

Development of Reliability-Based Damage Tolerant Structural Design Methodology

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- Probabilistic Structural Design
 - Approach
 - Formulations
- Program Capabilities
 - Monte Carlo Simulation
 - Software Architecture
- SDR Data Mining
 - Damage Maps
 - PDF of Detected Damage
- Results
 - Sample Problems
 - Parametric Studies
- Summary

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- Motivation and Key Issues: Composite materials are being used in aircraft primary structures such as 787 wings and fuselage. In these applications, stringent requirements on weight, damage tolerance, reliability and cost must be satisfied. Although currently there are MSG-3 guidelines for general aircraft maintenance, an urgent need exists to develop a standardized methodology specifically for composite structures to establish an optimal inspection schedule that provides minimum maintenance cost and maximum structural reliability.
- **Objective:** Develop a probabilistic method for estimating structural component reliabilities suitable for aircraft design, inspection, and regulatory compliance.



- Principal Investigator:
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- Other FAA Personnel: Dr. Larry Ilcewicz, Curtis Davies
- Industry Participants: Dr. Cliff Chen, Dr. Hamid Razi, Mr. Gerald Mabson, Dr. Alan Miller (All from Boeing)

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Example of Impact: Hail Damage





CECAM





	Fatigue damage, <i>metals</i>	Impact damage, composites						
Type of uncertainty	Quite certain: fatigue crack	3-5 damage types should be considered for any particular structure type						
Location of uncertainty	Quite certain: high stress concentration locations	All surface: relative damage frequency is known						
Size of uncertainty	For good designs, grows slowly from initial crack size. Can be stopped.	Created instantly, then usually doesn't grow.						
Predictive methods	Well developed. Good prediction of fatigue life	Poor prediction due to lack of appropriate statistical data						



Present Approach



- The present study is based on a probabilistic failure analysis with the consideration of parameters such as inspection intervals, statistical data on damages, loads, temperatures, damage detection capability, residual strength of the new, damaged and repaired structures.
- The inspection intervals are formulated based on the probability of failure of a structure containing damage and the quality of a repair.
- The approach combines the "Level of Safety" method proposed by Lin, et al. and "Probabilistic Design of Composite Structures" method by Styuart, at al.
- > No damage growth is assumed in the present model.



• Failure mode/ load case FM • Inspection intervals T₁, T₂, ...

Probabilistic Input Parameters:

Deterministic Input Parameters:

- Failure load (initial strength) R_{0}^{J}
- Number of damages per life N^J
- Damage size D^J

• Type of damage T_D

- Time of damage initiation t_i^J
- Time of damage detection td^J
- Residual strength R^J_i
- External load L^J_i
- Structural temperature $T_{i}^{\circ J}$
- Effects of environmental aging and chemical corrosion

$$P_{f} = \int_{\Omega} f(N, D, R, t, td, L, T^{\circ} | T_{D}, FM, T_{1}, T_{2}, T_{3}...) dv$$
$$dv = dN dD dR dt d(td) dL dT^{\circ}; \quad \Omega = failure \ domain$$

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Piecewise random history method:

Relations for one type of damage and failure mode/ load case

$$\begin{split} P^{j} &= 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{N_{j}} [1 - P_{i}^{j}(R_{i}^{j}, (td_{i}^{j} - t_{i}^{j})]; \quad P_{f} = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} P_{j}; \quad N = f(\Delta); \\ P_{i}^{j} &= 1 - \{F_{L}[R_{i}^{j}(D_{i}^{j}) | \mu_{L}, \sigma_{L}]\}^{\frac{(td_{i}^{j} - t_{i}^{j})}{Life}}; \quad F_{L} = CPF \text{ of max load per life} \\ td_{i}^{j} &= f[P_{Detect}(D_{i}^{j}), t_{i}^{j}] \end{split}$$

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9



JAMS **Probability of Failure Formulation**





Probabilistic Model



Probabilistic Input Parameters:

- Type of damage T
- Number of damages per life
- Initial failure load (initial strength)
- Damage size
- Time of damage initiation
- Time to detect Damage
- External load
- Structural Temperature T°
- Effects of environmental aging and chemical corrosion



First, we simulate random time histories of residual strength as a sequence of intervals between damage initiation and detection/repair. The probability of failure (POF) can then be evaluated as the sum of POF for all intervals.







Program Capabilities



- "Static" failure: load exceeds the strength of damaged structure
- Excessive deformations
- Flutter: airspeed exceeds the flutter speed of damaged structure*
- High amplitude limit cycle oscillations: the acceptable level of vibrations is exceeded*

*See the FAA Grant "Combined Local ->Global Variability and Uncertainty in the Aeroservoelasticity of Composite Aircraft"

JMS Example of POF Calculation for One Structure







$$P_{f} = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{N=3} [1 - P_{f}(R_{i}, t_{i})]$$
$$P_{f}(R, t) = 1 - \exp\{-H_{t}(R)t\}$$

Interval #	Probability of Failure
1 (new structure); R=1.5	6.12E-06
2 (damaged structure); R=1.1	4.26E-02
3 (repaired structure)); R=1.5	6.12E-06
Total POF =	4.26E-02



Damage Size Life History, Inspection interval = 10% of Life, Assume one damage per life







Input Data Management

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Results on POF

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- The Service Difficulty Report (SDR) is a database that contains damage reports almost exclusively from line and base maintenance in the U.S.
- A typical SDR is like a mechanics report on an inspection/ maintenance task, details including aircraft type and registration, damage type, damage location, sometimes a brief description of the damage itself
- SDRs containing external skin damage may be used to help determining the frequency and severity of impact damage occurrence in different part of the aircraft
- The SDRs for Boeing 767 from year 01/2002 to 03/2006 have been compiled as examples shown in the next couple pages







- Aluminum-Honeycomb sandwich delamination is a reoccurring problem – slats, flaps and stabilizers on 767s shows large number of delamination occurrences
- Nearly all dents, holes and gouges are on the lower fuselage and are caused by ground activities, e.g. trucks and operation staff
- Majority of the damages on the upper fuselage are caused by lightning strikes
- Large number of cracks and fatigue damages occurred near the horizontal stabilizer cutout region
- Although the wings have very large areas, relatively few major damages are recorded



- Scarce description of the source of damage, thus hard to evaluate the effect of the same impact event to a composite structure, i.e. what kind of damage will result in cracks, delamination or even no damage at all?
- Composite vs. metal a drunk catering truck driver causing a dent in the metal fuselage, may now causes a crack (or other forms of damage)
- Since reports are generated during line and base maintenances, the time of event is mostly lost, thus it is hard to know if damage occurred in-flight or on ground, and under what kind of loads
- No information about repair quality, which could greatly affects the residual strength and modulus of the composite structures





Probability of Detection



Log-Odds Detection Probability Functions











Probabilistic Sensitivities: Classical S-R model



Probability of Failure: Classical S-R model:

$$POF = P(s > r) = 1 - P(s < r)$$

$$P_{f} = \int_{0}^{\infty} f_{s}(x)F_{r}(x)dx = 1 - \int_{0}^{\infty} f_{r}(x)F_{s}(x)dx$$

Sensitivity Coefficients: $C_{\mu} = (\partial P_f / \partial \mu)(\sigma / P)$ $C_{\sigma} = (\partial P_f / \partial \sigma)(\sigma / P)$

Stress: Normal; Resistance: Weibull

$$\mu_s = 1; \quad \sigma_s = 0.08; \quad \mu_R = 1.5; \quad \sigma_R = 0.12;$$

 $C_{\mu s} = 1.134; \quad C_{\sigma s} = 1.206; \quad C_{\mu R} = -1.628; \quad C_{\sigma R} = 4.448$

Stress: Extreme Value I; Resistance: Weibull

$$\mu_s = 1; \quad \sigma_s = 0.08; \quad \mu_R = 1.5; \quad \sigma_R = 0.12;$$

 $C_{\mu s} = 1.025; \quad C_{\sigma s} = 1.617; \quad C_{\mu R} = -1.509; \quad C_{\sigma R} = 4.072$







NESSUS Model feature: Exactly one damage per life

Random variables:

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- 1. Load Lmax, LmaxD, LmaxR for undamaged, damaged and repaired item; Gumbel distribution
- 2. Initial Strength Rini; Normal distribution
- 3. Damage size D; Exponential distribution;
- 4. Random inspection Interval Cv=10%



Satisfactory comparison with NESSUS



Inspection Interval determined corresponds to Probability of Failure = 1e-4 per life



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- **Structural Component:** Lear Fan 2100 composite wing panels
- Source of Data: Report DOT/FAA/AR-01/55, Washington DC, January 2002
- **Output:** Inspection schedule over the life-cycle of a structure for maximum safety

Features:

- Two Damage Types: Delamination and Hole/Crack
- Two Inspection Types: Post Flight and Regular Maintenance
- Two Repair Types (Field and Depot)
- Relatively Low Damage Sensitivity
- Temperature Effects Included
- Relatively Low Output Reliability







- Structural Component: TU-204 commercial aircraft composite aileron
- Source of Data: Report DOT/FAA/AR-01/55, Washington DC, January 2002
- **Output:** Inspection schedule over the life-cycle of a structure for maximum safety and optimum cost





Benefit to Aviation

- The present method allows engineers to design damage tolerant composite structures for a predetermined level of reliability, as required by FAR 25.
- The present study makes it possible to determine the relationship among the reliability level, inspection interval, inspection method, and repair quality to minimize the maintenance cost and risk of structural failure.

• Future needs

- A standardized methodology for establishing an optimal inspection schedule for aircraft manufacturers and operators.
- Enhanced damage data reporting requirements regulated by the FAA.