



Non-destructive Evaluation Methods for Detecting Major Damage in Internal Composite Structures

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Participants

- Principal Investigators & Researchers
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 - MS: none

FAA Technical Monitors

- Lynn Pham, Ahmet Oztekin
- Other FAA Personnel Involved
 - Larry Ilcewicz
- Industry Participation
 - Boeing, Bombardier, UAL, Delta, DuPont, JC Halpin







Motivation

- High energy *blunt* impact damage (BID) of main interest
 - involves large contact area, multiple structural elements
 - GSE, FOD, railings/corners, hail ice, bird
 - internal damage (cracked shear tie, frame, stringer heel crack) can exist with *little/no exterior visibility*
- Damage to internal members not visible by typical one-sided NDE (e.g., UT scan)
- External-only NDE needed to find such damage







Sandwich Core Crush



Ultrasonic Guided Waves: structure is a natural "waveguide"









- Line scan approach with non-contact sensors on moving carriage
- Air-coupled piezocomposite transducers (170 kHz)









- Typical Signal:
 - Multi-mode: A0 & S0 in Skin/Stringer
 - Time of Arrival computed from Group Velocity obtained from analysis



Gating in 6 different exploitable packets to isolate different modes



Statistical (Outlier) Analysis





Statistical Analysis Results:

(Skin modes only)

















Mini-Impactor (probes interior + portable)



Transport Aircraft Structure



Mini Impactor on Built-up Panel

- Excitation and measurement (R15 contact transducer) on exterior skin-side
- S0 waves through skin path move faster (~150 kHz);
- A0 waves through C-frame path move slower (~50 kHz);
- Specimen with C-frame removed has only skin modes content



Mini Impactor on Built-up Panel

• Internal shear tie damage detection using mini-impactor excitation















GUIDED WAVE MODELING: S.A.F.E.

$$[A - \xi B]_{2M}Q = 0$$
, Unforced solution
mode shapes

$$U(x_{R}) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \sum_{m=1}^{2M} \frac{(\xi^{m} U_{L}^{m})^{T} F_{n} U_{R}^{m}}{D_{m}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{(\xi - \xi^{m})} e^{i\xi(x_{R} - x_{S})} d\xi$$
 Forced solution







S.A.F.E. Results: CFRP skin + stringer

Stiffened Panel: Stringer Disbond Damage

- Wave propagation direction: 90° (across the stringer)
- Layup: 33 plies (Skin & Stringer)
- Lamina Properties: T800/3900-2 Unidirectional Tape

Properties Ply 16,17,18 Degraded



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Laminate Properties: C reduced to 0.1 C for Ply 16, 17, 18









Residual Strength Estimation: Wave Scattering

- Simple beam with through holes from 0.05 mm to 50 mm dia
- Mesh size = 1mm, Time step = 5e-8 sec, Exc = 2.5 cycle toneburst at 150 kHz









Residual Strength Estimation: Wave Scattering



Empirically determine the exponential value e, and relate values to estimate residual strength

Wave_Amplitude= (Dam_Size)^{-e} $\rightarrow \sigma_{crack} / \sigma_{pristine} = (L_0/Dam_Size)^m$ [Caprino]

Caprino, Giancarlo. "On the prediction of residual strength for notched laminates." Journal of Materials Science 18.8 (1983): 2269-2273.







Residual Strength Estimation: Validation

- Three new stringer panels fabricated
 - T800/3900-2 uni-directional tape plies. Skin thickness = 3.175mm
 - Panel dimensions: 1m x 1.3m
 - Five stringers with 0.26m spacing
 - Various impact energy levels

Impact Locations







A (stringer flange)



B (stringer cap)

Thermography for Independent Damage Survey

Thermography (TSR): ground truth of damage for quantitative damage survey











Ongoing/Future Work

- Package mini-impactor into scanning system to probe interior structure for damage (shear ties and C-frames)
- Continue S.A.F.E. modeling of guided waves to select specific mode-frequency combinations highly sensitive to specific damage
- Conduct additional FE analyses of wave scattering through relevant damage types/severity for residual strength estimation from the guided wave measurements
- Validate residual strength predictions from wave
 measurements through failure tests of impacted panels







EXTRA SLIDES







Statistical Analysis



New Stringer Panel Response Study

Green's Function Approach

- To extract structural behavior/response
- To apply inversion methods foro damage and structure characterization
 - residual strength estimation



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Panel Complexity Testing: External v. Internal UGW Transmission

Wave transmission energy comparison between internal path (shear tie & C-frame) vs skin path shows 50 kHz wave energy is better transmitted internally compared to the exterior skin transmitted wave energy relative to 150 kHz





Mini Impactor on Composite Panel

- Gating of time signal important for capturing different modes of interest specifically those passing through frame.
- FFT shows clear sensitivity to disrupted path (C-frame detached at bolts to represent being fully cut)















SAFE Results: CFRP skin

Stiffened Panel: Skin Surface Damage

- Wave propagation direction: 90° (across the stringer)
- Layup: 16 plies (Skin only)
- Lamina Properties: T800/3900-2 Unidirectional Tape

Properties Ply 1,2,3 Degraded





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Residual Strength Estimation: Wave Attenuation Based

- Amplified out-of-plane displacement to observe A0 wave mode propagation around the hole notch
- Notch diameter = 30 mm



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Residual Strength Estimation Plans: Flat Stringer Panel

Flat Stringer Panel Impact Plan

- Stringer cap impacted portion will be trimmed into 0.3m specimens for compression w/o buckling
- Stringer flange impacted portion will be trimmed into 0.48m specimens for compression w/ buckling



