



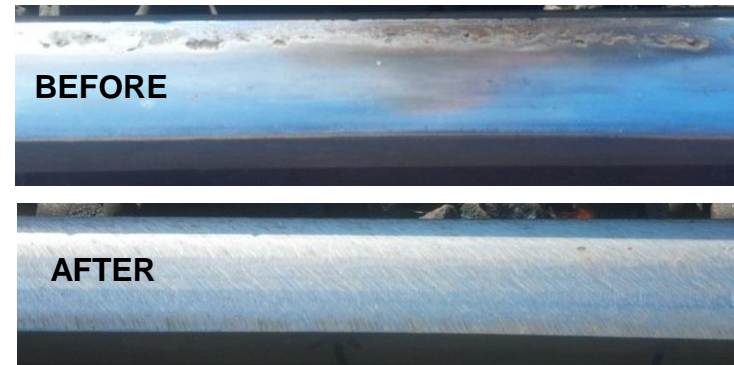
# RAIL PROFILE SHAPE & RAIL LIFE EXTENSION

ICRI WEBINAR MAR 3 2021

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CHARLES RUDEEN, LORAM  
WESLEY THOMAS, SENTIENT SCIENCE



# Background: How does Grinding Extend Rail Life?



| Why Grind? | Profile Correction   | Eliminate Surface Conditions   |
|------------|--|--|
| Benefits:  | <p>Optimize Point of Contact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Less rail wear</li><li>▪ Less rail fatigue</li><li>▪ Prolongs rail life</li><li>▪ Less fuel<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Reduced vertical loads</li><li>▪ Less vibration</li><li>▪ Improved curving of wheel sets</li></ul></li></ul> | <p>Minimize Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Allows ultrasonic testing to see internal defects</li><li>▪ Reduces vertical and lateral forces</li><li>▪ Reduces track surfacing cycles (CAT)</li><li>▪ Reduces rail fatigue defects (TD &amp; SD Defects)</li><li>▪ Reduces Rail Service Failures</li><li>▪ Minimizes Derailments</li></ul> |

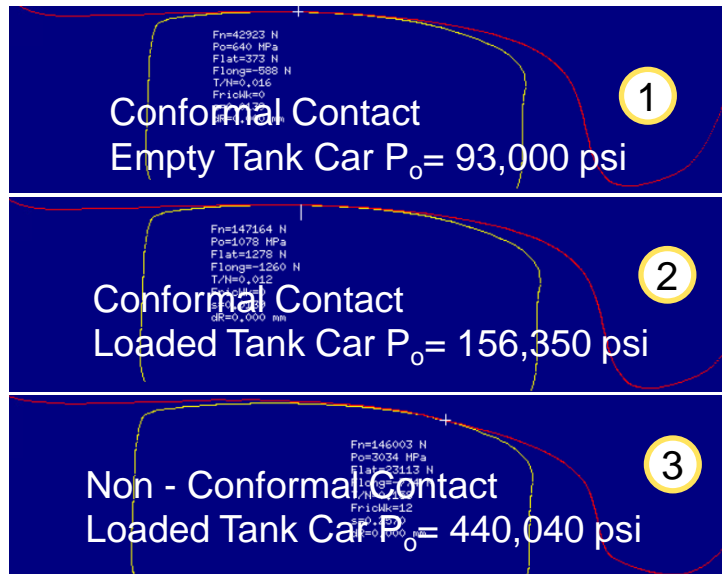
# Background: Rail Profiles and RCF

- Rail Profile shape can increase the contact stress 4x greater than an empty vs. loaded car

Fitzgerald  
MP 654

Measured  
Hardness:  
336 HB

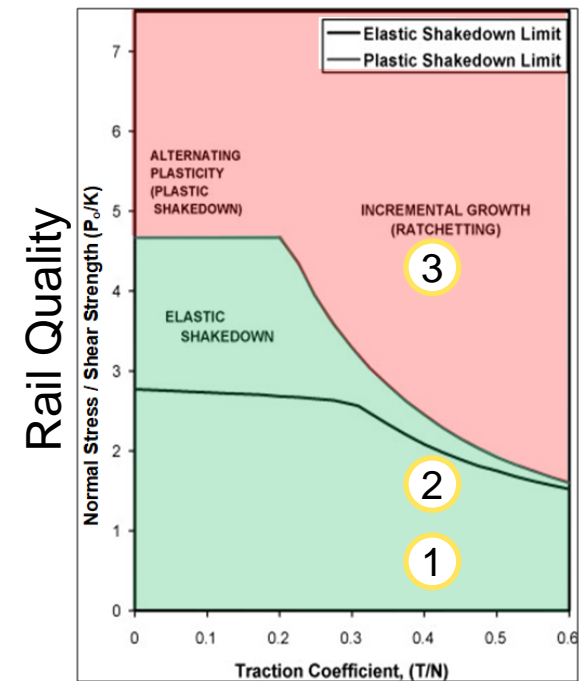
Measured  
TOR  
COF:  
0.404



Non-Damaging Contact

Non-Damaging Contact

Damaging Contact



Lubrication

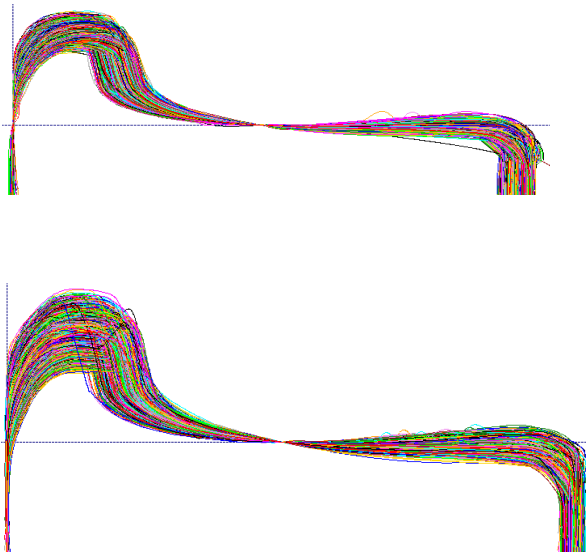
Diagrams & Analysis performed by Canadian National Research Council (CNRC) Alexander Woelfle for CSX



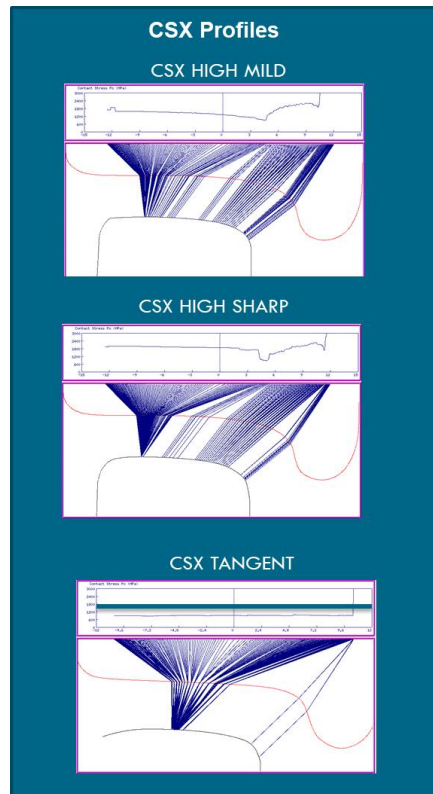
National Research Council  
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# Background: Considerations in Profile Design

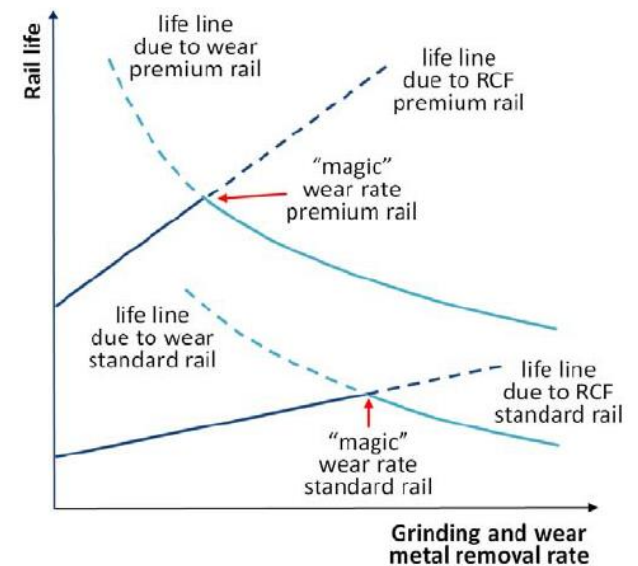
## Wheel & Traffic



## Curvature



## Magic Wear Rate



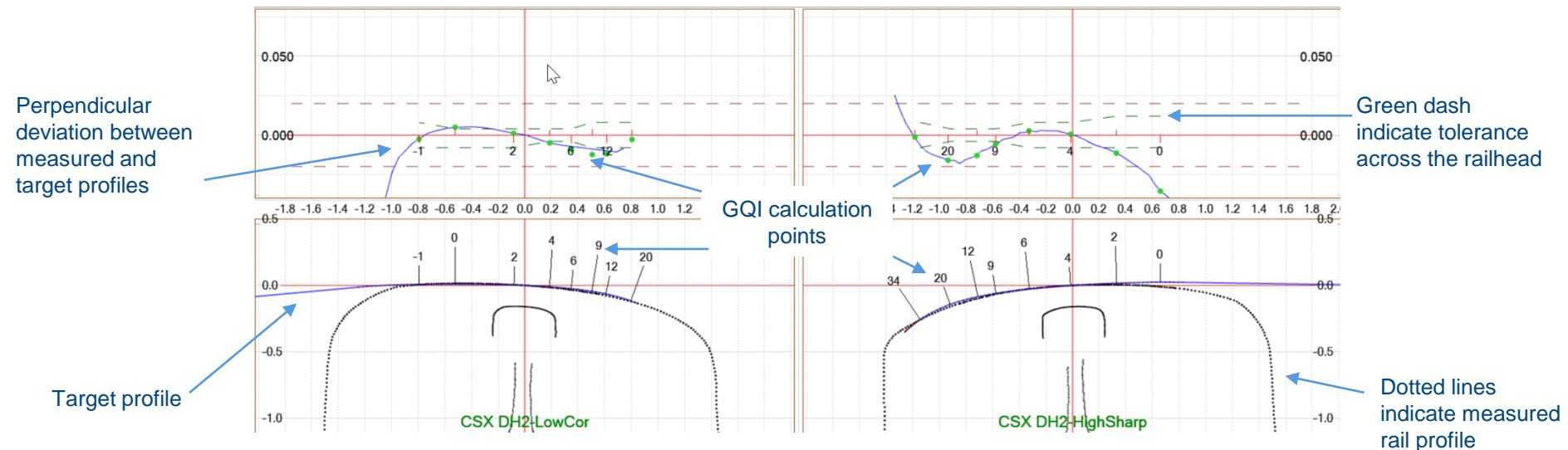
# Background: What is Grind Quality Index (GQI)

## What is GQI

- GQI is metric to measure post grind results against a specified target profile

## GQI Relationship to Rail Life

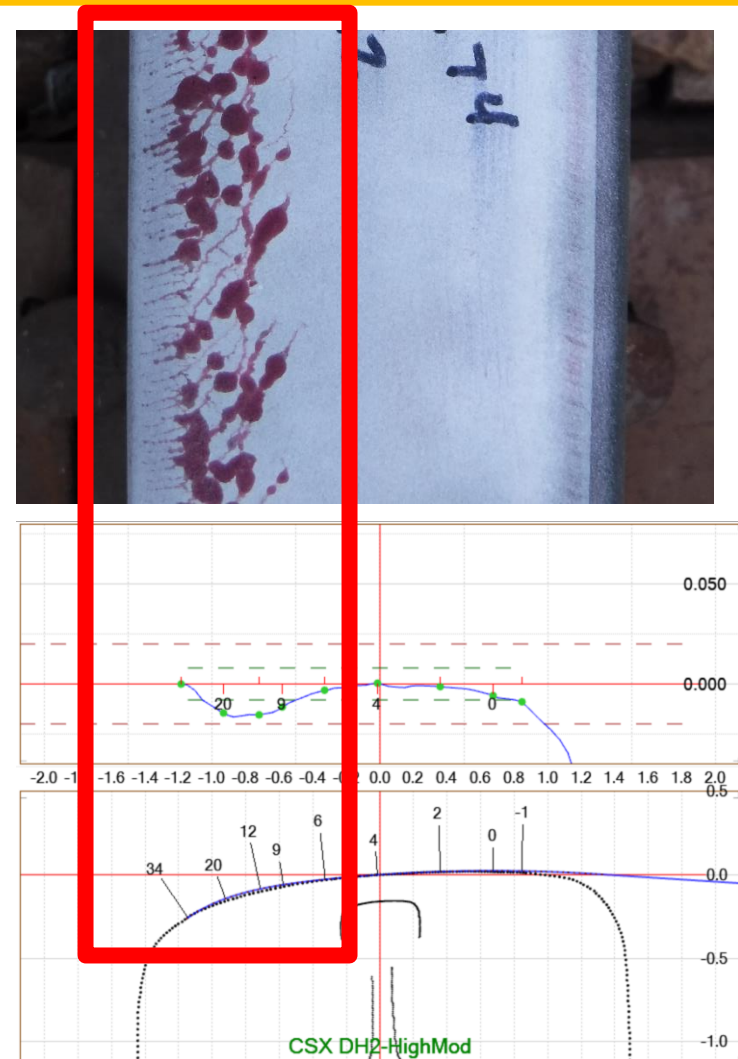
- GQI is not a rail life metric, and higher scores do not always indicate longer rail life particularly if target profile is not optimal.



# Challenge: Rail Life Extension from Profiles & GQI

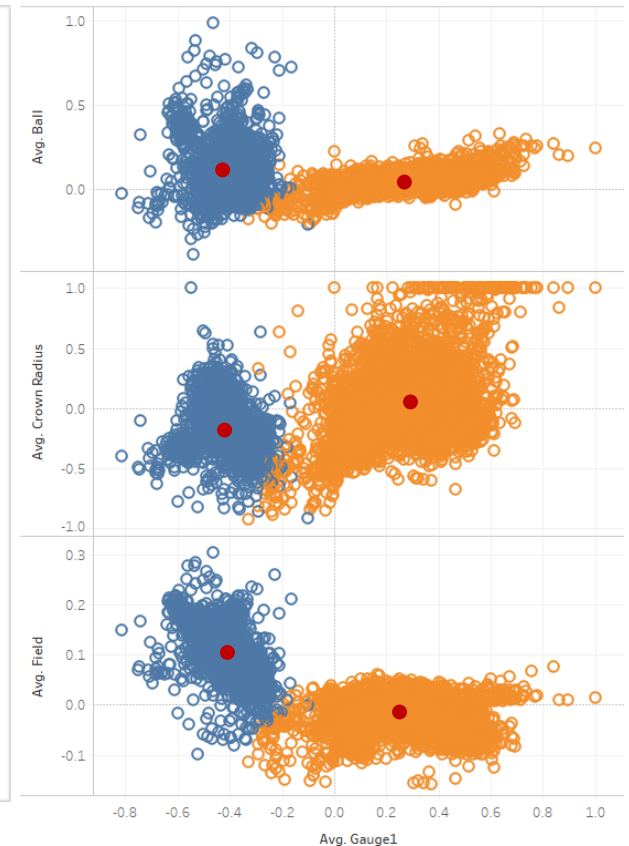
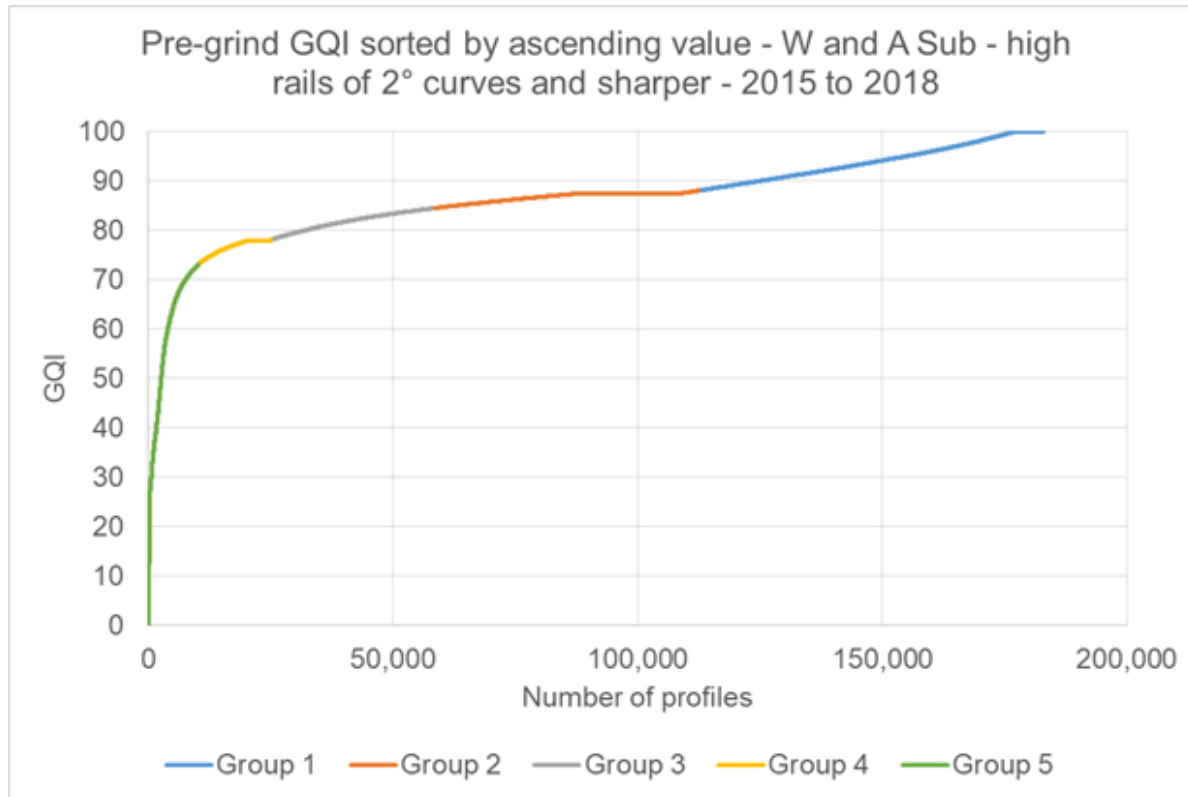
## Rail Profile Optimization

- CSX uses GQI score as one of the measures to determine if / when to grind
- Current CSX target rail profiles are not providing the ideal wheel-rail interaction
- Current target profiles would removal metal at the wrong locations





# Approach: RIV Data Shows Range of Rail Shapes

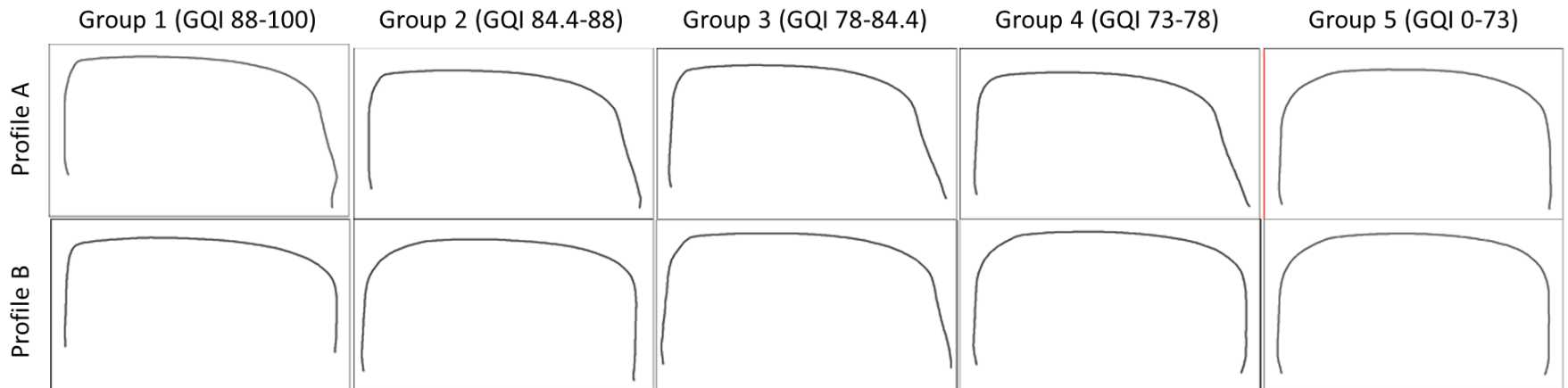


Diagrams & Analysis performed by Canadian National Research Council (CNRC) Alexander Woelfle for CSX



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**NR-CNRC**  
Canada

# Approach: Compare 10 Rail Profile Shapes



Diagrams & Analysis performed by Canadian National Research Council (CNRC) Alexander Woelfle for CSX

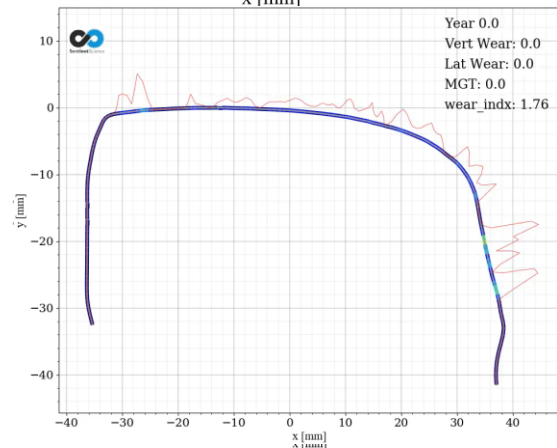
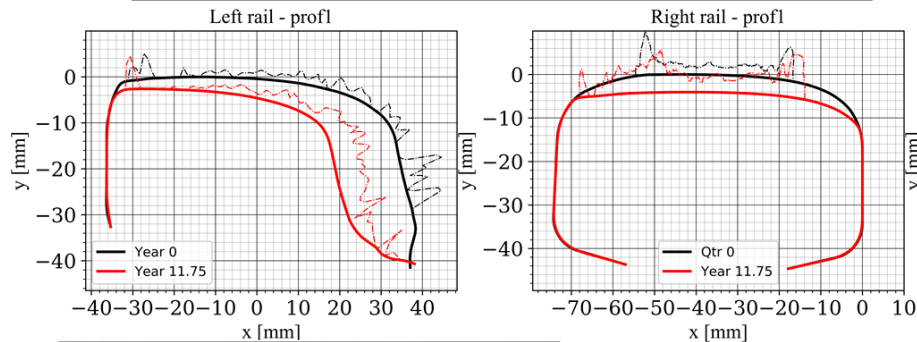


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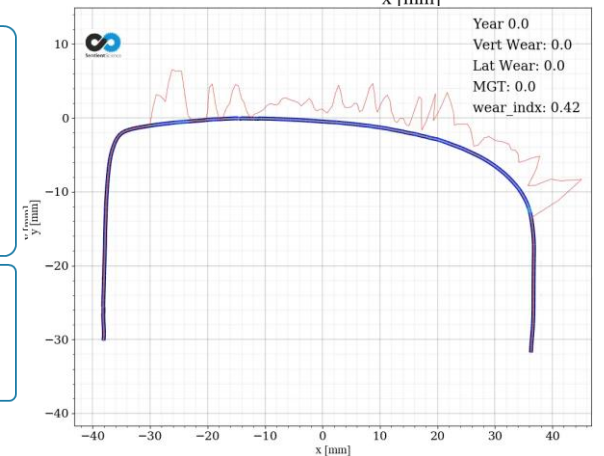
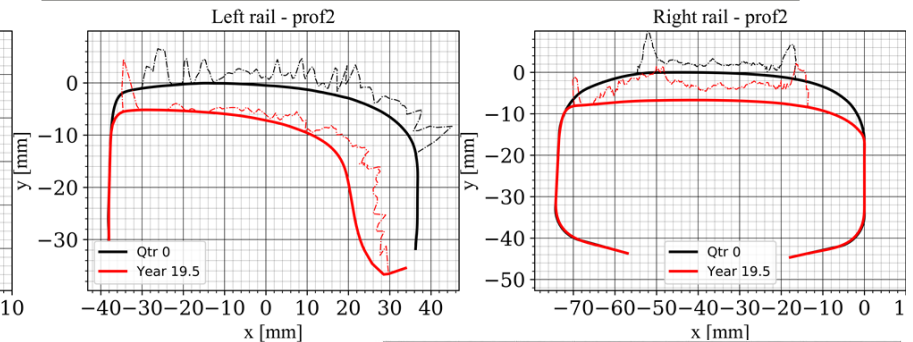


# Approach: Life Extension of Higher GQI Profile

**Group 1 - Profile A – 89.19 GQI & 615 AMGT Life**



**Group 1 - Profile B – 98.54 GQI & 1011 AMGT Life**

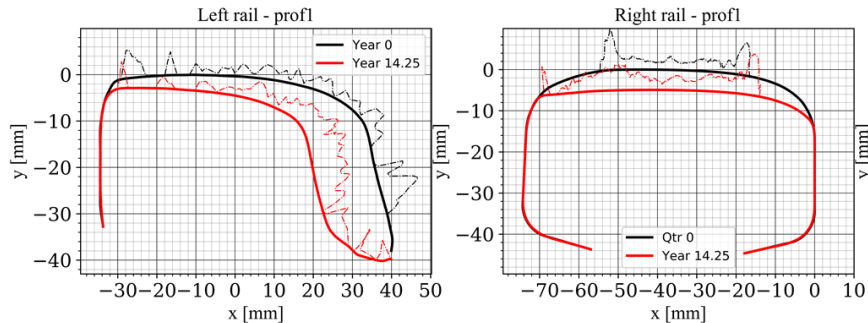


- 73% Life Extension of Profile B
  - 10% Higher GQI of Profile B
  - Lateral Wear is Limit in Both Profiles
- 
- \$45,909 Net Present Value Net Savings
  - \$5,739 NPV Savings per Year of Life

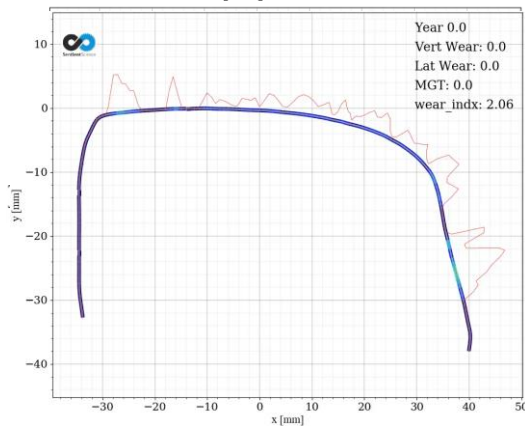
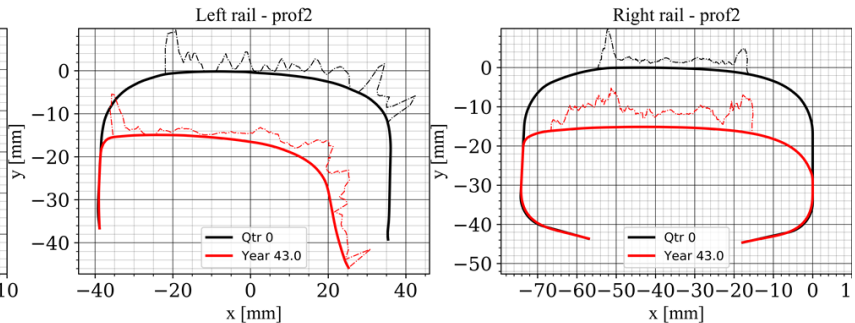
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# Approach: Significant Life Extension of New Profile

**Group 2 - Profile A – 84.7 GQI & 738 AMGT Life**

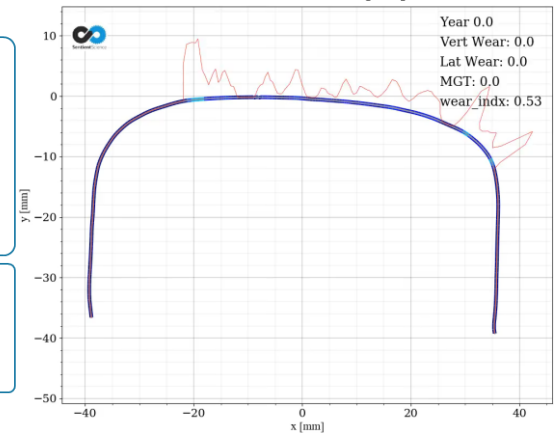


**Group 2 - Profile B – 87.78 GQI & 2,235 AMGT Life**



- 302% Life Extension of Profile B
- 3.6% Higher GQI of Profile B
- Limit Transfers from Lateral to Vertical

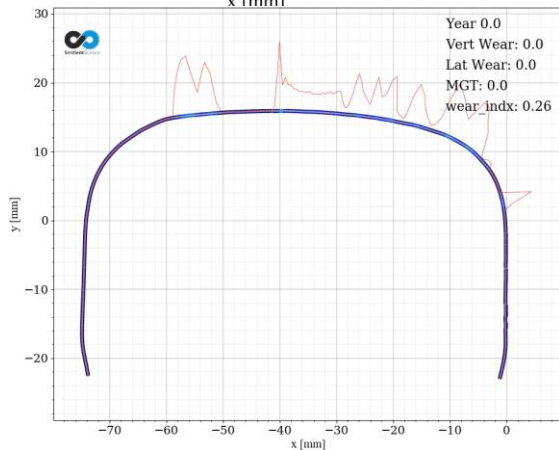
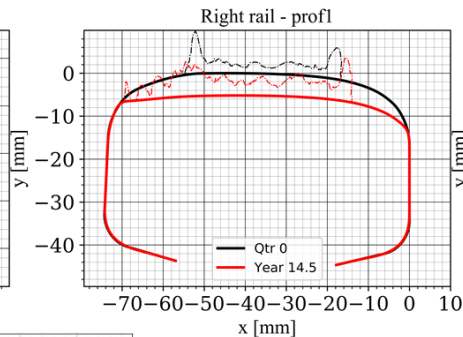
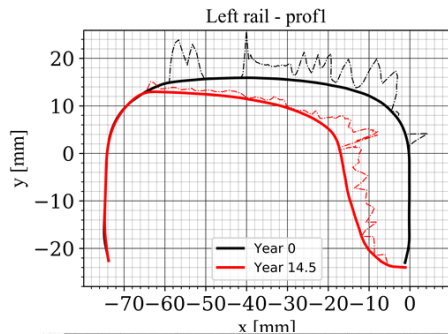
- \$76,963 Net Present Value Net Savings
- \$2,749 NPV Savings per Year of Life



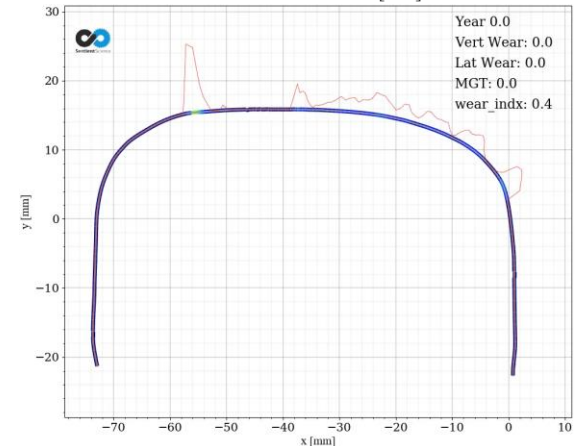
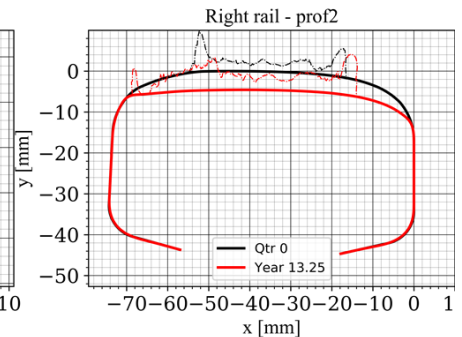
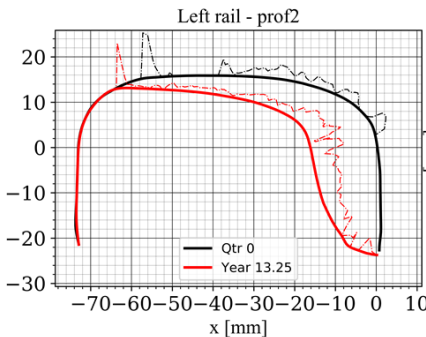
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# Approach: Reduced Life Extension at Lowest GQI

**Group 5 - Profile A – 67.17 GQI & 760 AMGT Life**



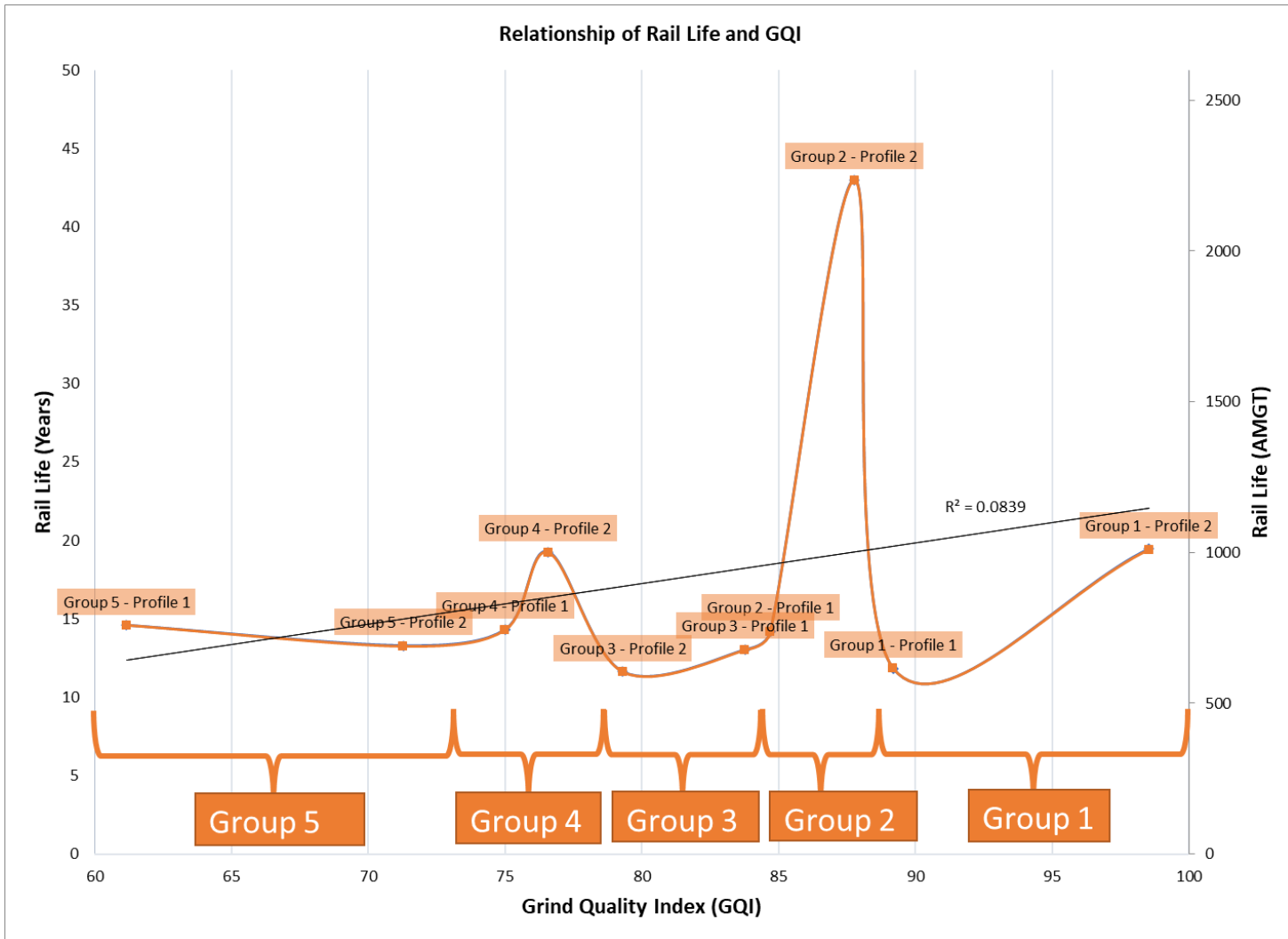
**Group 5 - Profile B – 71.28 GQI & 690 AMGT Life**



- 9% Life Decrease of Profile B
  - 6.1% Higher GQI of Profile B
  - Lateral Wear is Limit in Both Profiles
- 
- **-\$6,268** Net Present Value Net Savings
  - **-\$6,268** NPV Savings per Year of Life

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for Rail

# Outcome: Trend of GQI Level vs. Rail Life



# Key Discussion Topics

- Optimal Profile Increases Rail Life
- Location of Wear on Profile Critical
- High Variance of Profile Shapes
- How to identify the outlier shapes to eliminate the negative rail life?
- Should different types of track geometry (curves) have different scoring techniques?

