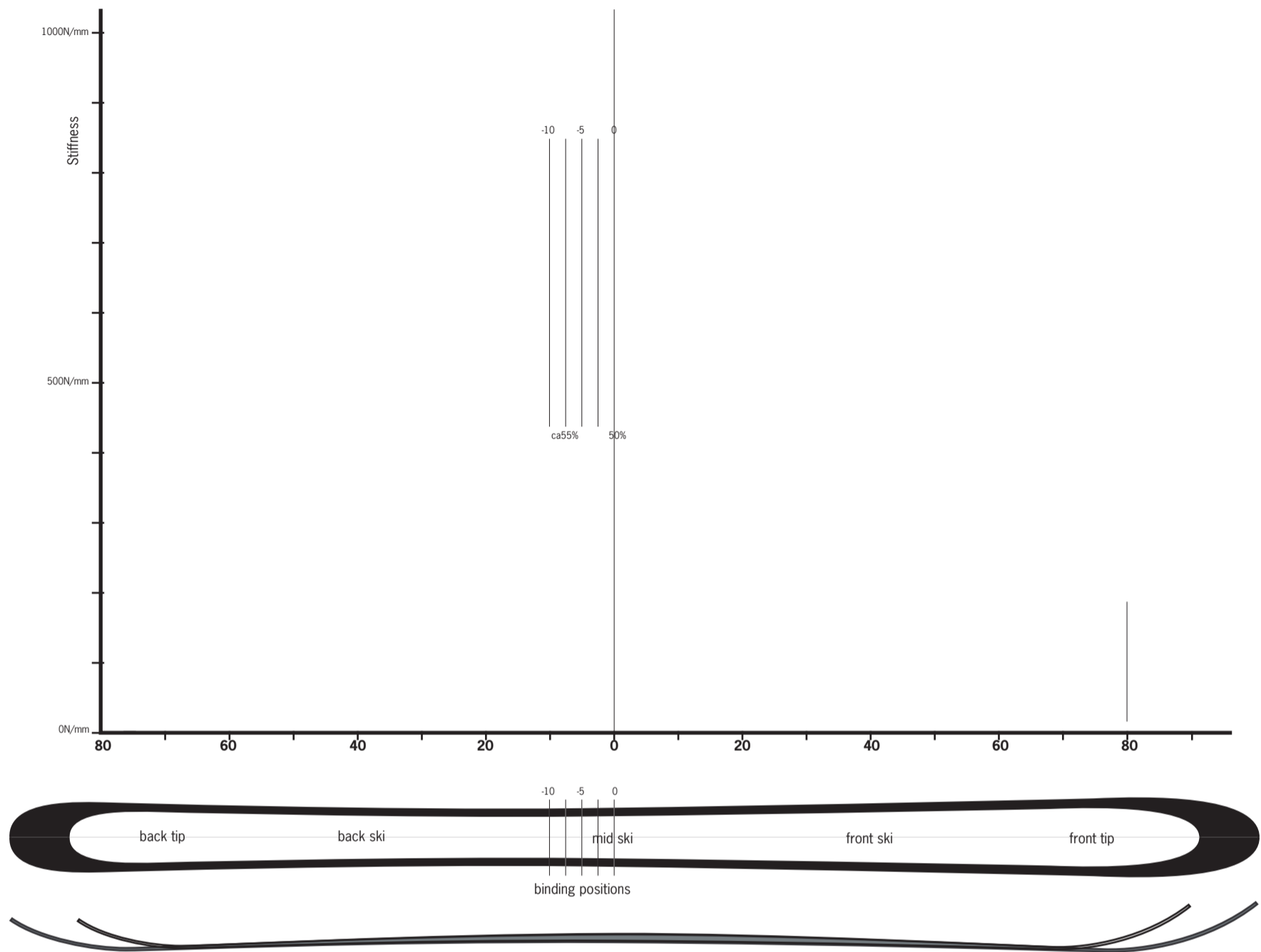


Flex curves and SFI 2008

Each ski is placed in a hidden layer. To visualize them, click the "eye buttons" in the layers menu on the left. Some PDF readers don't allow layers. If you are a MAC user, all the curves will probably appear at once. In that case, save the pdf and open it in a layer compatible PDF reader (like Adobe Reader).



This PDF contains flex curves of about 200 selected freestyle and freeride skis from 2007 - 2008. The skis have been measured in the same machine, at the same temperature and with bindings removed. To avoid the softening effect of long time use, all the tested skis are as new as possible. The reference point for all the curves is the true centre of the ski; this is the centre line of the diagram (0). The curves are drawn through 16 points with 10cm intervals. To understand the flex you should look at the whole curve, not just the highest point of the arc. The middle (where the binding is mounted) is less important than the front and back area.

Ski Flex Index

A longer ski needs more stiffness to distribute the same amount of pressure to the tips of the ski. Flex curves from two skis of different length is therefore not directly comparable. To compensate for this, the stiffness has been recalculated. Through a formula based on average flex curves from skis of different sizes, we have made an index for flex/length.

SFI is a row of five numbers, each number corresponds to a part of the ski: Back tip, back ski, mid ski, front ski and front tip. A completely average ski would have the numbers 5 5 5 5 5, while softer skis will have lower numbers, towards 1 1 1 1 1. A very stiff ski can be 9 9 9 9 9, but in theory the numbers can go higher, since absolute stiffness is a practical impossibility. 2 5 5 5 2 is an average ski with very soft tips, 8 5 4 5 8 is a ski with very stiff tips and a pretty soft mid. 7 6 5 4 3 is a ski with a stiff tail, average mid and a soft front.

Endre Hals 07