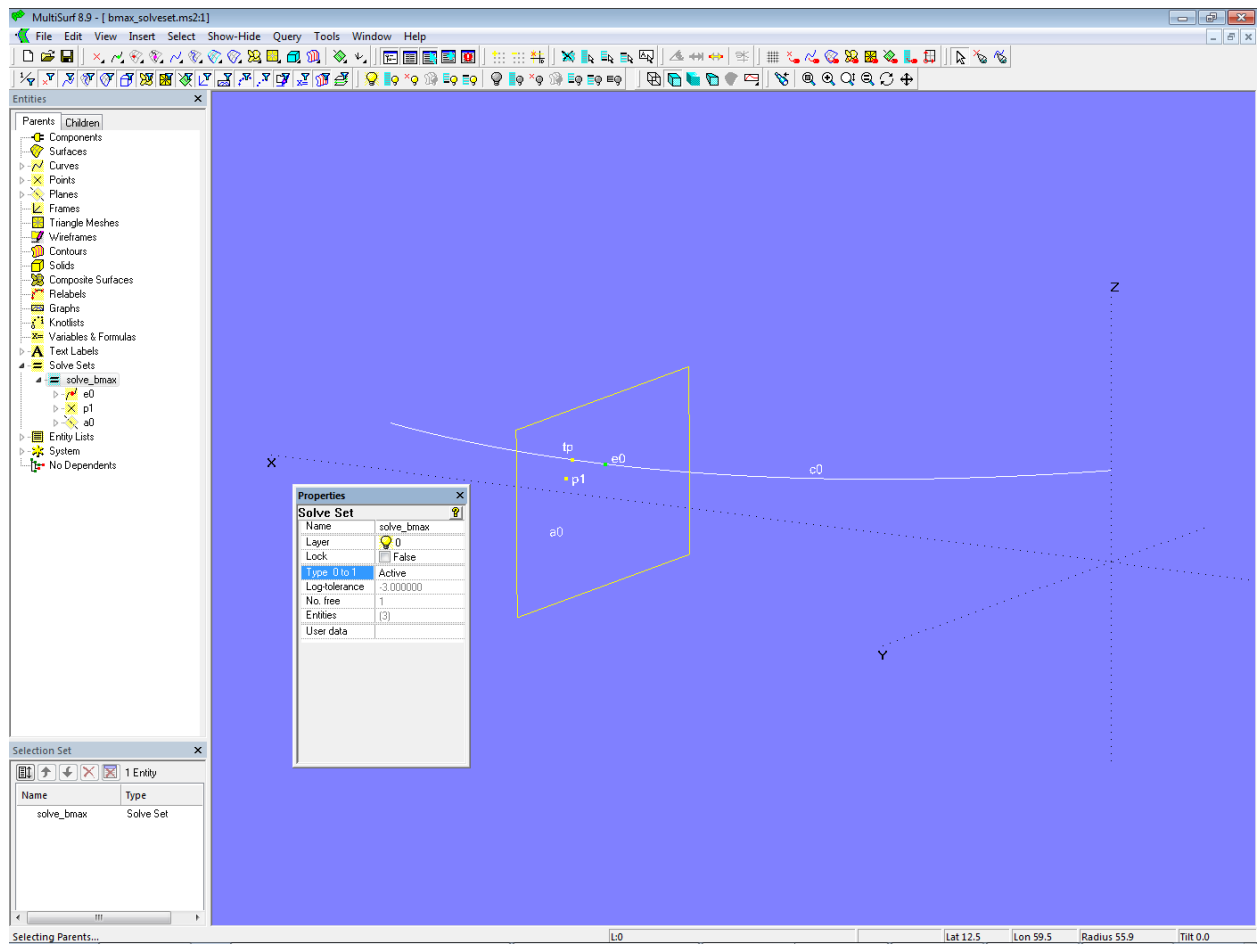
If **e0** is in front of the maximum width, **p1** is behind plane **a0**:



If  $e_0$  is aft of the maximum width,  $p_1$  is in front of plane  $a_0$ :

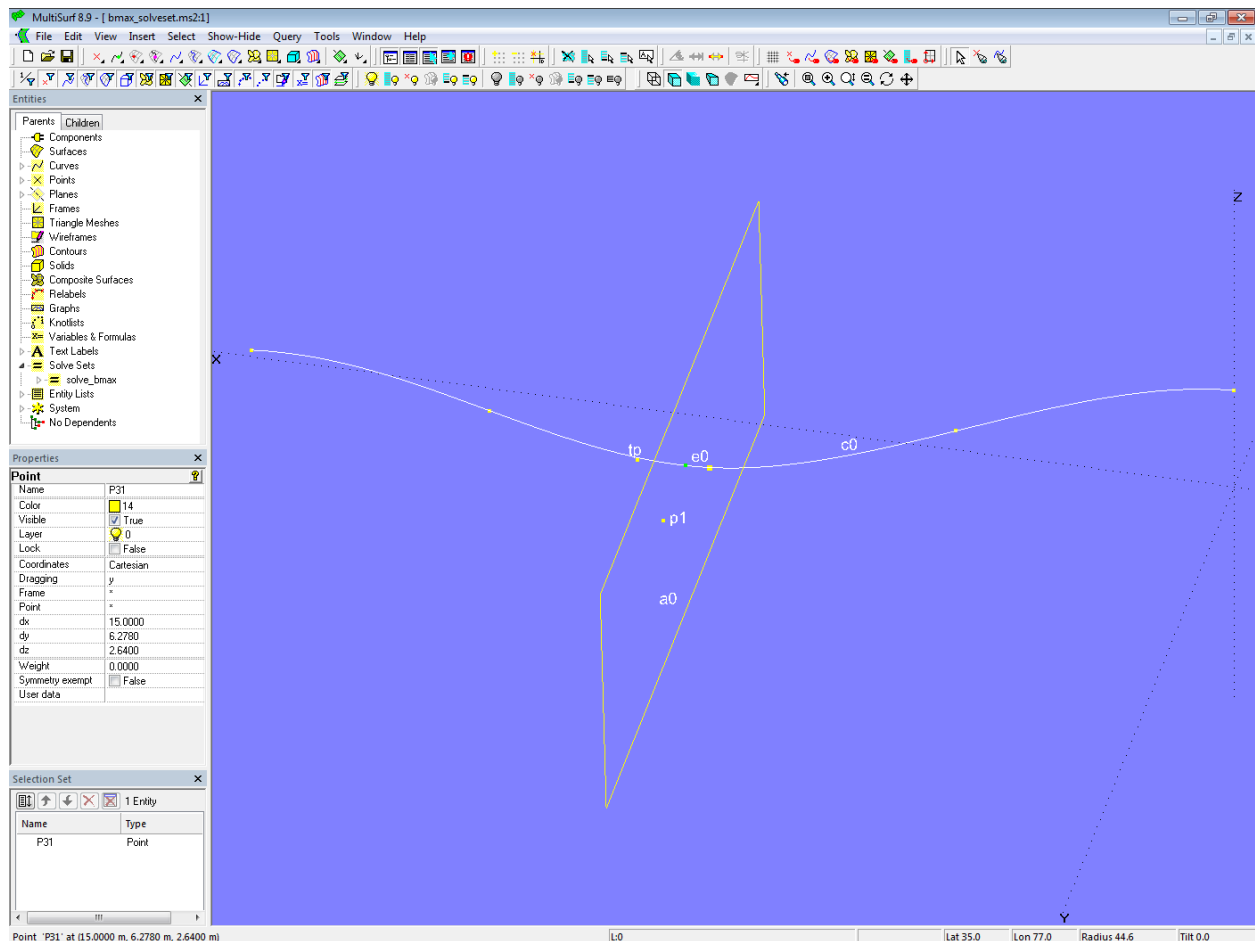


If  $p_1$  is at zero distance from  $a_0$ , then  $e_0$  is at the maximum Y-position. Exactly this point is determined in model *curve\_bmax\_solve.set.ms2* by Solve Set *solve\_bmax\_curve* with its list of free object and pair of constraints:  $\{e_0; p_1; a_0\}$ .



Model curve\_bmax\_solveset.ms2 - Solve Set *solve\_bmax\_curve* active; the position of greatest width is automatically found for Bead *e0*.

If the curve shape is changed, *e0* automatically moves to the position of maximum width.



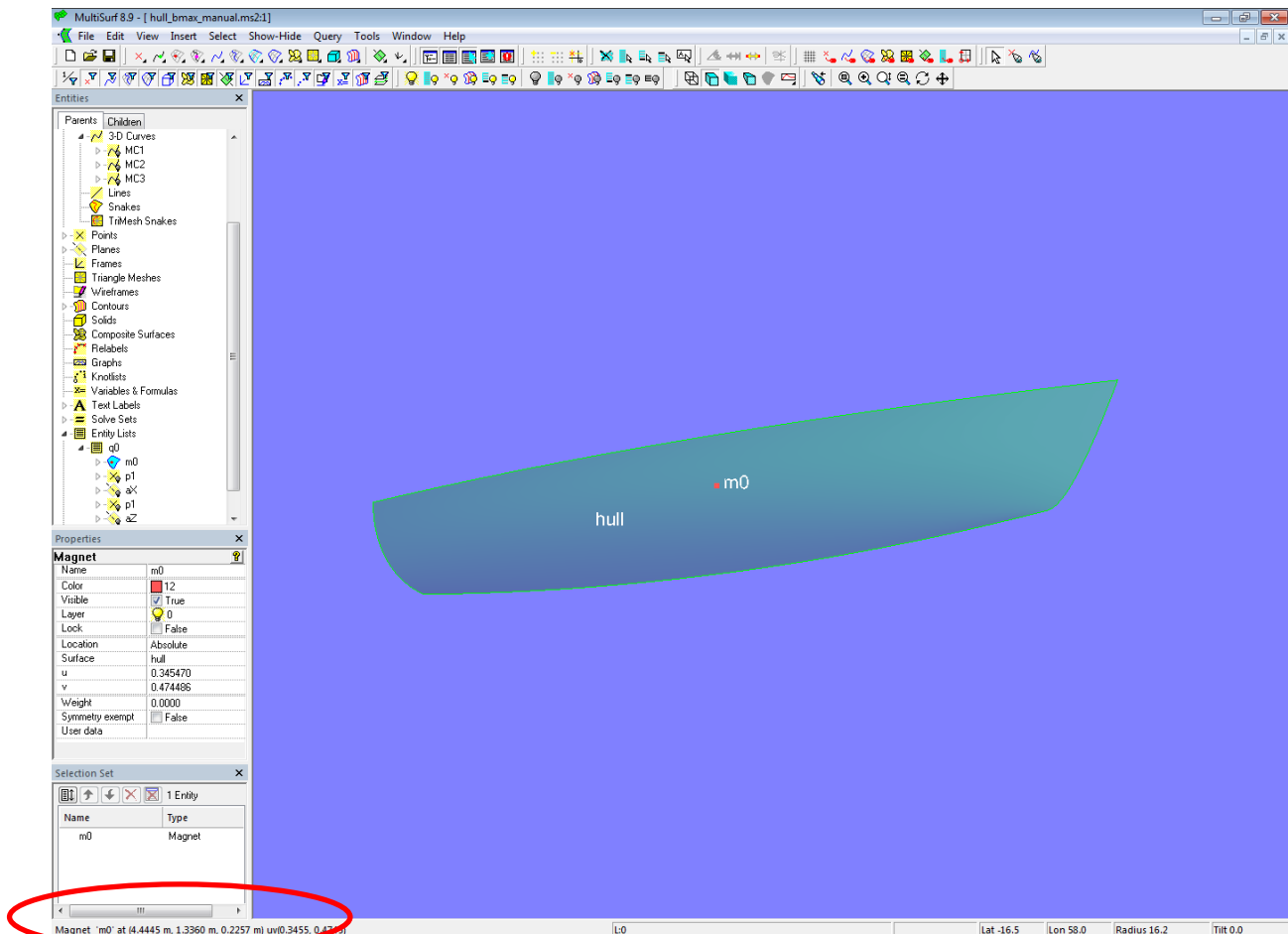
Model curve\_bmax\_solve.set.ms2 - if the Solve Set is active, its solution is a permanent part of the model.

## Exercise 2 - maximum hull beam

Finding the widest part of a boat hull is a little more complicated. There are two search directions here – lengthways and vertical.

### Manual solution

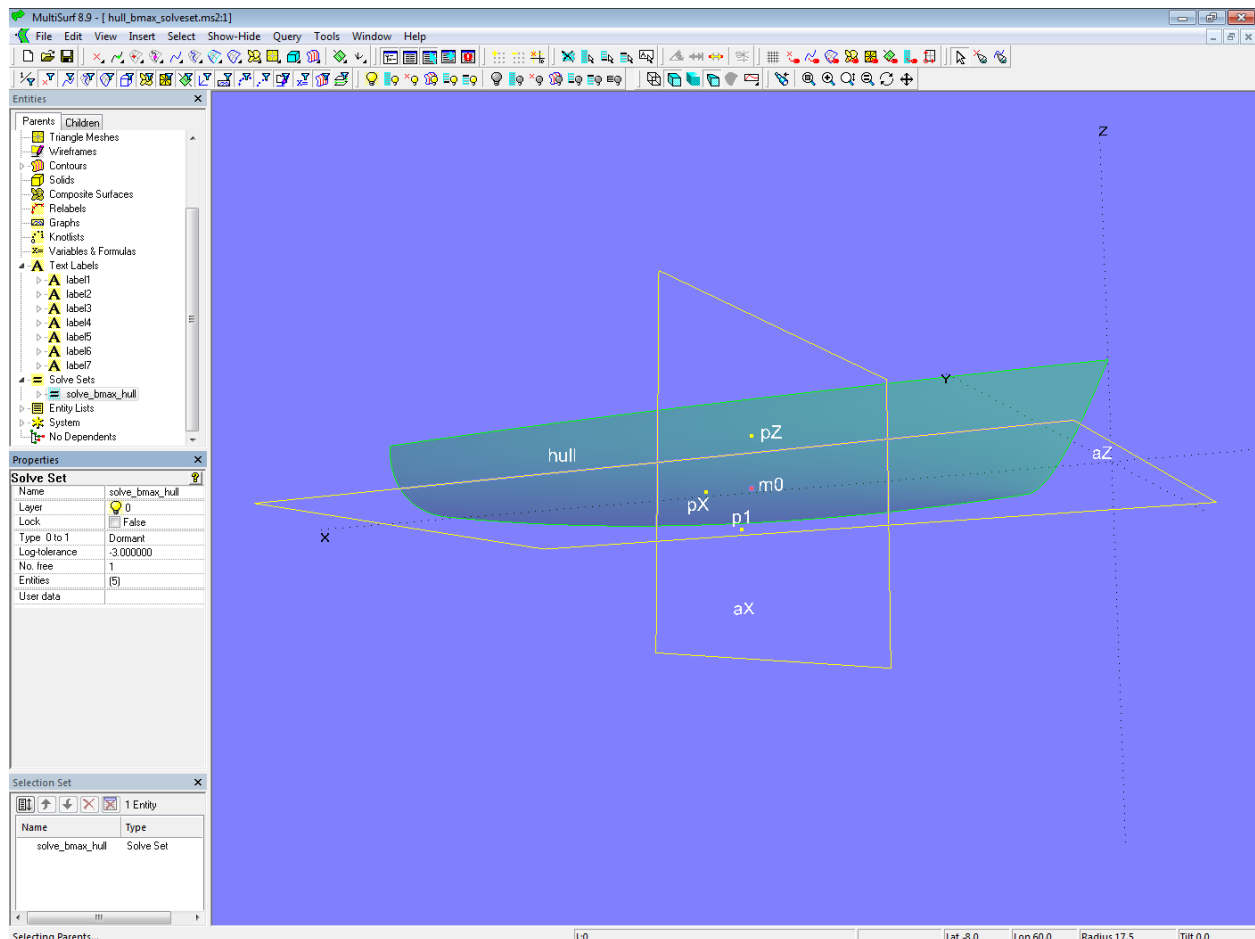
With model *hull\_bmax\_manual.ms2*, the solution can only be found manually by moving the Magnet *m0*. It is not necessarily the case that the greatest width of the hull occurs at deck side. The hull cross section could show some tumble-home.



Model hull\_bmax\_manual.ms2 - manual determination of maximum beam position with Magnet *m0* and Status Bar

## Solution with Solve Set

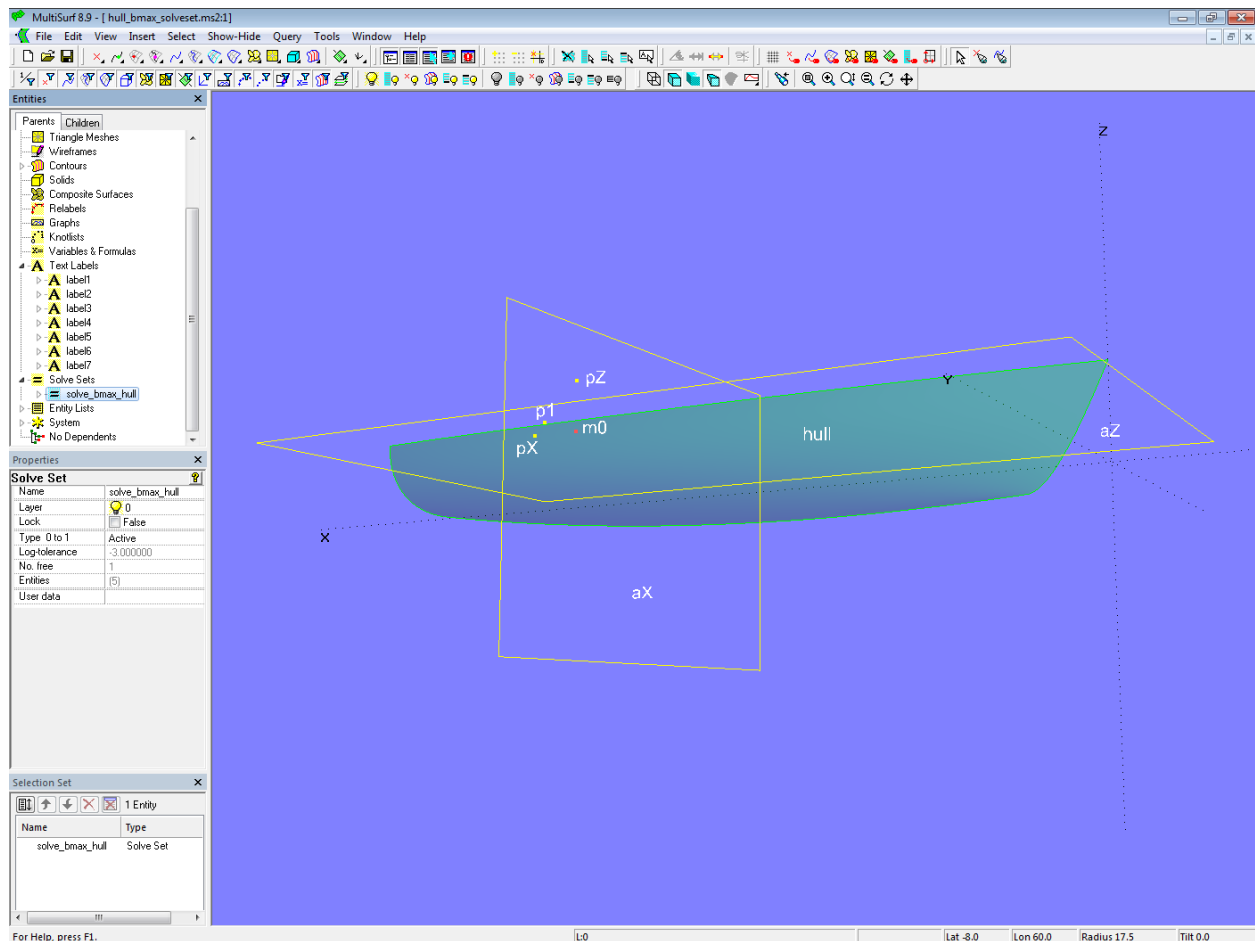
In model *hull\_bmax\_solve.set.ms2*, on the other hand, the problem is solved by the Solve Set entity [solve\\_bmax\\_hull](#).



Model hull\_bmax\_solveset.ms2 - Solve Set [solve\\_bmax\\_hull](#) inactive

Magnet  $m0$  lies on the hull. Relative to  $m0$  lie Point  $pX$ , which is offset in X-direction, and Point  $pZ$ , which is offset in Z-direction. Dependent on  $m0$  is also the Offset Point  $p1$  (it is perpendicular to the hull surface). Magnet  $m0$  and Point  $pX$  determine the 2-point Plane  $aX$  (station plane), while  $m0$  and Point  $pZ$  define the 2-point plane  $aZ$  (waterline plane).

The Solve Set [solve\\_bmax\\_hull](#) operates with this list of free object and pairs of constraints  $\{m0; p1; aX; p1; aZ\}$ . This means that the u- and v-parameter values of the free object  $m0$  are determined by iteration in such a way that  $p1$  has a distance of zero from both  $aX$  and  $aZ$  (pair 1 and pair 2 of constraints), that is,  $m0$  lies in both planes. Then  $m0$  is at the maximum beam position on the hull surface.



Model `hull_bmax_solve.ms2` - Solve Set `solve_bmax_hull` active

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**Note:** Exercise 1 and Exercise 2 can also be solved with the point types Proximity Bead, Proximity Ring and Proximity Magnet.

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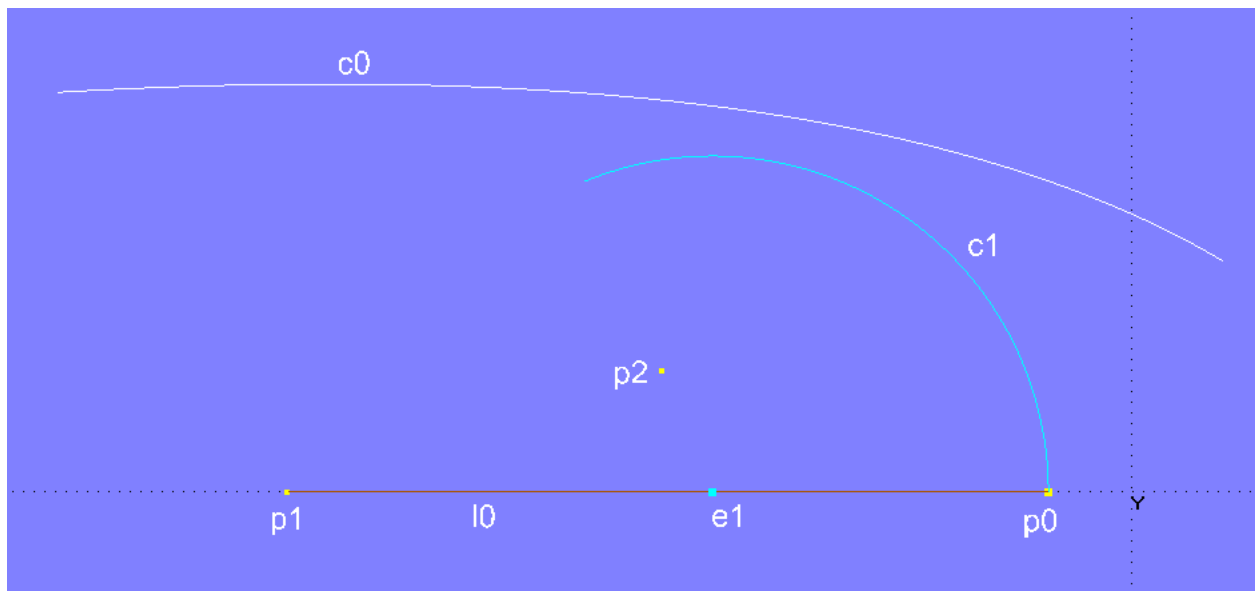
## Exercise 3 – arc touches curve

A waterline that ends at the bow with a certain width should be rounded off by an arc. It is known where the arc begins. Find the position of the center point (and thus the radius) so that the arc touches the waterline curve. This task is shown in general form in model `arc_tangent_to_curve.ms2`.

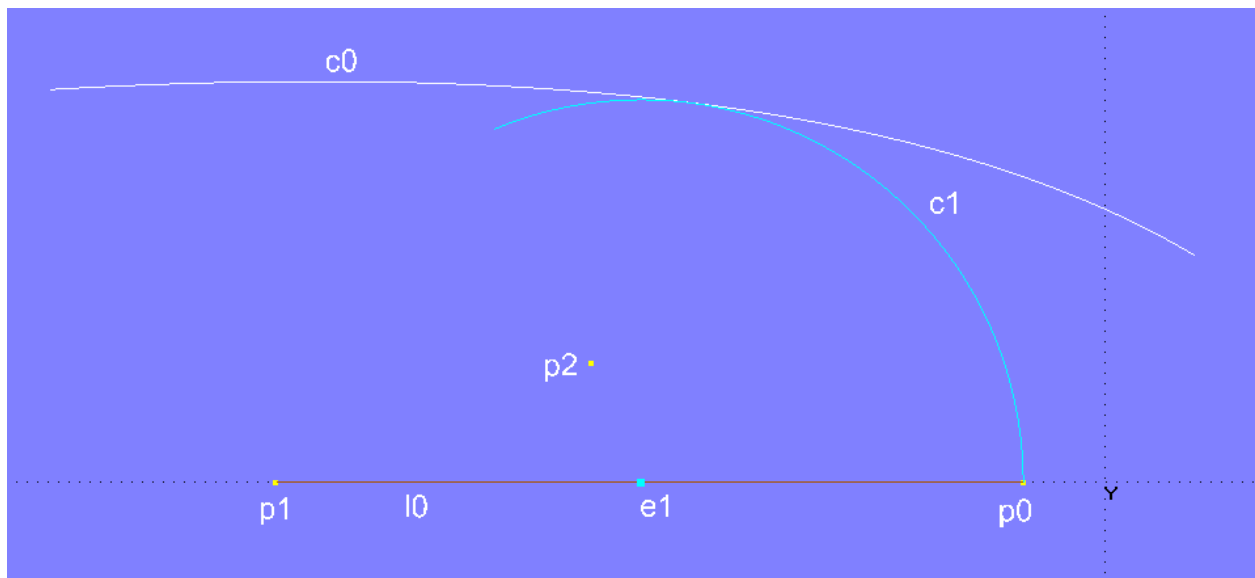
### Manual solution

On the one hand there is curve `c0`, on the other hand Arc `c1` (Type = 2). It begins at Point `p0`, its center point is Bead `e1` on Line `l0`, and it ends on the imaginary line `e1-p2`.

If `e1` is moved, the position of the center of the circle changes, as does its radius, since `p0` is fixed. In this way a position of `e1` can be found manually at which the circular arc touches the curve.



Model arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2 - the position of Bead **e1** is to be determined so that Arc **c1** touches curve **c0**. Here the radius (distance **p0-e1**) is still too small.



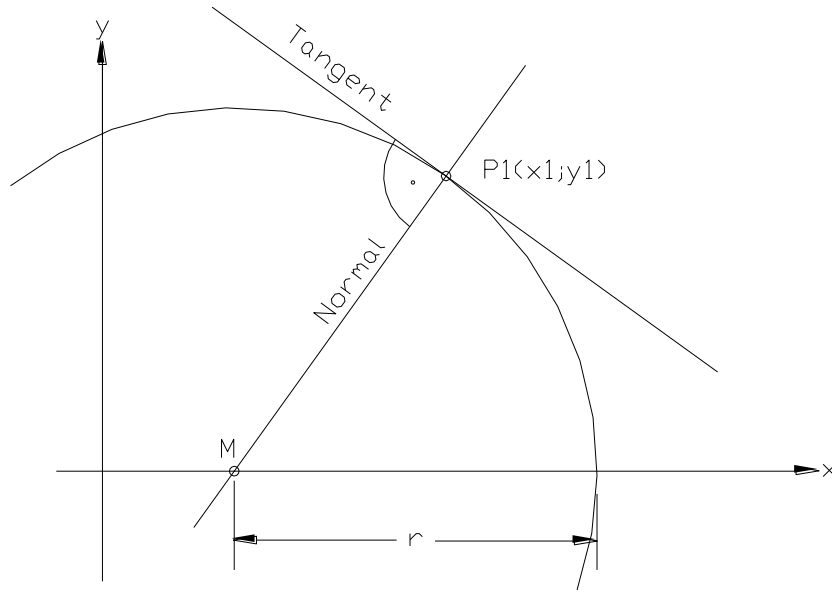
Model arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2 - manually defined position of **e1** so that the circular arc touches the curve

If the shape of curve **c0** changes, the position of **e1** must be corrected. Approaching the solution is acceptable if you only have to do it once or twice in the model. However, if the contact with the curve by the circular arc is to be a permanent property of the model, a Solve Set entity must be used.

### Solution with Solve Set

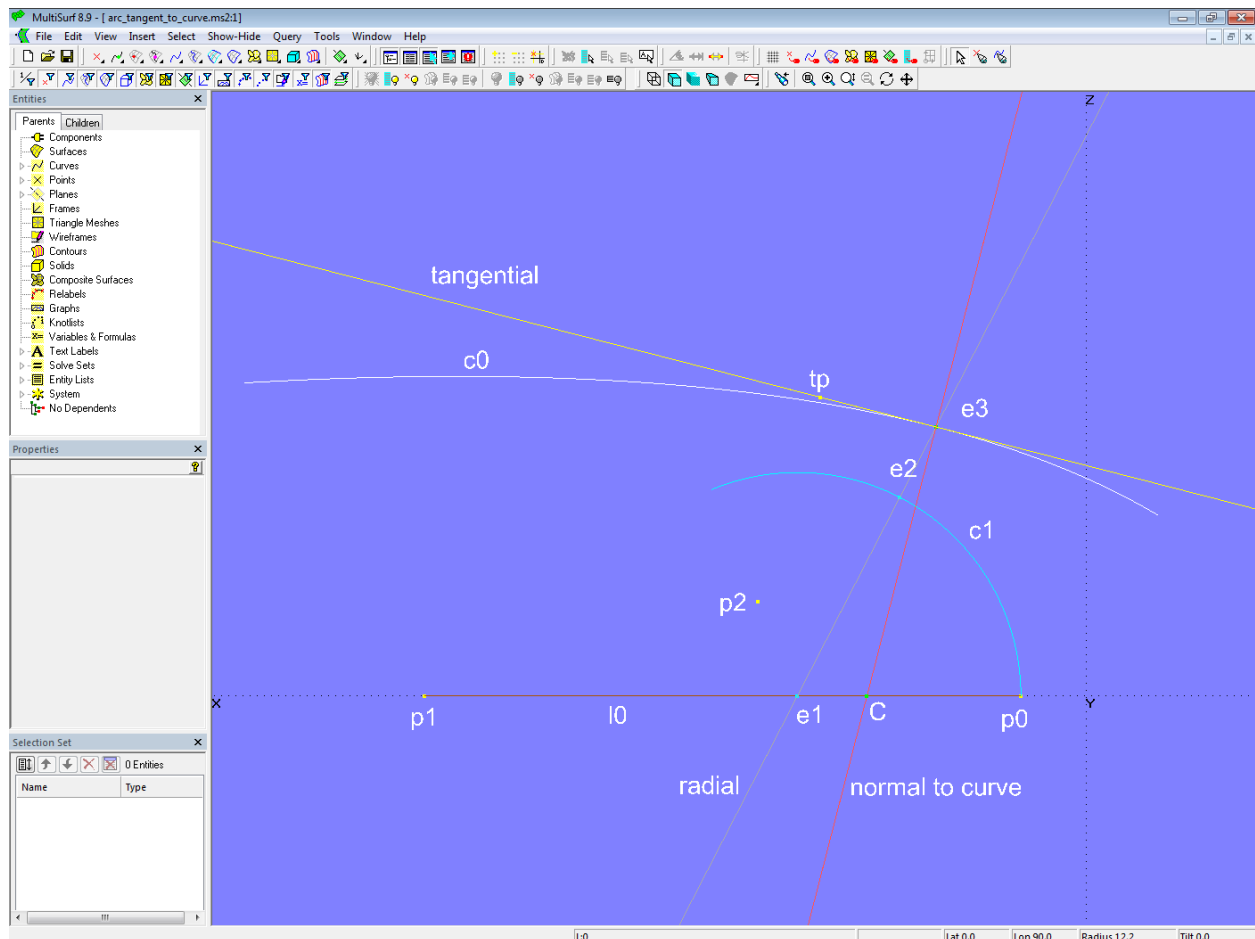
What are the geometric conditions for curve **c0** to be touched by Arc **c1**? Obviously, the distance between a point on the circle and a point on the curve must be zero. In addition, the tangent in the circle point must be the same as the tangent in the curve point. Equivalent to this is: the normals have to be the same.

In a circular arc, the normal always passes through the center; the tangent is perpendicular to it.



Circle - the normal passes through the center.

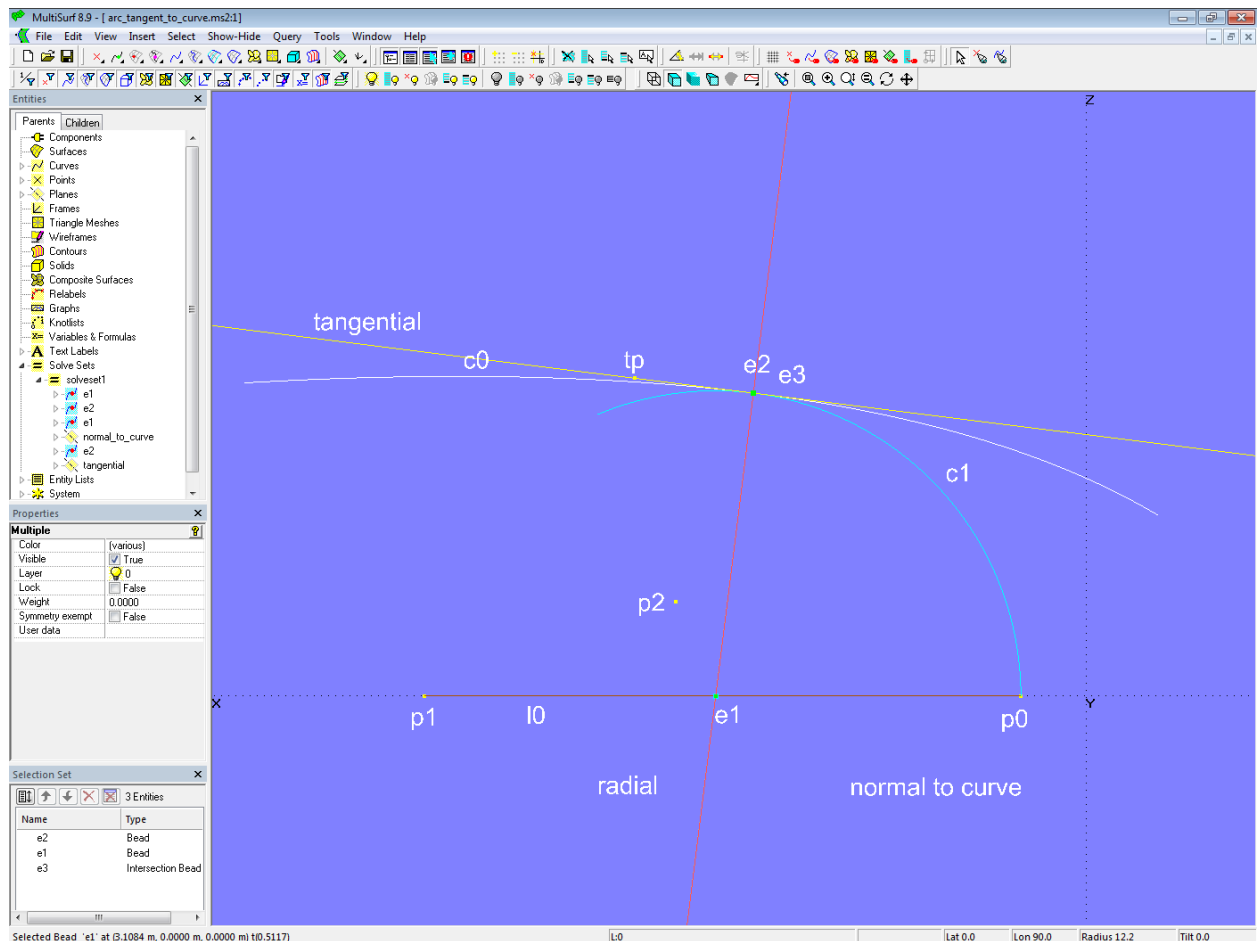
In order to incorporate these conditions into the model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2*, there is Bead **e2** on Arc **c1**. Tangent Point **tp\_e2** is dependent on this. The 2-point Plane **radial** is defined with both points. This plane intersects curve **c0** in the Intersection Bead **e3**. The Tangent Point **tp\_e3** is dependent on **e3**. The 2-point Plane **normal\_to\_curve** is generated with **e3** and **tp\_e3**. It is the normal of curve **c0** in point **e3**. This plane intersects Line **l0** in Intersection Bead **C**. With Beads **e3** and **C** the 2-point Plane **tangential** is defined. It is the tangent of curve **c0** in point **e3**.



Model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* dormant

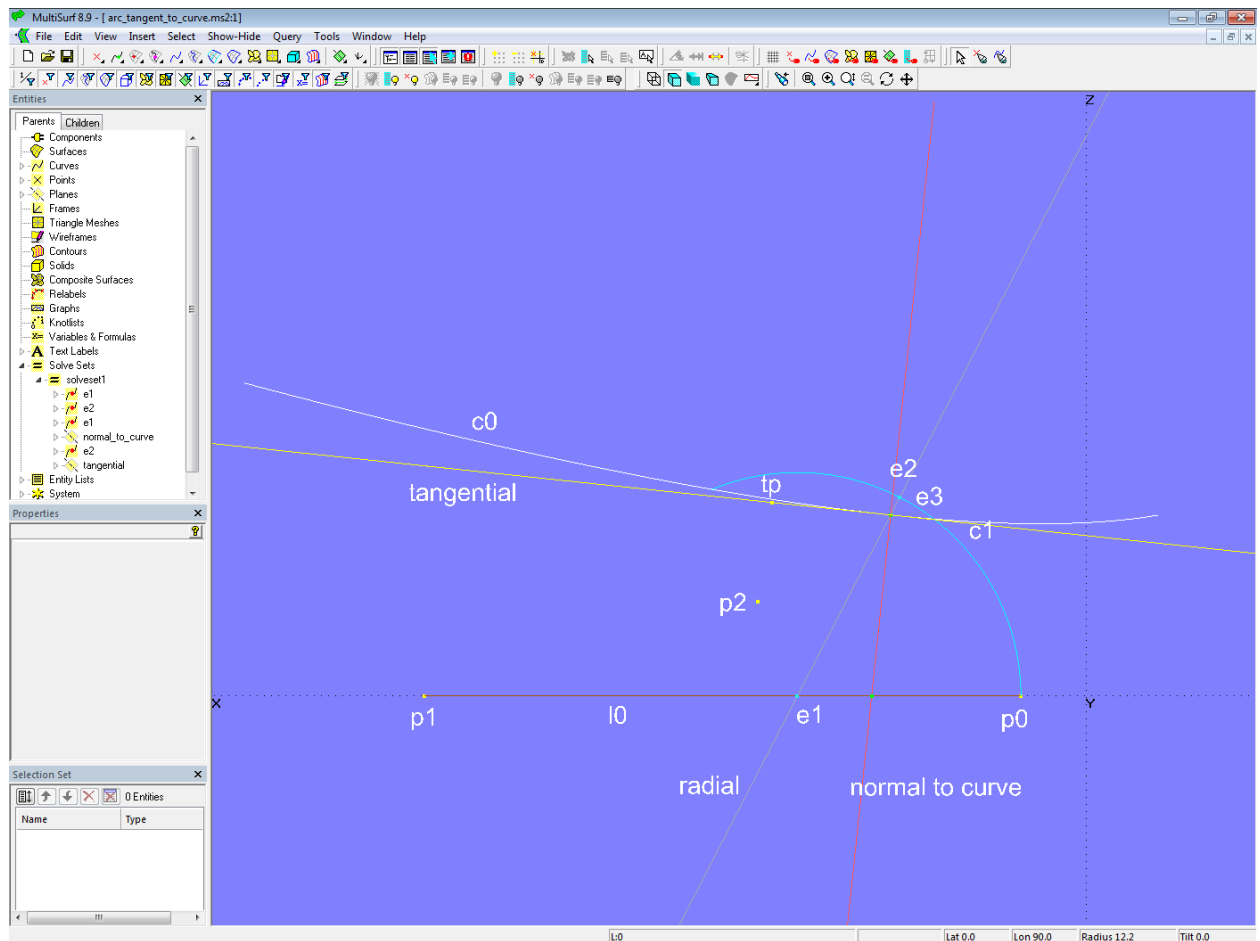
The two free objects of the Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* are the Beads *e1* and *e2*. Their position (their t-parameter values) must be varied in such a way that, on the one hand, *e1* has zero distance from plane *normal\_to\_curve* (1<sup>st</sup> pair of constraints). Then plane *normal\_to\_curve* will pass through the center of the circle, thus it is also the normal to the circle. On the other hand, *e2* must also be at zero distance from the plane *tangential* (2<sup>nd</sup> pair of constraints). Then *e2* is also at zero distance from *e3*.

Hence the entities required for solve of the Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* read: {*e1*; *e2*; *e1*; *normal\_to\_curve*; *e2*; *tangential*}.

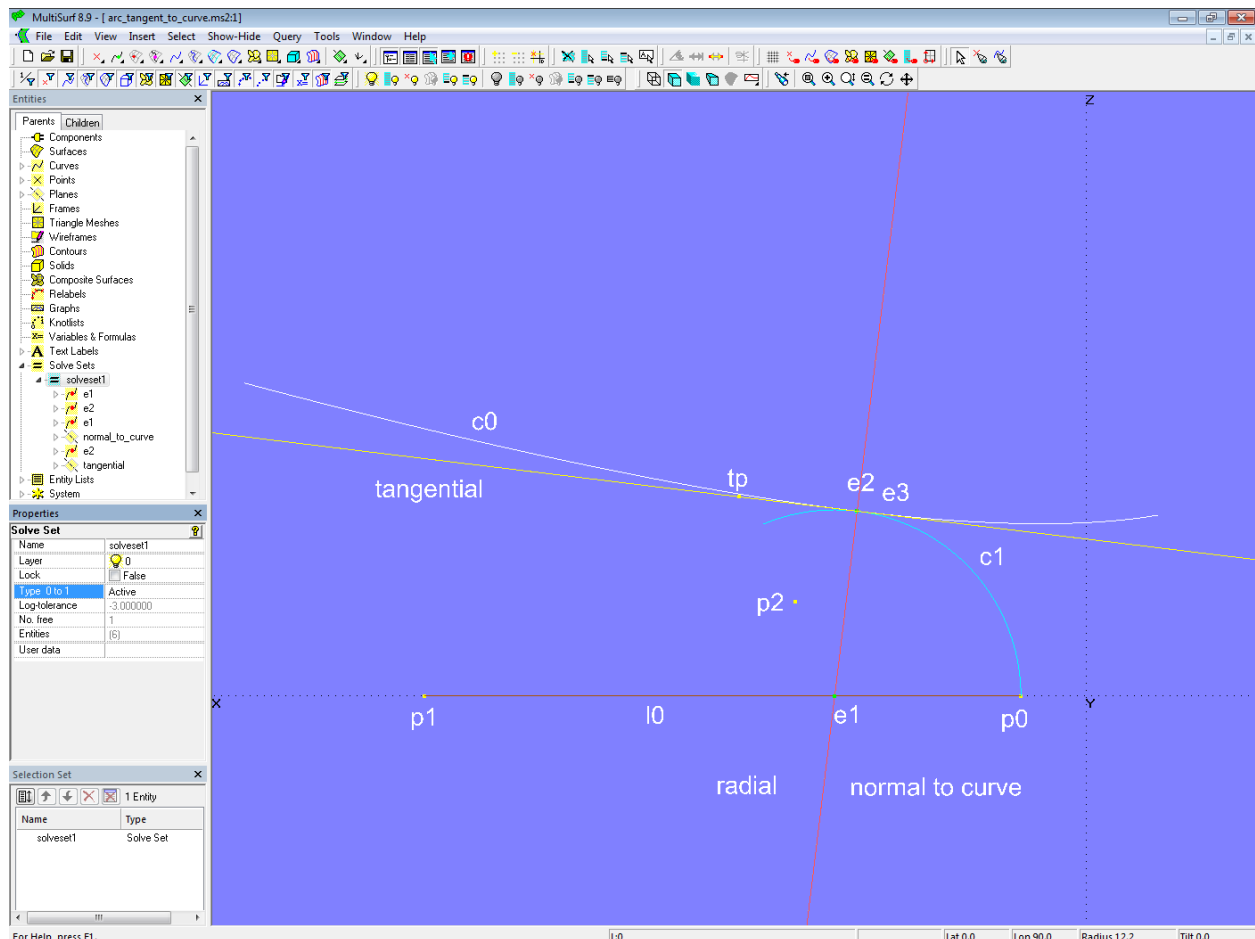


Model `arc_tangent_to_curve.ms2` - Solve Set `solve_touch_curve` active

If the curve  $c_0$  is changed, Solve Set `solve_touch_curve` automatically finds the appropriate center point of the circular arc (Bead  $e_1$ ).



Model arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2 - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* inactive



Model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* active

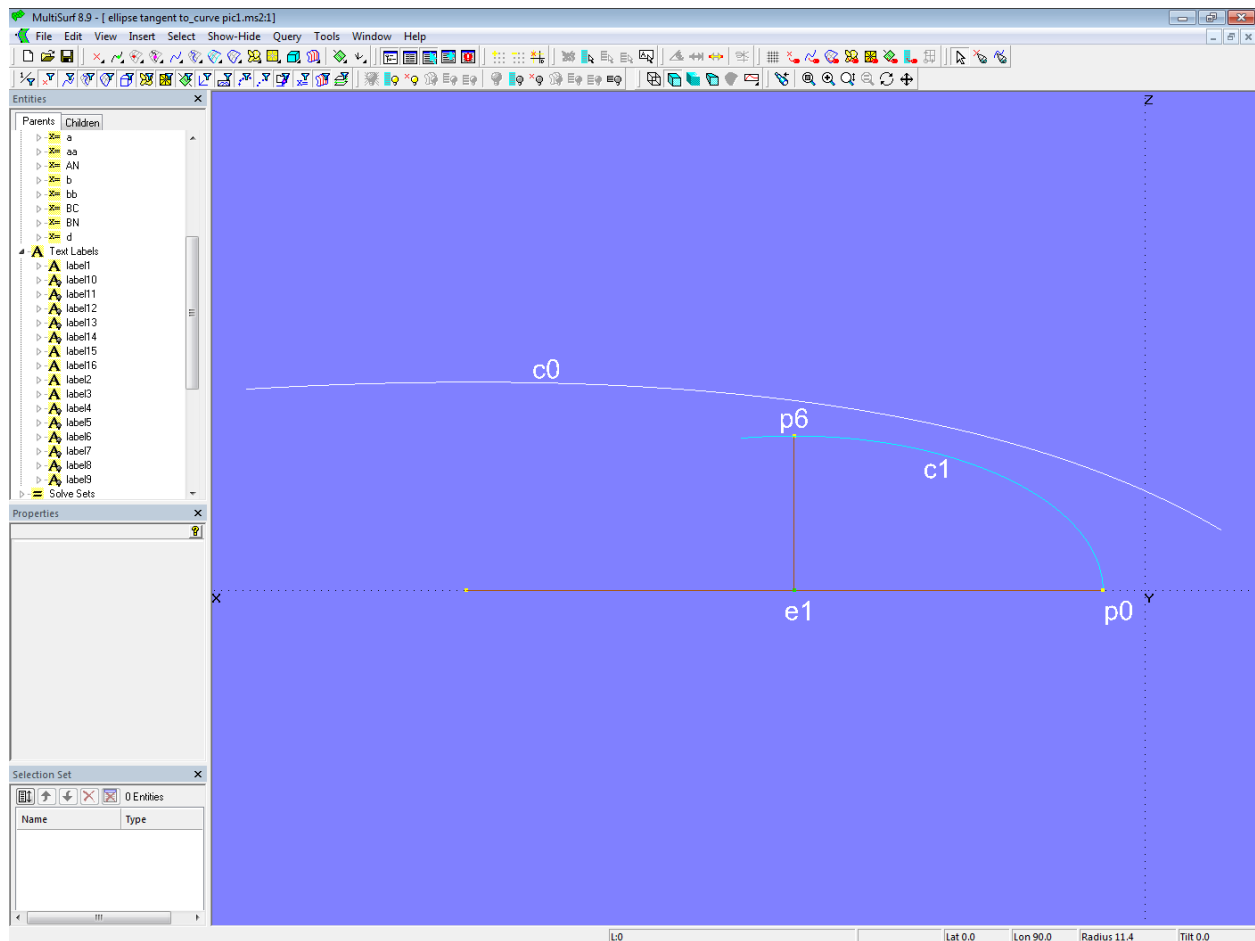
## Exercise 4 - ellipse touches curve

Instead of a circular arc, an elliptical arc should touch a waterline curve. This situation is demonstrated in the model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2*.

Apart from the position of the center, there is only one determinant of a circle, the radius. Whereas in the case of an ellipse, there are two shape-determining quantities, the major semi-axis and the small semi-axis. Therefore a relationship between the semi-axes must be specified.

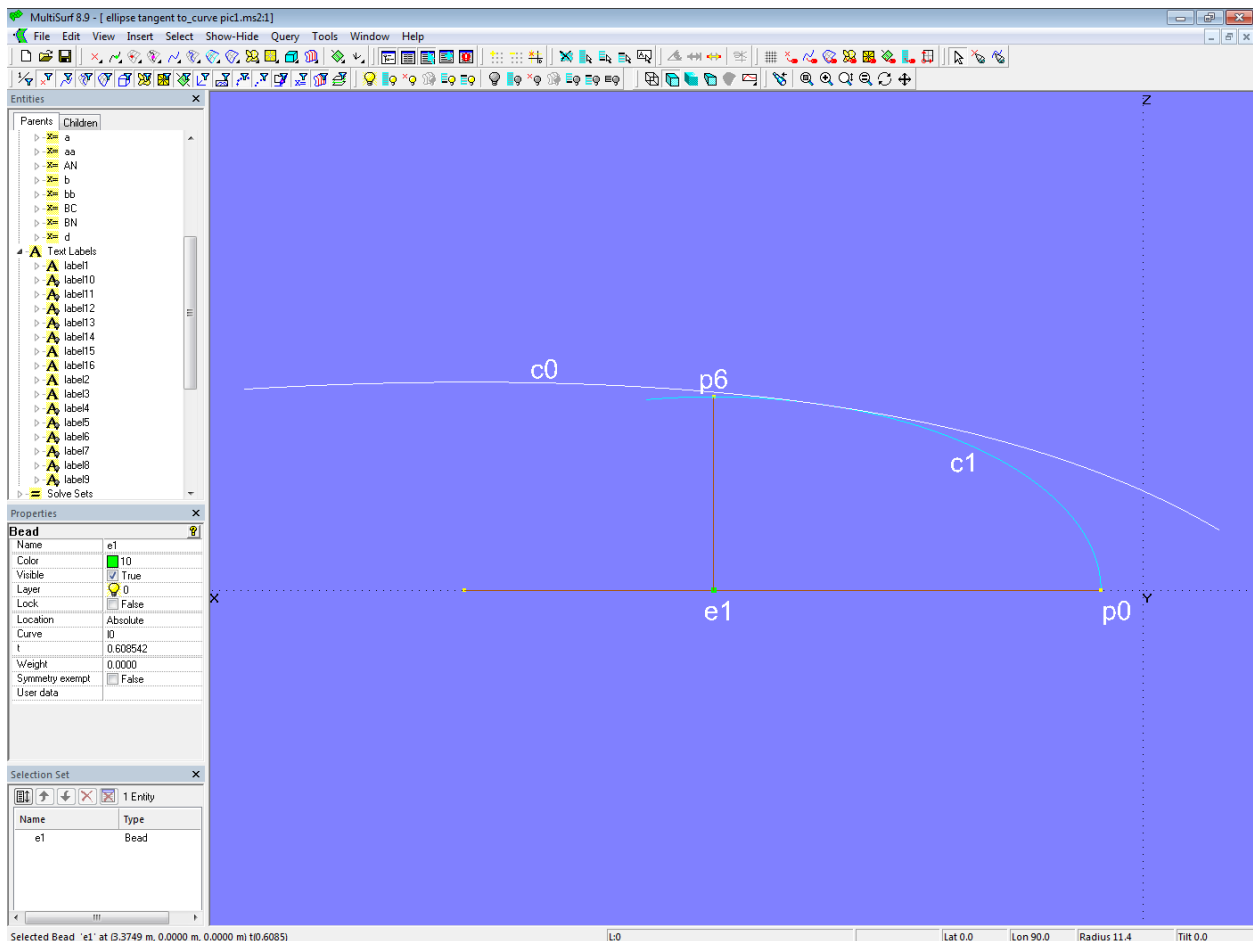
### Manual solution

In model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* there is curve **c0**. This should be touched by the ellipse **c1** (Conic Section, Type = 1. Ellipse). Point **p0** defines its main vertex. The segment **p0-e1** is the major semi-axis, the small half-axis is the segment **e1-p6**. The length ratio between the two axes determines Variable **b**.



Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* – the position of the Bead  $e1$  is to be determined so that elliptical arc  $c1$  touches curve  $c0$ . Here its major semi-axis (distance  $p0-e1$ ) is still too short.

By moving Bead  $e1$  one can manually find the position of the center point at which ellipse  $c1$  touches curve  $c0$ .

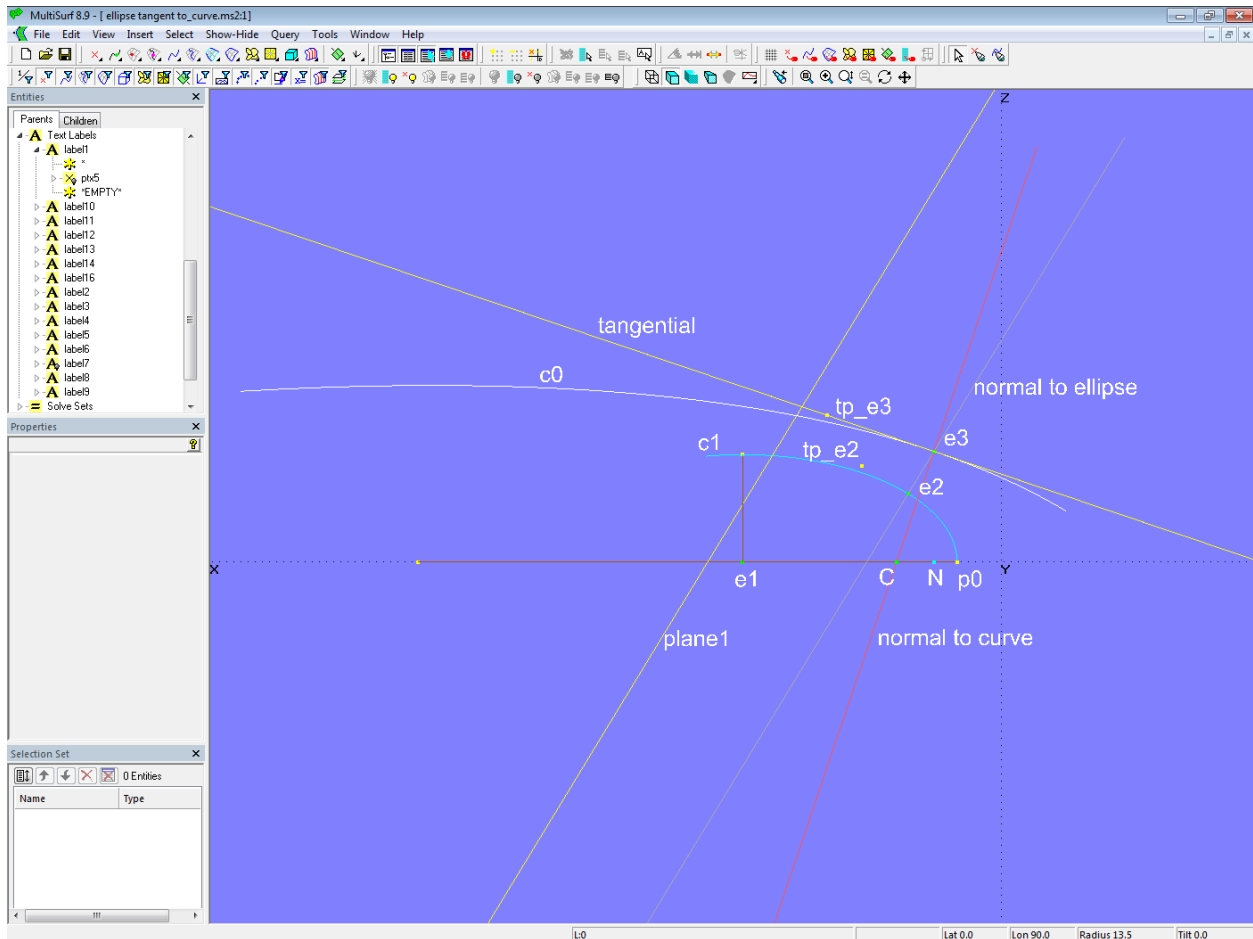


Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - manually determined position of **e1** so that the arc of the ellipse touches the curve.

If the contact with the curve by the elliptical arc is to be a permanent property of the model, a Solve Set entity must be used.

### Solution with Solve Set

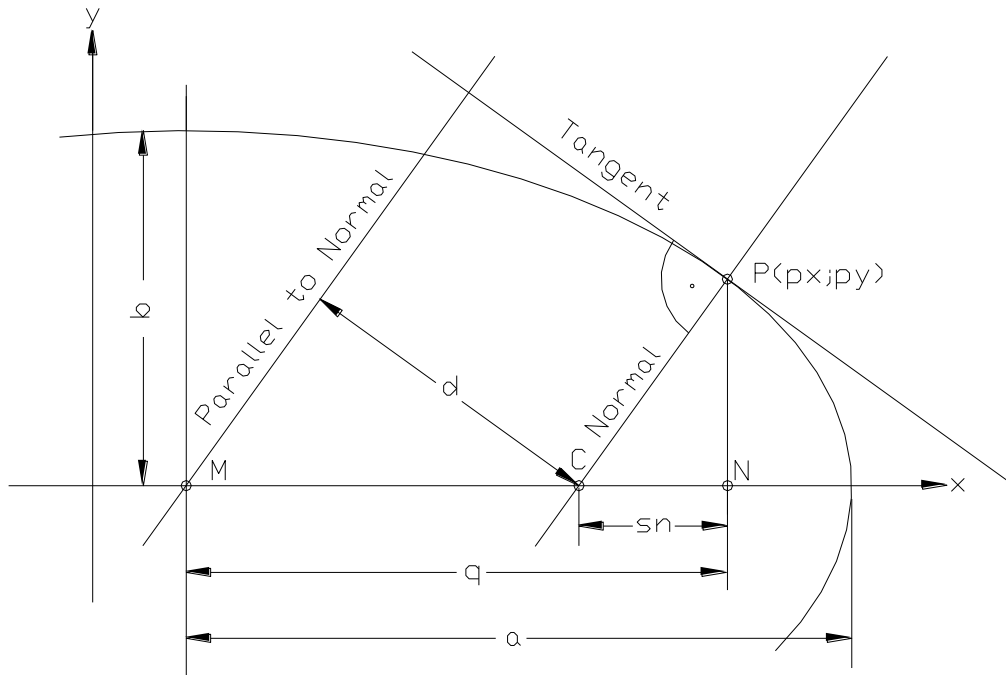
Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* is similar to model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2*. Bead **e2** lies on the elliptical arc **c1** (Conic Section, Type = 1. Ellipse). Tangent Point **tp\_e2** is dependent on this. With both points the 2-point Plane **normal\_to\_ellipse** is determined (normal of the ellipse at Point **e2**). The plane intersects curve **c0** in the Intersection Bead **e3**. This is support for Tangent Point **tp\_e3**. The 2-point Plane **normal\_to\_curve** is defined with both points (normal of curve **c0** at point **e3**). This plane intersects Line **l0** in the Intersection Bead **C**. With **e3** and **C** the 2-point Plane **tangential** is created (tangent of curve **c0** at point **e3**).



Model ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2 - Solve Set [solve\\_touch\\_curve](#) inactive

With the circle problem, it was the condition for the normal of curve [c0](#) in Bead [e3](#) that it passes through the center of the circle (Bead [e1](#)). Then it is also the normal to the circle. In the case of the ellipse problem, however, the normal does not run through the center, but cuts off the subnormal  $sn$  on the major half-axis. Therefore there is in addition the Offset Plane [plane1](#), which passes through the ellipse center  $M(mx; my)$ . It is parallel to the 2-point Plane [normal\\_to\\_ellipse](#) by the offset value  $d$ .

With help of the relationship for the subnormal  $sn$  at point  $P(px; py)$ , the distance  $d$  for the Offset Plane [plane1](#) can be calculated.



*Ellipse - the normal does not pass through the center.*

The following applies to the subnormal sn:

$$sn = b^2 / a^2 * q$$

with:

a - length of major semi-axis

b - length of the semi-minor axis

q - distance between point N and center M

The following also applies:

$$d / MC = PN / PC$$

with:

MC - distance between point C and center M

PN - distance between points P and N

PC - distance between points P and C

So it follows:

$$d = PN / PC * MC$$

$$MC = q - sn$$

$$MC = q (1 - b^2 / a^2)$$

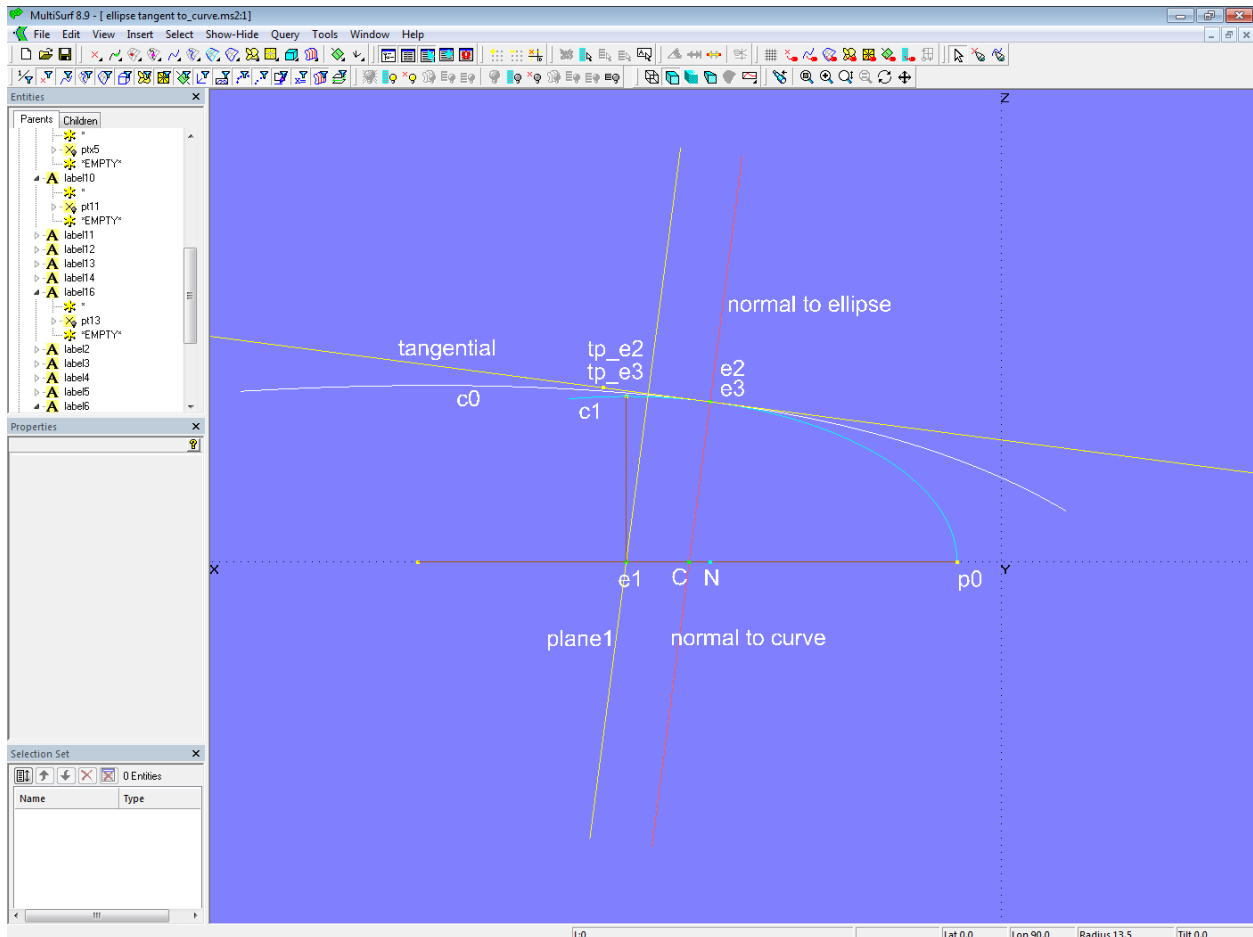
Thus:

$$d = PN / PC * q (1 - b^2 / a^2)$$

The offset value  $d$  for the Offset Plane **plane1** is calculated with the help of Formula entities.

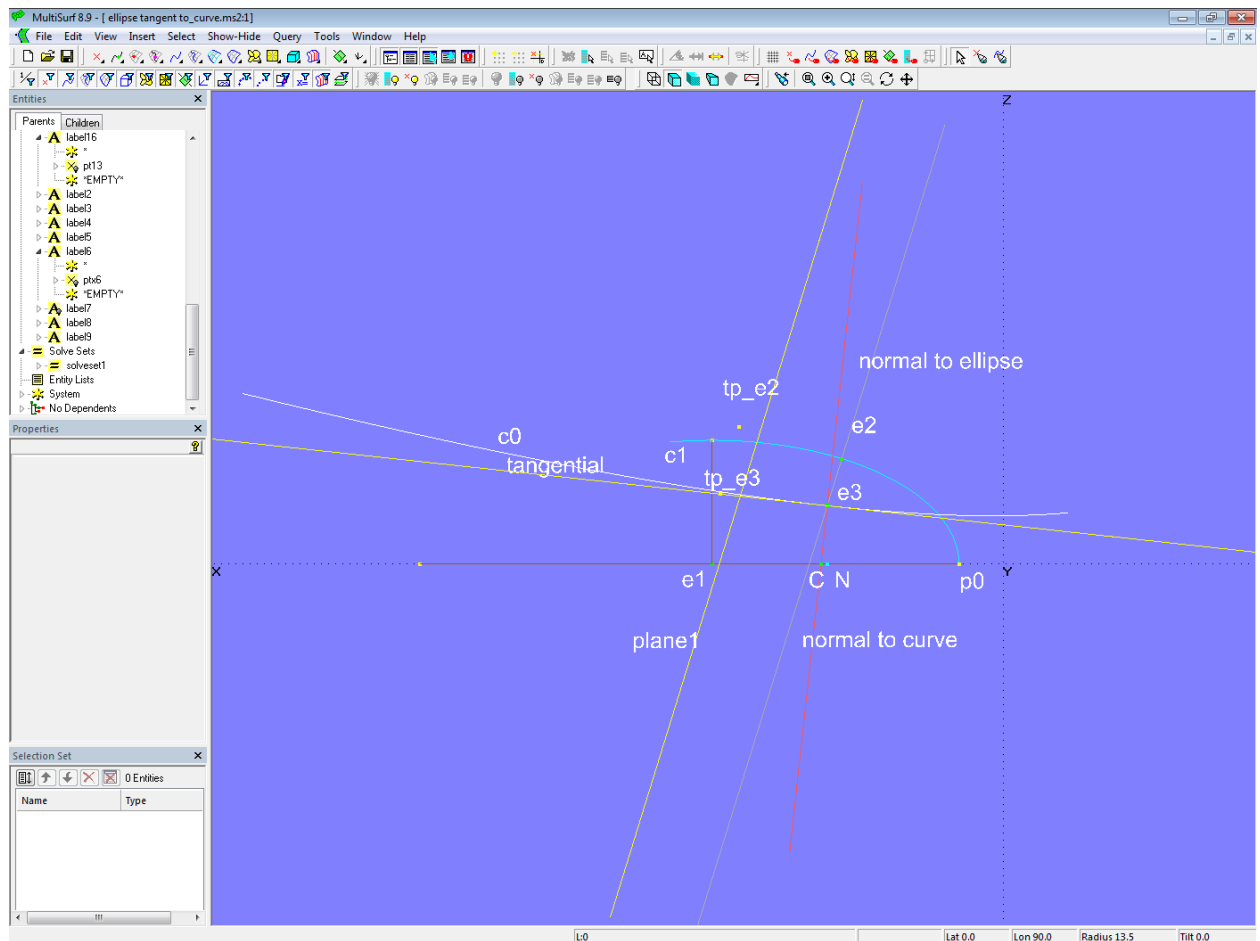
The free objects of the Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** are Beads **e1** and **e2**. If the free object Bead **e1** has zero distance from Offset Plane **plane1** (1<sup>st</sup> pair of constraints), and at the same time the other free object Bead **e2** has also zero distance from the plane **tangential** (2<sup>nd</sup> pair of constraints), then the normals match and the curves touch.

Hence the list of entities required for the Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** is: {**e1**; **e2**; **e1**; **plane1**; **e2**; **tangential**}.

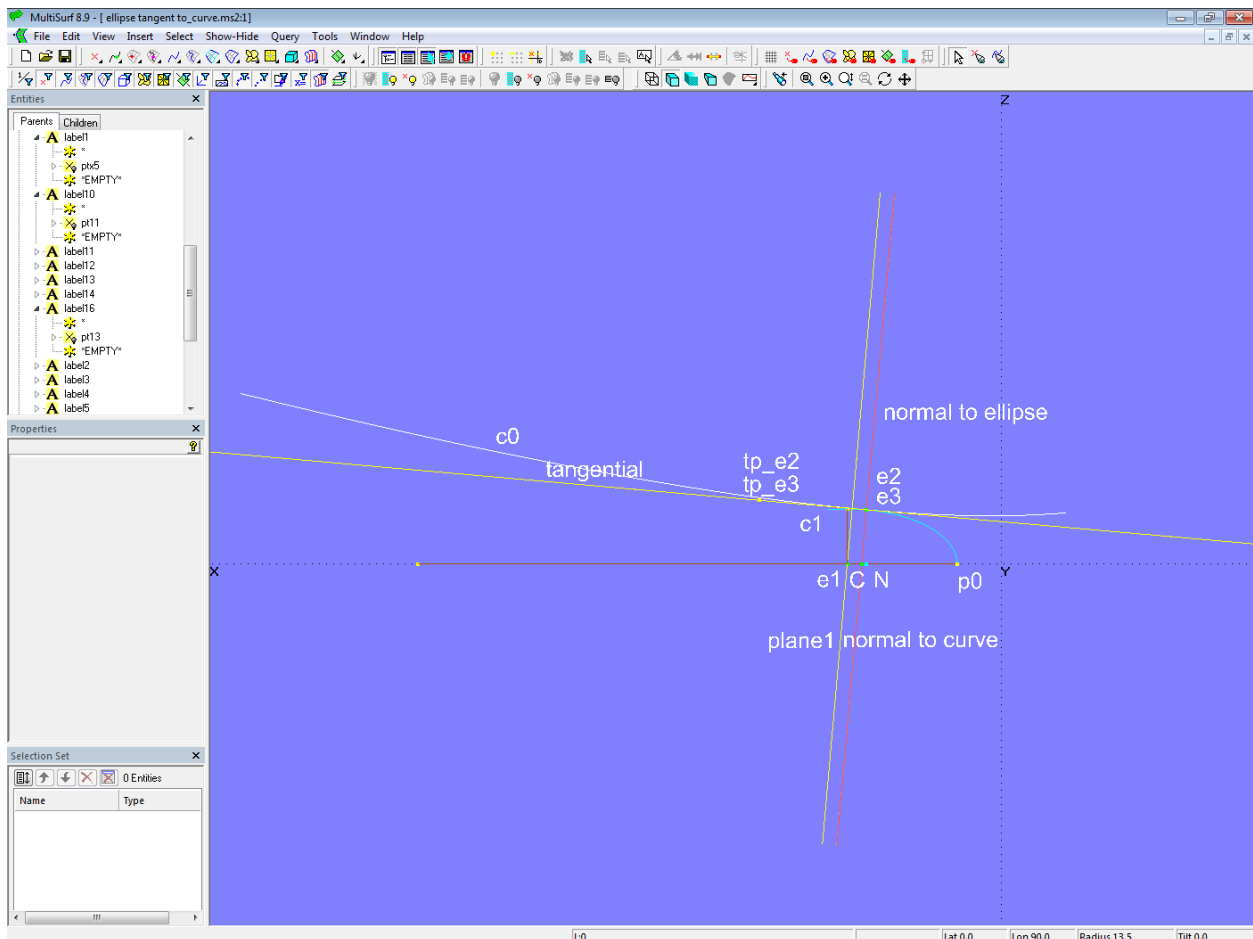


Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** active

If curve **c0** is changed, Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** automatically finds the appropriate center point of the ellipse (Bead **e1**).



Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* inactive



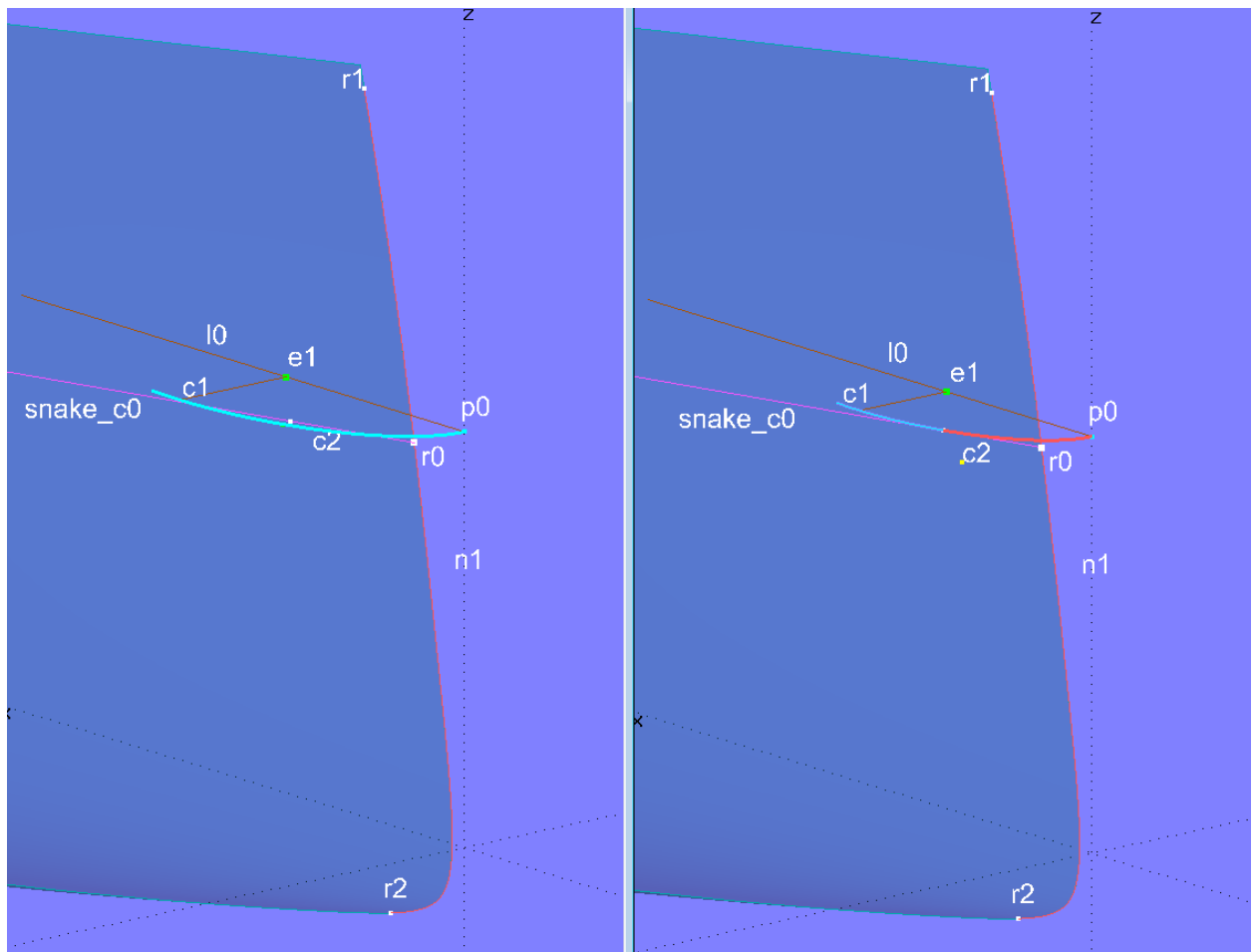
Model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* active

## Elliptical bowrounding

Model *sy15-elliptical\_bowround.ms2* demonstrates how the stem of a boat hull can be rounded elliptically with the method shown above.

The EdgeSnake *n0* runs along the leading edge of the hull surface *hull\_0*. Rings *r1* and *r2* are located on this snake and determine the SubSnake *n1*. Ring *r0* lies on *n1*. The waterline at the level of *r0* is the Intersection Snake *snake\_c0*. This one should be touched by the elliptical arc *c1* (Conic Section, Type = 1. Ellipse).

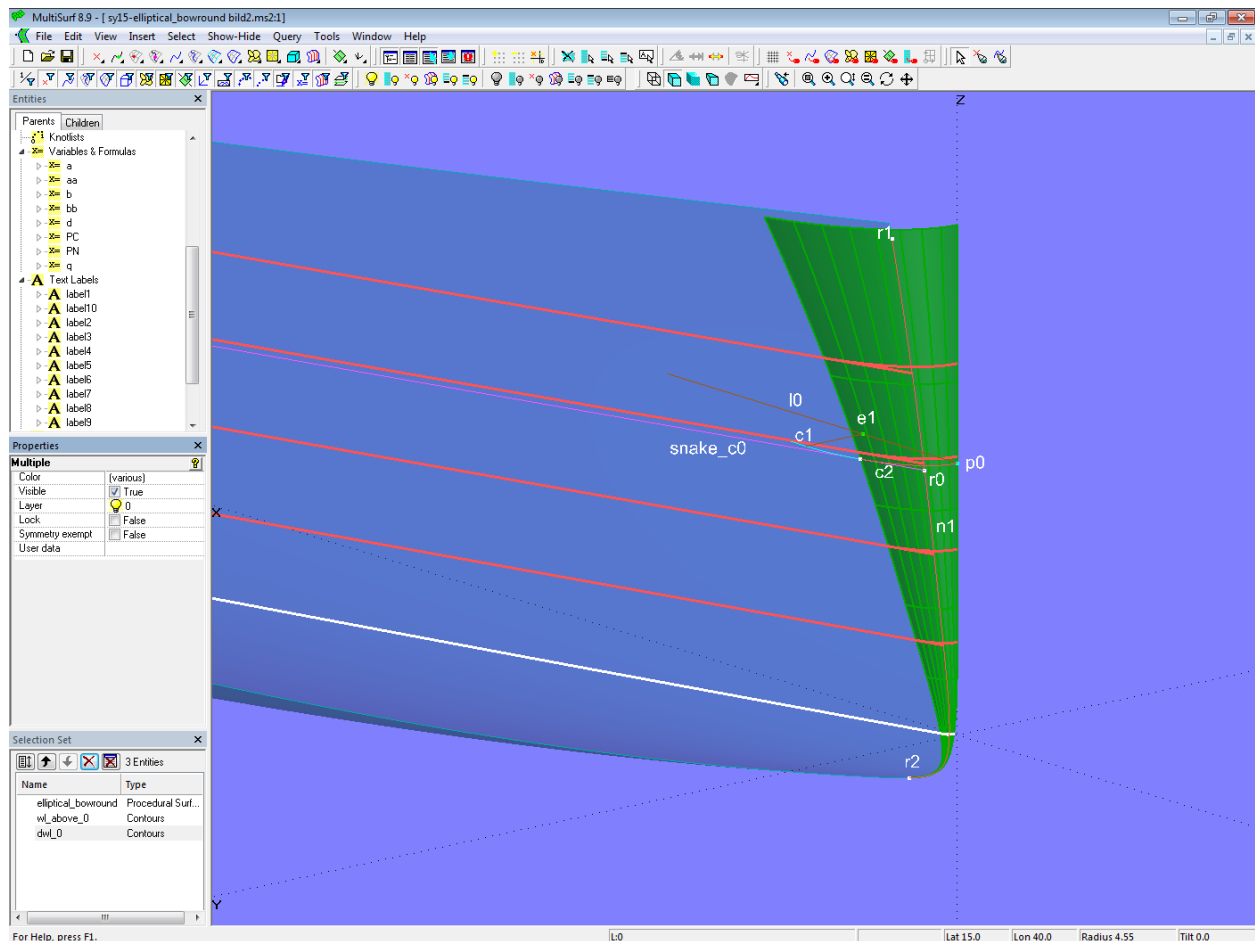
The structure of the contact construction is basically the same as in model *ellipse\_tangent\_to\_curve.ms2*, but now *snake\_c0* and the elliptical arc *c1* are parallel to the XY-plane. Ring *r0* is projected onto the mid-ship plane as Projected Point *p0* and is the vertex of the ellipse. Line *l0*, on which Bead *e1* is based as the center of the ellipse, is dependent on its start point *p0*.



Model sy15-elliptical\_bowround.ms2 - elliptical bowround. Left: Solve Set `solve_touch_wl` inactive. Right: Solve Set `solve_touch_wl` active.

The Solve Set `solve_touch_wl` determines the position of `e1` at which ellipse `c1` touches the waterline `snake_c0`. This contact point is Bead `e2` on `c1`, with which the curve part up to the apex is defined by SubCurve `c2`. Thus the elliptical rounding of the waterline at the level of `r0` is found.

If Ring `r0` is moved, this entire construction is shifted in the Z-direction and SubCurve `c2` will sweep out a surface. The Procedural Surface `elliptical_bowround` creates this surface.

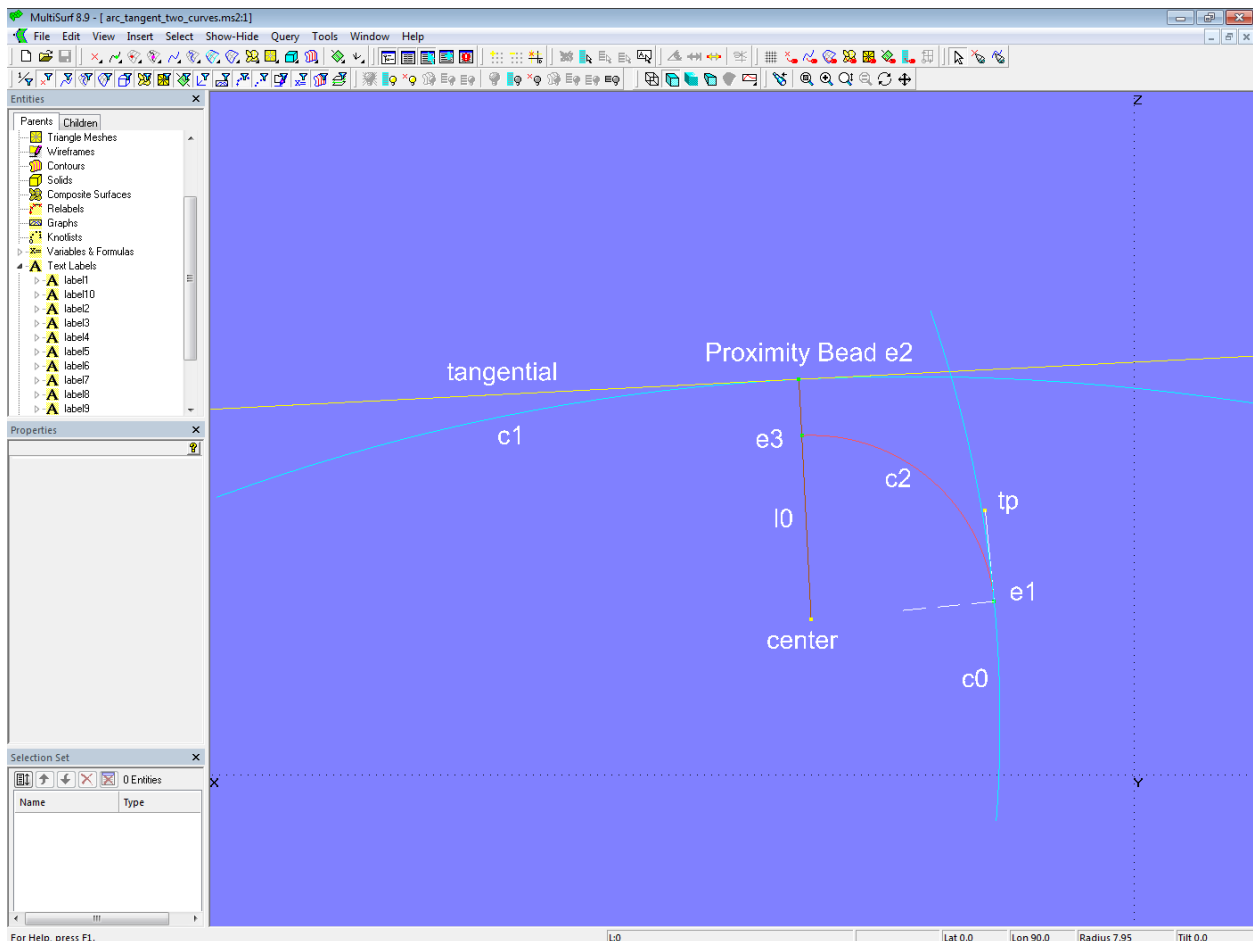


Model sy15-elliptical\_bowround.ms2 - elliptical bow rounding. Solve Set [solve\\_touch\\_wl](#) is active.

## Further Solve Set applications

### Proximity Bead - arc touches two curves

Model *arc\_tangent\_two\_curves.ms2* shows how two curves can be rounded with an arc of a given radius. For this, the starting point of the circular arc must be the point of contact on one curve, the end point of the circular arc must be the point of contact on the other curve. This requires two free objects that must be positioned so that these conditions are met.



Model *arc\_tangent\_two\_curves.ms2* –Circular arc *c2* should touch both curves; Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curves* not active

Bead *e1* (free object 1) is located on curve *c0* as starting point of the circular arc. Tangent Point *tp* and Point *px* (offset relative to *e1* in the Y-direction) depend on *e1*. With these three points the 3-point Frame *frame1* is defined. The X-axis of *frame1* points in the direction of the Tangent Point *tp*, so it is the tangent to curve *c0* at point *e1*. The Z-axis points in the direction of the normal. Point *center* lies on this Z axis, i.e. the normal, and its dz value corresponds to the radius of the rounding arc.

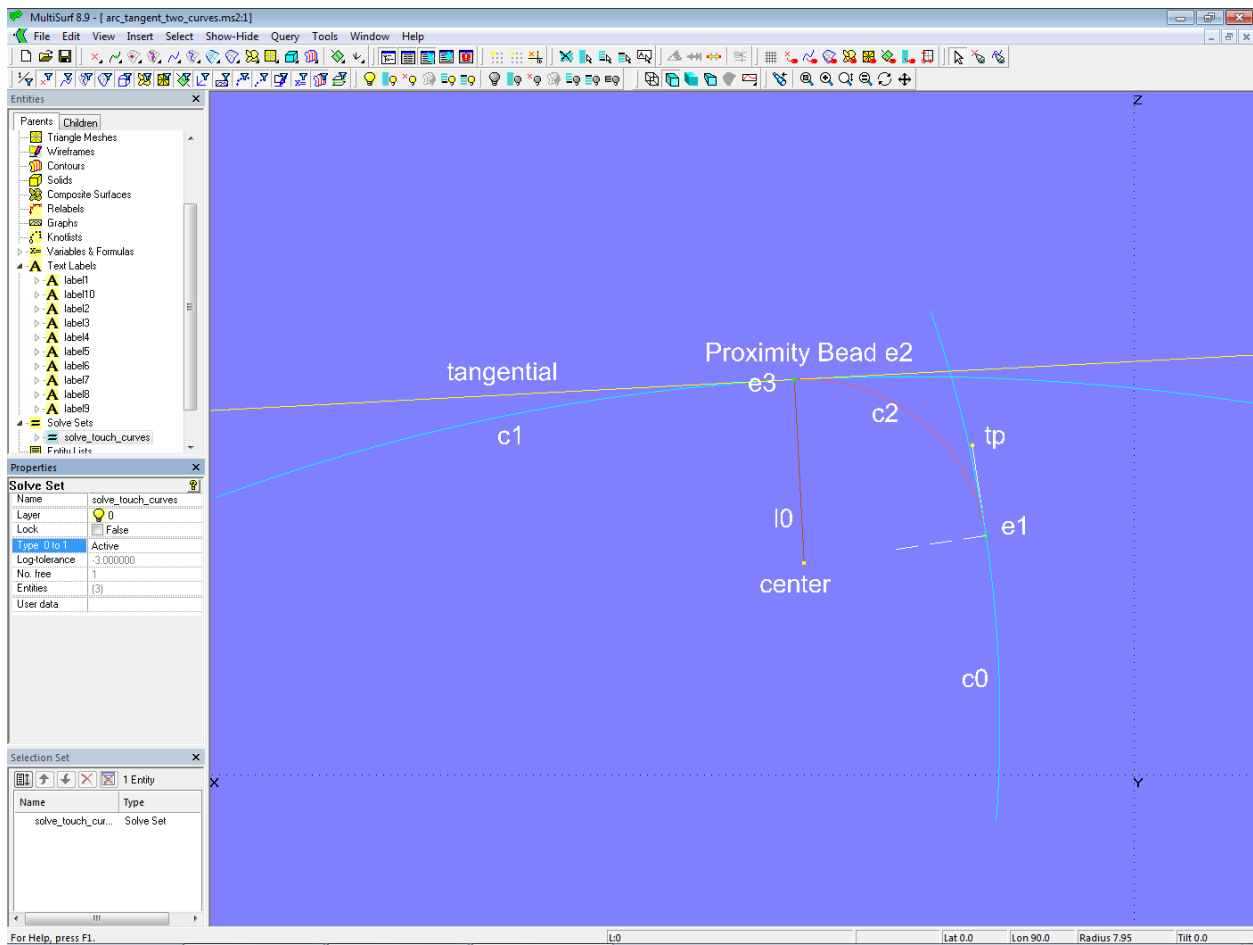
The end point of the circular arc is point *e2* on curve *c1*. The line *center-e2* is the radius line, i.e. the normal of curve *c1* at point *e2*. Consequently point *e2* must be positioned in such a way that it has the smallest distance from *center* (free object 2). With a special type of curve point, the Proximity Bead, this point can be easily generated. A Proximity Bead determines the point on a curve that has the smallest or largest distance from an outside point (depending on the setting).

The free object 2 is therefore determined by the Proximity Bead. In the present case, Proximity Bead *e2* must have the smallest distance from Point *center*. You can also say that Proximity Bead *e2* is the base point of the plumb line that is felled from *center* to curve *c1*. With the two points *center* and *e2* the 2-point Plane *tangential* is created, i.e. the tangent of curve *c1* at point *e2*.

Line *l0* connects *center* and Proximity Bead *e2*. The Intersection Bead *e3* lies on Line *l0*. It has the distance of the radius of the circular arc from *center*. With *e1*, *center* and *e3* this circular arc is generated as Arc *c2* (Type = 2).

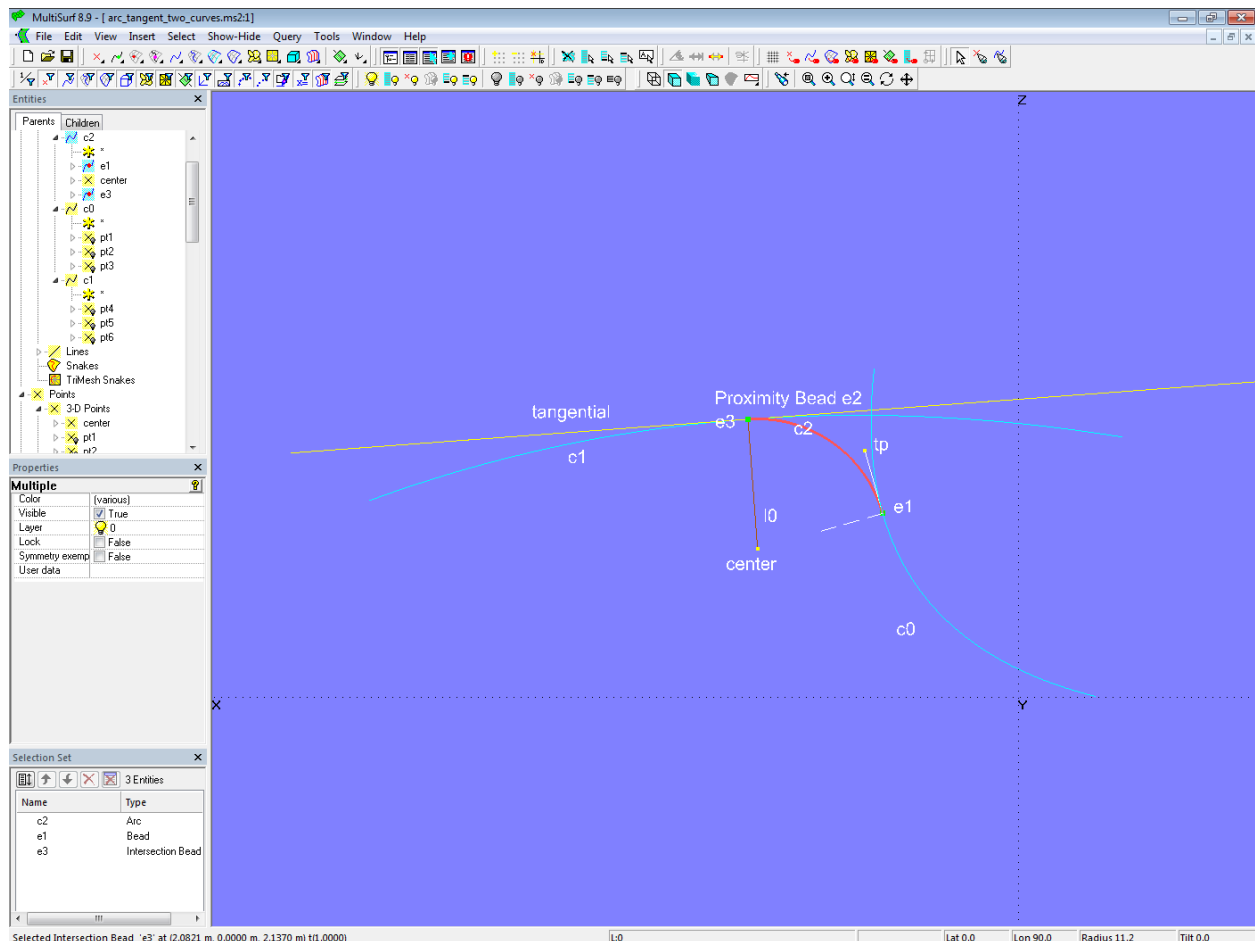
We are now looking for the position of *e1* in such a way that the distance between *e3* and the tangent *tangential* is equal to zero, i.e. Arc *c2* touches curve *c1*. The Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curves* is used to

determine this position. The free object is Bead **e1**, the pair of constraints is **e3** and **tangential**. Hence, the list of objects required for the solution of Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curves** is: {**e1**; **e3**; **tangential**}.



Model *arc\_tangent\_two\_curves.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curves* active; Arc *c2* touches both curves.

If the shape of the curves changes, the Solve Set object automatically finds the new center point of the rounding arc as well as its start and end point. The same applies to changing the radius of the rounding.



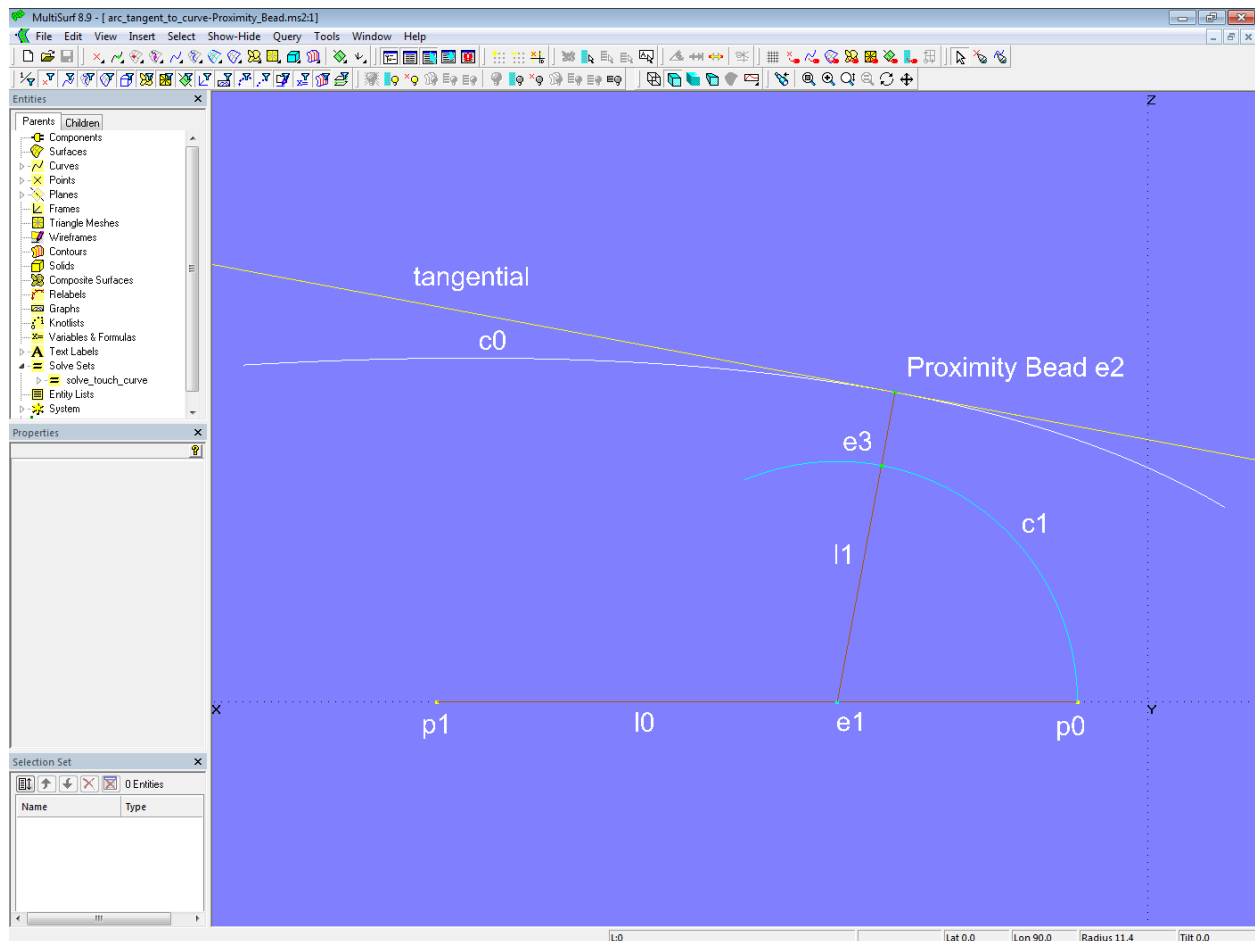
Model *arc\_tangent\_two\_curves.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curves* active; Arc *c2* touches both curves.

Although the construction shown here can also be carried out without a Proximity Bead, its use makes the model simpler and clearer. With the Proximity Bead, one of the two free objects is automatically determined.

### Arc touches curve - version with Proximity Bead

How exercise 3 - arc touches curve - can be simplified with the object Proximity Bead is shown in the model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve-Proximity\_Bead.ms2*. It can be clearly seen that the model requires fewer objects.

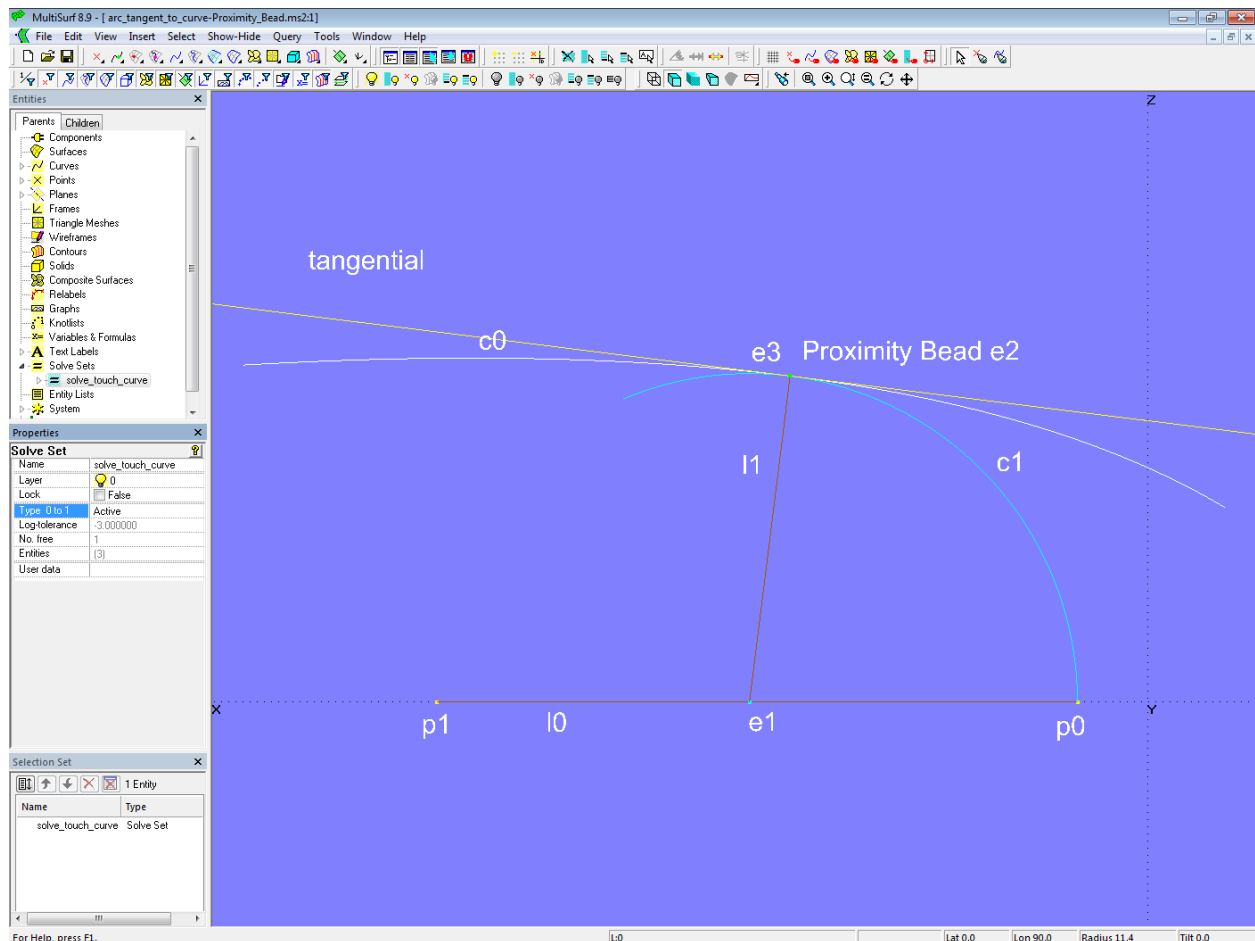
Center of the circular arc *c1* is Bead *e1* (free object 1). Proximity Bead *e2* on curve *c0* depends on this; it has the smallest distance from *e1* (free object 2). Line *l1* connects *e1* and *e2*, it is the radius line of the circular arc and thus the normal of curve *c0* at point *e2*. With the two points *e2* and *e1*, the 2-point Plane *tangential* is created, i.e. the tangent of the curve *c0* at point *e2*. Arc *c1* intersects Line *l1* in the Intersection Bead *e3*.



Model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve-Proximity\_Bead.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* not active

The position of **e1** and thus the radius (= distance **p0-e1**) must be selected so that the distance between **e3** and the tangent **tangential** is zero, i.e. Arc **c1** touches curve **c0**.

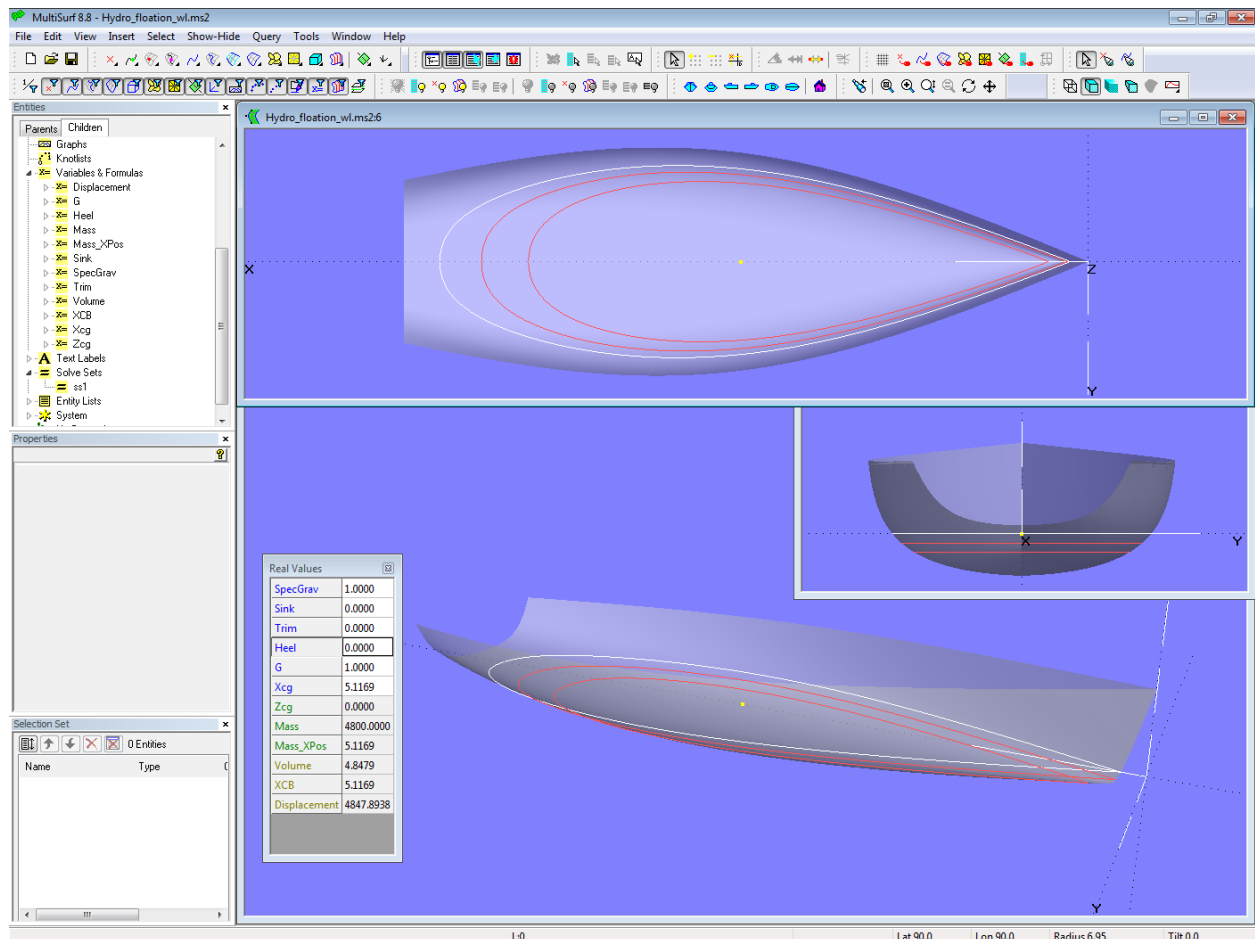
The Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** is used to determine this position. The free object is Bead **e1**, the pair of constraints is **e3** and **tangential**. The list of the objects of the Solve Set **solve\_touch\_curve** required for the solution is thus: {**e1**; **e3**; **tangential**}.



Model *arc\_tangent\_to\_curve-Proximity\_Bead.ms2* - Solve Set *solve\_touch\_curve* active

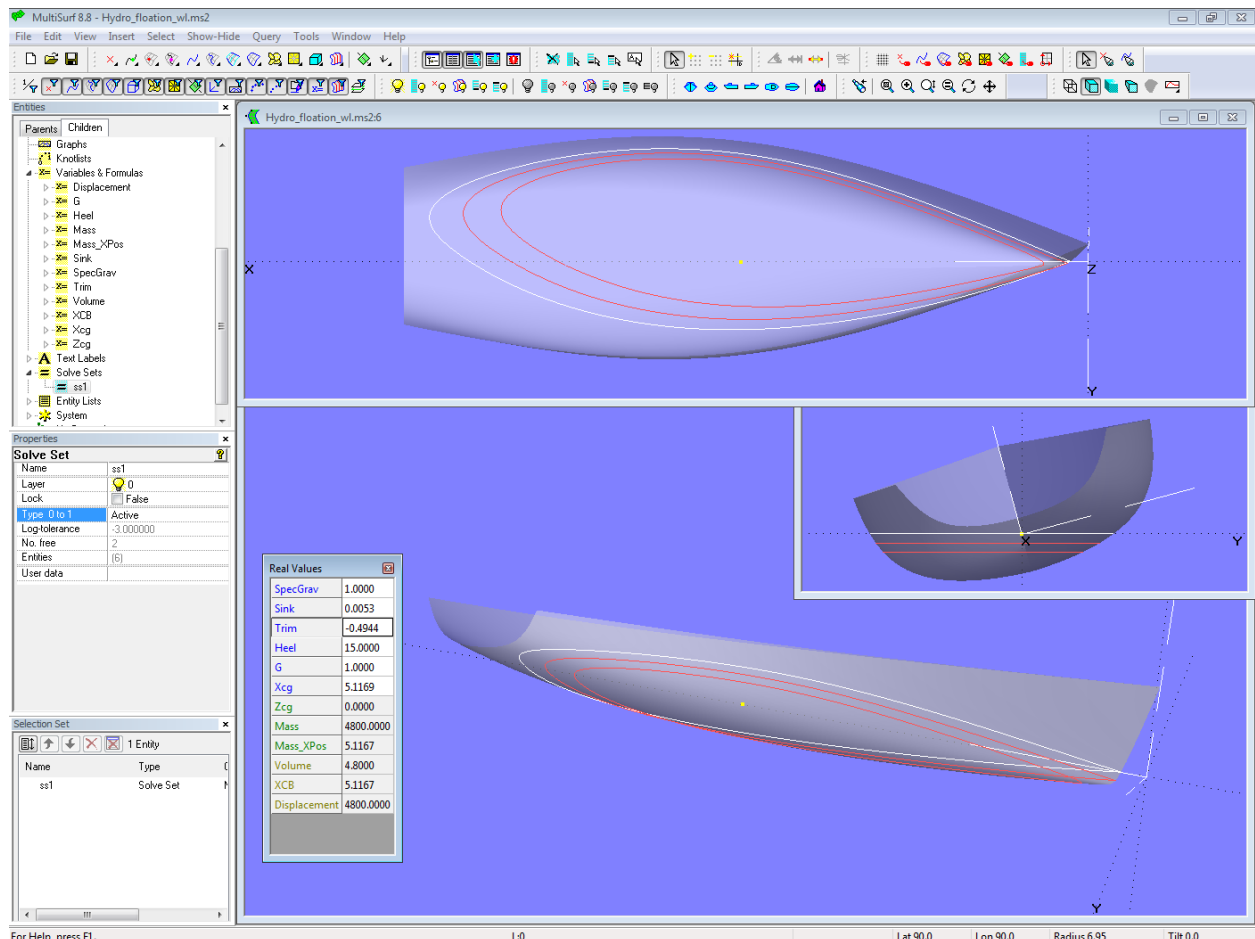
## Hydrostatics - free floating position

In tutorial 14, “How to created computing MultiSurf models”, the model *Hydro\_free\_floating.ms2* shows in detail how the Solve Set entity can be used in combination with Hydrostatic Reals to find the floating position of a boat hull for given weight and center of gravity. For this purpose, the Solve Set entity *solve\_free\_float* systematically changes sink and trim until there is a balance between forces and moments of weight and buoyancy.



Model *Hydro\_free\_floating.ms2* - free floating position with balance of weight and buoyancy

In model *Hydro\_free\_floating.ms2* the free floating position can also be determined when heeling. This makes it possible to assess the asymmetrical shape of the waterlines or to answer the question whether the transom remains clear of the water surface or is already immersed. Heeling with fixed sink and trim leads to incorrect results, since the displaced volume increases. To get realistic answers, the boat must float freely when it is heeled.



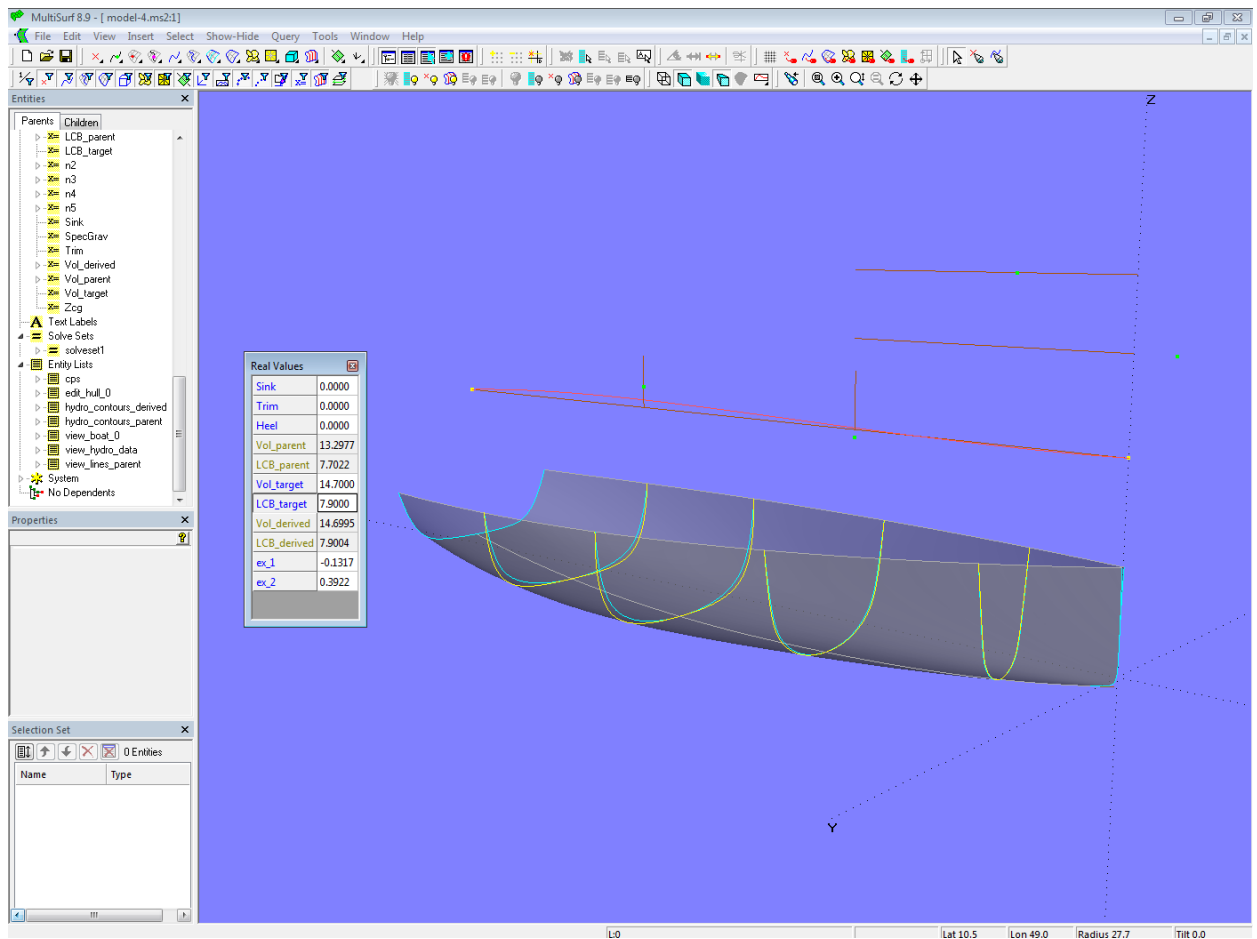
Model *Hydro flotation.ms2* - free floating position when heeling

## Automated variation of hull form

Tutorial 16, “Automated variation of hull form”, deals with the problem that when designing a hull shape the point will be reached when the form corresponds to the ideas, but there could be a little bit more displaced volume, and maybe an LCB a few centimeters closer to the stem would be good too (for example). Then the control points of the master curves have to be shifted by a few millimeters here and there, and in addition to the hydrostatic values, the fairness must also be constantly checked. This fine-tuning is time consuming.

The approach described in tutorial 16 makes it possible to automatically derive new master curves from the master curves of an existing hull in order to achieve target values for volume and LCB. Surface fairness, hull outline and shape character of the Mcs are retained.

In model *formvariation\_model-4.ms2*, the Solve Set [solve\\_V\\_LCB](#) is used to automatically adapt the displacement curve for the derived Mcs so that volume and LCB of the derived hull take given target values.



Model formvariation\_model-4.ms2 – increased volume and LCB moved aft