

# Aerospace Structural Analysis and Design Project

## Carbon Fiber Rocket - Extended Report

Noah Miranda & Nicholas Walker

# Preliminary Design

- Components
  - fiberglass, carbon fiber, and aluminum
- Dimensions
  - length: 42 inches, diameter: 1.6 inches

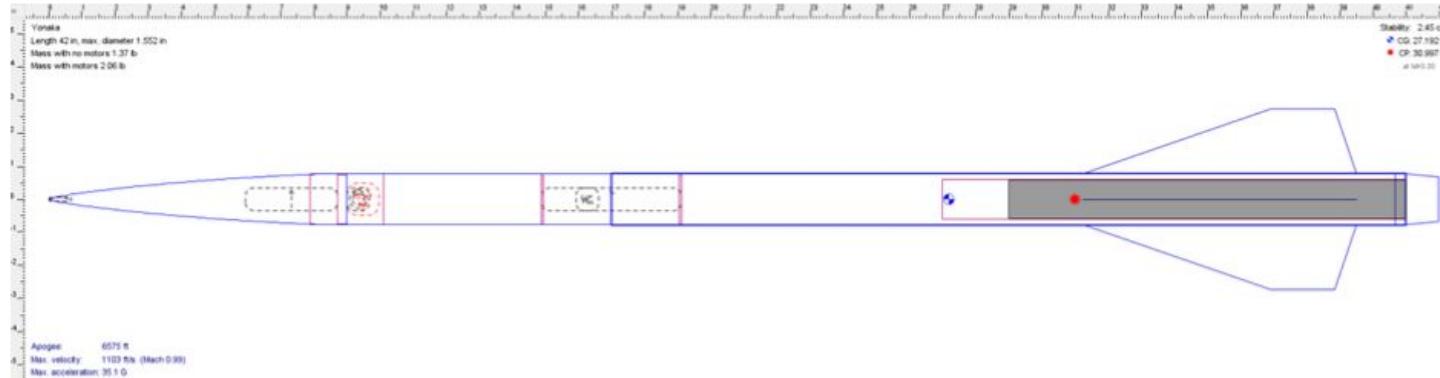


Figure 1. Rocket Outline

# Analysis

## Methods

- Finite Element Method (FEM)
- Analytical Solution

## Calculations

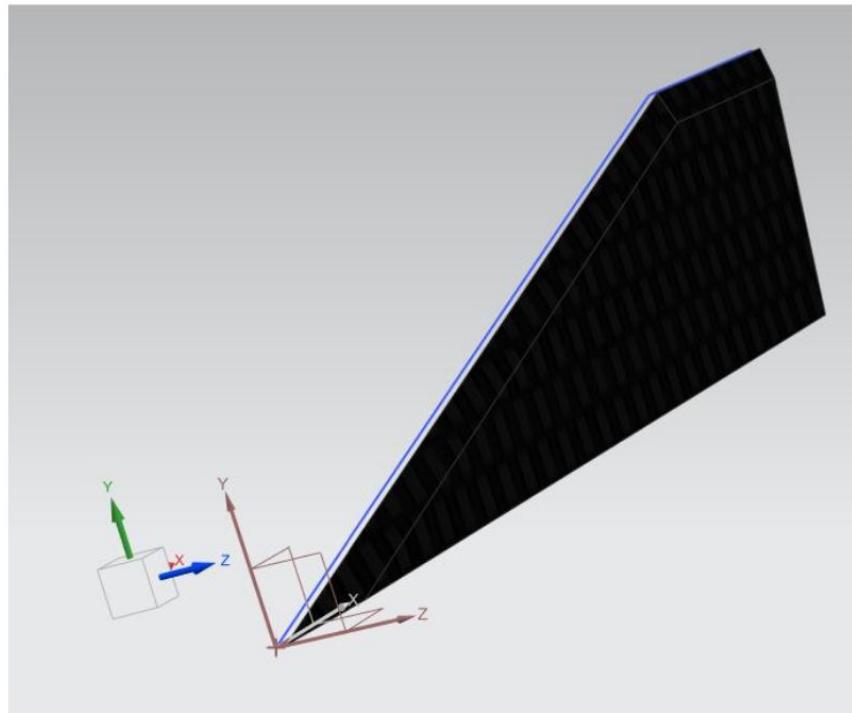
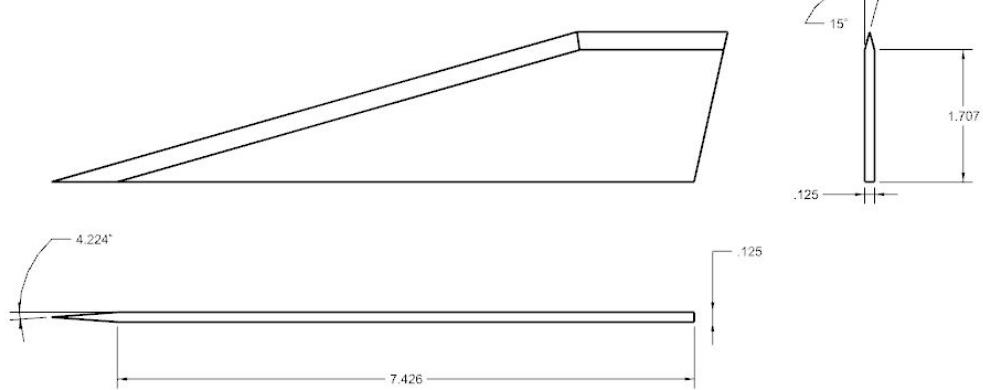
- NX NASTRAN
  - Global stresses and deflections
- Written/Analytical
  - Locations of maximum stress and deflection
  - Homework



# Assembly

- Fins
  - 1/8-inch sheet of G12 fiberglass
- Nosecone
  - 1.6 inch diameter filament-wound fiberglass nose cone (5:1 length/diameter)
- Airframe
  - two carbon fiber tubes for “booster” and “payload” section (24 inches, 8 inches, respectively)
  - ID: 1.5 inches
  - OD: 1.6 inches
    - 0.05 wall thickness

# Fin Design - CAD, NX

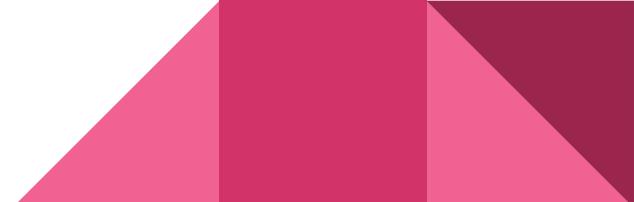


# Calculations - based on homework

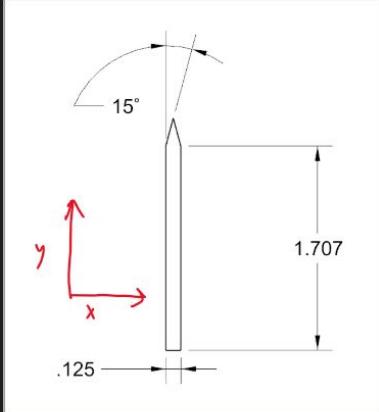
## Project Calculations based on homework topics

1. Sectional Properties → Fins
2. Bending → Fins
3. Shear → Airframe (open section)
4. Torsion → Airframe
5. Combined Sections → Airframe
6. Structural Idealization →
7. Aerospace Materials →

# Sectional Properties



(1)



Assumptions:

Chamfer angle is small,  
assume chamfered area to  
be included:



treat as rectangle

$$b = .125 \text{ in}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{.125} \\ | \\ | \\ \text{.125} \\ \hline z \end{array} \quad x \rightarrow x + 1.707 = h$$

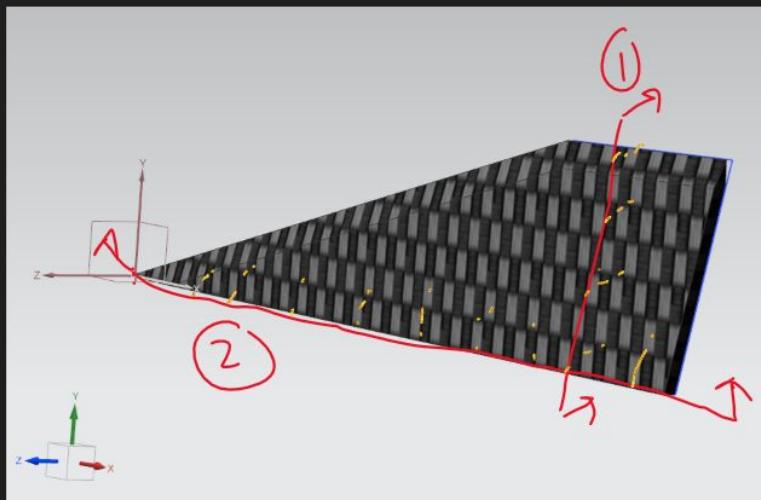
$$.0625 \cot(15^\circ) = x = .233 \quad h = 1.94 \text{ in}$$

Simple rectangle

$$\bar{x} = .0625 \quad \bar{y} = \frac{1.94}{2} = .97 \text{ in}$$

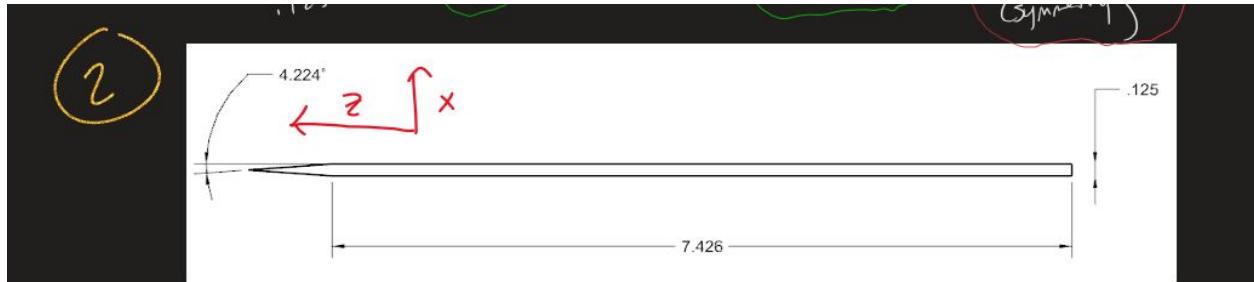
$$\begin{aligned} I_{xy} &= \frac{(1.94)(.125)^3}{12} = 0.0761 \text{ in}^4 \\ I_{yy} &= \frac{(1.94)(.125)^3}{12} = 3.15 \times 10^{-4} \text{ in}^4 \quad I_{xy} = 0 \\ &\quad (\text{symmetry}) \end{aligned}$$

# Project: Sectional properties of fin.



① will examine  
thinnest point  
of fin

② will examine  
adhesion surface  
to airframe



$$\bar{x} = .0625 \text{ in} \quad h = .125 \text{ in}$$

Chamfer approx:  $7.475 + .0625 \cot(4.224) = b$   
 $b = 8.272 \text{ in}$

Mfer approx:  $7.475 + .0625 \cot(4.224) = b$   
 $b = 8.272 \text{ in}$

$$= \frac{8.272(.125)^3}{12} = \left( 1.346 \times 10^{-3} \right) \text{ in}^4$$

$$(1.17)(8.272)^3 < 10.1 \text{ in}^4$$

# Deflection Calculations

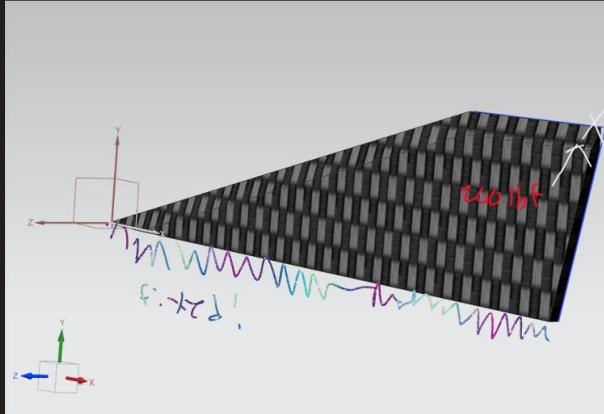
Neumann B/C's: 200 lbf  
applied to tip of fin  
(worst-case loading)

Dirichlet B/C's: Zero deflection  
on root of fin ( $y = 0$ )

Assume material properties of  
*aluminum*



Project Problem:

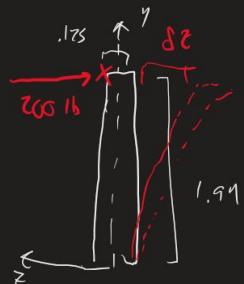
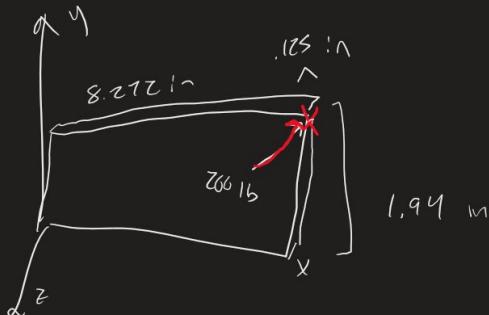


Apply a force  
of magnitude 200 lb

on the fin section shown.

Assume rectangular geometry.

The  $x-z$  bottom surface is  
fixed!



Find the deflection along the Z axis of the top left corner where the force is applied.

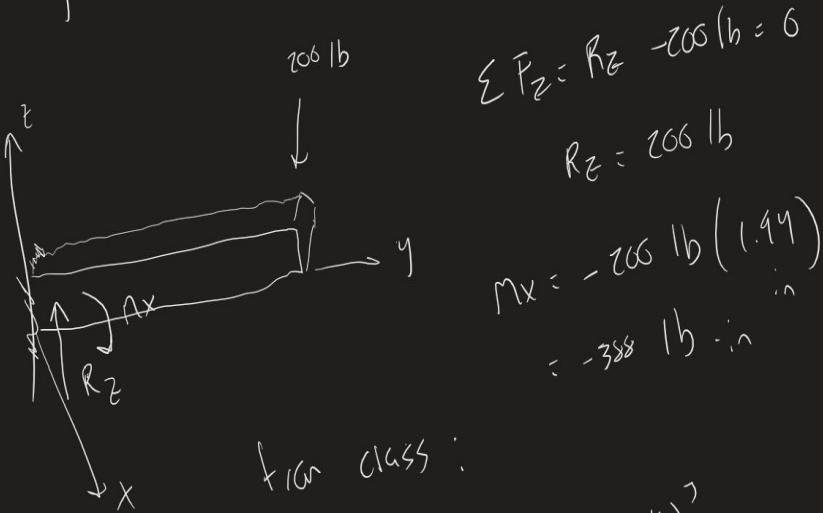
Assume material properties of aluminum

$$E = 1 \times 10^7 \text{ PSI}$$

Consider beam of sectional properties:

bottom surface  $\{1\}_{xx} : 1.396 \times 10^{-3} \text{ in}^3 \cdot \left( \frac{8.272 (.125^3)}{12} \right)$

# Singularity functions / FBD



$$\sum \bar{F}_z = R_z - 200 \text{ lb} = 0$$

$$R_z = 200 \text{ lb}$$

$$M_x = -200 \text{ lb} (1.94 \text{ in}) \\ = -388 \text{ lb in}$$

for class:

$$\delta_z = \frac{-PL^3}{3EI} = \frac{200(1.94)^3}{3(1 \times 10^7)(1.396 \times 10^{-3})}$$

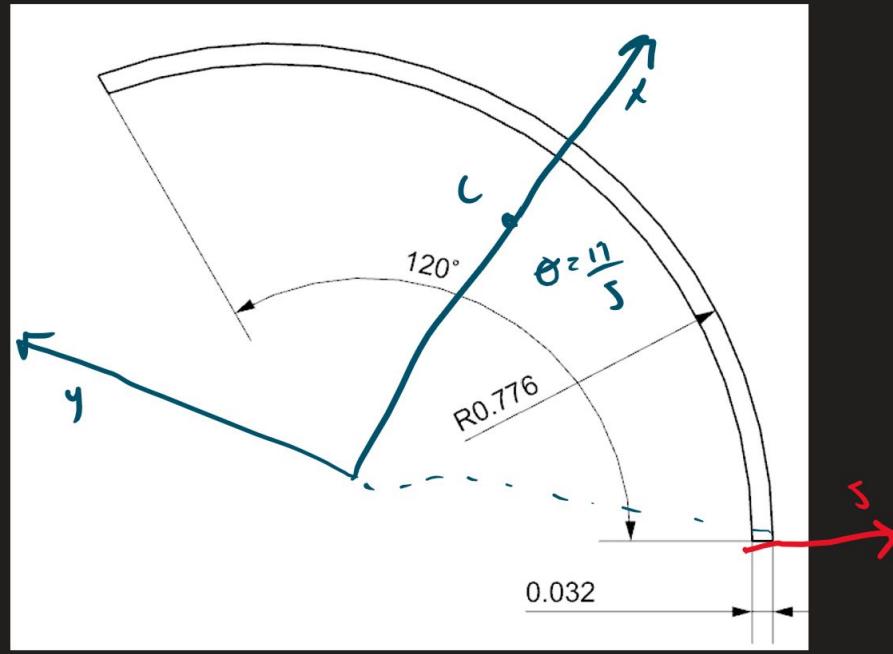
$$\delta_z = -0.036 \text{ in}$$

## Shear - Center of Airframe: open section

This region of the airframe is based on the *fin-canister* section

Assumption: Symmetry across a 120 degree span, analysis of one-thirds of a section would reflect across the rest of the airframe.

A 200 lb load is applied tangential  
to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of a cylindrical airframe shown:



Shear acts along the X-direction.

Sectional Properties:

Find : Sectional Properties.

Shear Flow

location of shear center due to  $S_x$

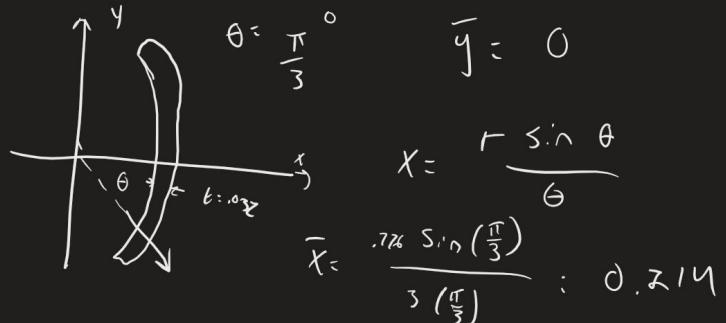
Based on geometry / assume thin-walled assumption.

$$I_{xx} = \int y^2 dA = \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\theta}{\pi} - \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right)^2$$

$$= 1.07 \times 10^{-3} \text{ in}^4$$

$$I_{yy} = \int x^2 dA = \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\pi}{2} + \sin\left(\frac{\theta}{2}\right) \right)^2$$

$$= 4.63 \times 10^{-2} \text{ in}^4$$



$$I_{xy} = 0$$

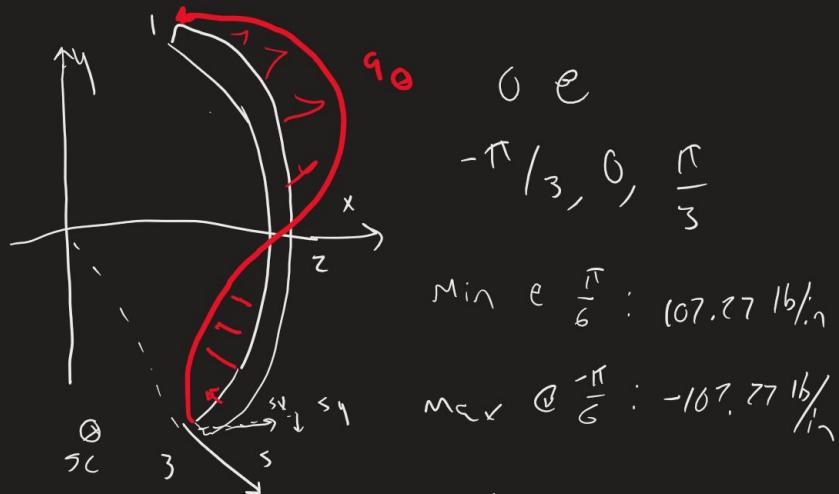
$$S_x = 200 \cos\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) : 100 \text{ lb} \rightarrow$$

$$\begin{cases} S_y \\ S \end{cases} \quad S_y = -200 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{3}\right) = -173 \text{ lb}$$

$$q_s = - \left( \underbrace{\frac{s_x I_{xy}}{I_{xx} I_{yy}}}_{c_x} \right) \int_0^s t x \, ds - \left( \underbrace{\frac{s_y I_{yy}}{I_{xx} I_{yy}}}_{c_y} \right) \int_0^s t y \, ds$$

$$q_\theta = \left( c_x \cos \theta \right)_{-30}^{30} \cos \theta \, d\theta + c_y \sin \theta \int_{-30}^{30} \sin \theta \, d\theta$$

$$q_\theta = \overbrace{c_x \cos \theta}^{ss.6} \left( \sin 30 - \sin (-30) \right) + \overbrace{c_y \sin \theta}^{4015} \left( \cos 30 - \cos (-30) \right)$$



Moment about point 1: /  $y = .776 \sin 60$   
= - .672 in

$$\bar{E}_S S_x$$

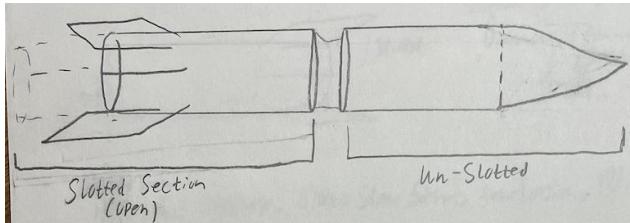
$$q_6: \underbrace{(x \cdot t \tau (\sin 30 - \sin 60))}_{55.6} + \underbrace{(y \cdot t \tau (\cos 30 - \cos 60))}_{4015}$$

$$q(\pi/3) : 0 \rightrightarrows \bar{E}_S = 0:$$

Shear center is at  $(0, - .672)$  in

# Torsion

Pre problem notes: lengths: 42"--> 1.0668m, diameter: 1.6"--> 0.04064m



Unslotted Section of Propeller: Undergoes Torsional Load of 600 lb-in

Prop of Aluminum:  $G = 3.77 \text{ E}6$

Assumption: One end is fixed

Dimensions:

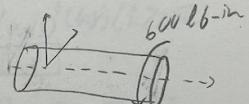
$D = 1.6 \text{ in}$ ,  $2D = 1.5 \text{ m}$ ,  $C = 8 \text{ in}$

Find: i) Torsional Rigidity, ii) Max Shear Stress, iii) Rate & Angle of twist

$$\text{i) Torsional Rigidity: } TR = \frac{4A^3}{\frac{\delta ds}{G}} \quad \left[ \delta ds \Rightarrow 2\pi R \Rightarrow R = 0.8 \text{ in} \right]$$

$$TR = \frac{4A^3}{\frac{\delta ds}{G}} \quad \left[ A = \pi(r^2 - r_p^2) \right] \quad r = 0.75 \text{ in}$$

$$TR = \frac{4[\pi(0.8^2 - 0.75^2)]}{\frac{2\pi(1.5)}{(3.77 \text{ E}6)(0.002)}} \Rightarrow TR = 8.9 \text{ E}3 \text{ lb} \cdot \text{in}^2$$



ii) Max Shear

$$Z_{max} = \frac{q}{t}, \quad q = \frac{1}{2\pi R}, \quad t = \text{const}$$

$$q = \frac{606}{\pi(0.8^2 - 0.75^2)} = 1232 \text{ lb/in}^3, \quad Z_{max} = \frac{1232}{0.05} = 2.46 \text{ E}4 \text{ psi}$$

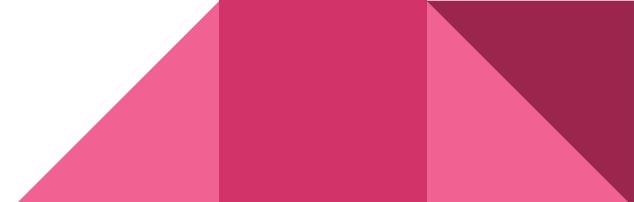
iii) Rate & Angle of Twist

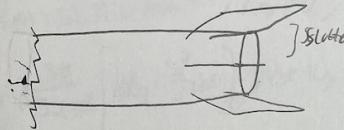
$$\frac{dt}{dz} = \frac{1}{4A^2 G t} \oint ds = \frac{606/2\pi(0.8)}{4(\frac{\pi}{4}(0.8^2 - 0.75^2))(3.77 \text{ E}6)(0.002)} \Rightarrow \frac{dt}{dz} = 0.067 \text{ rad/in}$$

$$\theta(8) = 0.54 \text{ rad}$$

$$\hookrightarrow 31^\circ$$

# Analysis of Combined Sections

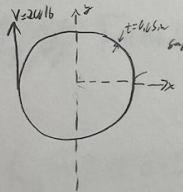




Section of Airframe Unigage 2016  
Dimensions: Aluminum: Shear Load  
 $G = 3,77E6 \text{ psi}$   
 $R = 0.8 \text{ in}$ ,  $t = 0.05 \text{ in}$

Determine:

- I) Torsional Rigidity, II) Max Shear Stress from Torsion, III) Max Shear Stress due to Both



I) Torsional Rigidity:  $TR = GS = \frac{2}{3} r^3 t G$

$$TR = \frac{2\pi}{3} (0.05)^3 (0.8) (3,77E6)$$

$TR = 790 \text{ lb}\cdot\text{in}^2$

II) Max Torsional Shear Stress  $Z_m + \frac{t}{f}$

$$T = 20016 (0.8) \Rightarrow -160 \text{ lb in}$$

$$J = \frac{2\pi}{3} (0.05)^3 (0.8) - Z_m \Rightarrow \frac{(-160)(0.05)}{\frac{2\pi}{3} (0.05)^3 (0.08)}$$

$Z_m \Rightarrow 3.8 \text{ E4 psi}$

III) Max Shear Stress-Force

$$\overset{\text{Sheared}}{q_s} = -\frac{Sy}{I_{xx}} \int_0^s t y \, dy = -\frac{Sy}{I_{xx}} \int_0^s t (-r_{xx}) r \, dt \Rightarrow q_s(\theta) = \frac{Sy}{I_{xx} r} \cdot [1 - \cos \theta] \quad |0 \leq \theta \leq 2\pi$$

$$q_{s,\max} @ \theta = \pi = \frac{2 \cdot 200}{\pi \cdot 0.8} \Rightarrow q_{s,\max} = 160 \text{ lb/in}^{-1}$$

$$Z_{max} = \frac{160}{0.05} = 3.2 \text{ E4 psi}$$

IV)  $Z_m + Z_{max} = 4.2 \text{ E4 psi}$  Max Shear Stress due to Both

# Structural Idealization

## HW 6 Idealized Sections - beams

Assume the following beams to be normal to carrying beams of a reticule cross-section in which the walls carry load.

$$\text{beam areas (av)} = 2.5 \times 10^3 \text{ in}^2$$

$$\text{wall thickness} = 0.05 \text{ in}$$

$$q \leq 1 \text{ in. } S = 0.16/\text{in.}^2$$



Find  $I_{xx}$ , signifying  $\bar{y}$  is 0

$$I_{xx,av} = \frac{1}{12}(0.05)^3 \times 0.8^2 (2(0.05))$$

$$= 0.64 \text{ in}^4$$

$$I_{xx,wall} = \frac{1}{12}(0.05)(8.00)^3 \sin^2(57.1) = 0.0213$$

$$= 0.0014 \text{ in}^4$$

$$I_{xx,wall} = 0.0014 + (0.1)^2 = 0.0014 + 0.01 = 0.0114 \text{ in}^4$$

$$I_{xx,wall} = 0.0114 + 0.64 = 0.6514 \text{ in}^4$$

## HW 6

Know  $I_{xx} = 0.49 \text{ in}^4$

Find shear flow from 1-2-3.

$$\Delta q = T_{xx} - 0 = \frac{-200 \text{ lb}}{0.49 \text{ in}^2} (2.5 \times 10^3) (0.1)$$
$$= -0.816 \text{ lb/in.}^{-1/2}$$

2 → 3

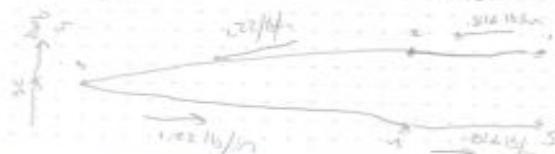
$$\Delta q = q_{av} - q_{\bar{x}_1} = \frac{-200 \text{ lb}}{0.49 \text{ in}^2} (2.5 \times 10^3) (0.1)$$

$$q_{\bar{x}_1} = (-0.816) = -0.816$$

$$q_{av} = -122 \text{ lb/in.}$$

3 → 1

$$q_{av} = +122 \text{ lb/in.}^{-1/2} \quad q_{av} = 0.816 \text{ lb/in.}$$



# Fatigue Analysis

HW 7 Fatigue - Service life

An aluminum Rocker Fin is subject to an average of 60 Hz of flutter for 2 seconds each flight.

If the fin is composed of 6061-T6 aluminum, which has a yield strength of 291 MPa, how many flights are possible before the fins fail?

Calculate at 99.9%, 95%, and 90%.

$$\begin{aligned} L_f &= 60 \text{ Hz} \\ \sigma_a &= 150 \text{ MPa} \\ \sigma_m &= 0 \text{ MPa} \end{aligned}$$

ANS

Cycles per flight:

$$60 \text{ Hz} \cdot 2 \text{ sec} = 120 \text{ cycles}$$

$$\text{GGI S-N curve } \sigma_a = 150 \text{ MPa } \sigma_m = 0 \text{ MPa}$$

$$N = 10^5 = 160,000 \text{ cycles}$$

$$\frac{10^5}{120 \text{ cyles}} = 833 \text{ flights until fail}$$

$$\text{at } 99.9\% \rightarrow k_r = 0.75$$

$$\sigma_a = \frac{150}{0.75} = 200 \text{ MPa} \rightarrow N = 10^5$$

$$10^5 = 31672 \rightarrow \frac{31672}{120} = 263 \text{ flights}$$

$$\text{at } 95\% \rightarrow k_r = 0.81$$

$$\sigma_a = \frac{150}{0.81} = 185 \text{ MPa} \rightarrow N = 10^5$$

$$10^5 = 39810 \rightarrow \frac{39810}{120} = 331 \text{ flights}$$

ANS

R/V

$$\text{at } 90\% \rightarrow k_r = 0.91$$

$$\sigma_a = \frac{150}{0.91} = 166 \rightarrow N = 10^5$$

$$10^5 = 63095 \rightarrow \frac{63095}{120} = 525 \text{ flights}$$

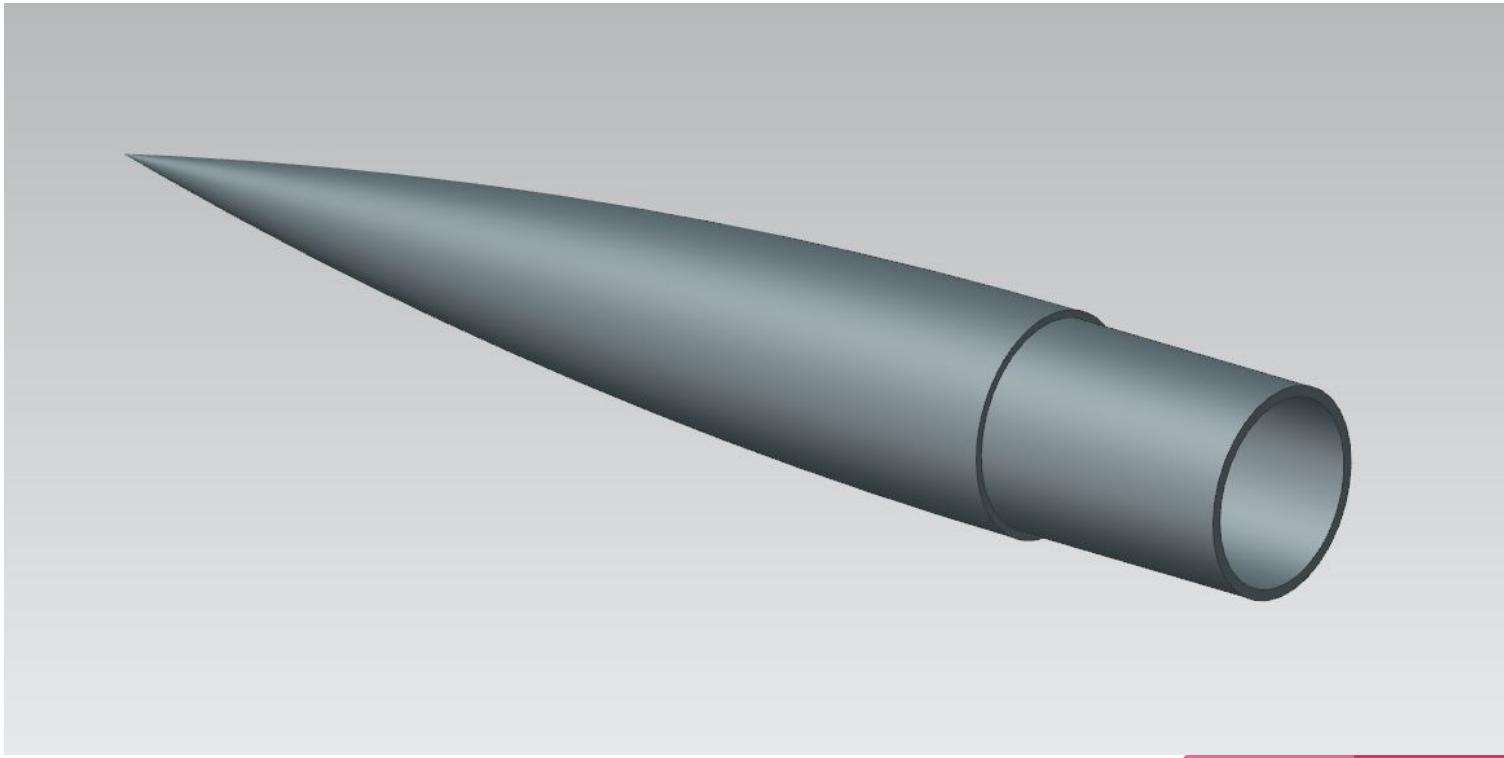
GGI TS AI - Confidence level / # of flights

R(V) # of cycles / # of flights

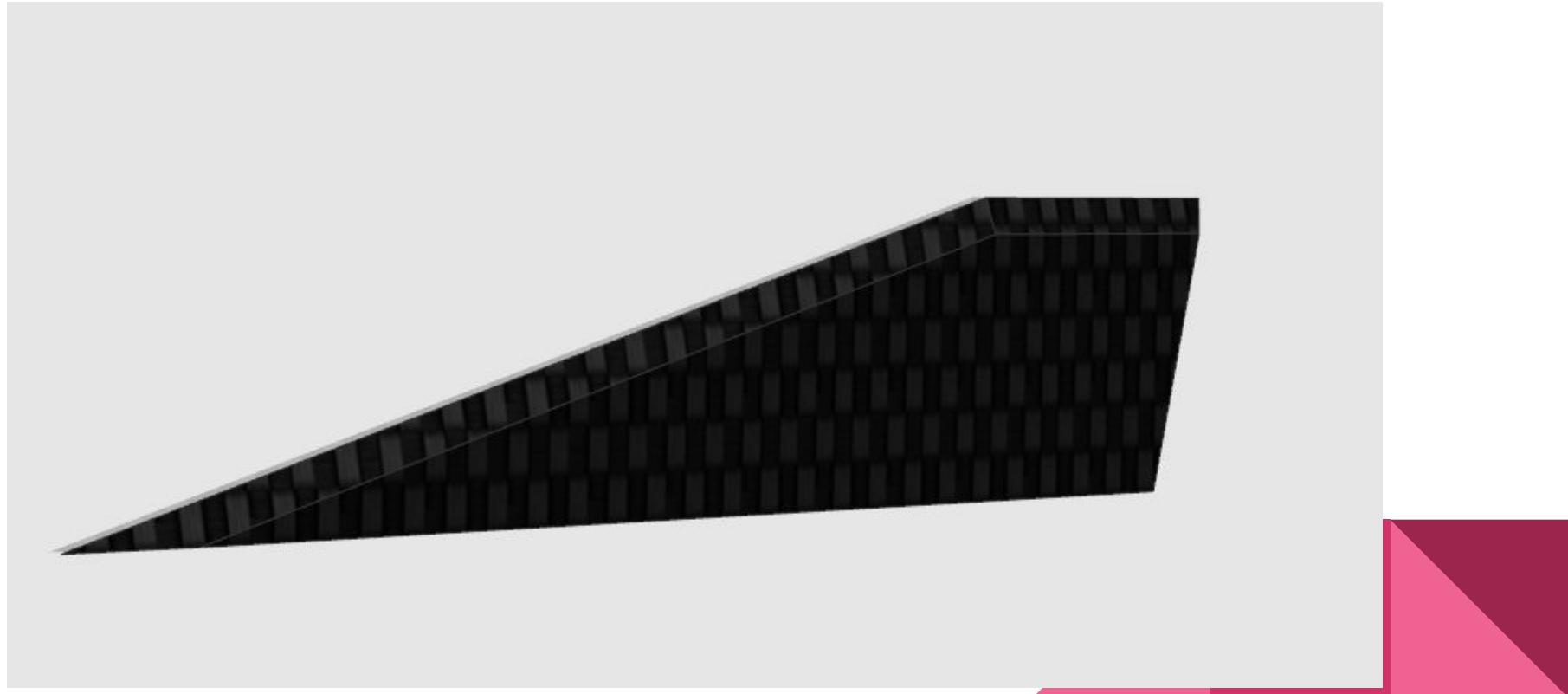
R(V)	# of cycles	# of flights
90	100000	83.3
95	63095	525
99.5	39810	331
99.9	31672	263

Comparing the extremes, we are 99.9% confident that the fins will not fail after 263 flights, but are 50% confident the fins will not fail after 633 flights!

# CAD NX, Components - Nosecone



# CAD NX, Components - Fins



# CAD NX, Components - Slotted & Non-slot Tube



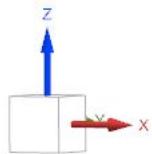
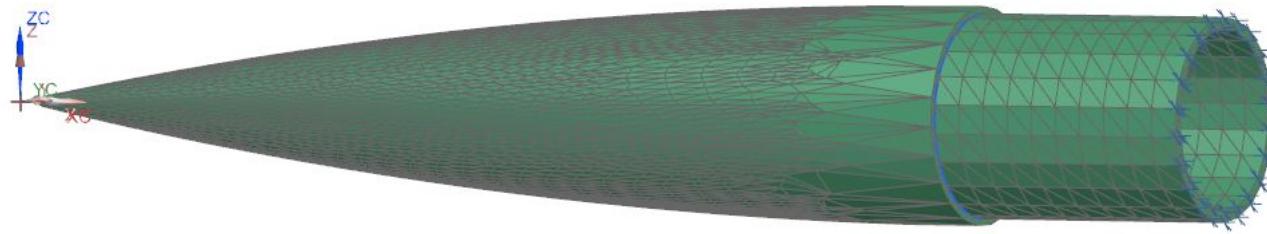
# Finite Element Analysis

FEA and Simulations of components:

- Nosecone
- Fins
- Slot-tube
- Non-slot tube

# FEA - Nosecone (Overview)

- FIXED constraint on circular edge
- 0.25 inch mesh
- material properties: aluminum 6061
- 200lbf magnitude force on the "nose", +z axis

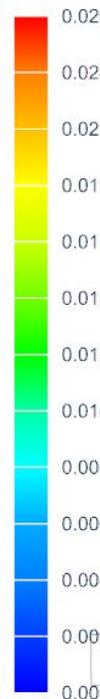


# Displacement and Stress



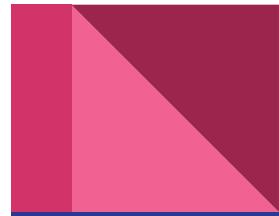
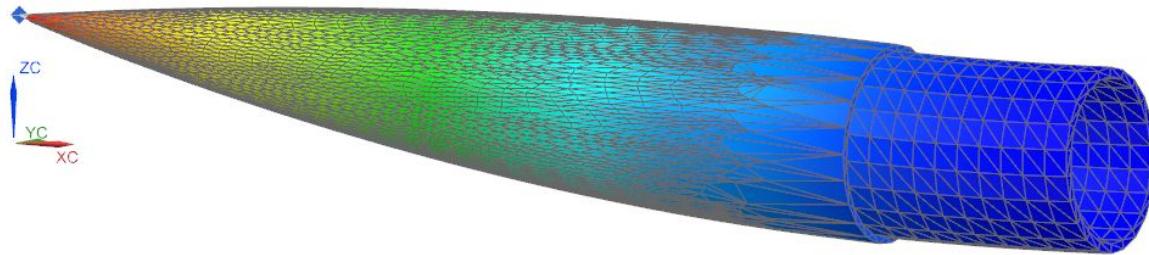
yonaka NC\_sim1 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0.0000, Max : 0.0262, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude

Maximum  
Node 1705  
0.0261694 in



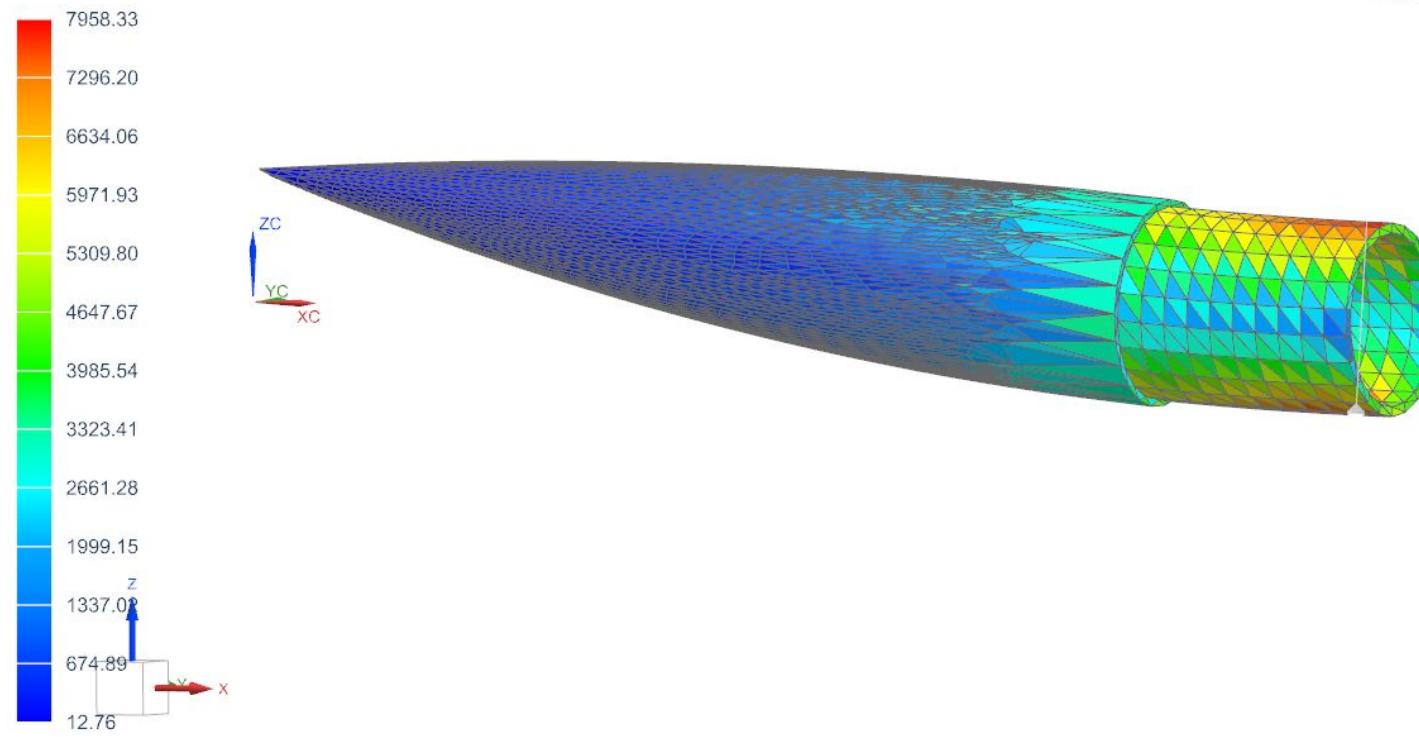
ZC  
YC  
XC

[in]

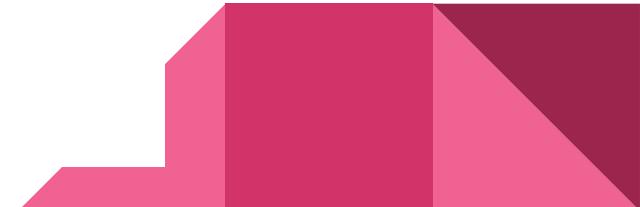
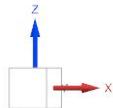
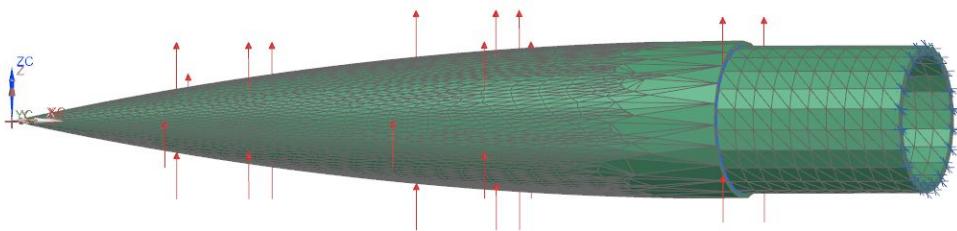


yonaka NC\_sim1 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Stress - Element-Nodal, Unaveraged, Von-Mises  
Min : 12.76, Max : 7958.33, Units = lbf/in<sup>2</sup>  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude

Maximum  
Element 9825, Node 3756  
7958.33 lbf/in<sup>2</sup>

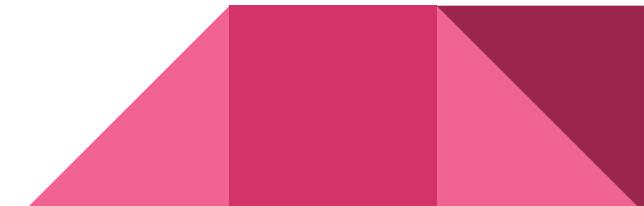


# Boundary Conditions



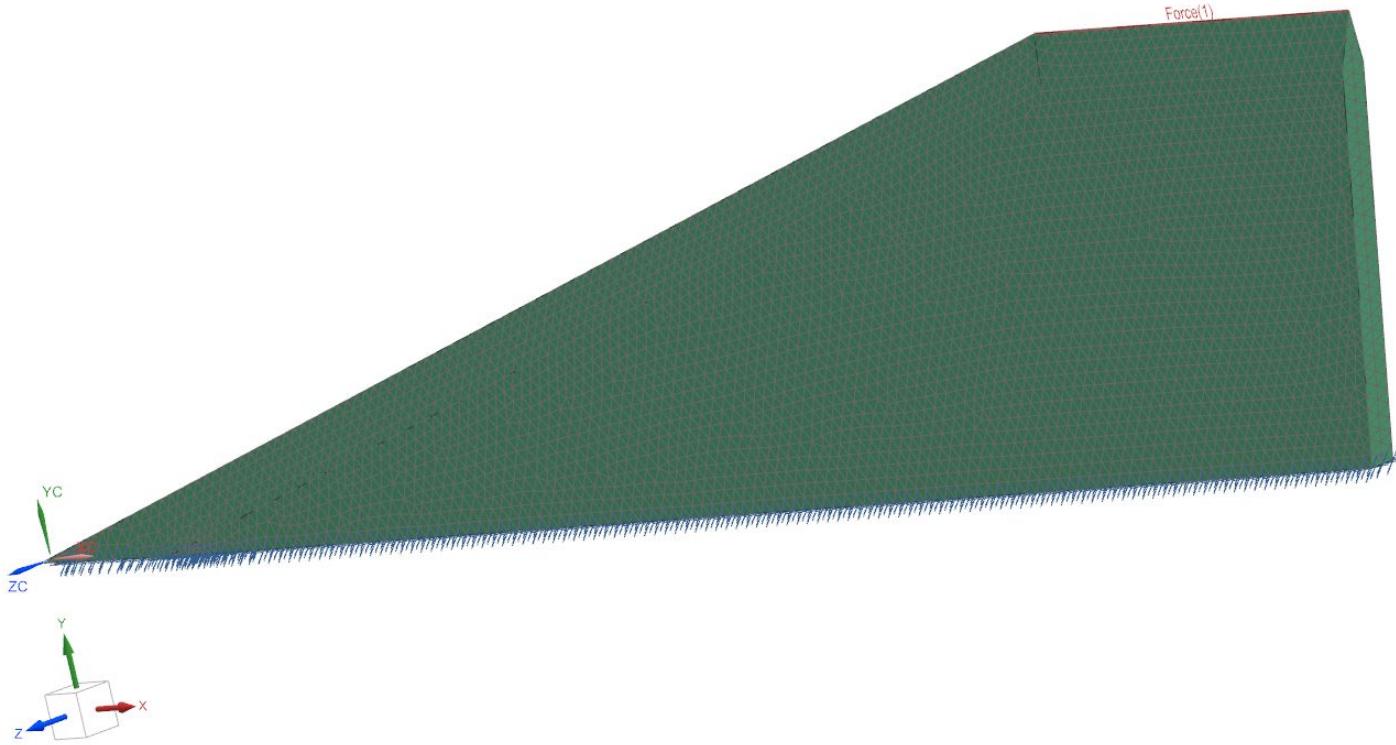
# FEA - Fins

- Fixed constraint on bottom edge
- 1/16 inch mesh
- material properties: aluminum 6061
- 200lbf magnitude force applied along top edge, -z axis (solution 1)
- 200lbf magnitude force applied along hind edge, +y axis (solution 2)



# Solution 1

Welcome Page (Simulation) femtofins v1\_sim1.sim



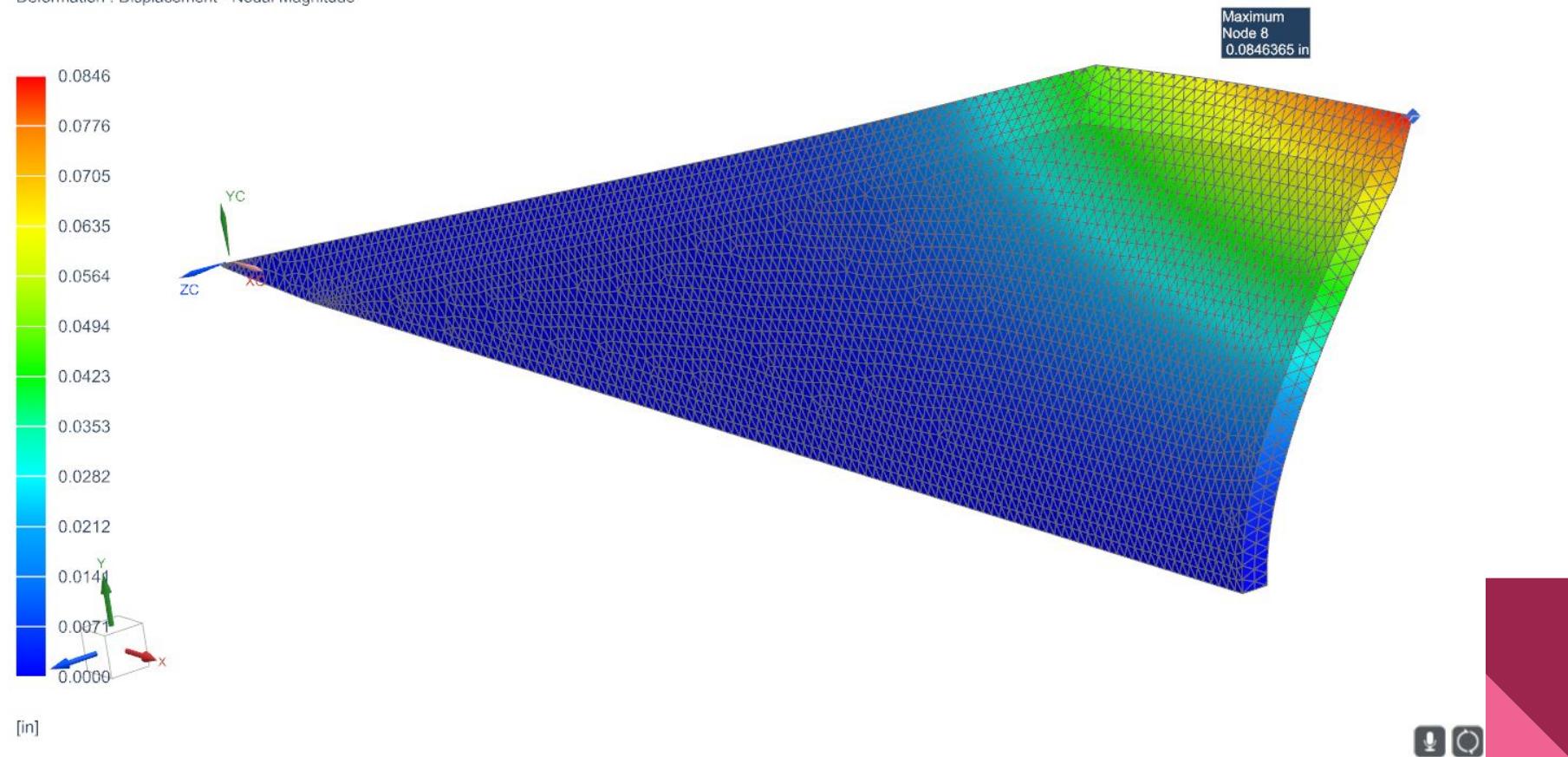
# Solution 2



# Displacement and Stress for Simulation 1



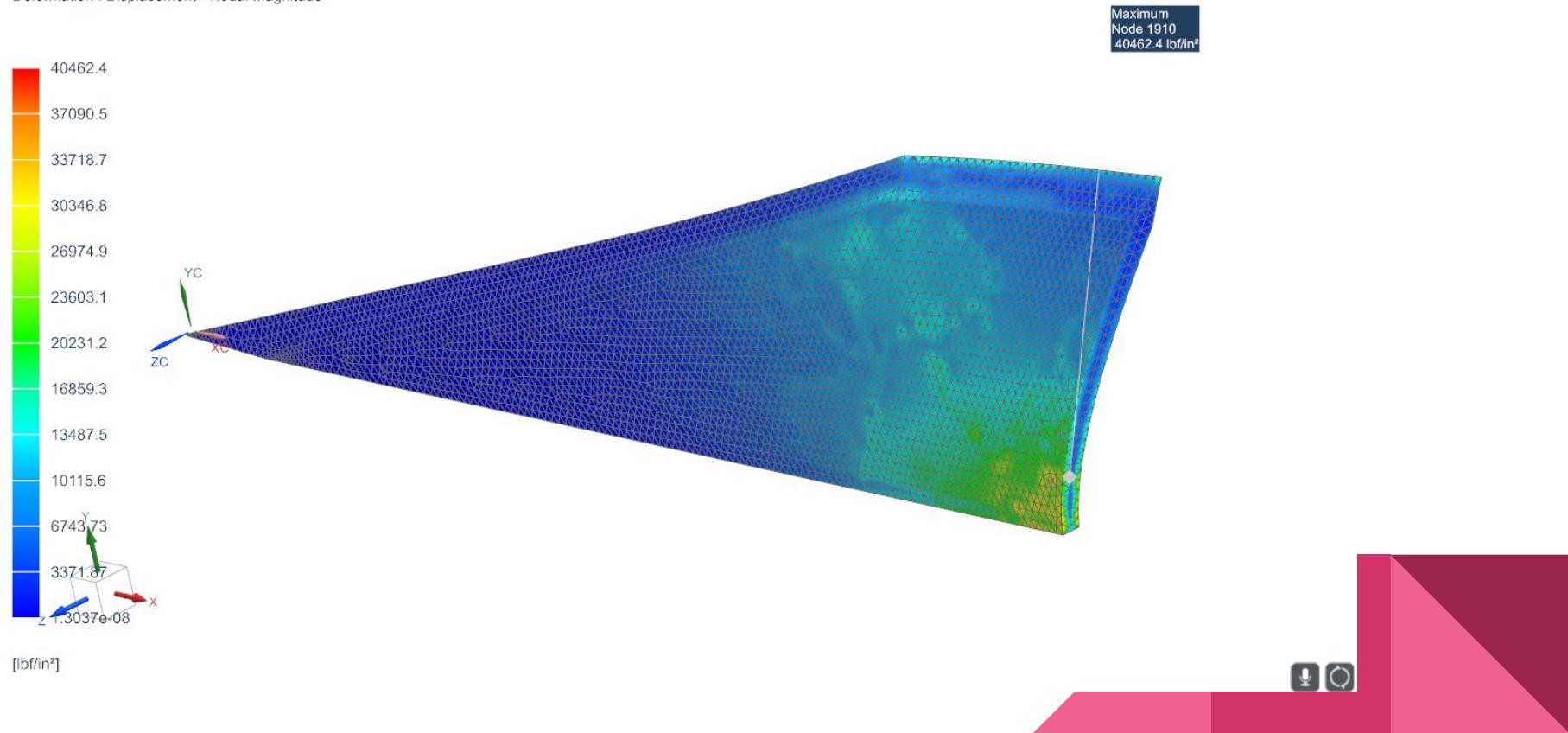
femtofins v1\_sim1 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0.0000, Max : 0.0846, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude



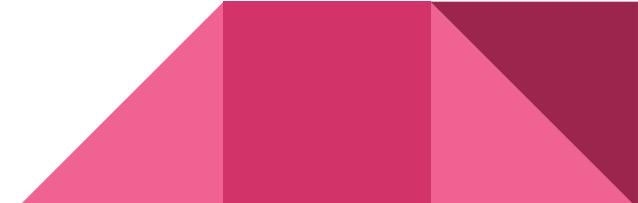
[in]



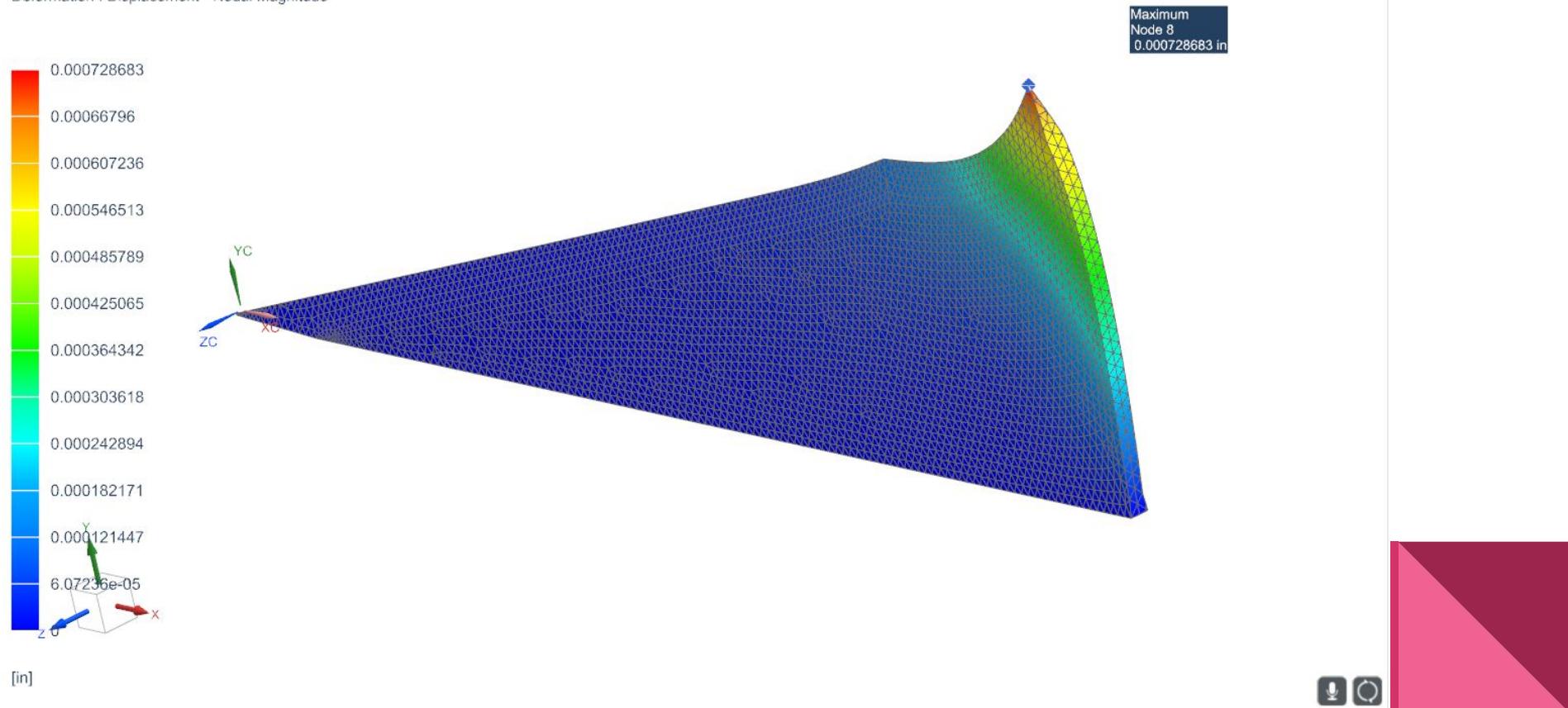
femtofins v1\_sim1 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Stress - Element-Nodal, Averaged, Von-Mises  
Min : 1.3037e-08, Max : 40462.4, Units = lbf/in<sup>2</sup>  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude



# Displacement and Stress for Simulation 2

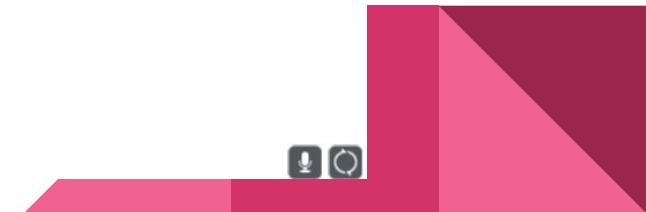


femtofins v1\_sim1 : Solution 2 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0, Max : 0.000728683, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude



femtofins v1\_sim1 : Solution 2 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Stress - Element-Nodal, Unaveraged, Von-Mises  
Min : 0.00, Max : 5828.28, Units = lbf/in<sup>2</sup>  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude

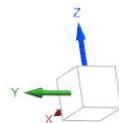
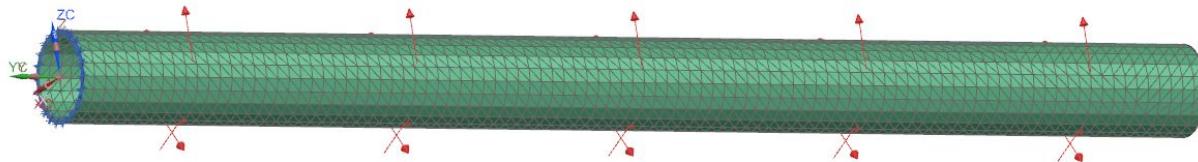
Maximum  
Element 19290, Node 1918  
5828.28 lbf/in<sup>2</sup>



# FEA non-slot tube (Closed Section)

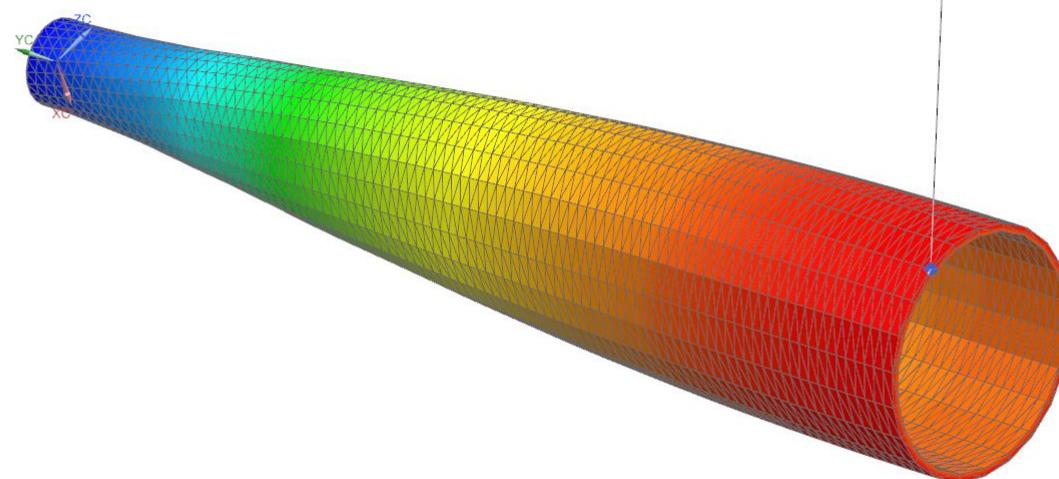
- Fixed constraint on face
- 1/4 inch mesh
- material properties: aluminum 6061
- 100 lb-in torque about the y-axis
- 28 inches long, no slots.

# Non-Slotted Tube Boundary Conditions

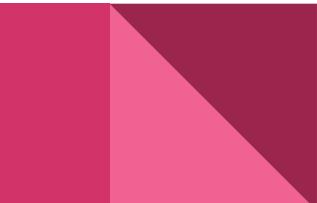


# Non-Slotted Tube Results

non-slotted airframe\_sim1 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0, Max : 0.00149621, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude



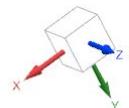
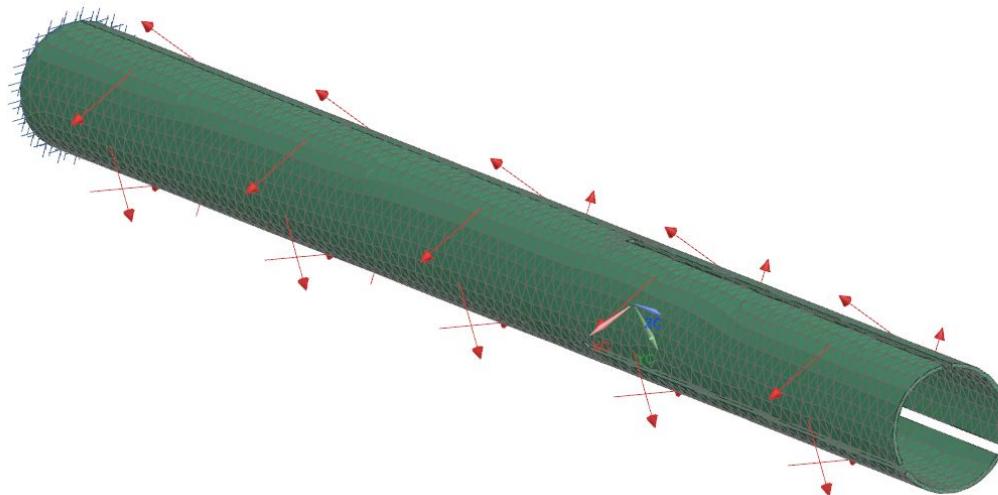
Node 20  
0.00149621 in



# FEA - Slotted-tube (Open Section)

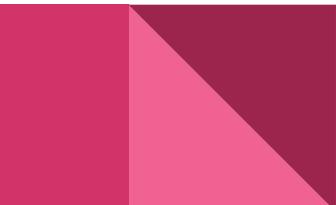
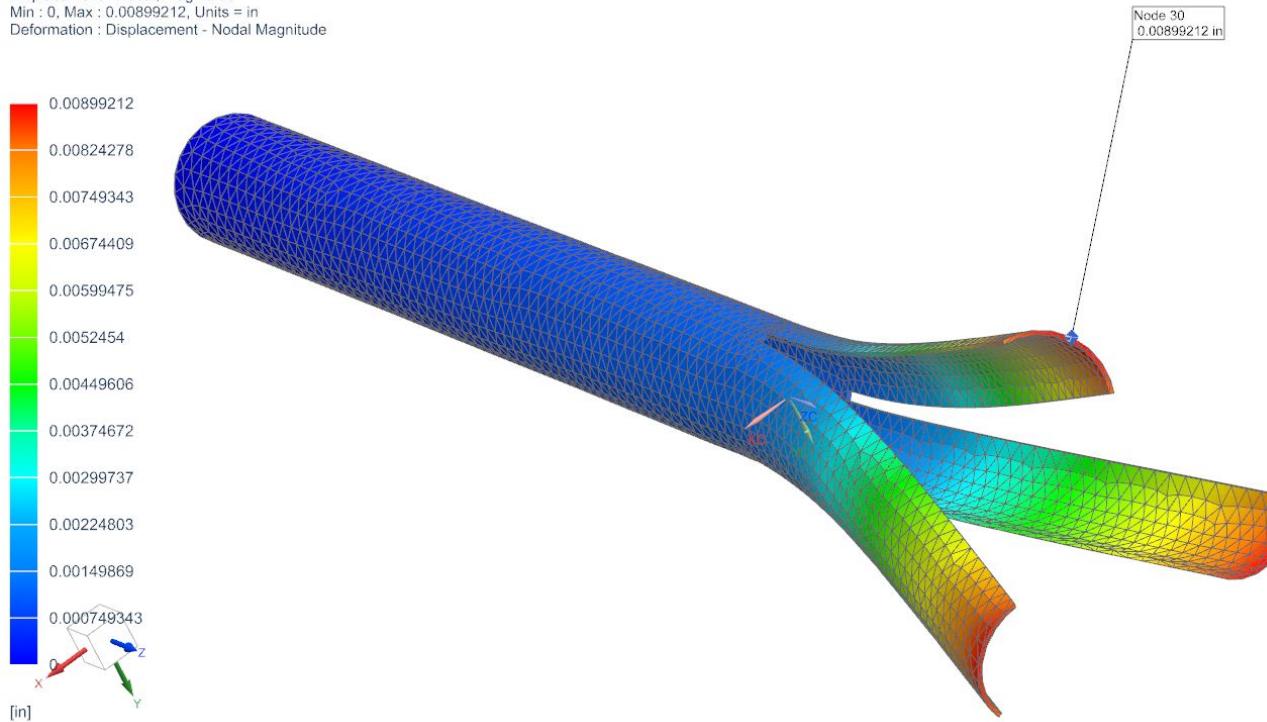
- Fixed constraint on non-slotted face
- 1/4 inch mesh
- material properties: aluminum 6061
- 100 lb-in torque about the y-axis
- 28 in long, slots (3) are 8 inches long and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch thick.

# Slotted Tube Boundary Conditions



# Slotted Tube Results

slotted airframe\_sim2 : Solution 1 Result  
Subcase - Static Loads 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0, Max : 0.00899212, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude



# Airframe Remarks

- Slotted Airframes had a *higher* overall displacement due to a lower torsional rigidity (see HW4 and 5)
- This was used as a design trade on whether or not to make cuts on the tube as fin-slots.

# Manufacturing Process - Overview

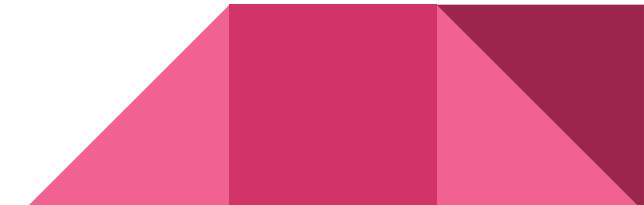
## Tubes:

- 1) Application of mold release: base tube
- 2) Application of epoxy and resin: carbon fiber
- 3) Roll wrap
- 4) Curing - via vacuum

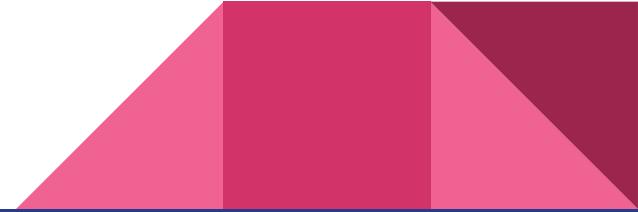
## Fins:

- 1) Water jet cut from JCC

# Manufacturing Process - Application of Epoxy and Resin

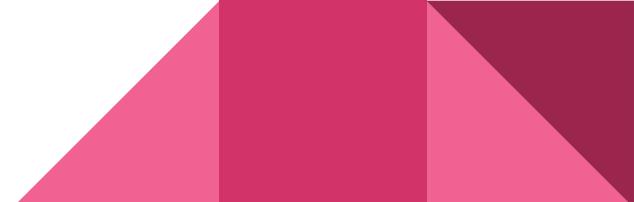


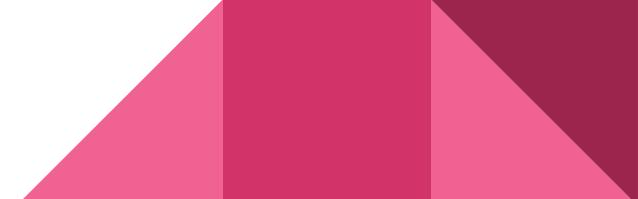






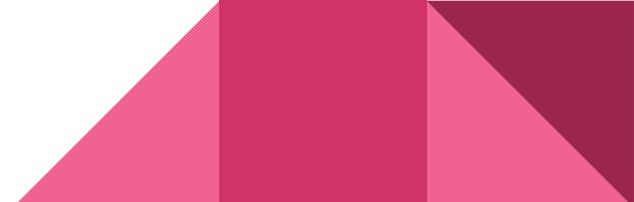
# Manufacturing Process - Roll wrapping

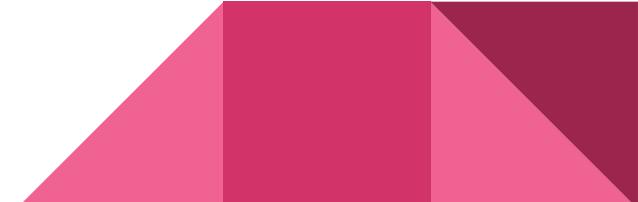






# Manufacturing Process - Curing





# Certificate Analysis

- Aerospace Structural Analysis and Design Project Master (4)
- Aerospace Project Specialist (2)
- Aerospace Structures Manufacturing Master (2)

# Finite Element Analysis Outline

Description of all needed work in regards to Finite Element Analysis of the carbon fiber rocket, including and outline of specific calculations needed with descriptions listed.

Link: [FEA - Outline](#)

# Process Statement - Carbon Fiber Tubes

Overview of all necessary steps for the completion of the carbon fiber rocket design.

link: [Carbon Fiber Tubes](#)