


Article

Structural design of the wing for URCUNINA (UAV)

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Abstract: The structural design of the wing for URCUNINA (UAV) was carried out. The preliminary design was conducted using aerodynamic restrictions to pass into a detailed design by a structural analysis. For this purpose CFD simulations were accomplished to obtain the loads over the wing, the usage of a process to transform the CFD output into information that could feed the FEA model was accomplished. This process includes data collection, Matlab extrapolations, polynomial fits and construction of the V-n diagram to obtain proper data that work as input for the FEA. The analysis was done in the software ABAQUS CAE. The comparison of 3 different configurations of layout give the tools to decide the configuration used as a proposal after being evaluated using displacements and failure theories.

Keywords: Structural-Design, Wing, Composite, Abaqus, Layup, FEA, Tsai-Wu

1. Introduction

The American continent is characterized by a pronounced mountainous geography, where a high number of active volcanoes represent a considerable risk for the communities near to them [1]. The supervision of these volcanoes is carried out by means of seismographs and other instruments that measure the seismic activity recorded by the tectonic plates, magma movement and increases in electromagnetic measurements that are what trigger an eruption [2]. These measurements or data obtained by the experts serve to make a reading of the state of the volcano and to prevent future catastrophes, alerting the surrounding populations. The most common supervision involves performing continuous flights over the volcanic domes, putting the safety of the crew at risk [3]. However, with technological advances, the risk of face-to-face inspections on volcanoes has been reduced by making use of satellite images and UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) that can supply images in real time and sensor data without exposing crew [4]. The School of Engineering of São Carlos at the University of São Paulo in Brazil, in its department of Aeronautical Engineering, has developed the project called URCUNINA-UAV, which has the purpose of aerial surveillance. The preliminary design of the aircraft was already done and the main results are presented in Bravo-Mosquera [1]. Currently, the URCUNINA-UAV is in its structural design phase. Therefore, in this work is presented the structural design of the UAV's wings in order to guarantee the manufacture and operation of the UAV in this sort of specific mission.

1.1. Materials

The aluminum has been used throughout the aeronautical history, mainly thanks to its high relation of strength, cost and weight which in the aeronautical area is a decisive factor due to the restrictions of take-off and maneuverability. Currently, that perception has changed. New metal alloys have been introduced, in addition to

35 composite materials such as carbon-fiber, glass fiber and aramid, which enhance aircraft performance
36 and reduce maintenance costs. [5],[6],[7],[8]

37

38 Composites materials have two or more organic or inorganic materials as explain in [9], their
39 structure is based in two parts: The matrix in the composite structures works as the main medium
40 that receive the reinforcement to increase strength. The matrix can be of two natures, organic like
41 the Epoxy, Vinyl, SPM and inorganic like cement, concrete, metal and ceramics, The fibers are the
42 most important structure in the composite on account due to they give the strength by reinforcing the
43 matrix in the direction of lamination increasing the stress resistance. In addition, fibers can be oriented
44 in several directions, granting different properties.

45 Some examples of fibers are: glass, carbon, cellulose, aramid, silicon carbide [10].

46

47 1.1.1. Carbon Fiber

48 The main composite used in the aeronautical industry is the CFC (Carbon Fiber Composite) due
49 to the properties like weight and strength ratio which increase the performance of aircraft, as well
50 the cost. Another advantages include part reduction, complex shape manufacture, reduced scrap,
51 improved fatigue life, design optimization, and generally improved corrosion resistance. [11]

52 The manufacture of CFC aircraft components is generally done in three steps: first a mold of the
53 component is layered with composite material according to the design specifications. Once the
54 component is laid-up on the mold it is enclosed in a flexible bag tailored approximately to the desired
55 shape. The assembly is enclosed usually in an autoclave, a pressure vessel designed to contain a gas at
56 high pressures generally up to 1.5MPa raising the internal temperature to cure the resin [5].

57

58 Properties of a carbon fiber composite in different strengths and directions can be found in Table
59 (1).[9]

60

	M6/SC1081	AS4/3501-6
Vf	0,65	0,63
ρ [g/cm ³]	1,6	1,58
E ₁ [MPa]	177×10 ³	142×10 ³
E ₂ [MPa]	10,8×10 ³	10,3×10 ³
G ₁₂ [MPa]	7,6×10 ³	702×10 ³
v ₁₂	0,27	0,27
v ₂₁	0,02	0,02
F _{1t} [MPa]	2860	2280
F _{2t} [MPa]	49	57
F ₆ [MPa]	83	71
F _{1c} [MPa]	1875	1440
F _{2c} [MPa]	246	228
ϵ_{1t}	0,016	0,015
ϵ_{2t}	0,005	0,006

Table 1. Properties of CFC taken from [Isaac M. Daniel and Ori Ishai, Engineering Mechanics of Composite Materials, Oxford University Press, New York, Second Edition, 2006.]

61 The challenge of using composite materials is the cost of producing it, the philosophy of design,
62 reparability, inspection, dimensional tolerance and try to break the conservatism in the process as
63 proposed in [5].

64

1.2. Theories of failure

A big variety of theories of failure exist and depend of the properties of the material, the theories are used to determine the safety of the structure that is submitted to stress [12].

When talk about theories of failure the most famous for isotropic materials are :

- Von-mises: The von Mises yield criterion suggests that the yielding of materials begins when the second deviatoric stress invariant J_2 reaches a critical value. It is part of a plasticity theory that applies best to ductile materials, such as some metals. Prior to yield, material response can be assumed to be anything i.e. nonlinear elastic, viscoelastic or simply linear elastic.

- Tresca: The Tresca yield criterion is taken to be the work of Henri Tresca. It is also known as the maximum shear stress theory (MSST). In terms of the principal stresses, this theory applies best to brittle materials and exclusive for isotropic materials.

In the non isotropic materials analysis exist theories like Tsai-Wu, Maximum-Stress, Max-Strain and Tsai-Hill wich are called the iterative category.

1.2.1. Tsai-Wu

The Tsai-Wu criteria is one of the most relevant in the iterative category. It pretends to generalize the failure criteria of Tsai Hill.

This criterion is based on the theory of plasticizing of an-isotropic materials of Hill that in the same way is based on the Von-mises criteria for isotropic materials [12],[9]. In a graphical way, the Tsai-Wu criteria is an ellipse with the principal stresses in the axis following the expression and showed in the figure (1) :

$$F_i\sigma_i + F_{ij}\sigma_i\sigma_j = 1 \quad (1)$$

In the simplified way, with the assumptions of 2D and only plain stresses

$$F_1\sigma_1 + F_2\sigma_2 + F_6\sigma_6 + F_{11}\sigma_1^2 + F_{22}\sigma_2^2 + F_{66}\sigma_6^2 + 2 * F_{12}\sigma_1\sigma_2 = 1 \quad (2)$$

The coefficients of the equation (2) are calculated with the following expressions that are properties of the material.

$$F_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma_{1t}} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{1c}} ; F_2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_{2t}} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{2c}} ; F_3 = \frac{1}{\sigma_{3t}} - \frac{1}{\sigma_{3c}} ; F_4 = F_5 = F_6 = 0$$

$$F_{11} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{1c}\sigma_{1t}} ; F_{22} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{2c}\sigma_{2t}} ; F_{33} = \frac{1}{\sigma_{3c}\sigma_{3t}} ; F_{44} = \frac{1}{\tau_{23}^2} ; F_{55} = \frac{1}{\tau_{31}^2} ; F_{66} = \frac{1}{\tau_{12}^2}$$

2. Urcunina (UAV)

The project Urcunina (UAV) is an initiative of the EESC (Escola de engenharia de São Carlos) the objective is to design a UAV to make supervision and monitoring of volcano's.

The Aerodynamic design is already developed which give to the next stage (structural) restrictions and data for the design. The geometry, restrictions and characteristics are going to be presented.

In the figure (2) are defined the design requirements of the UAV, based in those requirements the

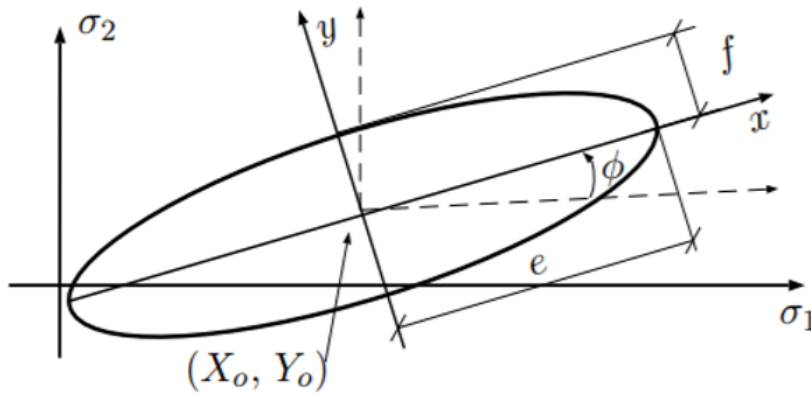


Figure 1. Tsai- Wu criteria

93 aerodynamic group design the geometry, airfoils, configurations, propulsion as obtained in [1].

Flight	Payload	Aerodynamic	Structural
Take-off altitude = 2527 m	Mass spectrometer	High Lift	Wood and carbon fibre
Operational altitude ≈ 4300 m	Avionics	Low Drag	Monitoring temp. ≈ -8 °C
Service ceiling ≥ 4500 m	Batteries	Low Re	Combustion Engine + Ash filter
Range ≥ 20000 m	Optical sensors	High wing	
Endurance ≥ 4 h	IR sensors	V-inverted tail	
Payload = 4 kg	Parachute	Pusher configuration	
Monitoring velocity ≈ 20 m/s			
Cruise velocity ≈ 28 m/s			

Figure 2. General characteristics of Urcunina

94

95 2.1. Geometry

96 The geometry of the UAV is given from the aerodynamical design [1], these design accomplish
 97 with the aerodynamic objectives and some of the structural ones.

98

99 The UAV have a standard fuselage in which the main purpose of it it's to carry out the payload that
 100 are the instruments to make the inspection of the volcano. The wings have a standard configuration of
 101 trapezoidal wings in a high mount position with an airfoil Eppler 423 high lift.

102 In the figure(3) are shown the features determined by the aerodynamic group also in figure (4,5,7,(8)
 103 are showed a frontal, plant, lateral and a isometric view of URCUNINA. [1].

Wing features.

Wing Parameters	Value
Wingspan (b)	2.9 [m]
Root chord length (C_r)	0.348 [m]
Tip chord length (C_t)	0.174 [m]
Mean aerodynamic chord	0.27 [m]
Wing Area (S)	0.75 [m ²]
Angle of sweep $\Lambda_{c/4}$	0°
Airfoil thickness t/c	0.125
Aspect Ratio (AR)	11
Washout angle	1°
Operational Lift Coefficient	0.906
Maximum Lift Coefficient	2
Oswald efficiency (e)	0.98
Aerodynamic Efficiency	23.3
Airfoil	EPPLER 423

Figure 3. Urcunina wing features

104

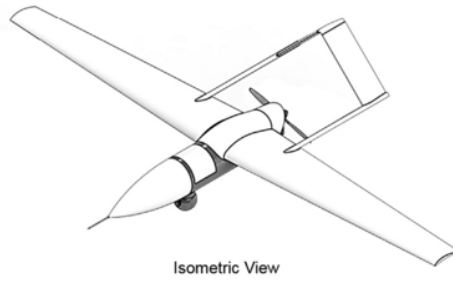


Figure 4. Urcunina isometric view

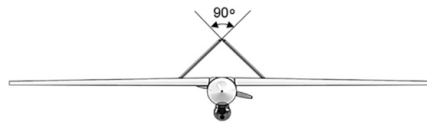


Figure 5. Frontal view Urcunina

105 In the empennage the Inverted-V configuration was adopted, and joined to the fuselage by
 106 Tail-booms and have a NACA 0012 airfoil [1]. In the next table are presented the features determined
 107 by the aerodynamic group.

Empennage features.

Empennage Parameters	Value
Empennage span (b_e)	0.6 [m]
Chord length (c)	0.160 [m]
Empennage area (S_e)	0.1042 [m ²]
Empennage volume (V_e)	0.052 [m ³]
Airfoil thickness t/c	0.12
Aspect Ratio (AR)	3.75
Angle of incidence	0°
Airfoil	NACA 0012

Figure 6. Empennage features

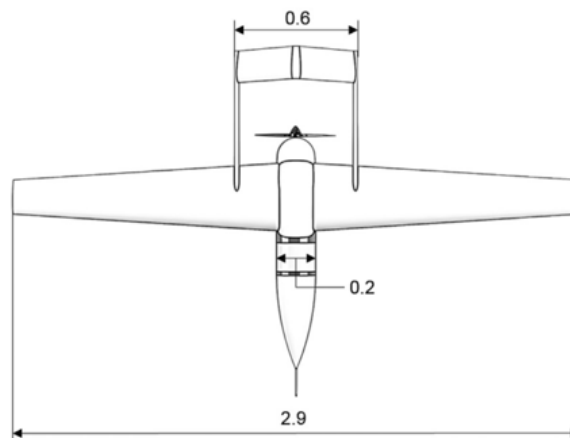


Figure 7. Plant view

108
 109 For the propulsion it was selected an internal combustion engine due to the endurance,
 110 capabilities and cost compared to an electrical one [1]. The 3w-28iCS engine was adopted and

111 equipped with an ash filter, the characteristics of the engine are:

112 - 28.5 cm^3 of Vf with an only stroke

114 [1]

115 - Static thrust of 16 kg

116 -Rotational field 1500-8500 RPM

118 - Nominal Power: 2.65 kW (3.6 Hp)

120 - Weight of 1.2 Kg

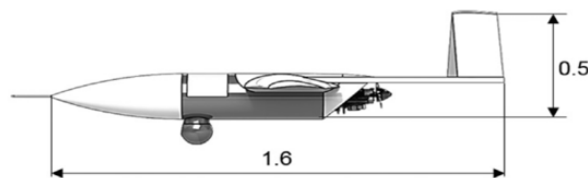


Figure 8. Lateral View

123 3. Structural analysis

124 In this stage of the document will be talked about the structural analysis of the UAV and all the
125 tools involved in the development of the model and the results. First of all is important to mention
126 that all the analysis and model will be done by the Finite Element Method.

128 3.1. Finite Element Method (FEM)

129 The finite element method is one way to simplify complex systems in order to obtain approximate
130 solutions when it's too difficult to obtain an analytical solution.

131
132 The description of the laws of physics for space- and time-dependent problems are usually
133 expressed in terms of partial differential equations (PDEs). For the vast majority of geometries
134 and problems, these PDEs cannot be solved with analytical methods. Instead, an approximation
135 of the equations can be constructed, typically based upon different types of discretization's. These
136 discretization methods approximate the PDEs with numerical model equations, which can be
137 solved using numerical methods. The solution to the numerical model equations are, in turn, an
138 approximation of the real solution to the PDEs. The finite element method (FEM) is used to compute
139 such approximations [13].

140
141 As the names says the idea is to make division into elements that are more simply to analyze, the
142 models can be complex or simple, can be in 2d or 3d it will only change the complexity, time, resources
143 and modeling [14].

144
145 In the FEM you can variate the quality of the results by making more discretization of the
146 elements that results in more elements, more time, more resources but can give a better result, these
147 type of improve in the model usually is given in zones which the gradients of stresses can be crucial in
148 the design as its described in [8].

150 The elements are classified in various types and it could be read a better description in [5]

151
152 In the FEA analysis of layup composites is used the planar elements of shell type due to the
153 capability of represent the stresses and deformation characteristics of the material, for the URCUNINA
154 analysis is used this type of element.

155
156 Shell or Plate Elements: Shell elements are used to model thin 3D structures usually acted upon by
157 bending type loads. This element uses a different stiffness formulation than a standard solid element
158 allowing higher accuracy.

159 [13]

160 3.2. Abaqus

161 Abaqus FEA (formerly ABAQUS) is a software suite for finite element analysis and
162 computer-aided engineering, originally released in 1978. The Abaqus suite is used to develop the FEA
163 analysis of the URCUNINA wing structure .

164
165 It's really important to say that in Abaqus the software does not works with a system of units, the
166 user can't define a unified system, is important to introduce the units accurate to obtain appropriate
167 results. For example, to work in SI is required to insert length in [mm], loads in [N], young module in
168 [MPa], area in [mm^2] [5].

169
170 The unit consistency it's really important.

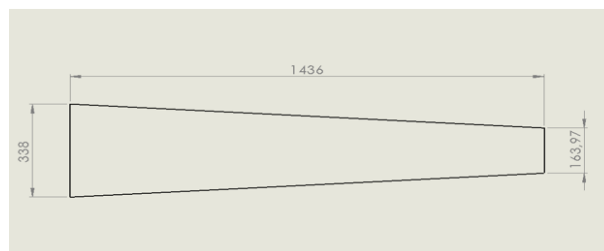
171 Every complete finite-element analysis consists of 3 separate stages:

- 172
- 173 - Pre Processing
- 174 - Analysis
- 175 - Post Processing

176 4. Structural modeling of Urcunina wing in Abaqus

177 4.1. Geometry

178 From previous works [1], the geometry of the wing was obtained. The geometry of the Urcunina
wing is presented in the figures (9,10,11).



179
Figure 9. Plant view of the wing

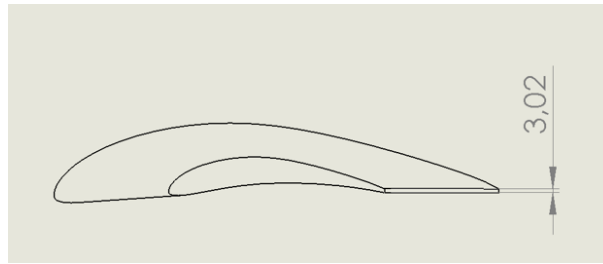


Figure 10. Lateral View of the wing

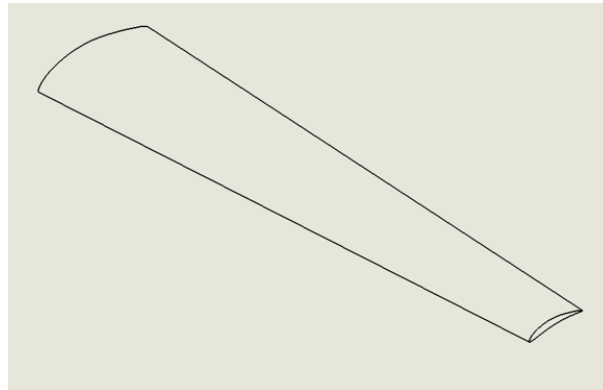


Figure 11. Isometric view of the wing

180 Due to the fact that the material of the design is a composite laminated the wing is modeled as a
181 shell finite element.

182

183 The spar was allocated at the maximum thickness airfoil in order to grant a largest height spar.
184 The maximum thickness of the airfoil is located at the 23.7 % of the chord and the maximum curvature
185 is located at the 41.4 % [1].

186

187 Also the other principal substructure of the wing are the ribs which distribution aims to allocate
188 the control surfaces. There are two groups of ribs as presented in figure (12). The inner group are
189 responsible of the aerodynamical shape and a proposal for the fuselage-wing joint in the root rib; the
190 outer group, besides the aerodynamic characteristics are the base for the aileron location.

191

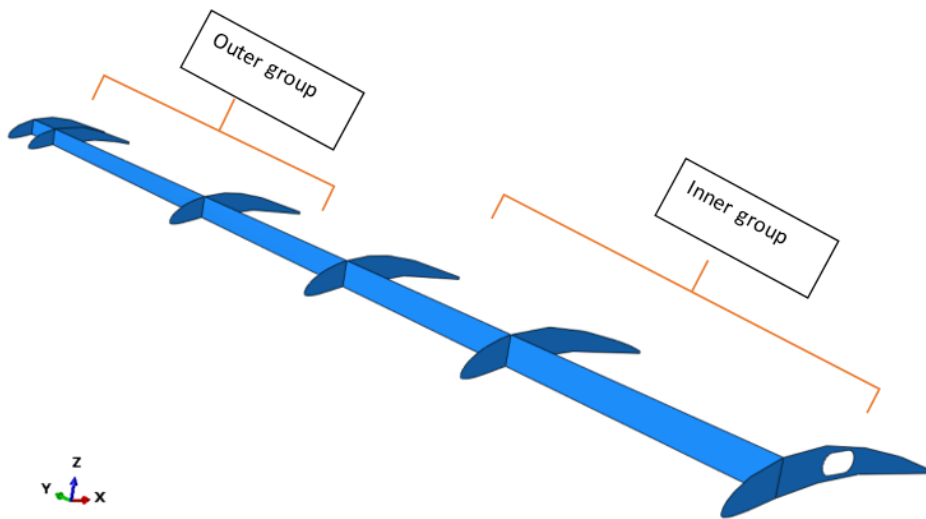


Figure 12. Principal spar and ribs distribution

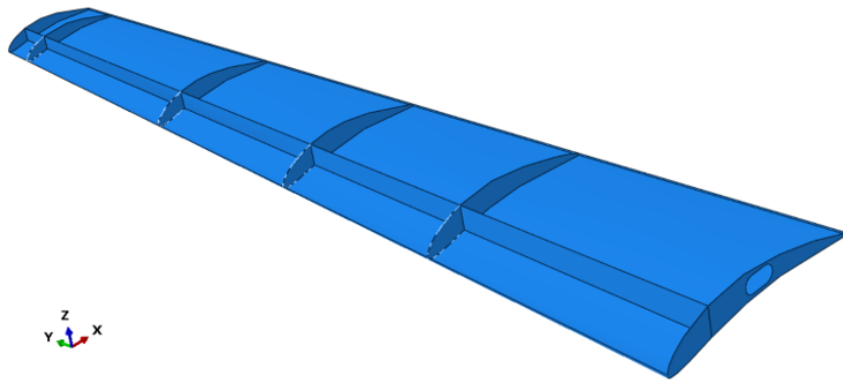


Figure 13. Top skinless Isometric view of the model in Abaqus

192 As showed in the figure (13) the model has been divided into two surfaces the Upper surface and
193 the Lower surface in order simplify the laminating process. Finally, after the aerodynamic analysis and
194 specification of the control surfaces localization the geometry used to the structure analysis is showed
195 in the figure (14).

196

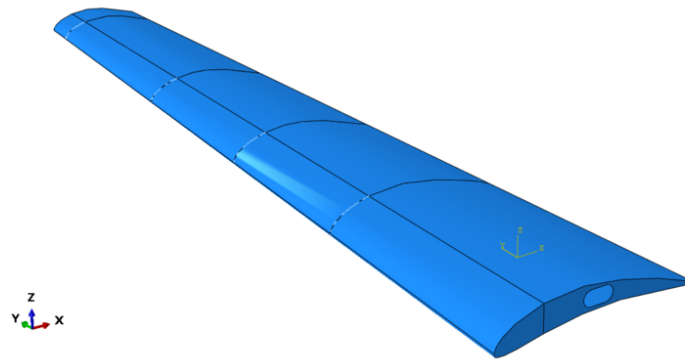


Figure 14. Urcunina geometry model

197 **4.2. Material**

198 As mentioned before the material of design of the UAV is the CFC (Carbon Fiber Composite)
199 M6/SC1081, more specific is a Carbon-epoxy material with properties in Table (1).

200

201 The material have been chose due to the research in the Daniel Ishai bibliography of composites [9].

202

203 The material is defined in the software as lamina with elastic properties. The orientation of the
204 ply will help the structure to handle the specific stresses that the different zones of the wing have to
205 endure, not all the structures and substructures have the same porpoise, most of them are designed to
206 work under specific loads situations granting the better results.

207

As part of the analysis it will be 3 different configurations in different layups in order to grant the
208 lightest and resistant structure as the design parameters allow it.

209

The first configuration is a classical layup that contain 4 layers which orientation are result of the
210 research in papers, books and consults, the orientations and details are include in the table (2).

211

Region	Material	Thickness [mm]	Rotation angle
A (upper- lower surface)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/45/-45/0]
B (Spar)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/45/-45/0]
C (Rib)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/90/0/90]

Table 2. Orientations of the layup for the configuration # 1

212

The second configuration is equal to the first one but with a layer removed to check the weight,
213 stresses, deformations and displacements behaviors,the orientations and details are include in the
214 table (3).

215

Region	Material	Thickness [mm]	Rotation angle
A (upper- lower surface)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/45/0]
B (Spar)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/45/0]
C (Rib)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/90/0]

Table 3. Orientations of the layup for the configuration # 2

216

The last configuration is a 4 ply layup that mix layers of 45 ° and 90 ° orientation as showed in
217 the table (4)

218

Region	Material	Thickness [mm]	Rotation angle
A (upper- lower surface)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/45/0/90]
B (Spar)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/90/0/90]
C (Rib)	Carbon-epoxy	0,25	[0/90/0/45]

Table 4. Orientations of the layup for the configuration # 3

219 For a better comprehension of the configurations and the 3 regions that will change the layup,
 220 according to the tables above mentioned, in the figures (15,16,17) are presented separately.

221

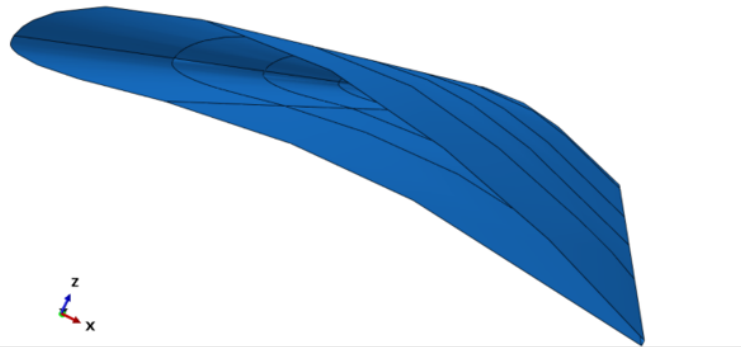


Figure 15. Region A (Upper surface, Lower surface)

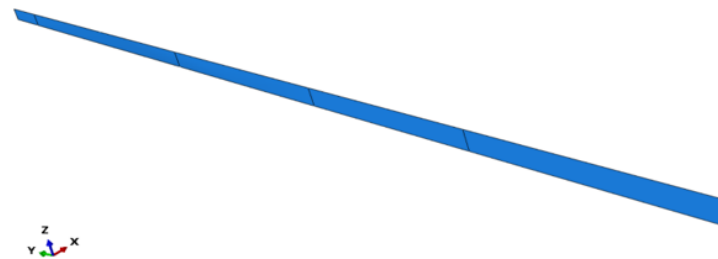


Figure 16. Region B (Spar)

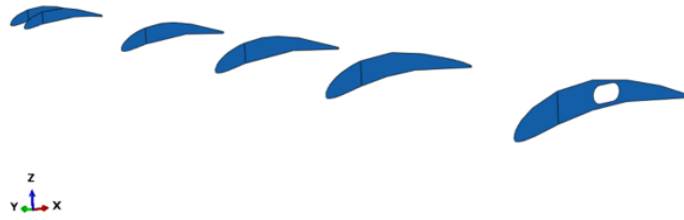


Figure 17. C (Ribs)

222 **4.3. Mesh**

223 The analysis was carried out by the Finite Element Method (FEM) then it was necessary to
224 discretize the domain to generate a mesh in order to obtain an approximation to the solution of the
225 differential equations.

226
227 The ideal FEM mesh for a shell element is a mesh with only shell (quad4) elements which are able
228 to represent all stress states including bending. However, due to the complexity of the geometry some
229 triangular elements are generated [8].

230
231 From the original geometry, the mesh seed is generated and submitted to a series of quality
232 analysis in order to obtain the final mesh. The figure (18) shows the mesh in an isometric view, note
233 that the T.E was truncated.

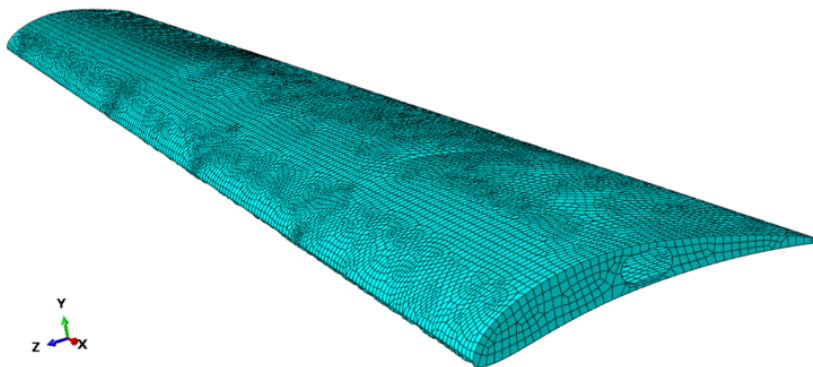


Figure 18. Isometric view of the mesh

234 The figure (19) presents the internal sub-structures of the wing mesh, as can be seen in the spar
235 thanks to the rectangular shape the mesh is a structured quad4 mesh that make the transition into the
236 ribs geometry improving the generation of quad4 elements despite of the curve geometry.

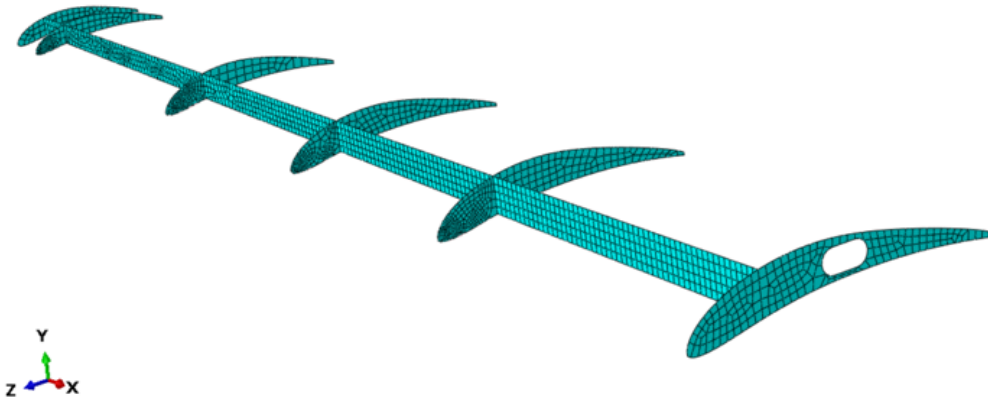


Figure 19. Internal structures mesh

237 As the T.E was truncated, its geometry grant that the mesh will continue the shell (Cquad4)
 238 element and there are no triangular elements.

Number of Elements (total)	18753
Upper surface	7503
Lower surface	8720
Ribs	1630
Spar	900

Table 5. Number of elements in the mesh

239 4.4. Boundary Conditions

240 The boundary conditions that was applied to the model is encastre (Fix) in the principal spar
 241 as well as in the root rib. This condition was applied to grant the worst case scenario of the joint
 242 wing-fuselage [14].

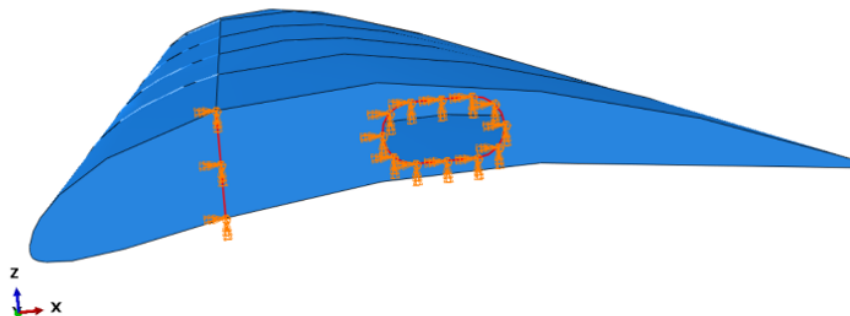


Figure 20. Encastre boundary condition

243 4.5. Loads

244 4.5.1. V-n Diagram

245 The V-n diagram it's a graphical way to determine structural limits, it's a diagram in function of
 246 the speed of the fluid.

247
 248 The model used to estimate the load factors (n) it is an approximation for lightweight airships
 249 in a low Reynolds regime. It is also based in the aeronautical legislation and determined due to the
 250 weight characteristics and the lift distribution, an example is presented in the figure (21) obtained from
 251 the FAR-23. [15]

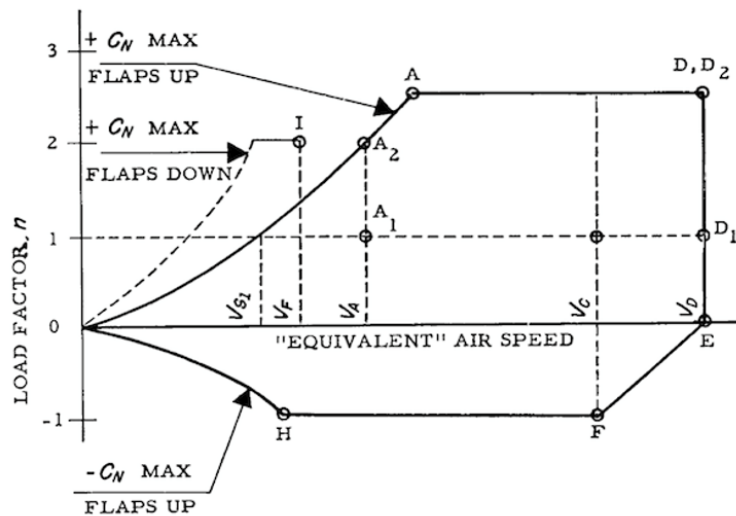


Figure 21. V-n diagram structure

$$n = \frac{\rho V^2 S C_L}{2W} \quad (3)$$

252 The equation(3) is the mathematical expression to obtain the value of n (load factor) of the aircraft
 253 in different typical situations. Where :

254 ρ = Density of the fluid

255 v = Speed of the fluid

256 S = Superficial Area of the Wing

257 W = Weight of the plane

258 C_L = Lift coefficient

259

260 Using the analytical process explained in [15] is obtained the V-n Diagram for the Urcunina
 261 operation as well as the gust diagram and the final diagram that is the graphical representation of the
 262 structural limits of the airship in operation. These n factors will be applied into the model to include
 263 the acceleration effects and safety factor.

264

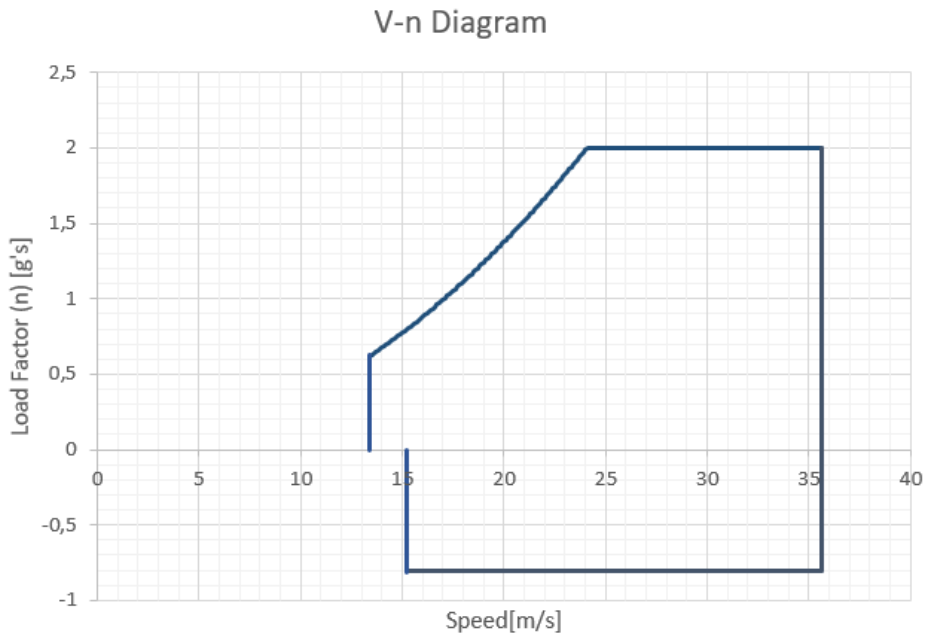


Figure 22. Operation V-n diagram

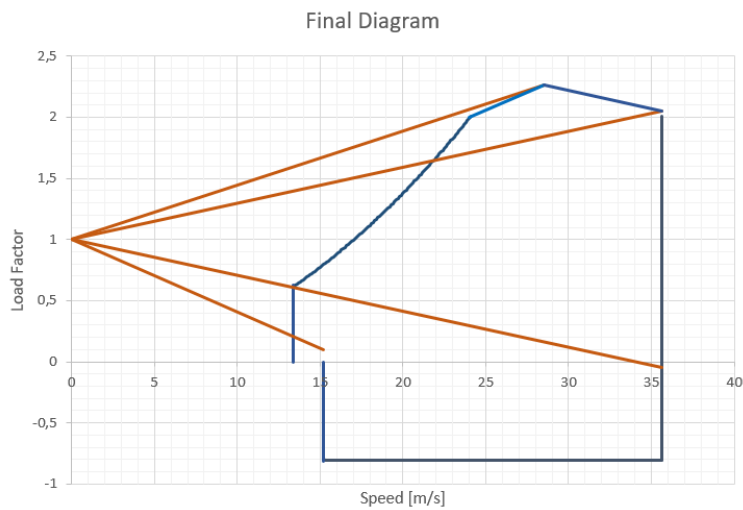


Figure 23. Final Urcunina V-n diagram

265 The figures (22,23) present the V-n diagram and the final diagram of URCUNINA operation and
 266 presents relevant data e.g the situation where the structure could suffer the most critical behavior. This
 267 critical situation will be in the gust at Cruise Speed then for this situation the structural analysis was
 268 conducted ($n=2.26$).

269

270 In the table (6) is showed the relationship of the n value with the speed in the final diagram.

271

Situation	n Factor	Speed [m/s]
Stall +	0.624	13.4
Stall -	-0.81	15.2
Operation	2	24
Cruise	2.26	28.5
V_d	2.05	35.6

Table 6. n values from V-n diagram

272 C_L is obtained by equation (4)

$$L = 1/2\rho V^2 C_L S = nW \quad (4)$$

273 where :

274 ρ , Density of the air in operation

275 V , Speed of the wind

276 S , Area of the wing

277 N , Load Factor W , Weight of the aircraft

278 $\rho = 0.8 \text{ [kg/m}^3\text{]}$

279 $n = 2.26$

280 $S = 0.75 \text{ [m}^2\text{]}$

281 $V = 28.5 \text{ [m/s]}$

282 $W = 147.15 \text{ [N]}$

283 The weight estimation is obtained by the restriction of MTOW reported in [1]

284 The value of $CL=1.36$ was obtained with the above data.

285 4.5.2. CFD approach

286 Computational Fluid Dynamics (CFD) simulations were computed in order to determine the
 287 pressure distribution along the wingspan that corresponds to $C_L=1,36$. The goal of the aerodynamic
 288 analysis is to obtain the aerodynamic loads that must support the wing in function of some critical
 289 condition of the URCUNINA-UAV mission. Thus, CFD simulations were performed using the
 290 commercial code ANSYS – CFX software (release 14.5), solving Reynolds Average Navier-Stokes
 291 (RANS) equations. The turbulent flow was modeled by standard Shear Stress Transport (SST) model,
 292 at which the governing equations were discretized by a second-order scheme.

293 Computational Domain

294

295 The size of the computational domain was created by ensuring the flow around the wing is not
 296 affected by the boundaries of the fluid domain. A computational sub-domain was designed in order to
 297 reduce the size of the elements near the walls of the wing, aiming to obtain a better numerical accuracy
 298 on this region. Figure (24) shows the computational domain created for the numerical simulations,
 299 presented as a function of the root chord length (C).

300

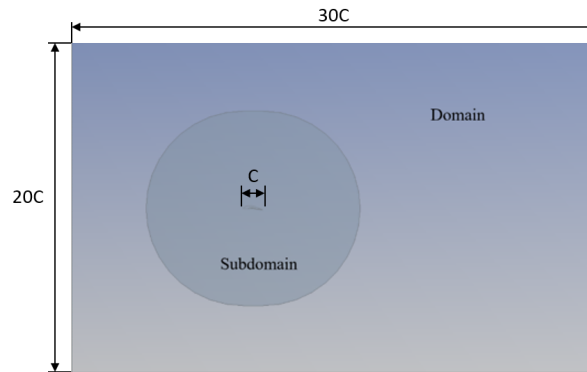


Figure 24. Computational domain

301 Grid strategy

302

303 A multi-block unstructured grid was generated using ICEM-CFD, which is composed by
 304 tetrahedral cells for all computational domain and prism cells for capturing the boundary layer effects
 305 on the walls near the model (Fig. 26). It is composed by 15 layers, whose first layer of cells was set at
 306 2.1×10^{-4} m from the configuration wall, resulting in a Y^+ equal to 1. This grid was computed after an
 307 independence mesh analysis which aids to guarantee that the element size does not affect the results.
 308 Figure (25) shows the variation of the lift coefficient as a function of the number of nodes, where 9
 309 several grids were assessed. The mesh independence study showed that the lift force converges at
 310 approximately 1693920 nodes.

311

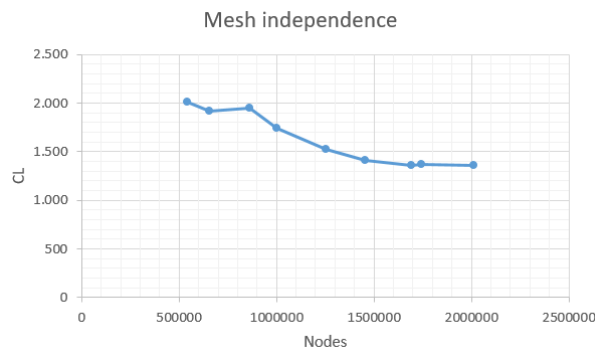


Figure 25. Mesh Independence

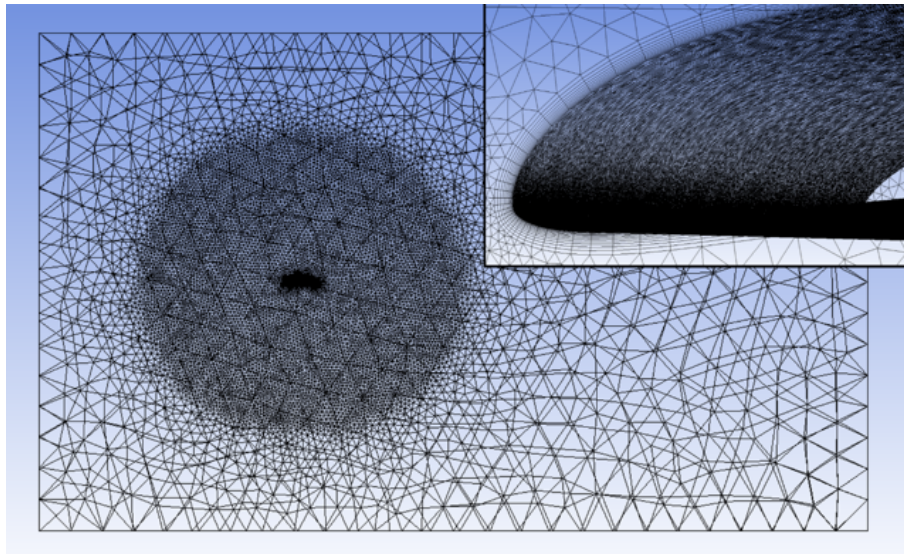


Figure 26. Computational mesh

312 Boundary conditions

313

314 Numerical simulations at steady-state condition were performed. The URCUNINA-UAV wing
315 was simulated at the operating velocity of the aircraft and at angle of attack equal to 5.5 [deg], which
316 corresponds to a lift coefficient equal to 1.36. This value was extracted from the limit gust envelope of
317 the V-n diagram ($n=2.26$). The outlet boundary was imposed without pressure gradient. The wing was
318 treated as no-slip boundary condition, whereas the far walls of the domain were imposed as free-slip
319 boundary condition. Finally, at the half of the longitudinal plane of the wing, symmetry boundary
320 condition was imposed. The convergence criteria reached a maximum residue of $1e-5$, with exactly 400
321 iterations.

322

323 Post-processing

324

325 The required structural strength was taken from the pressure distribution using a polyline from
326 the root to the tip with a step of 10% along the wingspan.

327

328 **5. CFD to FEA**

329 The output data from the CFD are transformed to set up the FEA model. The input data are the
330 values of pressure along chordwise for 11 stations on the spanwise direction.

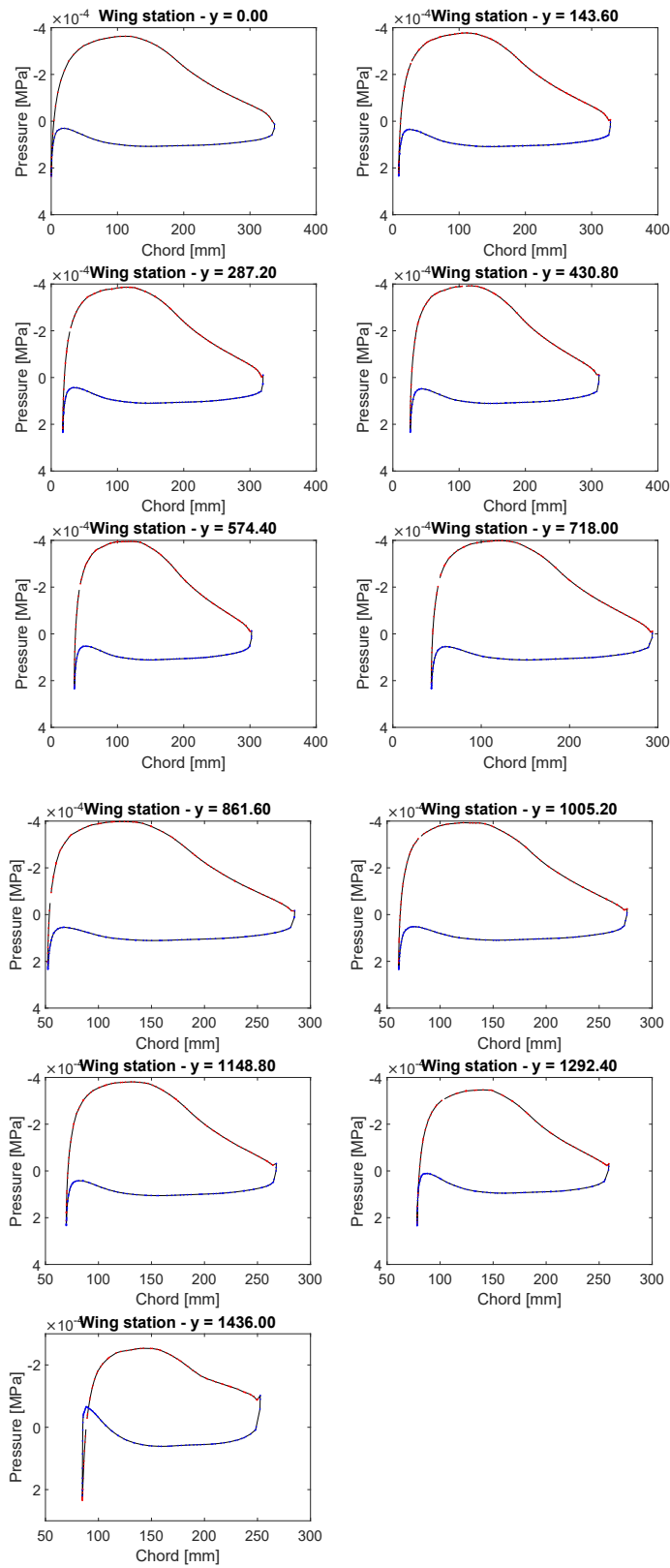


Figure 27. Pressure stations along the wing

331 These stations provide the wing load estimation both the upper and lower surfaces., in the figures
 332 (28,29) is presented the input data.

333

334 Bear in mind that the negative pressure and the pick of suction are the main characteristic of the
 335 upper surface and therefor there is a favourable gradient pressure near to the leading edge on this
 336 surface.

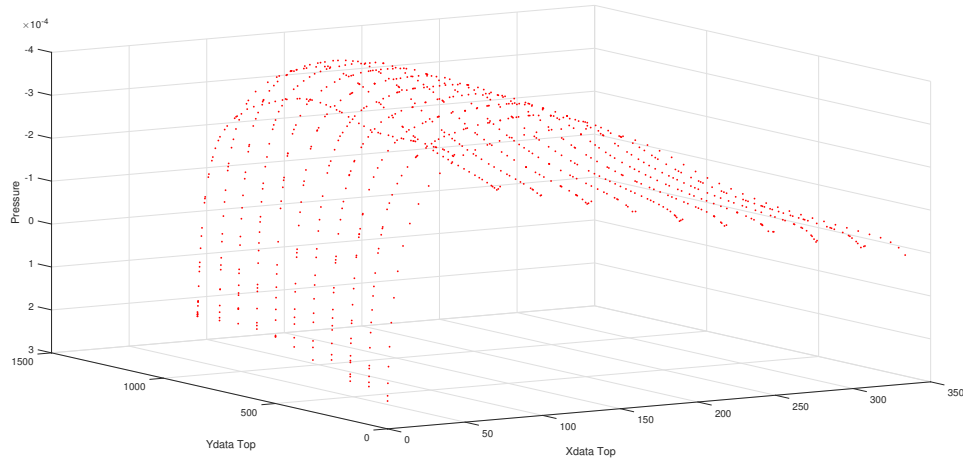


Figure 28. Upper surface pressure stations

337 In the figure (29) is showed the pressure data of the lower surface that represent the deceleration
 338 of the fluid.

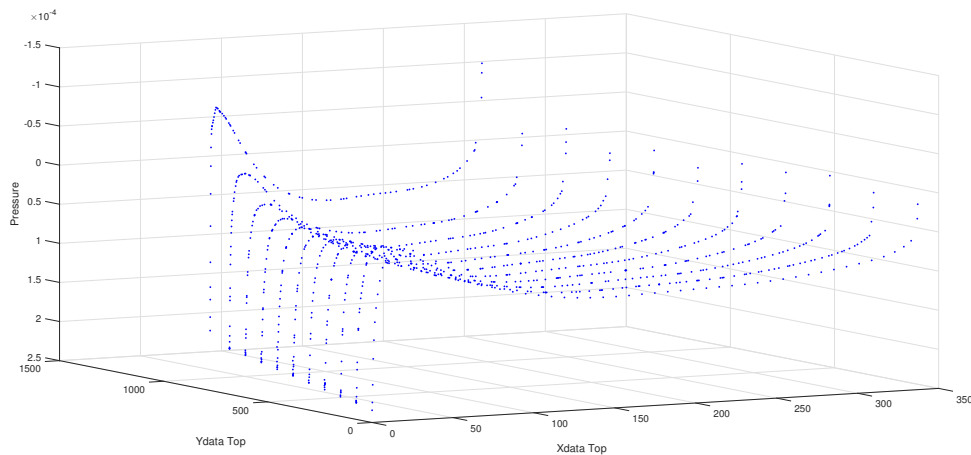


Figure 29. Lower surface pressure stations

339 In order to improve the analysis an interpolation of data is required to fulfill the spaces between
 340 the stations and get a whole surface that represent the loads in the wing.

341

342 Using Mat-lab software interpolation was done and is presented in figures (30,31). This figures
 343 gives to the analysis information of what is happening in the whole semi-span not just in sections.

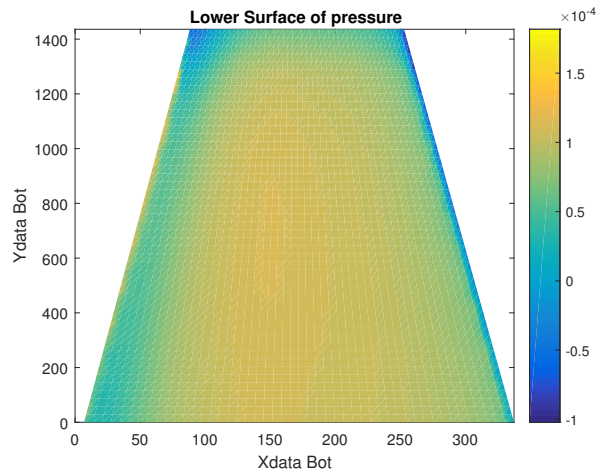


Figure 30. Lower pressure surface

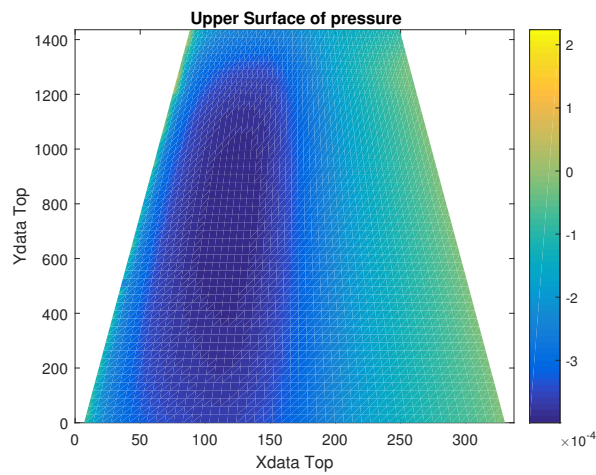


Figure 31. Upper pressure surface

344 The interpolated data is used to create a numerical fit with a polynomial expression that can be
 345 used in the FEA model. This process is done with the Mat-lab software .

346
 347 For the Upper surface the fit is a polynomial expression of 5x4 which means the variable "X" goes
 348 until its 5 power and "Y" until the 4 the equation is presented in (5).

$$\begin{aligned}
 s_{f_{top}}(x, y) = & p00 + p10 * x + p01 * y + p20 * x^2 + p11 * x * y + p02 * y^2 + p30 * x^3 + p21 * x^2 * y \\
 & + p12 * x * y^2 + p03 * y^3 + p40 * x^4 + p31 * x^3 * y + p22 * x^2 * y^2 + p13 * x * y^3 + p04 * y^4 \\
 & + p50 * x^5 + p41 * x^4 * y + p32 * x^3 * y^2 + p23 * x^2 * y^3 + p14 * x * y^4.
 \end{aligned}$$

(5)

350

351

352 Coefficients (with 95 % confidence bounds):

353 $p00 = 0.0001065$ (9.009e-05, 0.000123)

354 p10 = -1.508e-05 (-1.617e-05, -1.398e-05)
355 p01 = 1.587e-07 (2.034e-08, 2.972e-07)
356 p20 = 1.765e-07 (1.55e-07, 1.98e-07)
357 p11 = -1.995e-08 (-2.318e-08, -1.671e-08)
358 p02 = 2.816e-09 (2.428e-09, 3.204e-09)
359 p30 = -9.754e-10 (-1.142e-09, -8.089e-10)
360 p21 = 2.476e-10 (2.136e-10, 2.816e-10)
361 p12 = -3.598e-11 (-4.017e-11, -3.178e-11)
362 p03 = -1.44e-12 (-1.851e-12, -1.029e-12)
363 p40 = 2.715e-12 (2.16e-12, 3.271e-12)
364 p31 = -1.025e-12 (-1.17e-12, -8.794e-13)
365 p22 = 1.421e-13 (1.223e-13, 1.62e-13)
366 p13 = 1.024e-14 (7.392e-15, 1.309e-14)
367 p04 = 6.252e-16 (4.8e-16, 7.705e-16)
368 p50 = -2.954e-15 (-3.621e-15, -2.288e-15)
369 p41 = 1.389e-15 (1.176e-15, 1.602e-15)
370 p32 = -1.848e-16 (-2.195e-16, -1.502e-16)
371 P23 = -1.189e-17 (-1.698e-17, -6.796e-18)
372 p14 = -3.219e-18 (-4.042e-18, -2.396e-18)

373

374 This coefficients represent the values will adopt the variables in the expression to result in the fit
375 surface.

376 The equation (5) results in the surface that is presented in figure (32) that include the interpolation
377 data.

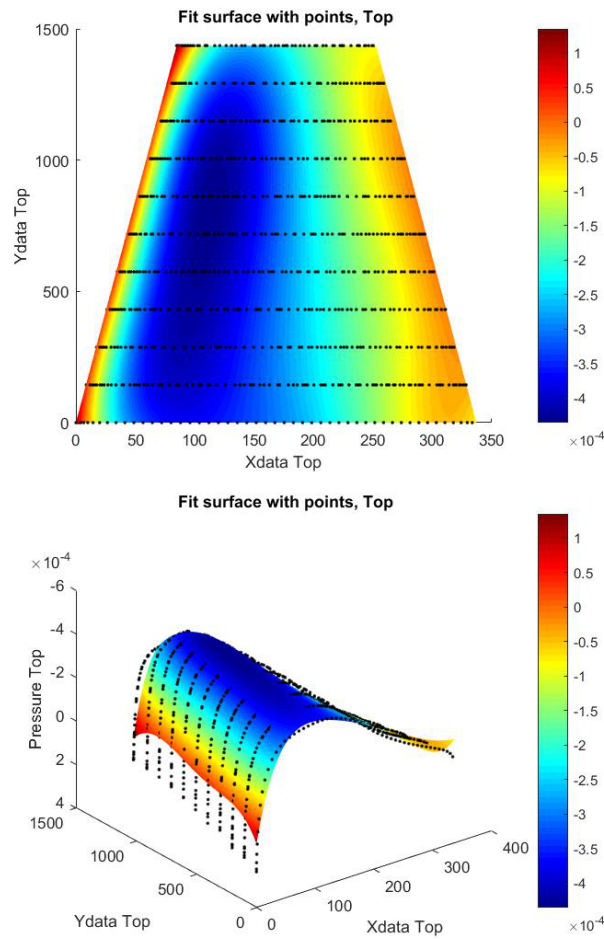


Figure 32. Upper surface load fit

378 For the selection of the degree of polynomial fit it was concluded an error study taking into
 379 account the Maximum and Medium error for all the possible combinations in the power values.

380

381 In the lower surface the process was similar which results in a 5X5 polynomial expression to fit
 382 the data.

383 The 5x5 polynomial expression is the following:

$$\begin{aligned}
 sf_{bot}(x, y) = & p00 + p10 * x + p01 * y + p20 * x^2 + p11 * x * y + p02 * y^2 + p30 * x^3 + \\
 & p21 * x^2 * y + p12 * x * y^2 + p03 * y^3 + p40 * x^4 + p31 * x^3 * y + p22 * x^2 * y^2 + \\
 & p13 * x * y^3 + p04 * y^4 + p50 * x^5 + p41 * x^4 * y + p32 * x^3 * y^2 + p23 * x^2 * y^3 + \\
 & p14 * x * y^4 + p05 * y^5
 \end{aligned}$$

384

(6)

385 Coefficients (with 95% confidence bounds):

386 $p00 = 0.0001335$ (0.0001233, 0.0001438)

387 $p10 = -6.548e-06$ (-7.263e-06, -5.833e-06)

388 $p01 = 3.11e-07$ (2.094e-07, 4.126e-07)

389 $p20 = 1.393e-07$ (1.252e-07, 1.534e-07)

390 $p_{11} = -1.214e-08$ (-1.426e-08, -1.003e-08)
 391 $p_{02} = 7.37e-10$ (3.648e-10, 1.109e-09)
 392 $p_{30} = -1.07e-09$ (-1.179e-09, -9.617e-10)
 393 $p_{21} = 1.129e-10$ (9.071e-11, 1.352e-10)
 394 $p_{12} = -6.654e-12$ (-9.356e-12, -3.951e-12)
 395 $p_{03} = -5.92e-13$ (-1.201e-12, 1.698e-14)
 396 $p_{40} = 3.461e-12$ (3.101e-12, 3.822e-12)
 397 $p_{31} = -3.576e-13$ (-4.519e-13, -2.633e-13)
 398 $p_{22} = 1.08e-14$ (-2.105e-15, 2.37e-14)
 399 $p_{13} = 4.049e-15$ (2.229e-15, 5.869e-15)
 400 $p_{04} = 2.985e-16$ (-1.507e-16, 7.478e-16)
 401 $p_{50} = -4.003e-15$ (-4.432e-15, -3.573e-15)
 402 $p_{41} = 3.241e-16$ (1.872e-16, 4.61e-16)
 403 $p_{32} = 2.471e-17$ (2.327e-18, 4.71e-17)
 404 $p_{23} = -1.386e-17$ (-1.718e-17, -1.053e-17)
 405 $p_{14} = 6.012e-19$ (7.336e-20, 1.129e-18)
 406 $p_{05} = -1.588e-19$ (-2.81e-19, -3.662e-20)

407
 408 The equation (6) results is the surface in figure (33) including the interpolation data in the
 409 figure(33).

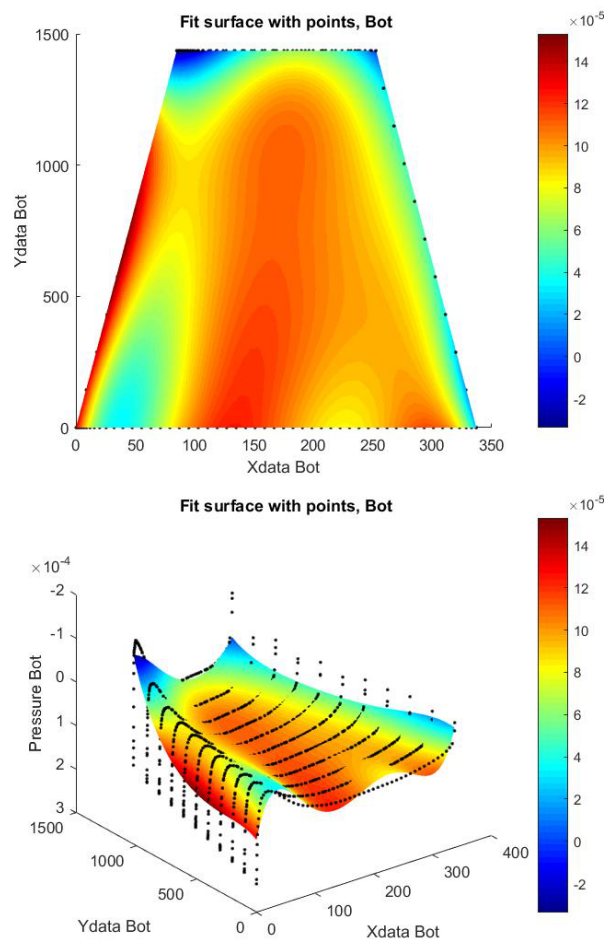


Figure 33. Lower surface load fit

410 The software Abaqus offer a tool to input loads to the model. That tool is to create an Analytic
411 Field with a polynomial expression to represent the variation in the load through the wing.

412

413 Using the Analytic expression field in Abaqus the loads finally were introduced into the model. It
414 is important to say that to the loads input was applied the load factor ($n=2.26$), as well as in the gravity
415 force that results in the weight component showed in the figure (34).

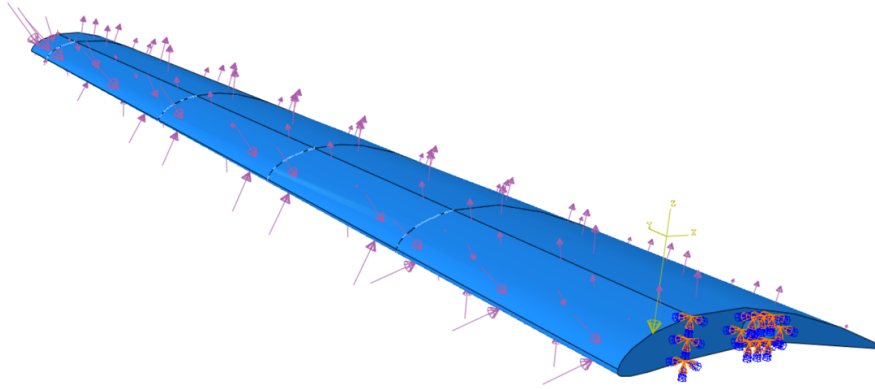


Figure 34. Final loaded model

416 After the final model its finished with geometry, material and loads the next step was to validate
417 the different configurations of the layup.

418

419 As a design parameter the weight of the structure is a variable to take into account with each one
420 of the layups configurations.

Configuration	Layers	$\rho[g/mm^3]$	W [N]	M [kg]
1	4	0.016	29.65	3
2	3	0.016	22.23	2.26
3	4	0.016	29.65	3

Table 7. Weights of the configurations

421 6. Results

422 In this section, the structural characteristics and numerical results of the analysis are presented,
423 displacements and stresses.

424

425 6.1. Displacements

426 In the figure (35) is presented the results of displacements in the different directions of the model.

427

428 Using the U_3 data presented in the figure (35) is obtained the deflection in the tip of the wing,
429 where is maximum. To calculate the maximum deflection angle in the wing was used the following
430 expression:

$$\theta = \tan((\Delta U_3) / \text{Chord})^{-1} \quad (7)$$

431 The ΔU_3 is obtained by taking the U_3 values in the attack edge and the trailing edge.

432 The results are showed in table (8) :

	Angle [°]
Configuration 1	0.07
Configuration 2	0.1476
Configuration 3	0.113

Table 8. Deflection angle

433 For this research, it is undertaken that the θ variation is small and therefore it will not be
434 representative on a possible lift coefficient variation.

435

436 When looking into the U2 data is observable that in the configuration with only 3 layups the
437 displacement in the radial axis is less than 1 [mm].

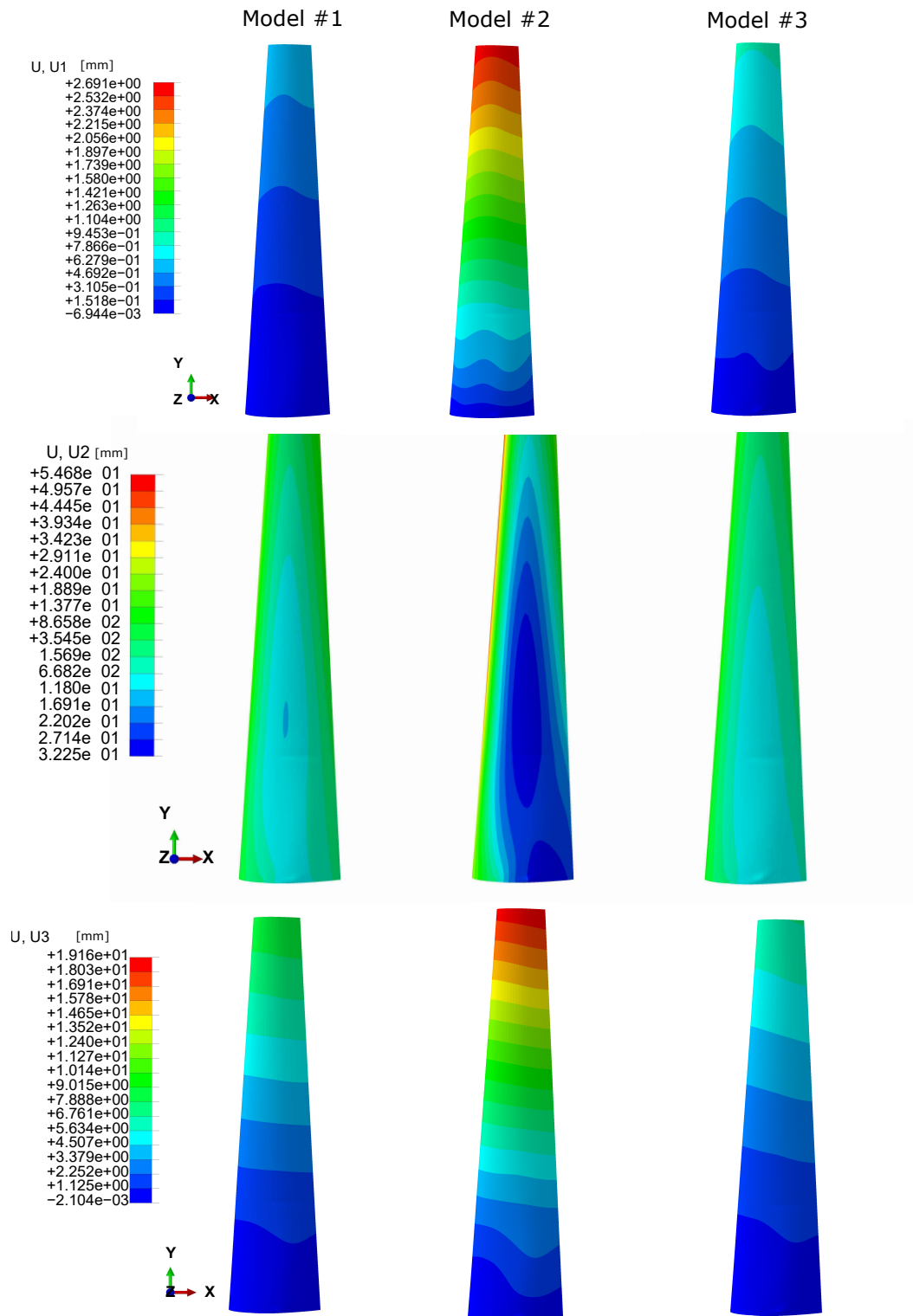


Figure 35. Top surface displacements

438 6.2. Stress

439 The stress results in this analysis will work as an indicator to decide between the 3 configurations.
440 When working with composite materials is important to take into account that the material does not
441 works as isotropic, which means that the properties does not have the same behavior in all directions.

442
443 The parameters of evaluation in the analysis will be the components S11 and S22 of the material,
444 which represent the stresses in the two principal directions of the composite layup, independent of the
445 angle of orientation.

446
447 Using the software Abaqus is possible to see the results in each ply, it will help to understand the
448 behavior of the composite structure, in the figure (36) is presented the distribution of the stress in the
449 principal axis S11, the figure is a bottom view (Lower surface) of stress in the principal direction of the
450 ply (S11).

451
452 In the figure it is visible the highest S11 stress as expected its located at the boundary condition
453 that represent the joint wing-fuselage. The figure help to understand how it is propagating the stress
454 in the principal axis of the different layers due to the angle of orientation.

455
456 Making a comparison with the second configuration that it's the same layup but taking off the
457 intermediate ply (-45°) the difference is substantial in the distribution of the S11.

458
459 In order to make a comparison the figure (35) contain the three configurations showing the results
460 for the 3 models.

461
462 The configuration 3 even when it has 4 layers does not gives the best results. Taking a look to the
463 first configuration the maximum value of S11 is around the (274 [MPa]) and in the 3 configuration
464 goes 80 [MPa] above.

465

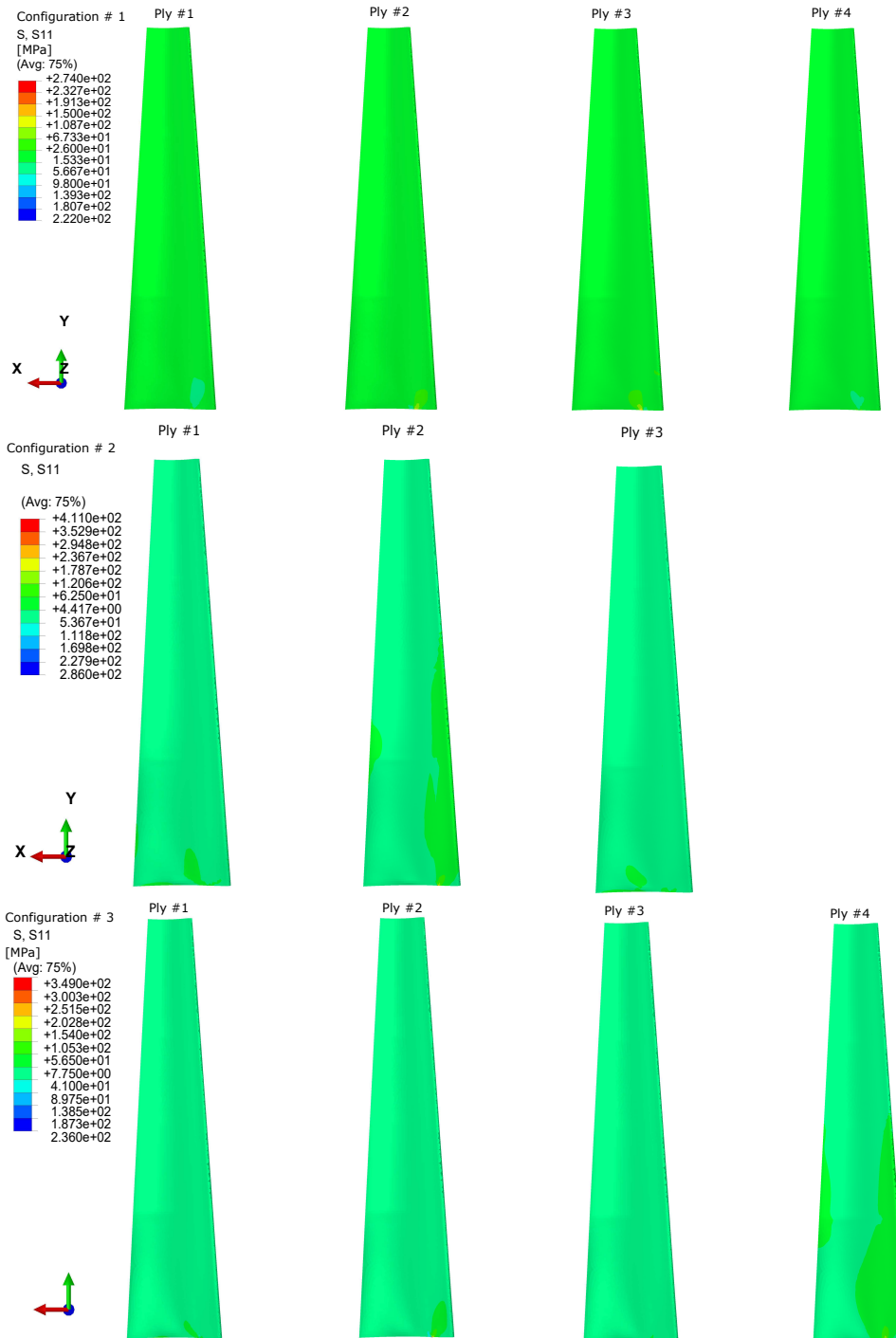


Figure 36. Stress S11 bottom surface

466 Even though the 3 configurations are different among number of layers and orientation of plies
467 the S22 stress does not have really big values and variations in comparison with S11. As it is going to
468 be discussed in the next section the failure is generated due to the combination of S11,S22,S12 in all the
469 nodes.

470

471 The figure (37) present contour plot's of the lower surface that represent the values of S22 in all
472 the configurations.

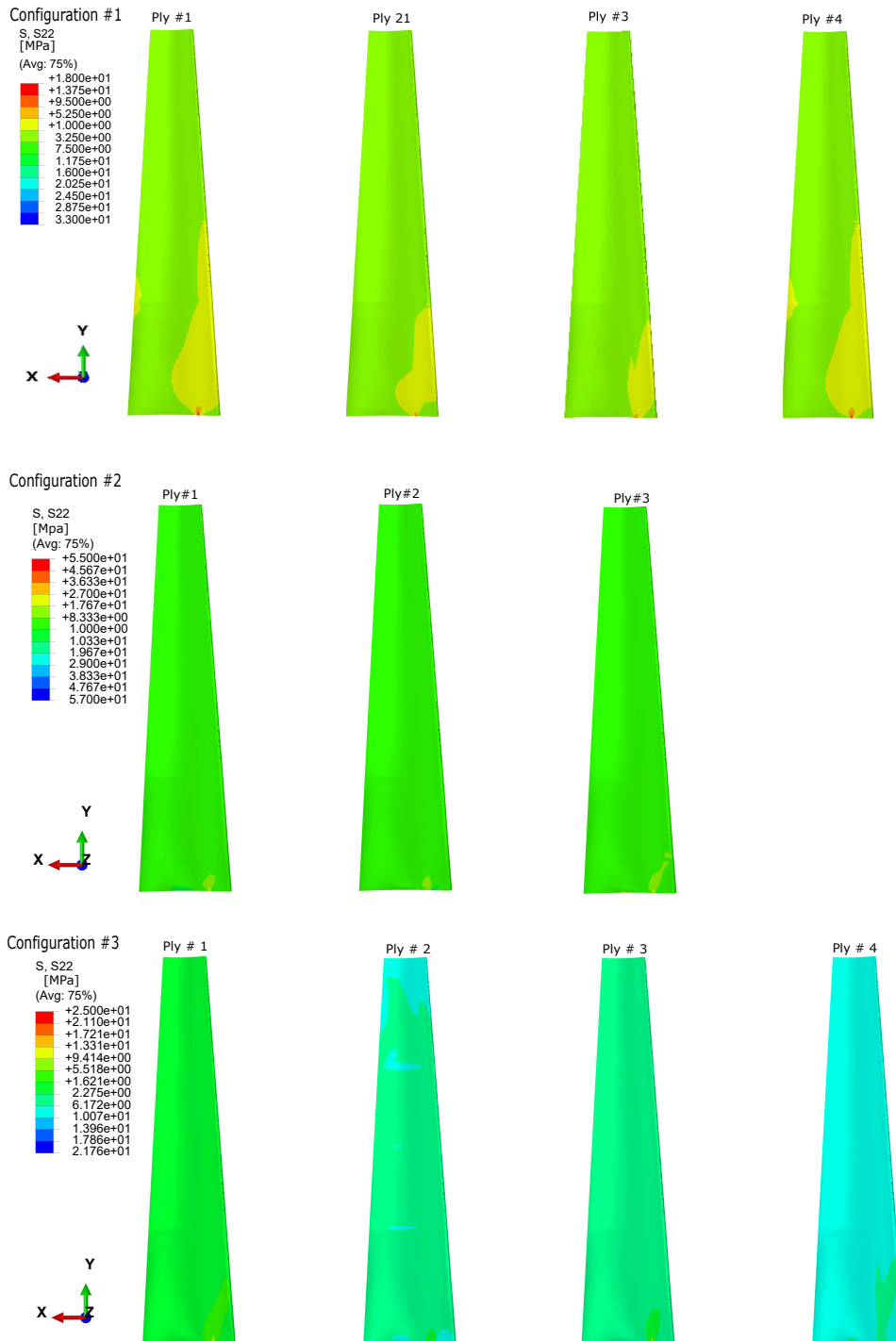


Figure 37. Stress S22 bottom surface

473 6.2.1. Tsai-Wu criterion

474 The Tsai-Wu criterion is a failure theory for orthotropic materials like composites, the criteria
475 represent in a graphical way an elliptical surface of failure with the S11 and S22 in the principal axis [9].
476

477 The material used for the analysis is the M6/SC1081 carbon fiber with epoxy resin. Using the
478 properties given in the Daniel Ishaq is obtained the Tsai-Wu expression for this specific material.
479

480 The figure (38) is the graphic representation of the criteria, this figure is product of the following
481 expression:

$$F_1\sigma_1 + F_2\sigma_2 + F_{66}\sigma_6^2 + F_{11}\sigma_1^2 + F_{22}\sigma_2^2 + 2F_{12}\sigma_1\sigma_2 = 1$$

482 (8)

483 It should be noted that the Tsai-Wu criterion is a 3d criteria as explained in [12] which means that
484 the figure (38) that follows the equation (8) is the simplified way with $\sigma_{66} = 1$ that represents the biggest
485 failure ellipse.

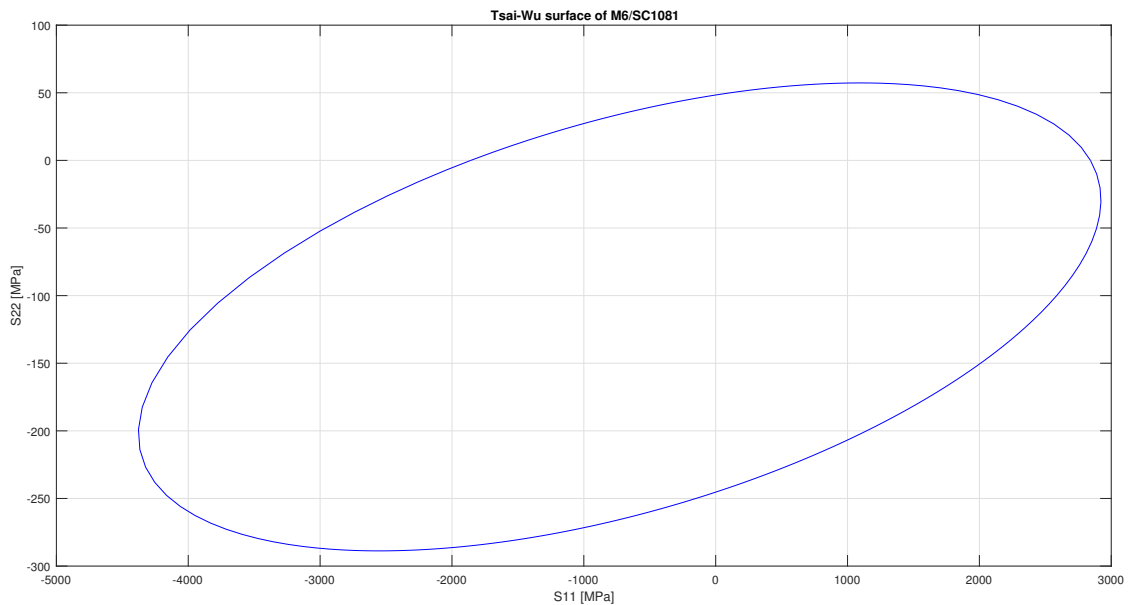


Figure 38. Tsai-Wu surface for M6/SC1081 with $\sigma_{66} = 0$

486 For each configuration was obtained the values of S11 and S22 for each node of the model
487 using a Python routine, these values were plotted in the ellipse for each configuration. For each
488 configuration it was obtained the critical value of S12 which represents the value of σ_{66} , this value
489 makes the ellipse to be smaller and restricts the failure surface, that is why in the figures (40, 41, 42)
490 have 2 ellipses. One represents the biggest when $F=1$ and the other is the critical one using the S12 values.
491

492 Since the model is a composite modeled as a shell and most of the elements are cquad4 with
493 normal integration each element has 4 integration points.
494

495 The configuration 1 and 3 counts with 1043196 values for S11, S22 and S12. The configuration 2 in
496 consequence of the missing layer has significantly fewer values, 819654, for the whole model.

497 In the figure (39) is plotted all the configurations results in the maximum S12 and in figures
498 (40,41,42) is showed separately each surface and points using the critical S12 of the model.

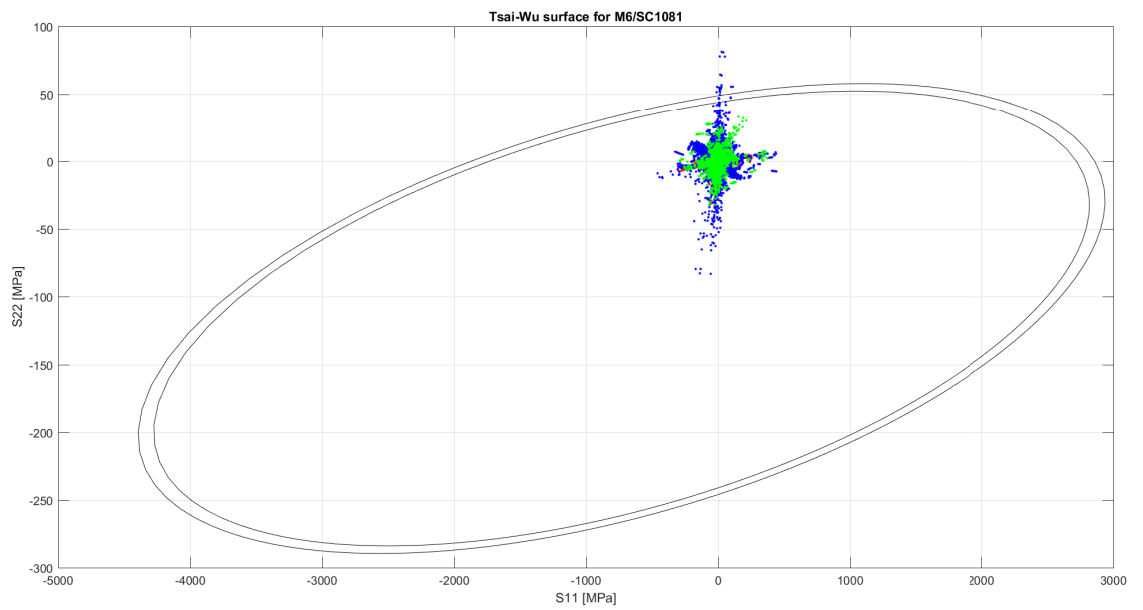


Figure 39. Tsai-Wu surface for M6/SC1081 for all configurations and maximum $\sigma_{66}=35.1$

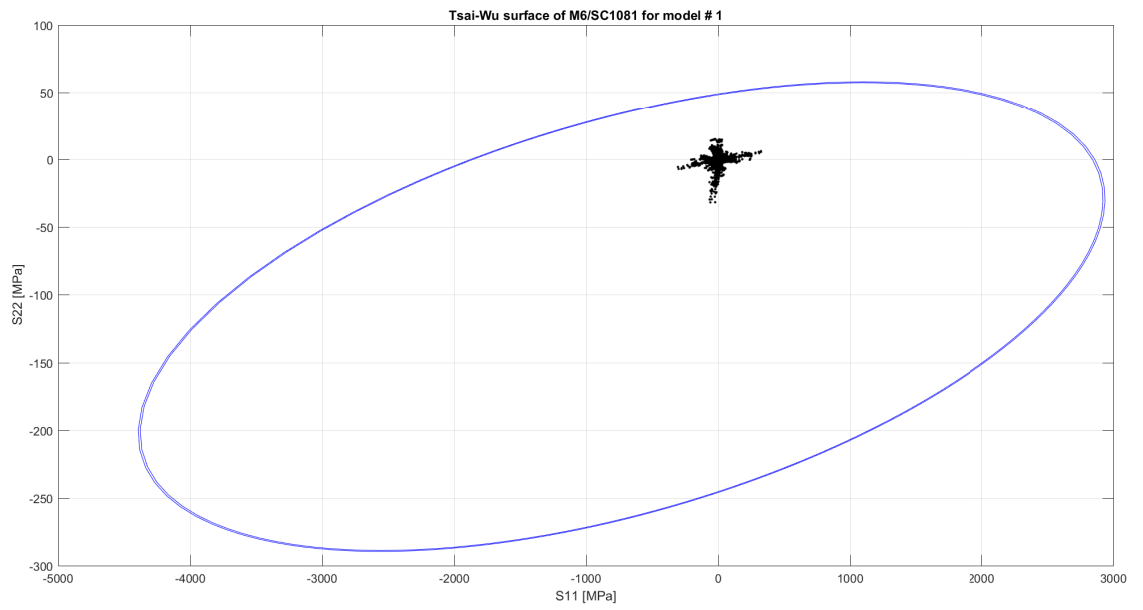


Figure 40. Tsai-Wu surface for M6/SC1081 for configuration 1 and $\sigma_{66}=13.7$

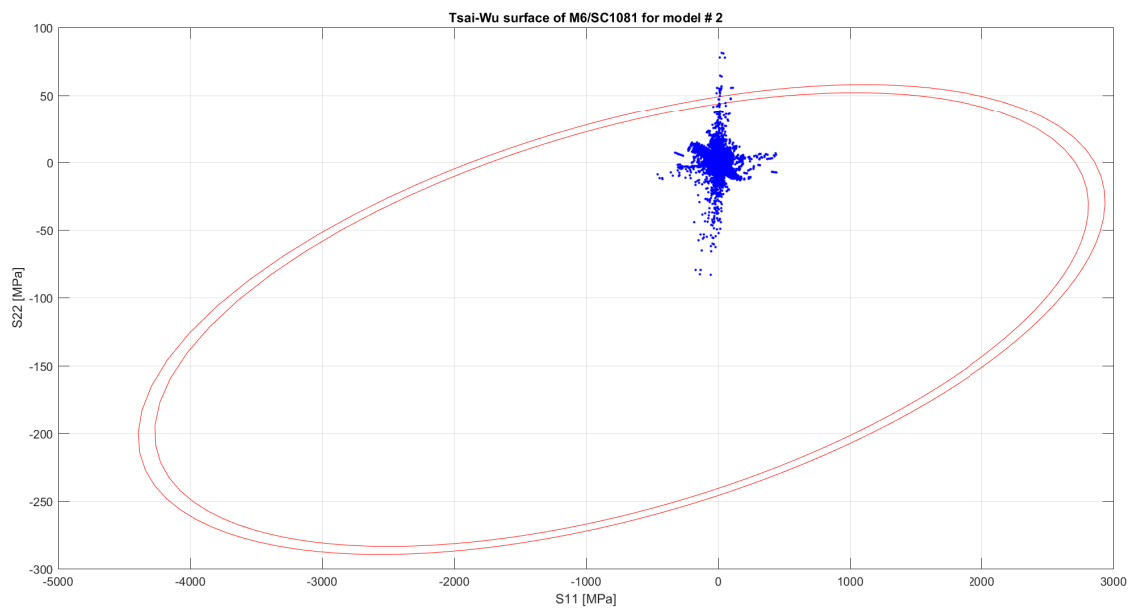


Figure 41. Tsai-Wu surface for M6/SC1081 for configuration 2 and $\sigma_{66}=35.1$

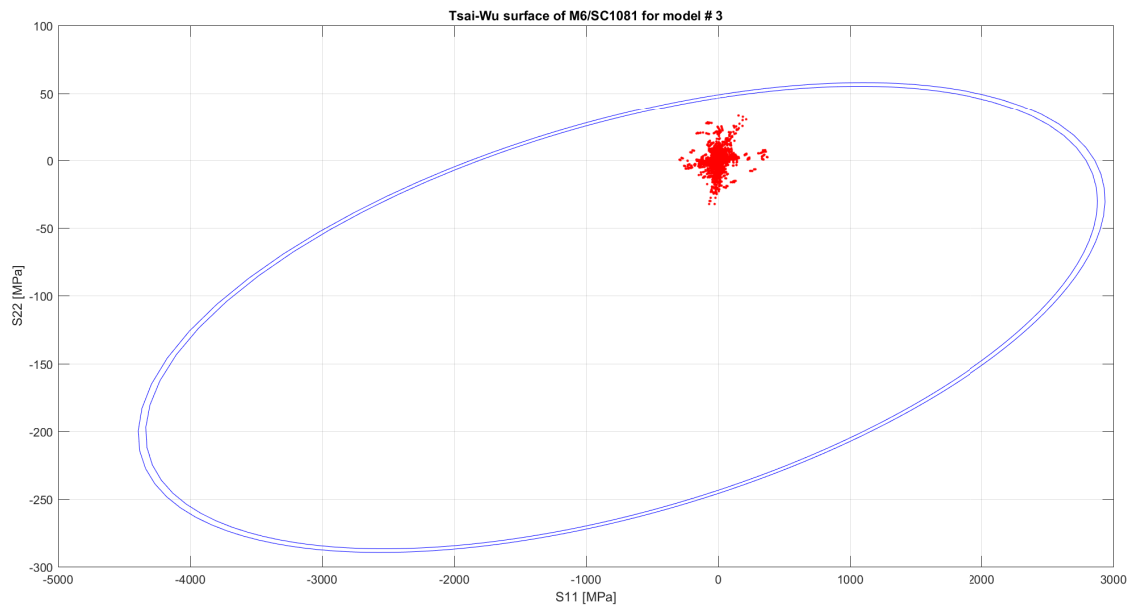


Figure 42. Tsai-Wu surface for M6/SC1081 for configuration 3 and $\sigma_{66}=28.3$

499 6.2.2. Margin of safety

500 Calculating the factor of Tsai-Wu (F) with the equation (8) for each value of the results. This F
501 represents the criterion in all elements of model.

502

503 Using the values (F) is obtained the higher and lower for each model, to proceed with the
504 calculation of the Margin of safety. The margin represent the endurance of the weakest and strongest
505 element in the structure. This calculation is done using the equation (9).

506

$$M_s = \frac{1}{F} - 1$$

507

(9)

508 The results in the Margin of safety are presented in the table (9), is also presented the values of (F).

	Configuration 1	Configuration 2	Configuration 3
Max F	0.5994	1.9441	0.6687
Min F	0.0260	0.028	0.0205
Max M.S	37	40.9	47.8
Min M.S	0.66	-0.485	0.4954

Table 9. Margin of safety

509

510 7. Conclusions

511 In this work an structural analysis of the Urcunina wing have been carried out. Using the
512 aerodynamic design and posterior CFD simulations was obtained the information to do a Finite
513 Element Analysis. From the FEA was obtained data that was validated with displacements and failure

514 theories to obtain the final design.

515

516 The original structure satisfy the design requirements of stress, displacements and failure criteria.
517 The structure proposed suffer a 2.591 [mm] displacement with 0.07 of deflection in the tip that does
518 not represent a plastic deformation and commitment of the structure.

519

520 The conf. 1 presented the most adequate results due to the stress nodal results of this configuration
521 remain inside of the ellipse in the Tsai-Wu criteria. These values represent a margin of safety > 0 and
522 means no failure

523

524 The conf. 3 also remain into the failure surface but the conf. 1 obtain lower stress and
525 displacements results. The conf. 2 present failure in critical zones and considerable displacements.

526

527 A weight estimation was used for the initial design and even when the material is a composite
528 the real mass of the structure exceed the estimation in 1.5 kg resulting in a 6 kg wing.

529

530 The reduction of weight in the structure is possible using other composite material combination,
531 multi spar philosophy or rib reduction.

532 **Abbreviations**

533 The following abbreviations are used in this manuscript:

534

FEA	Finite Element Analysis
CFD	Computational Fluid Dynamics
FEM	Finite Element Method
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
VANT	Vehiculo Aereo no Tripulado
535 CFC	Carbon Fiber Composite
T.E	Trailing Edge
A.T	Attack Edge
U.S	Upper Surface
L.S	Lower Surface

536

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