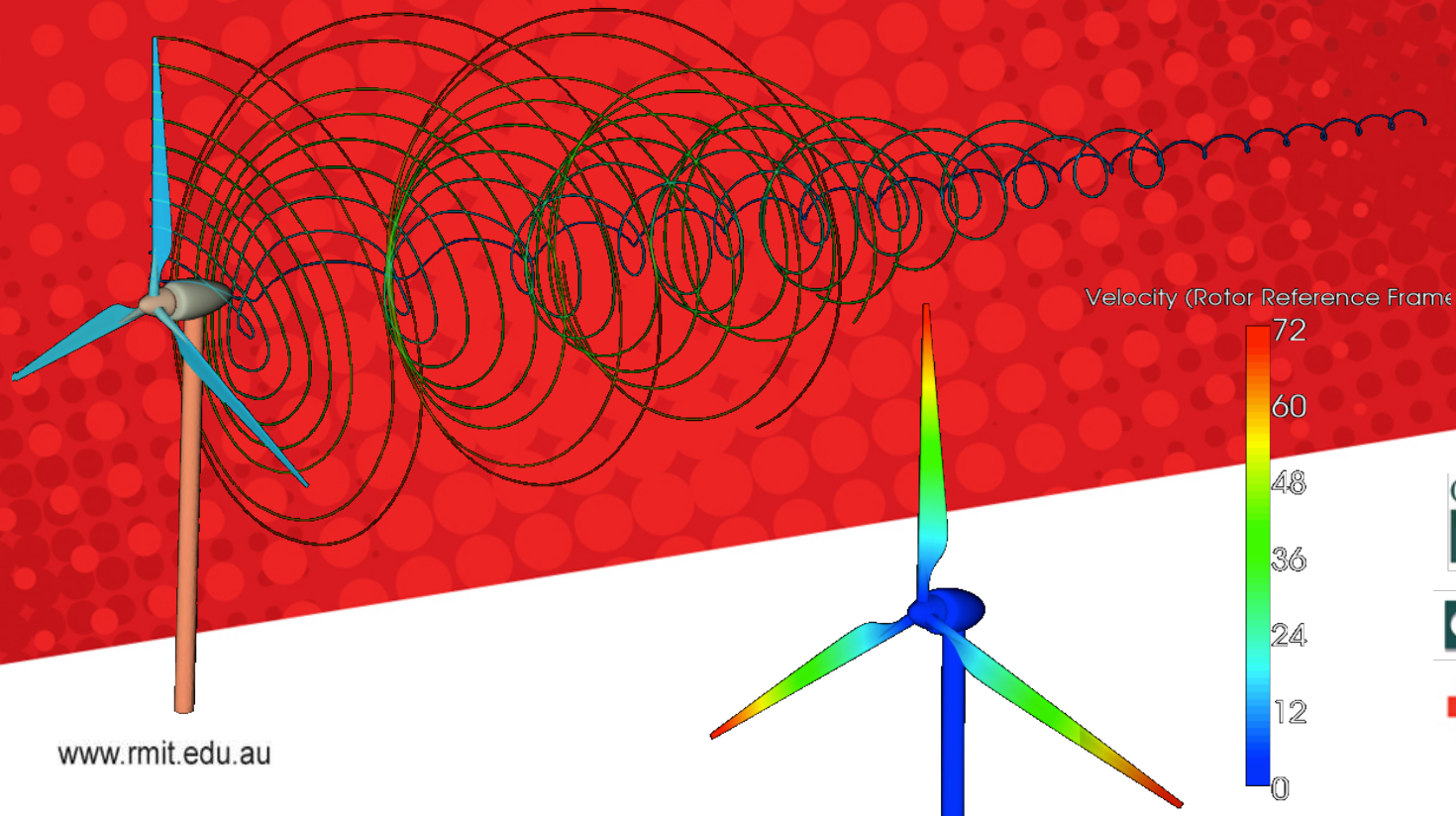


Design and Testing of Composite Wind Turbine Technologies

P. Marzocca

RMIT University, Australia, and Clarkson University, USA



www.rmit.edu.au

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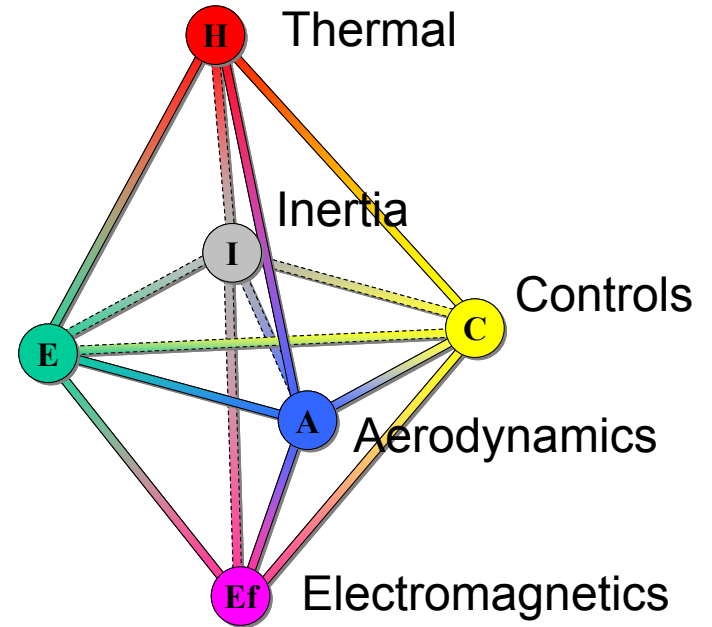
CAMP

Institute for a Sustainable Environment
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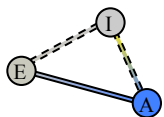
RMIT
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Applied Aerodynamics & Aeroelasticity Lab

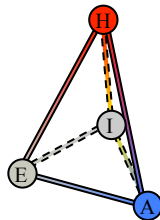
Clarkson/CECET Blade Test Facility (BTF)



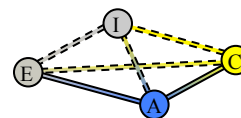
- Aero-elasticity



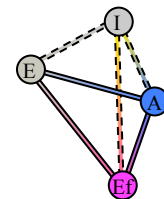
- Aero-thermo-elasticity



- Aero-servo-elasticity



- Aero-magneto-elasticity



Wind Energy Research Activities

WT Blades FSI and Damage Progression

- Composite Blade Design
- Composite Thin-walled-Beam Modeling
- Aeroelastic and Aerodynamic Control
- Aeroelasticity of WT Blades
- System Identification
- Damage Progression
- Structural Health Monitoring
- Load Monitoring

Small Wind Turbine Technologies

- Wind Tunnel and Field Testing
- Blade/Components Structural Testing
- Active/Passive Flow Control
- Power Performance Evaluation

Wind Resource Assessment

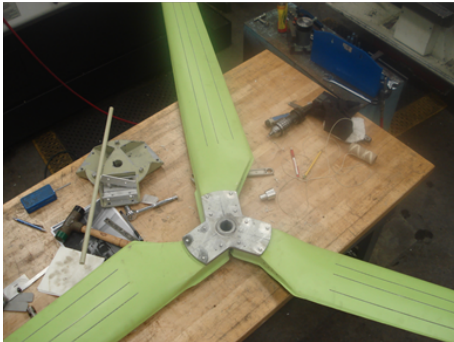
- UAS Flight Measurements
- Computational Fluid Dynamics



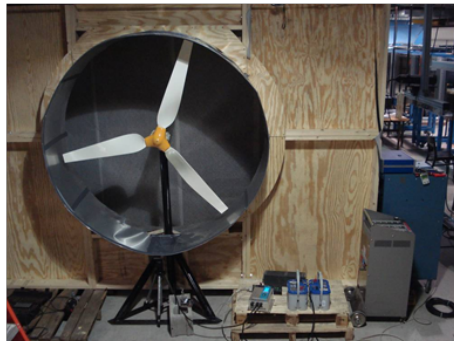
Design and Performance Analysis of WT

Active and Passive Control of WT

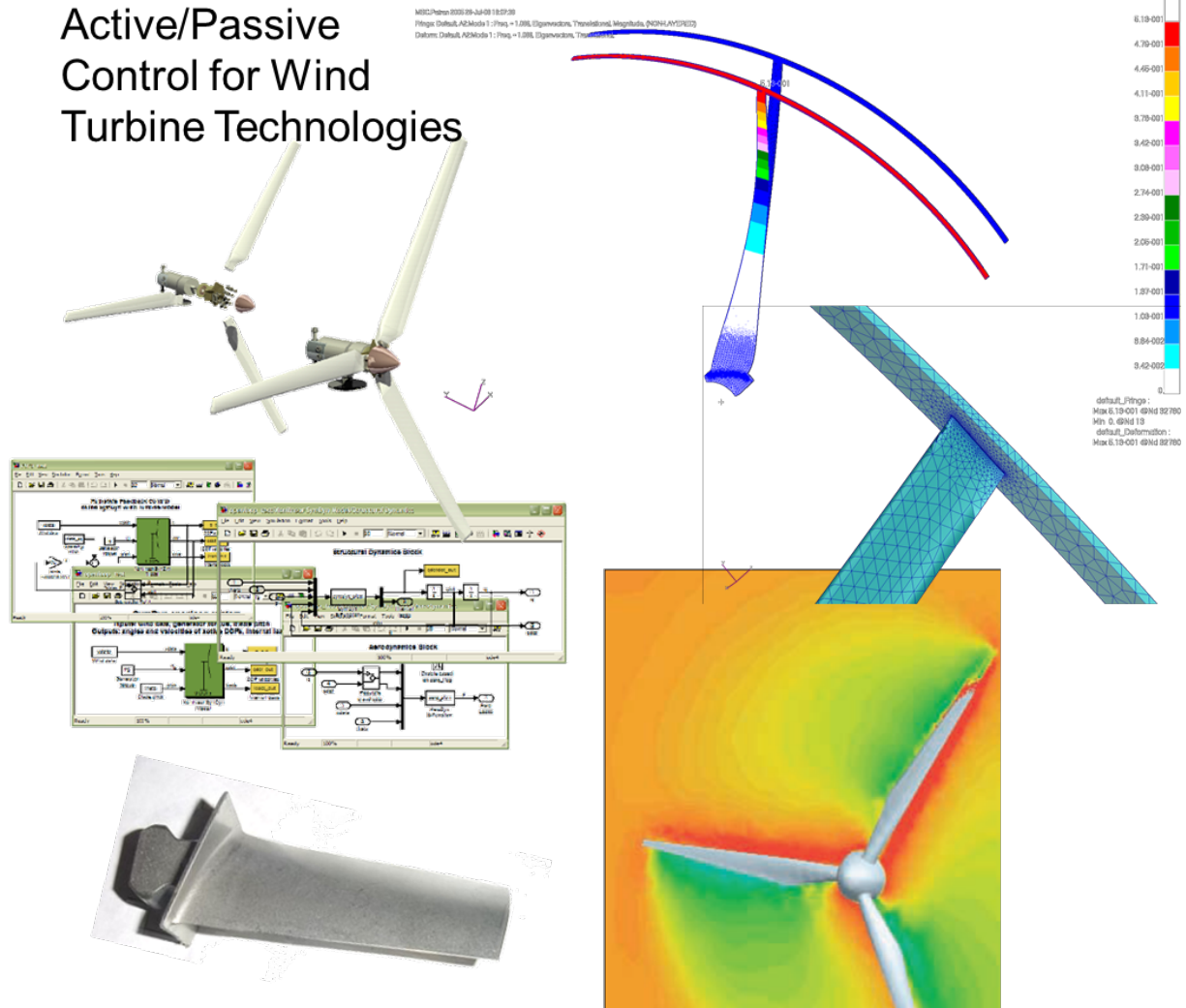
Active Control



Passive Control



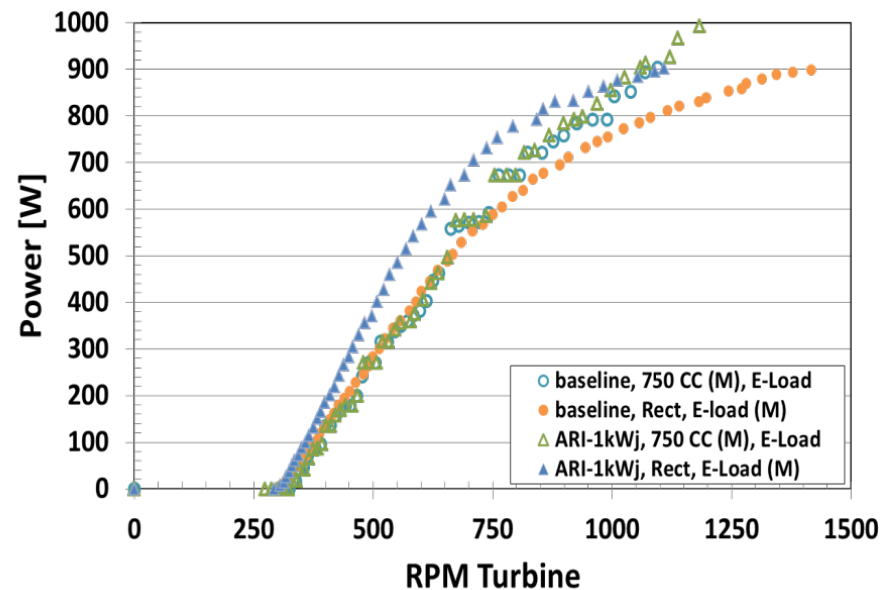
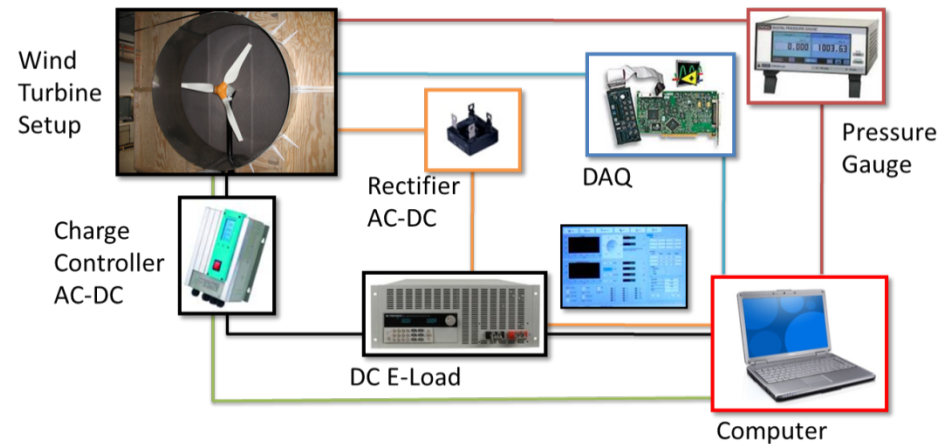
Active/Passive Control for Wind Turbine Technologies



Design and Performance Analysis of WT

Active and Passive Control of WT

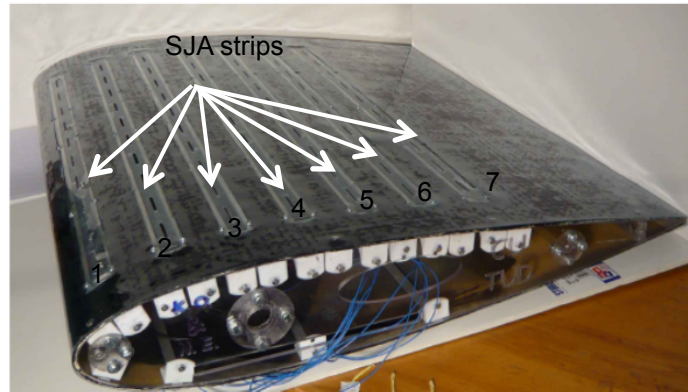
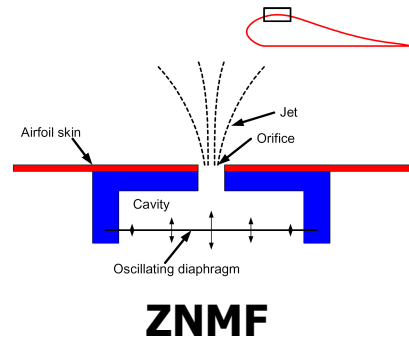
- Wind Turbine Test in the Open-Jet Wind Tunnel Facility
- Power performance
- Comparison blade testing



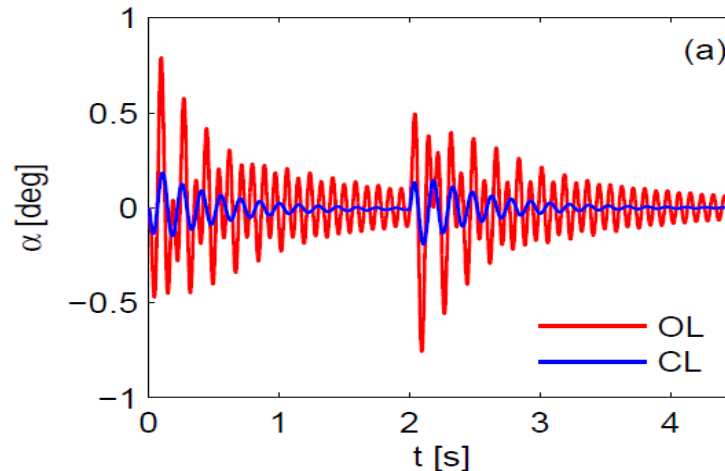
WT Active Aeroelastic Control with Synthetic Jet Actuators



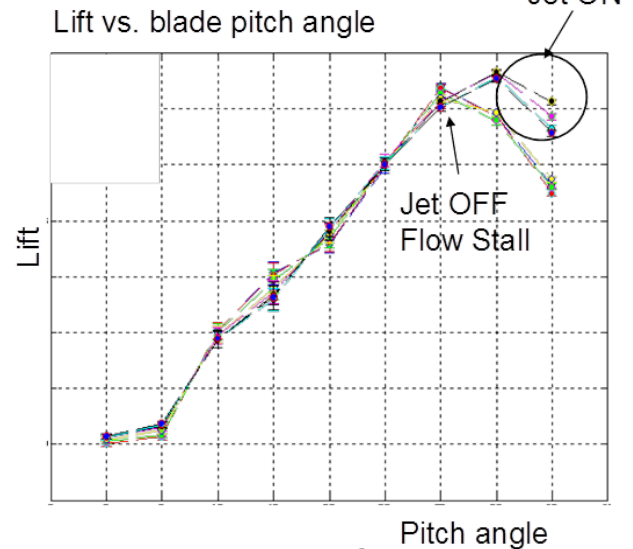
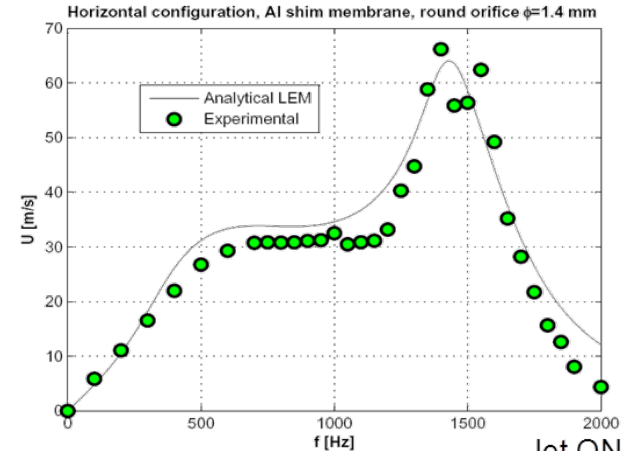
□ 300kW WT



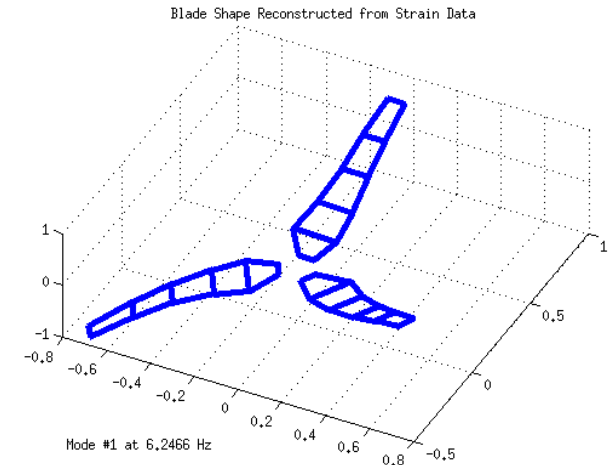
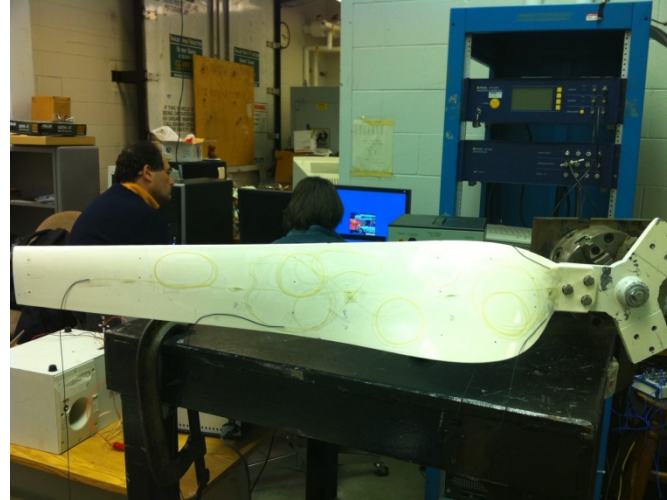
- Aerodynamic ROMS
- Aeroelastic Control
- Flutter suppression
- Gust/Load alleviation



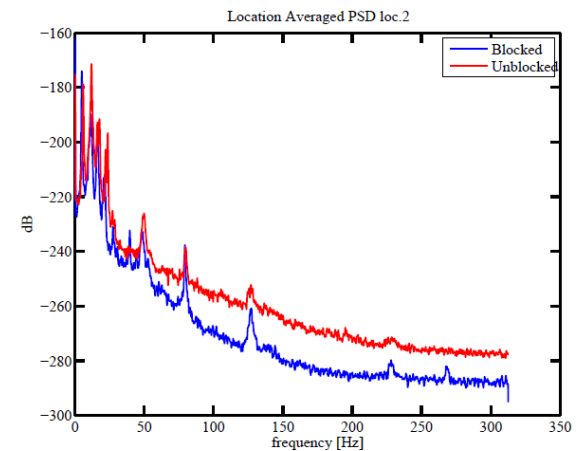
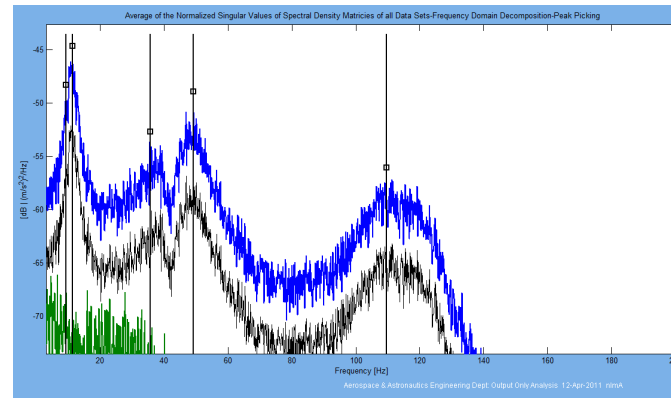
Synthetic Jet Actuators Strip



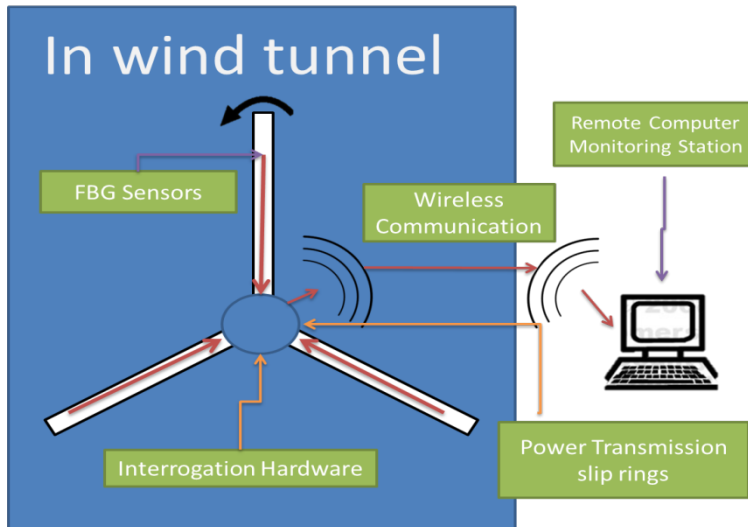
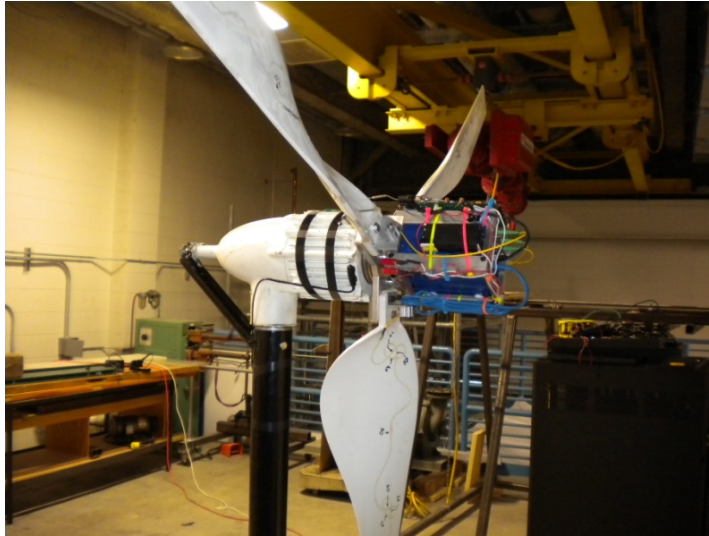
Blade Structural Characterization and System ID – SHM and Load Monitoring



- FBG strain sensor
- Operational Modal Analysis
- Modal properties reconstruction

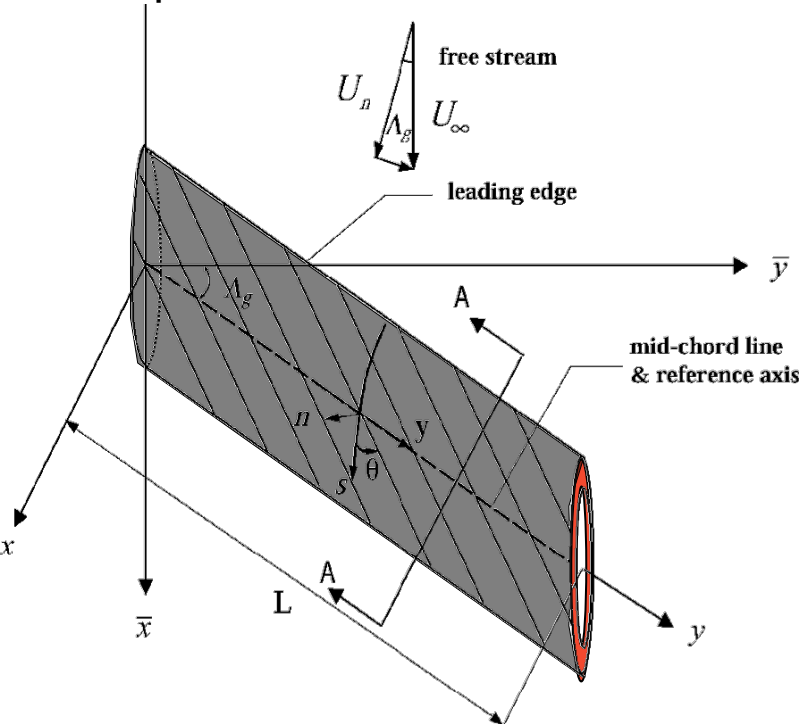


Blade Structural Characterization and System ID – SHM and Load Monitoring

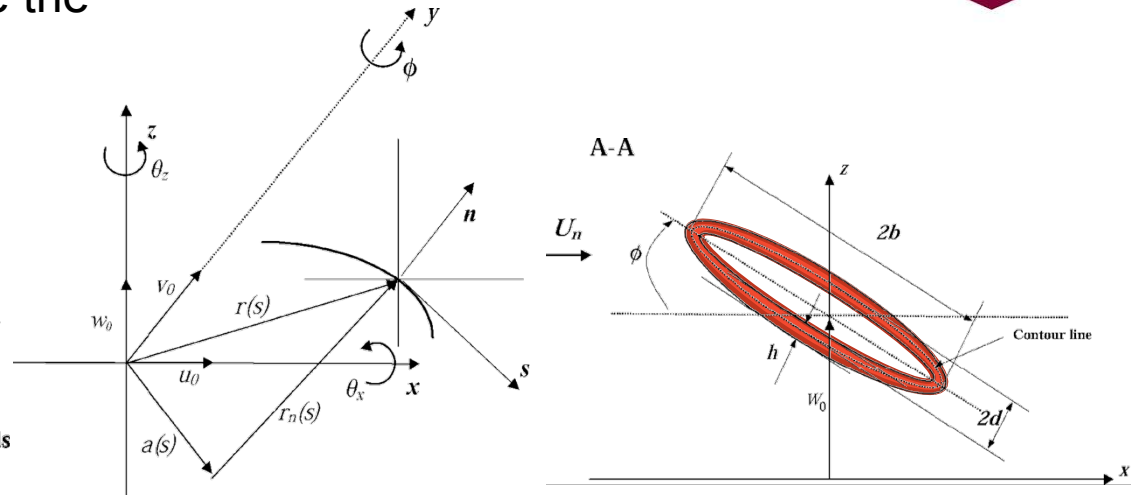


Aeroelasticity of Thin-Walled Composite Wing and Rotating FGM Blades

- **Aeroelastic Tailoring:** What are the important effects to consider?

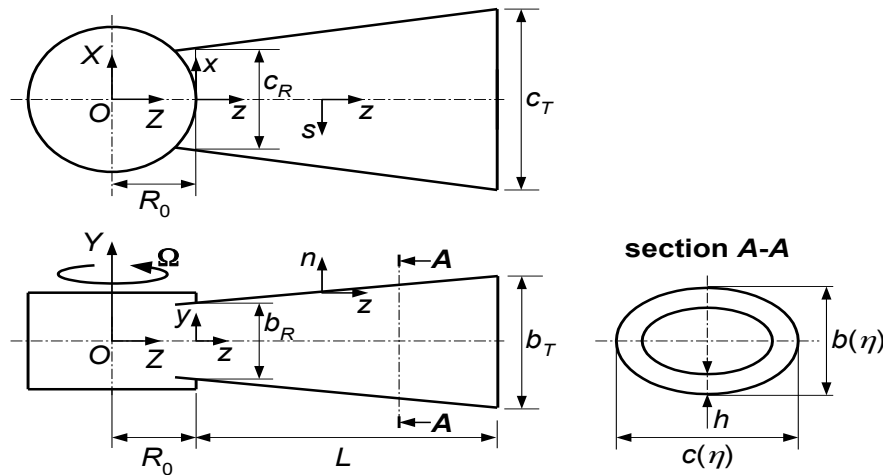


- Transverse shear, warping restraint, non-uniformity of shear stiffness, and three-dimensional strain effects

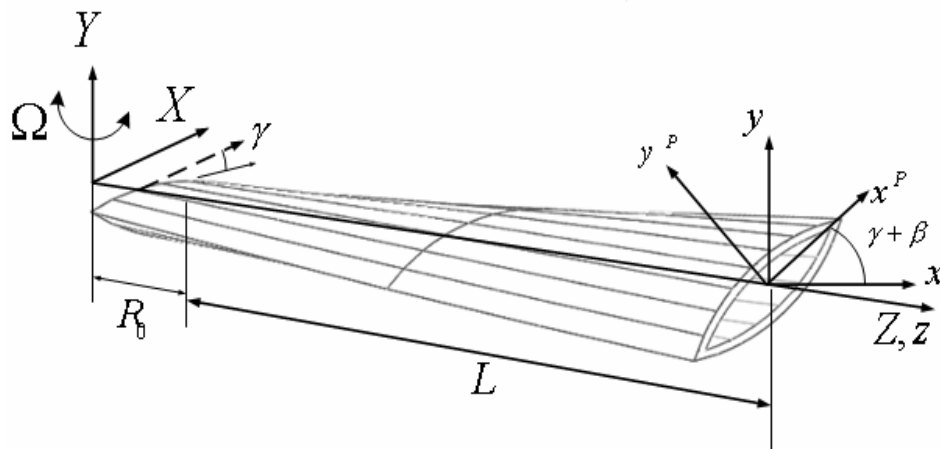


- Single/multi-cell closed cross-section, fiber-reinforced composite thin-walled beam
 - E-B: $E/G = 0$, transverse shear stiffness is infinite.
 - For anisotropic composite material $E/G = O(100)$.
 - The classical St. Venant twist model not applicable
 - Restrained twist model
 - The non-uniformity of shear stiffness has a significant influence on warping and twist

Aeroelasticity of Thin-Walled Composite Wing and Rotating FGM Blades



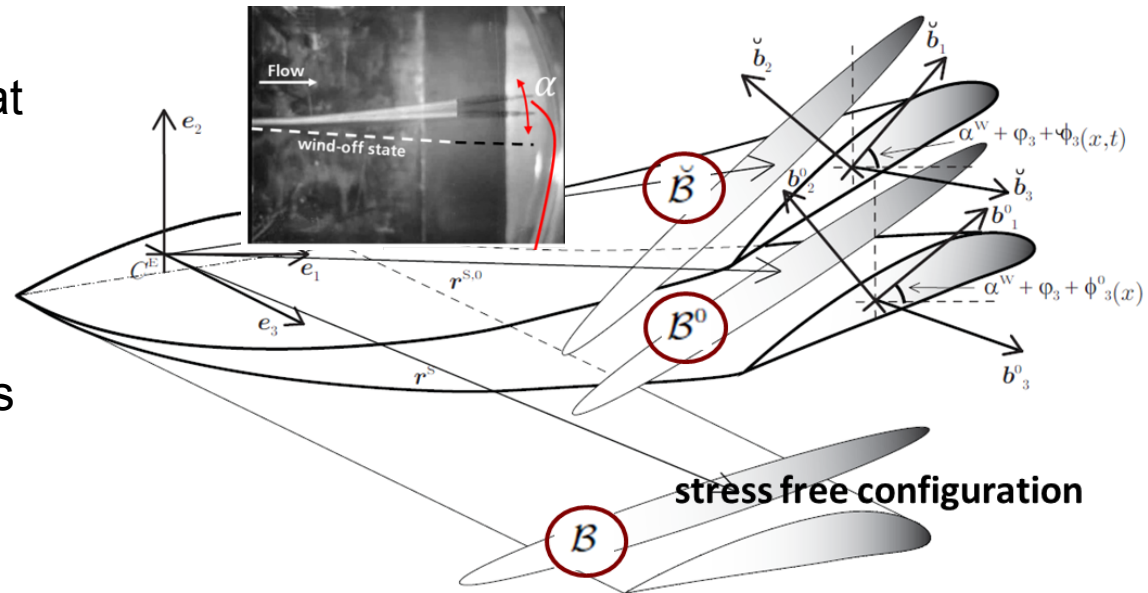
- Coriolis effect, and centrifugal acceleration
- Functionally Graded Material properties, constituent material of the structure features thermo-mechanical properties.
- In-plane strains are assumed to be negligibly small when compared with the axial strain.



Nonlinear Aeroelasticity with Fully Nonlinear Wing Models



- 1D Parametric Cosserat Continuum
- Geometrically exact semi-intrinsic theory
- EOM in Updated and Total Lagrangian Forms



finite 3D kinematics: finite displacements and rotations

Kinematic descriptors

Static

$$u^0(x) = u_1^0(x)e_1 + u_2^0(x)e_2 + u_3^0(x)e_3$$

$$\phi_i^0(x) \quad \forall i = 1, 2, 3$$

Dynamic (ULF)

$$u(x, t) = u_1(x, t)e_1 + u_2(x, t)e_2 + u_3(x, t)e_3$$

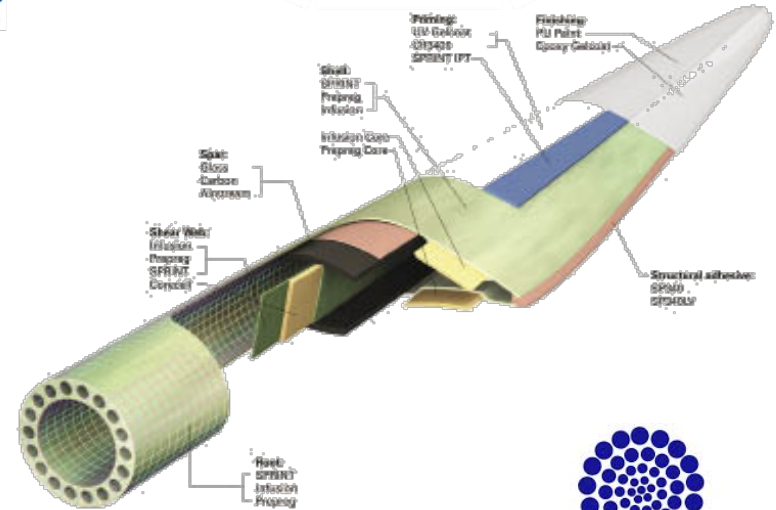
$$\phi_i(x, t) \quad \forall i = 1, 2, 3$$

- **Geometrical exact formulation:** Shear strains and the stretch configuration in their fully nonlinear form (warping effects neglected)

-
- The diagram illustrates the interconnectedness of Aerodynamics (A), Elastic (E), and Inertia (I) in the context of Blade Modeling. A central red node labeled 'D' (Damage) is connected to all three primary nodes. A large blue circular arrow surrounds the triangle, indicating a continuous or iterative process. Below the triangle is a 3D model of a blade, labeled 'Blade Modeling'.

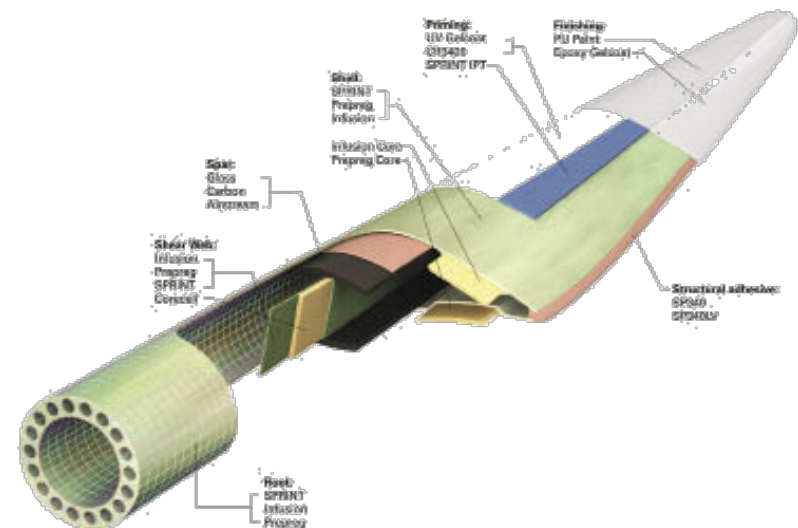
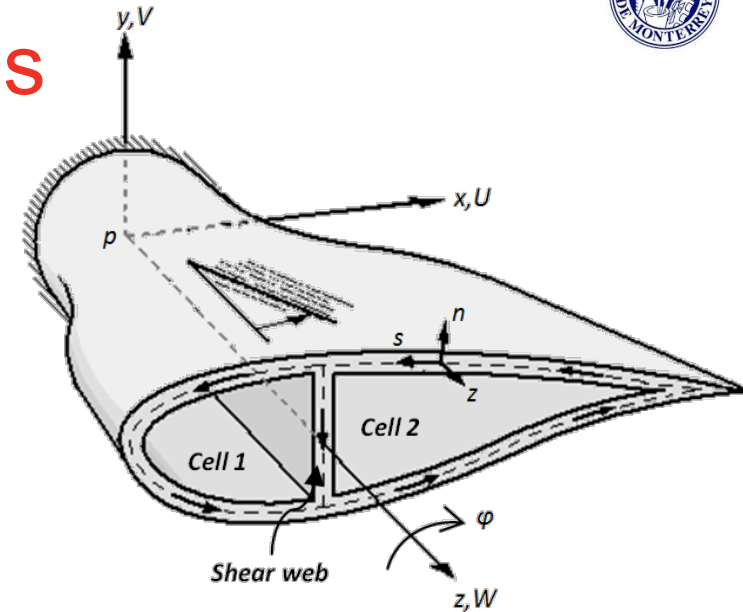


To extract
eigenvalues
and vectors



Composite Thin-Walled & Progressive Failure Analysis

- Progressive Failure Analysis (PFA) into a Thin-Walled Beam (TWB) FE model
- TWB, a 1D model used to reproduce the structural behavior of a more complex 3D shells or solid FEM elements
- TWB with shell capabilities, retains beam composite lamination information to recover stresses/strain and deformations
- Composite failure criteria can be applied
- TWB and GENOA[®] share same PFA algorithm



Composite Damage & Failure Models

□ Type of load

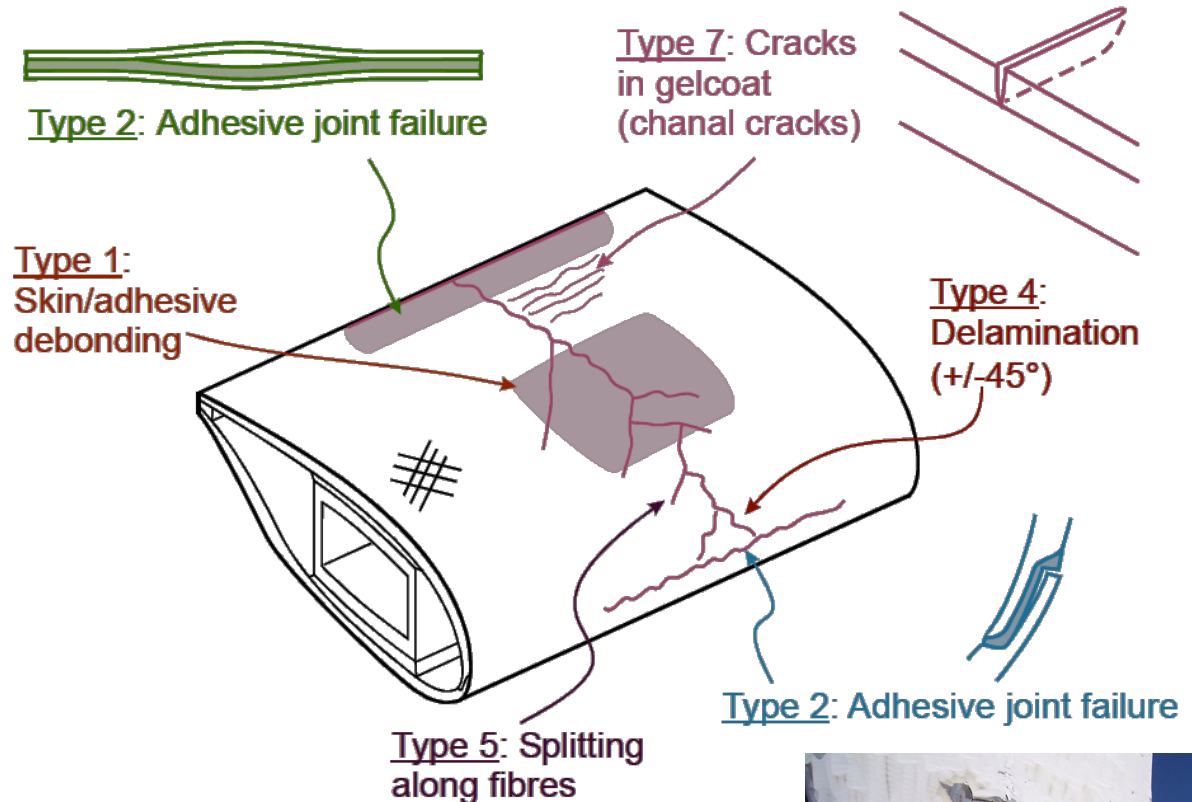
- Monotonic
- Cyclic

□ Damage and fracture behaviour models

- Parametric
- Phenomenological
- Micromechanical
- Probabilistic

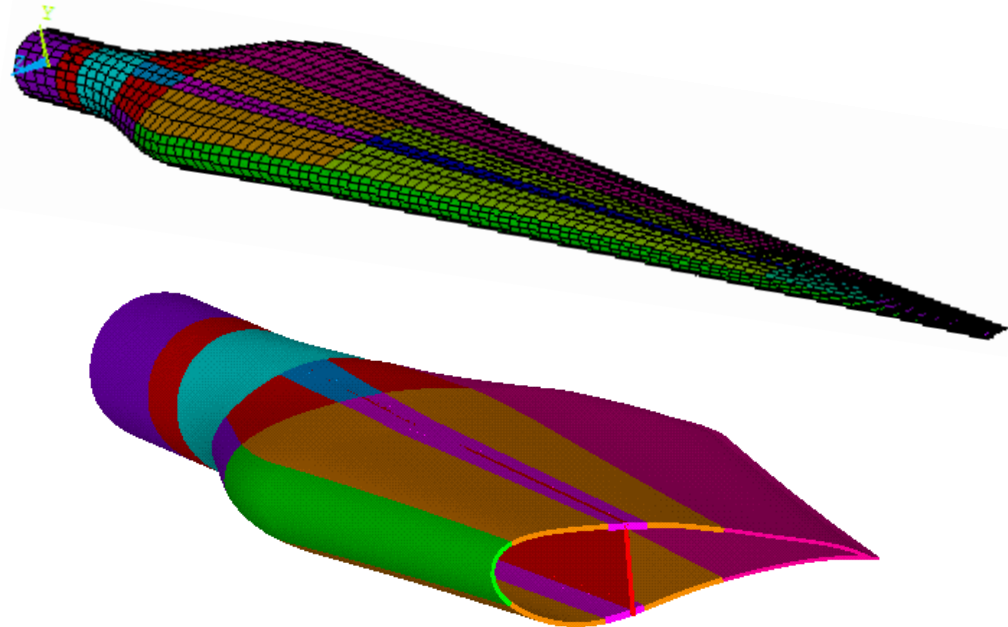
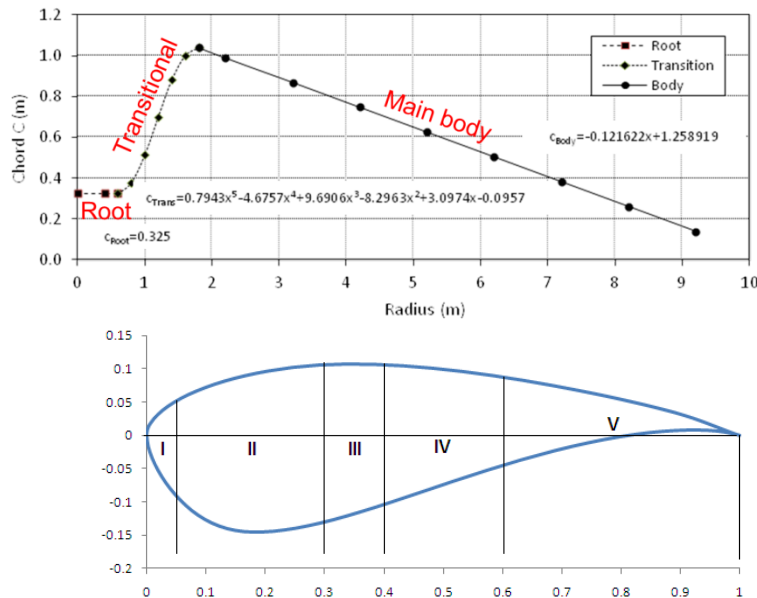
□ Modes of failure

- Fiber (tension, compression, shear)
- Matrix (transverse tension/compression, shear or combination)
- Lamina vs. constituents (matrix and fiber) properties



PFA Validation of TWB

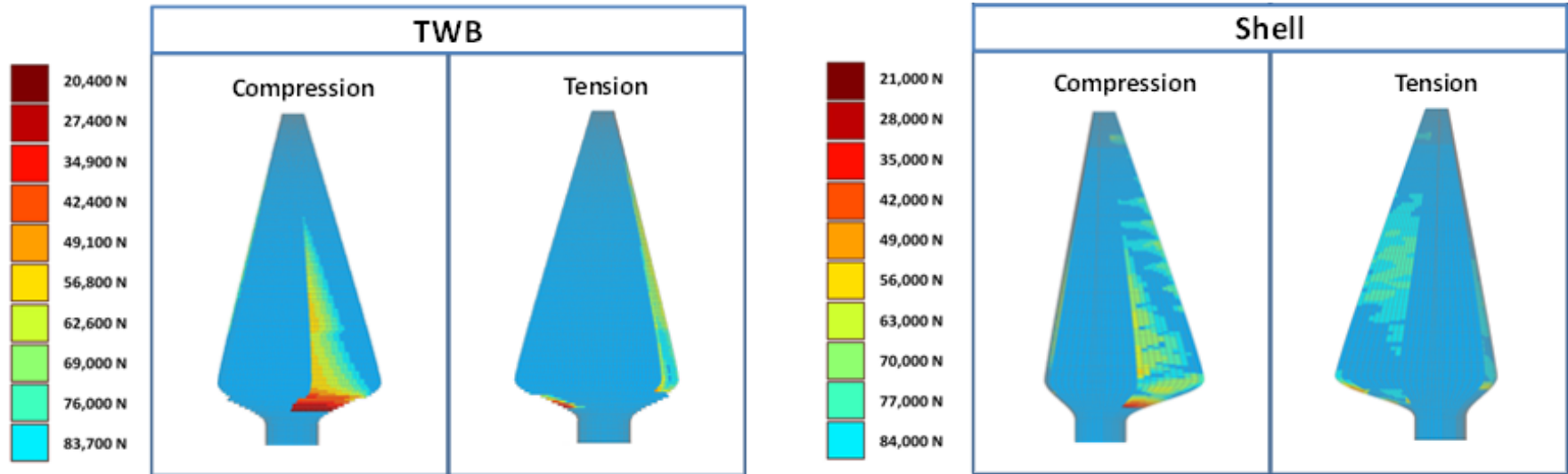
- Validation using detailed numerical model of a 9.2m wind turbine blade (NPS-100) from SANDIA (SNL) / TPI Composites
 - ANSYS® 3D-shell99 quadratic 8-nodes elements conformed by **55,356 DOF**
 - Timoshenko-TWB element in MATLAB® conformed by **217 DOF (~0.4%)**
- Same b.c. for both models (fixed at the root end) and loading (flapwise force @ each 0.6 m and starting at 0.8 m from the root)



Results and Discussion

PFA Static Simulations

Progressive Failure for layer 6 (Balsa).

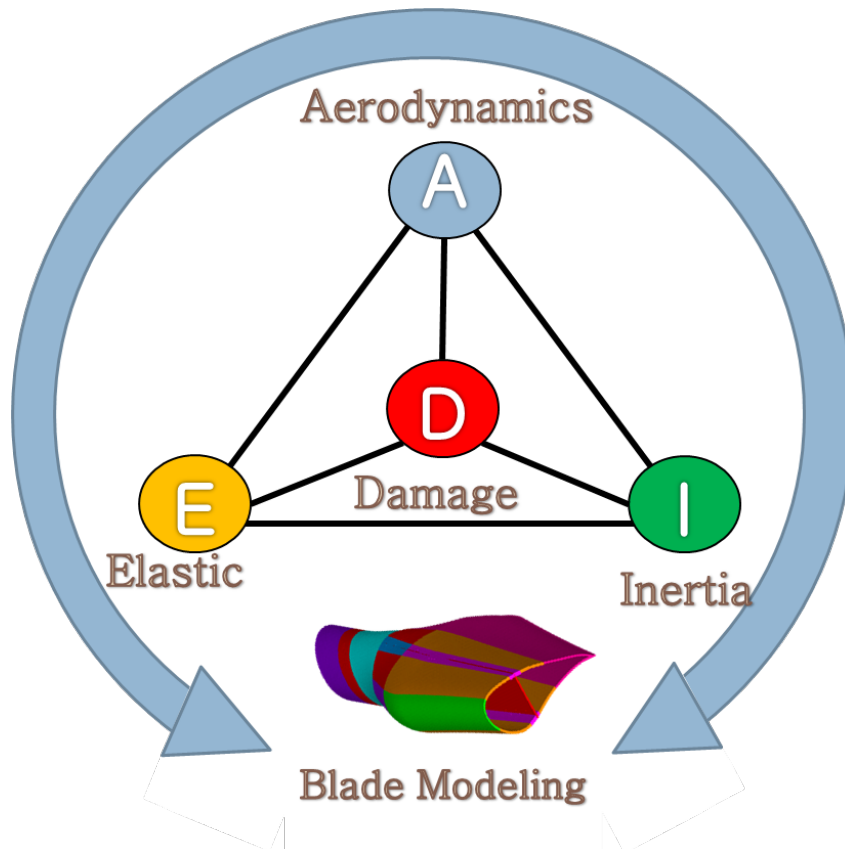


ANSYS: 3353 elements, 9926 nodes, **55,356 DOF**

TWB: 30 beam elements, 31 nodes, **217 DOFs**

~0.4% DOF

Flow Structure Interaction and PFA

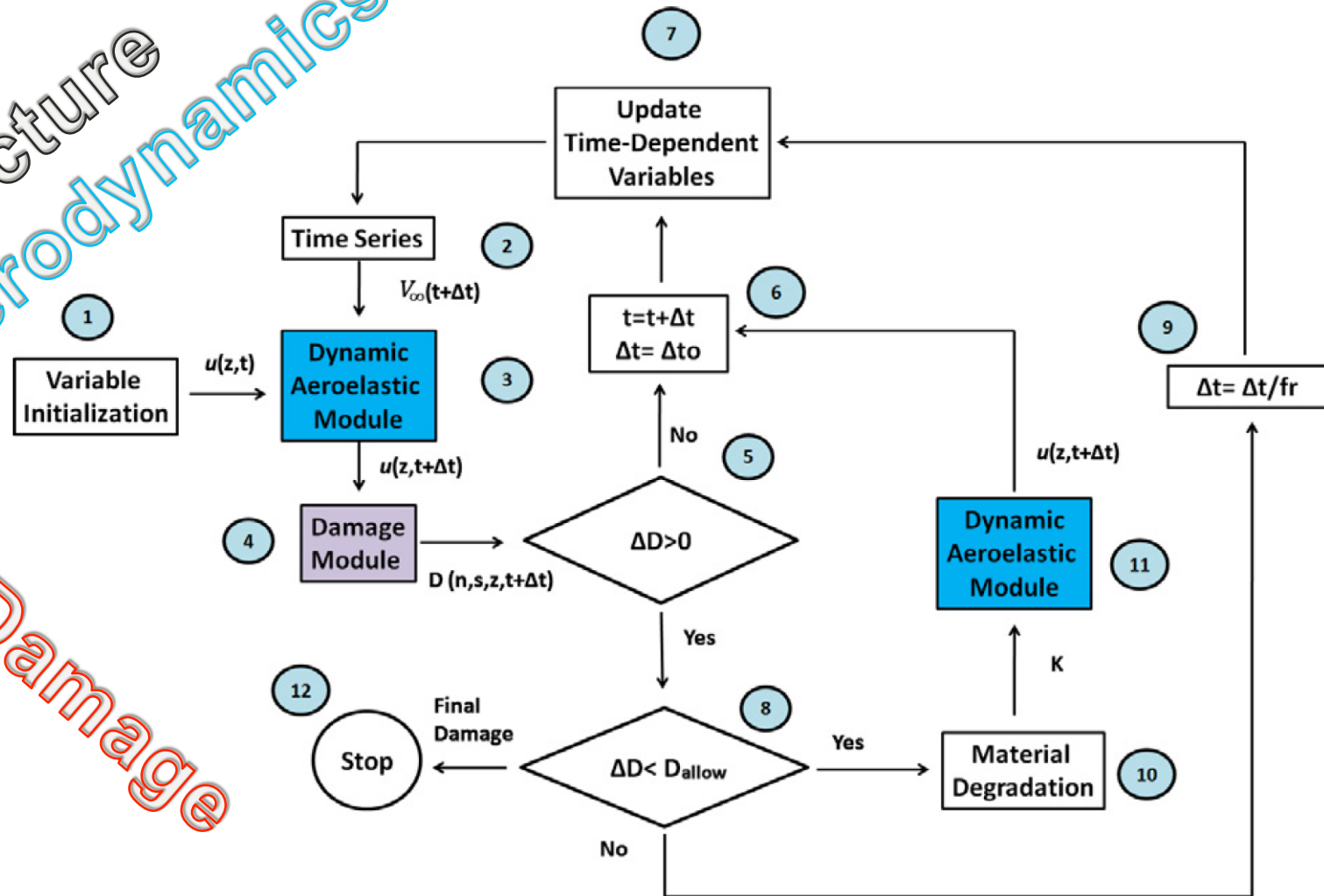


- Develop a PFA onto a computationally-attractive composite TWB FE model
- Gravitational, centrifugal, and aerodynamic loads included in dynamic aeroelastic simulation
- Aerodynamic loads based on Blade Element Momentum (BEM) theory

Aeroelastic Code with Damage Progression Capabilities

Structure
Aerodynamics

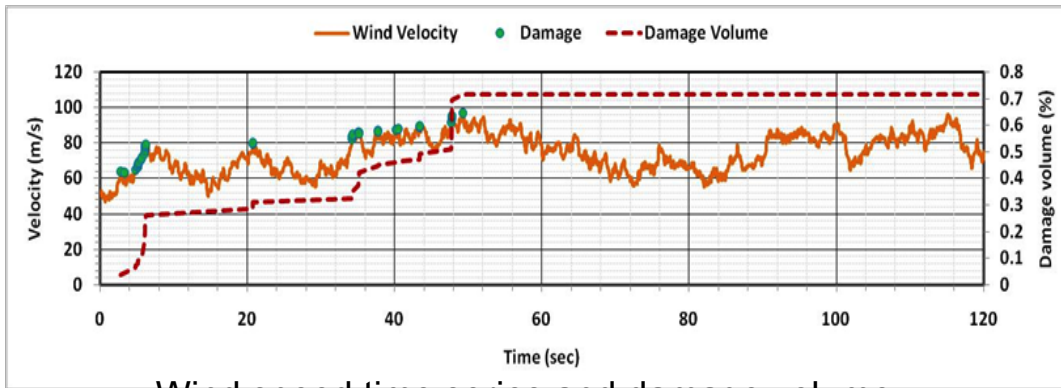
Damage



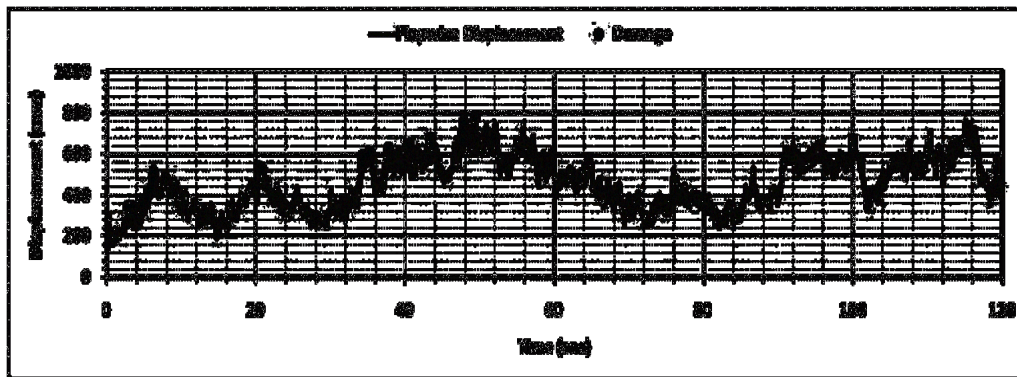
Results and Discussion



Case 1: Parked rotor facing class 5 hurricane

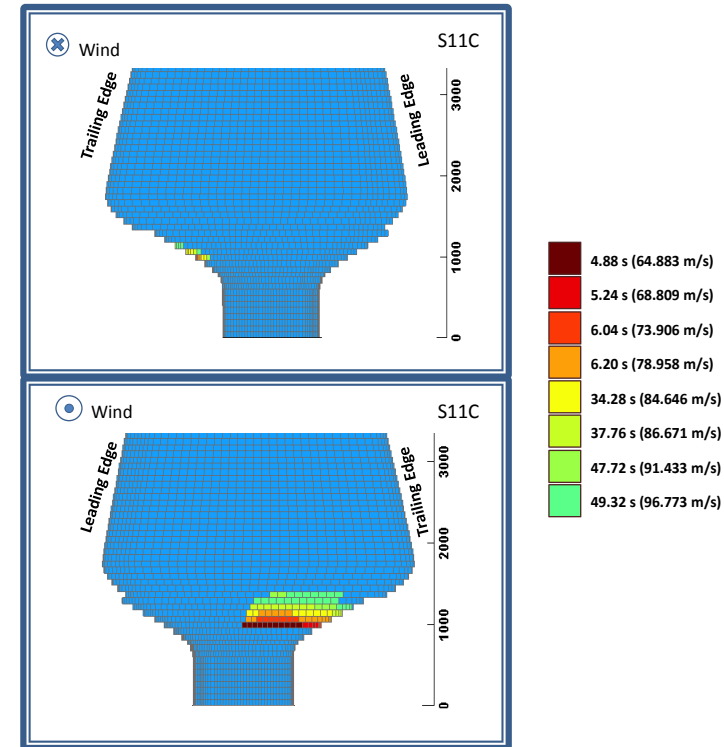


Wind speed time series and damage volume



Flapwise displacement

PFA Layer 6 (Balsa)

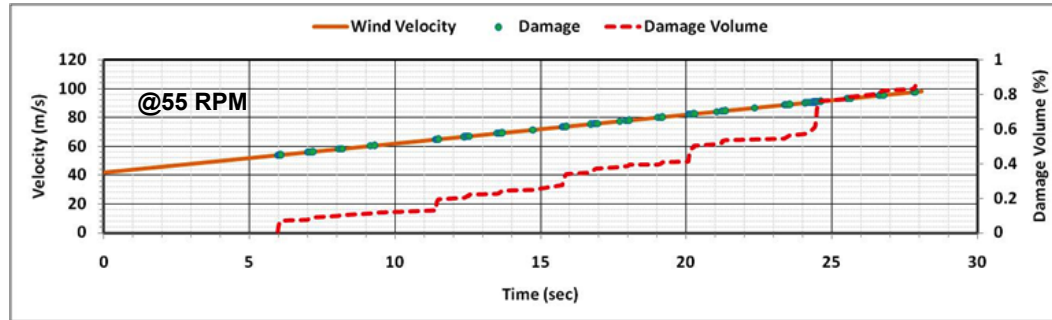


Progressive Failure Analysis of layer 6 (Balsa)

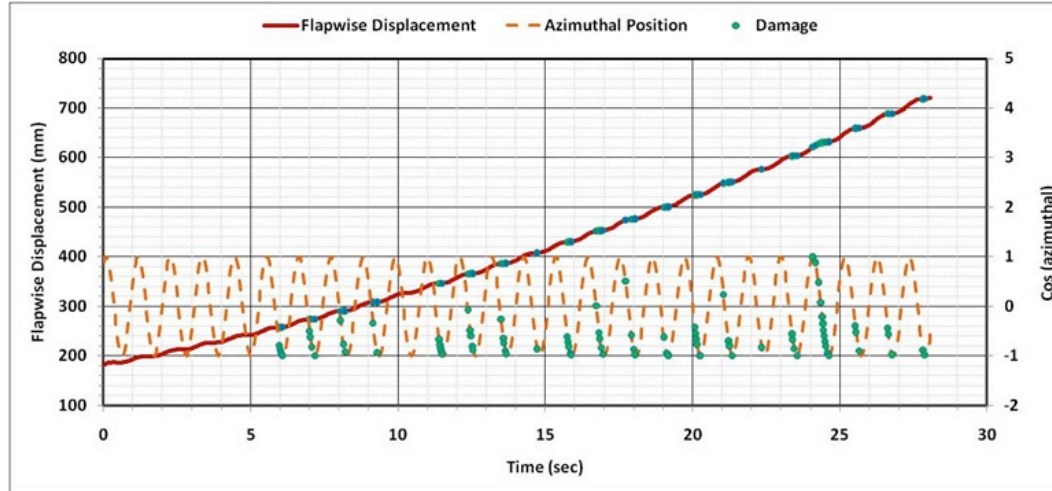
Results and Discussion



Case2: Wind speed ramp at constant rotor shaft frequency (55RPM)

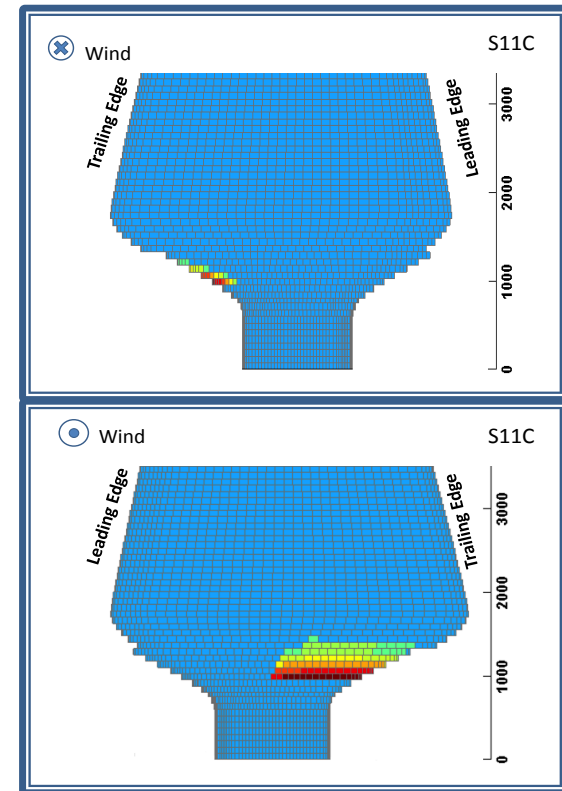


Wind speed time series and damage volume



Flapwise displacement and azimuth position of the blade

PFA Layer 6 (Balsa)

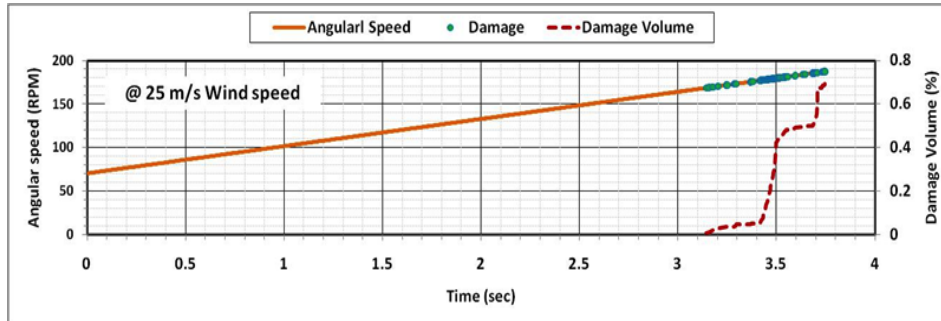


Progressive Failure Analysis of layer 6 (Balsa)

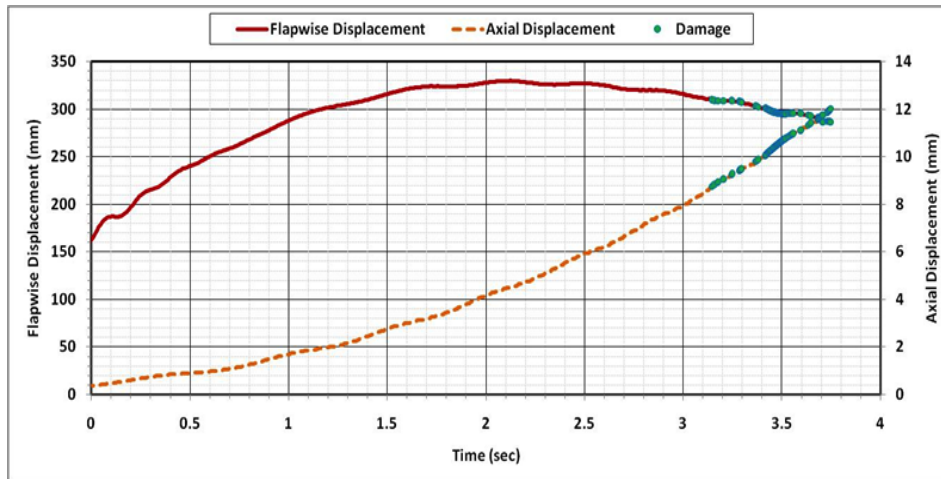
Results and Discussion



Case 3: Constant Wind Speed (25 m/s)

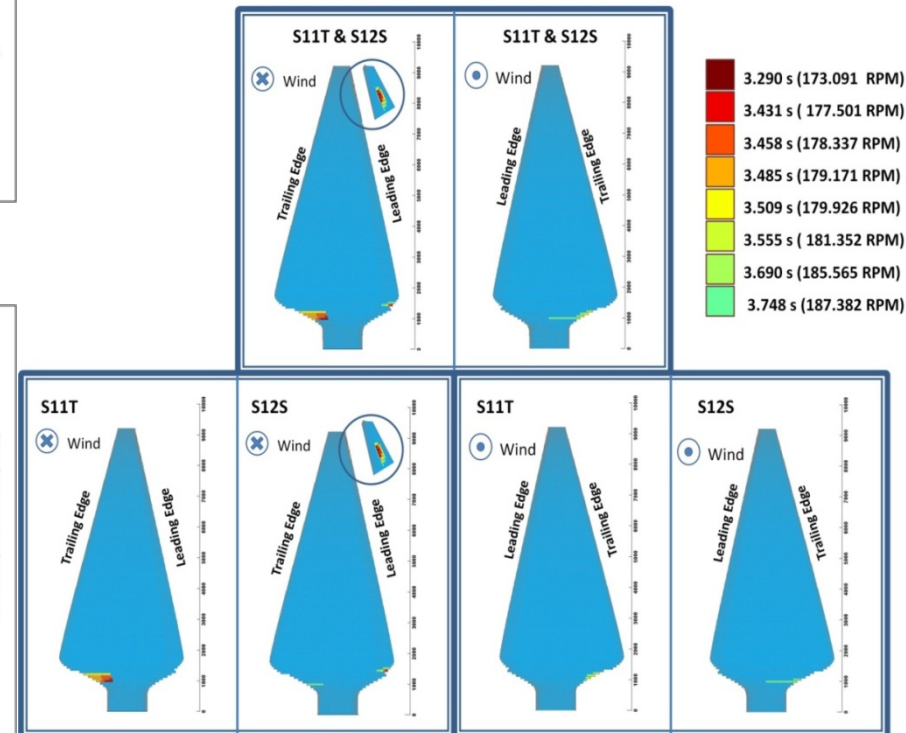


Wind speed time series and damage volume



Flapwise and Spanwise displacement of the blade

PFA Layer 6 (Balsa)

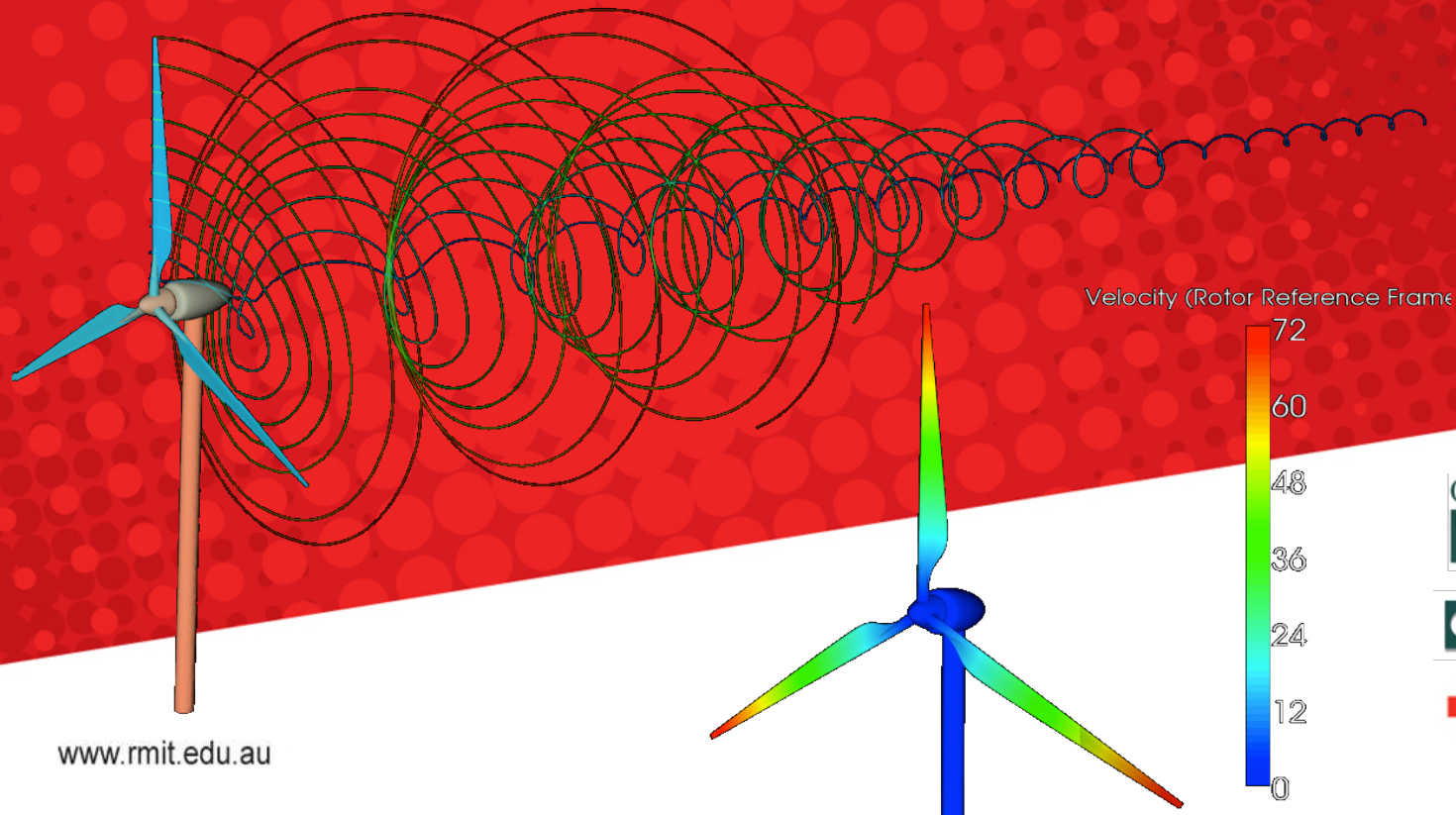


Progressive Failure Analysis of layer 6 (Balsa)

DWEA Composite Subgroup: Identify short term challenges

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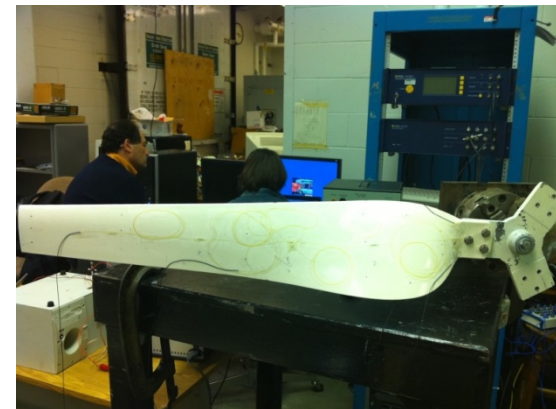
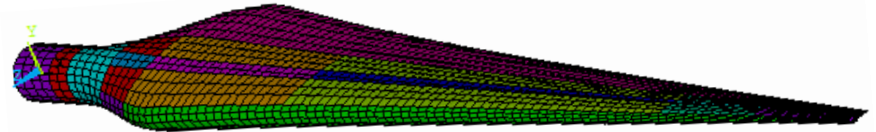
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DWEA Composite Subgroup:

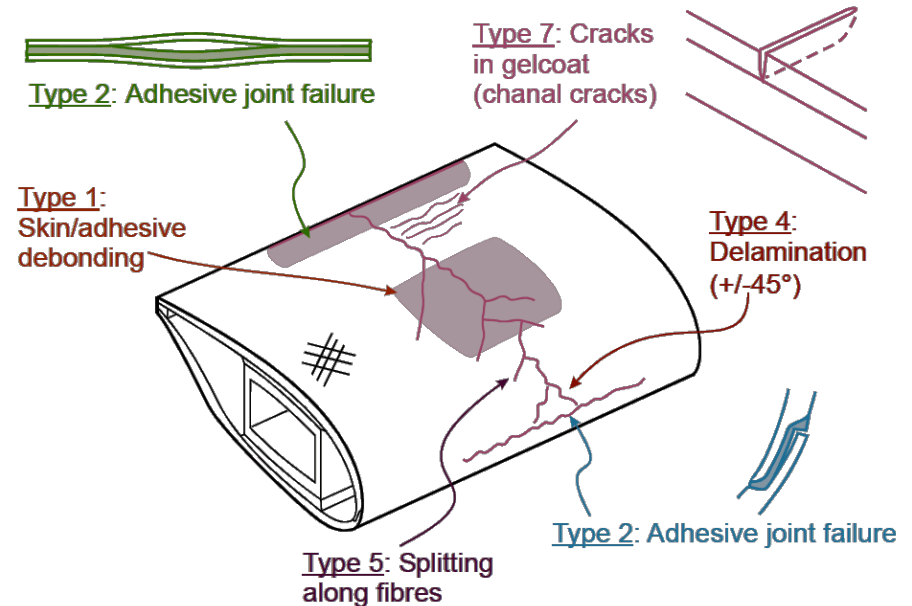
Identify short term challenges

- Materials. Currently used vs. new materials including NFRP. Recyclability
- Manufacturing processes. including autoclave vs. out-of-autoclave, microwave bonding and joining, Energy and environment
- Aero-structural design and testing. Emphasis on robust design, durability and damage tolerance and structural testing
- Aerodynamic design. Loading and environmental conditions. Uncertainties qualification
- Non-Destructive Inspection and Structural Health Monitoring. At all levels from production to operation



Identify short term challenges: current materials

- Methods and models describing production defects effects
- Methods to evaluate imperfections and damage progression on the strength and lifetime of a wind turbine blade
- Methods to improved fatigue life prediction
- Manufacturing process evaluation and control
- Methods to improve stiffness / tensile strength in the fiber direction as well as compressive strength



Identify short term challenges:

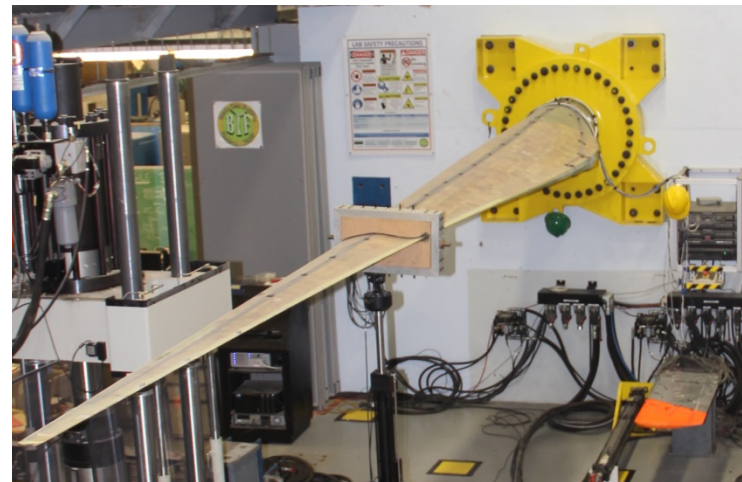
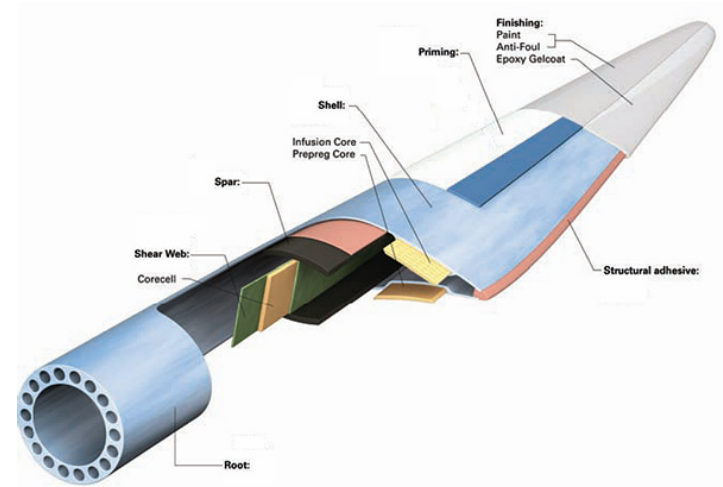
new materials

- New high-strength and high-stiffness reinforcement fibers, glass-carbon mixture
- Develop WT with increased combination of strength, stiffness, and toughness, and adhesion
- Needs for strong, stiff, and low weight. Increased tensile and shear strength in the out-of-plane direction including compressive strength
- New manufacturing processes for new materials
- Recyclability: thermosetting resins cannot be recycled. Thermoplastic resins have high toughness and a higher degree of recyclability, however require intensive high temperatures production processes
- Environment considerations: renewable materials (natural cellulose fibers) for reinforcement and bio-based resins, rather than polymer materials based on oil
- Natural fibre-reinforced polymer (NFRP) composites vs. GFRP and CFRP. Importance of fiber treatment and coating technologies to minimize hydrophobic matrix/hydrophilic fiber issues and contact with environmental agents.



Identify short term challenges: aero-structural design & testing

- Weight reductions with fiber composite blades, through improved structural design
- Optimized thinner / smaller root diameters, lighter, optimized blades to avoid instabilities and dynamic loading / fatigue failures
- Develop practical approaches for achieving damage tolerant design
- Exploit anisotropic nonsymmetrical laminates, composites used to their best (bending and twist coupling)
- Aerodynamic profile optimization
- Pitch control mechanism is generally slow to respond to gusts. Solution: “smart blades”?
- Building integrated wind turbine concepts potentials



Identify short term challenges:

NDI & SHM

- Early stage defect detection. visual inspection vs. advanced techniques. Cost-effectiveness and reliability
- Thick sandwich and laminated composites present challenges for NDI
- Uncertainties in the prediction of degradation due to fatigue and undetected production defects
- Monitor degradation of a blade while in service (lightning strikes, ice, and hailstorms)
- SHM systems, including acoustic emission, optical fibers, and advanced sensor technology, used to predict remaining lifetime (aid of damage models)
- Condition-based vs. scheduled-based maintenance

