

Technical Report: High-Fidelity Landing Gear Digital Twin & Telemetry Pipeline

Author: Mohammed Bello Sani

Institution: Air Force Institute of Technology (AFIT), Kaduna

Date: December 2025

Repository: [Landing-Gear-Digital-Twin](#)

1. Executive Summary

This project represents the development of a high-fidelity **Cyber-Physical System (CPS)** for a retractable aircraft landing gear assembly (Dornier 228 class). Moving beyond isolated component analysis, this Digital Twin architecture integrates **multi-body physics simulation** with a **Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL)** style telemetry pipeline.

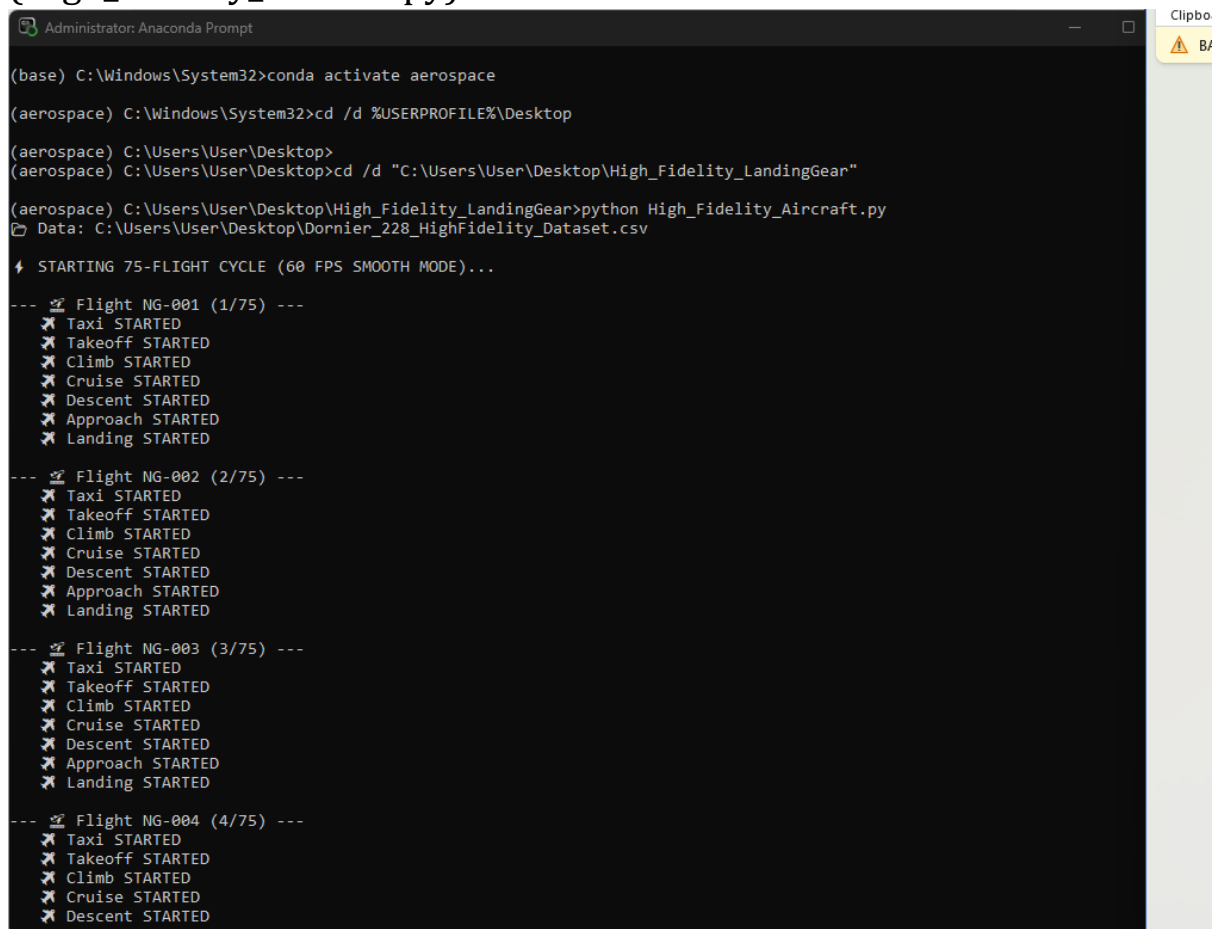
The system features a "Robot Aircraft" Flight Management System (FMS) that autonomously drives flight scenarios, injecting real-time faults (e.g., hard landings, seal degradation) into a **Simscape Multibody** physical plant. All performance metrics are streamed via **UDP** to an **InfluxDB 3** data warehouse for real-time analytics.

2. System Architecture

The architecture is designed as a distributed system with three distinct nodes:

2.1 Node A: The Flight Management System (FMS)

- **Core:** Python-based autonomous agent (High_Fidelity_Aircraft.py).



```
Administrator: Anaconda Prompt

(base) C:\Windows\System32>conda activate aerospace
(aerospace) C:\Windows\System32>cd /d %USERPROFILE%\Desktop
(aerospace) C:\Users\User\Desktop>
(aerospace) C:\Users\User\Desktop>cd /d "C:\Users\User\Desktop\High_Fidelity_LandingGear"
(aerospace) C:\Users\User\Desktop\High_Fidelity_LandingGear>python High_Fidelity_Aircraft.py
Data: C:\Users\User\Desktop\Dornier_228_HighFidelity_Dataset.csv

⚡ STARTING 75-FLIGHT CYCLE (60 FPS SMOOTH MODE)...

--- ✂ Flight NG-001 (1/75) ---
✂ Taxi STARTED
✂ Takeoff STARTED
✂ Climb STARTED
✂ Cruise STARTED
✂ Descent STARTED
✂ Approach STARTED
✂ Landing STARTED

--- ✂ Flight NG-002 (2/75) ---
✂ Taxi STARTED
✂ Takeoff STARTED
✂ Climb STARTED
✂ Cruise STARTED
✂ Descent STARTED
✂ Approach STARTED
✂ Landing STARTED

--- ✂ Flight NG-003 (3/75) ---
✂ Taxi STARTED
✂ Takeoff STARTED
✂ Climb STARTED
✂ Cruise STARTED
✂ Descent STARTED
✂ Approach STARTED
✂ Landing STARTED

--- ✂ Flight NG-004 (4/75) ---
✂ Taxi STARTED
✂ Takeoff STARTED
✂ Climb STARTED
✂ Cruise STARTED
✂ Descent STARTED
```

- **Role:** Acts as the "Robot Pilot," simulating 75+ flight cycles from Taxi to Landing.
- **Physics Engine:** Calculates flight dynamics (Roll, Pitch, Heading, G-Force) and environmental stressors.
- **Fault Injection:** Probabilistically introduces failures (e.g., seal_integrity degradation) based on gear cycle count.

2.2 Node B: The Digital Twin (Physical Plant)

- **Core:** MATLAB/Simulink & Simscape Multibody (Fancy_Landing_Gear.slx).
- **Role:** Solves the equations of motion for the landing gear mechanism.
- **Actuation:** Driven by AeroTwin_Master_Console.m, which utilizes a PostgreSQL bridge to "listen" for phase changes (e.g., "APPROACH" or "TAKEOFF") and trigger physical retraction/extension sequences.

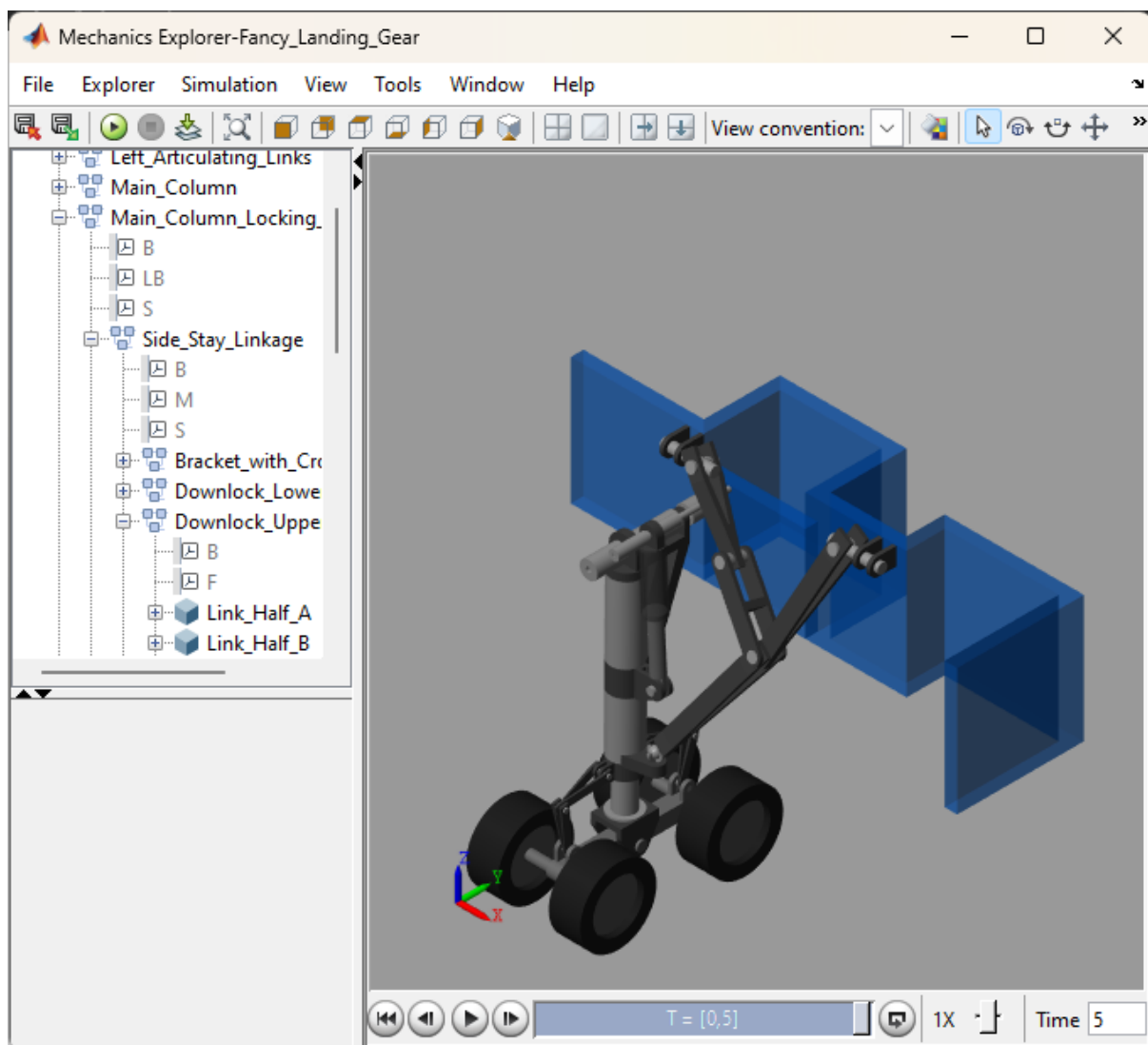


Figure 1: Simscape Multibody environment showing the active actuation of the Main Column and Side Stay linkage, driven by the AeroTwin Master Controller logic.

2.3 Node C: The Telemetry Pipeline

- **Visuals: FlightGear** receives UDP packets (Port 5502) for 3D visualization of the flight attitude.



- **Courier: Telegraf** listens on UDP Port 8094 to aggregate high-frequency sensor data.

```
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26200.7462]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\User\Downloads\telegraf-1.36.4_windows_amd64\telegraf-1.36.4>cd telegraf
The system cannot find the path specified.

C:\Users\User\Downloads\telegraf-1.36.4_windows_amd64\telegraf-1.36.4>telegraf.exe --config telegraf.conf
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loading config: telegraf.conf
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Starting Telegraf 1.36.4 brought to you by InfluxData the makers of InfluxDB
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Available plugins: 238 inputs, 9 aggregators, 35 processors, 26 parsers, 65 outputs, 5 secret-st
ores
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loaded inputs: cpu disk mem net socket_listener system win_perf_counters
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loaded aggregators:
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loaded processors:
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loaded secretstores:
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Loaded outputs: influxdb
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! Tags enabled: host=SMBello
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! [agent] Config: Interval:10s, Quiet:false, Hostname:"SMBello", Flush Interval:10s
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z W! [agent] The default value of 'skip_processors_after_aggregators' will change to 'true' with Tele
graf v1.40.0! If you need the current default behavior, please explicitly set the option to 'false'!
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z E! DeprecationError: Value "false" for option "ignore_protocol_stats" of plugin "inputs.net" deprec
ated since version 1.27.3 and will be removed in 1.36.0: use the 'inputs.nstat' plugin instead for protocol stats
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z W! [outputs.influxdb] When writing to [http://localhost:8181]: database "dornier_flight_data" creat
ion failed: Post "http://localhost:8181/query": dial tcp [::1]:8181: connectex: No connection could be made because the
target machine actively refused it.
2025-12-22T22:59:13Z I! [inputs.socket_listener] Listening on udp://127.0.0.1:8094
2025-12-22T22:59:20Z W! [inputs.win_perf_counters] Missing 'Instances' param for object "Memory"
2025-12-22T22:59:20Z W! [inputs.win_perf_counters] Missing 'Instances' param for object "Memory"
2025-12-22T22:59:20Z W! [inputs.win_perf_counters] Missing 'Instances' param for object "Memory"
2025-12-22T22:59:20Z W! [inputs.win_perf_counters] Missing 'Instances' param for object "Memory"
```

- **Warehouse: InfluxDB 3 Core** stores time-series data (nanosecond precision) for post-flight analysis.

```

C:\Windows\System32\cmd.e  X  +  v
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26200.7462]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\User\Downloads\influxdb3-core-3.7.0-windows_amd64>influxdb3.exe
Using auto-generated node id: SMBello-node. For production deployments, explicitly set --node-id
2025-12-22T22:59:41.292530Z  INFO influxdb3_lib::commands::serve: InfluxDB 3 Core server starting node_id=SMBello-node g
it_hash=f99502b9a079b554fda26286e89651a09c433d03 version=3.7.0 uuid=26214c9a-f99c-440d-b4be-7ec05b312c4e num_cpus=12
2025-12-22T22:59:41.293077Z  INFO influxdb3_clap_blocks::object_store: Object Store db_dir="C:\\Users\\User\\.influxdb"
object_store_type="Directory"
2025-12-22T22:59:41.294038Z  INFO influxdb3_lib::commands::serve: Creating shared query executor num_threads=12
2025-12-22T22:59:41.294300Z  WARN influxdb3_clap_blocks::tokio: Setting worker thread priority not supported on this pla
tform
2025-12-22T22:59:41.295092Z  WARN influxdb3_clap_blocks::tokio: Setting worker thread priority not supported on this pla
tform
2025-12-22T22:59:41.413625Z  INFO influxdb3_catalog::catalog::versions::v2::update: create database name="_internal"
2025-12-22T22:59:41.414116Z  INFO influxdb3_lib::commands::serve: catalog initialized catalog_uuid=c99b32cc-345a-4057-96
4d-2e60a06f76de
2025-12-22T22:59:41.414385Z  INFO influxdb3_lib::commands::serve: Initializing table index cache node_id="SMBello-node"
max_entries=Some(100) concurrency_limit=20
2025-12-22T22:59:41.414739Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: creating table indices from split snapshots
2025-12-22T22:59:41.434930Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: loading snapshot object metas starting from snapsh
ot sequence SnapshotSequenceNumber(3)
2025-12-22T22:59:41.436577Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: splitting snapshots into table snapshots
2025-12-22T22:59:41.467031Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: split snapshot at Path { raw: "SMBello-node/snapsh
ots/18446744073709551611.info.json" } into table snapshots
2025-12-22T22:59:41.487036Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: Completed splitting persisted snapshots duration_m
s=72 snapshots_processed=1 snapshots_skipped=3 last_sequence=4
2025-12-22T22:59:41.487803Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: Starting table index cache synchronization from ob
ject store node_prefix=SMBello-node
2025-12-22T22:59:41.554328Z  INFO influxdb3_write::table_index_cache: Completed table index cache synchronization durati

```

- **Dashboard: Grafana** visualizes critical health metrics like



hyd_pressure
and
strut_pressure.

3. Technical Implementation

3.1 The "Sync Bridge" (PostgreSQL)

A critical innovation in this project is the **Asynchronous Sync Bridge**. Since Python (FMS) and MATLAB (Physics) run on different time steps, they share state via a **PostgreSQL** database.

- **Python** logs a "Phase Change" event (e.g., Phase: LANDING, G-Force: 2.1G).
- **MATLAB** polls the database in a "Fast Restart" loop. When it detects a LANDING event, it dynamically calculates stiffness (\$k\$) and damping (\$b\$) coefficients based on the live health data and executes the strut compression simulation.

3.2 Physics Modeling (Simscape Multibody)

The mechanical assembly is modeled with high fidelity:

- **Kinematics:** Side Stay and Drag Strut linkages are modeled using revolute and spherical primitives to replicate exact folding geometry.
- **Hydraulics:** Actuators are not ideal motion sources; they are modeled as hydraulic pistons ($F = P \times A$) sensitive to hyd_pressure drops simulated by the FMS.
- **Control:** A PID Controller (PID Deploy/Ret) regulates actuator pressure to prevent structural ringing during high-speed retraction.

3.3 Data Telemetry Stack

To emulate modern avionics, the system avoids local CSV logging in favor of a network-based approach:

1. **Generation:** Python generates telemetry at 60 Hz.
2. **Transport:** Data is serialized into **Influx Line Protocol** and broadcast via UDP.
3. **Ingestion: Telegraf** buffers the stream and writes to **InfluxDB** 3.
4. **Query: Grafana** queries the bucket for real-time "Red/Green" health status visualization.

4. Operational Scenarios

Scenario A: The "Hard Landing"

1. **Trigger:** The FMS detects `gear_cycles > 50` and injects a random G-Force spike of 2.5G.
2. **Response:** The Python script triggers an email alert (SMTP) to the maintenance team.
3. **Physics:** MATLAB reads the 2.5G impact, updates the strut stiffness parameters (`k_strut_current`), and simulates the shock absorption capability to check for bottoming out.

Scenario B: Seal Failure

1. **Trigger:** `seal_integrity` drops below 0.8.
2. **Response:** The FMS drops the target hydraulic pressure from 3000 PSI to 2500 PSI.
3. **Physics:** The Simscape model receives reduced force, potentially causing a "Failure to Retract" or "Slow Retraction" event, observable in the Deploy Actuator Force scope.

5. Directory Structure

- /Models: Contains Fancy_Landing_Gear.slx (The Physics Twin).
- /Scripts:
 - High_Fidelity_Aircraft.py: The Python FMS and Telemetry Generator.
 - AeroTwin_Master_Console.m: The MATLAB Logic Controller.
- /Docs: Architecture diagrams and this Technical Report.

6. Conclusion & Future Work

This Digital Twin successfully demonstrates the fusion of **Operational Technology (OT)** - the physics simulation - with **Information Technology (IT)** - the InfluxDB/Python stack. Future iterations will replace the PostgreSQL bridge with a direct **ZeroMQ** low-latency socket for sub-millisecond synchronization between the Flight Model and the Landing Gear Physics.

Future Roadmap: Current research is focused on integrating an **Observer** into the control loop. This Virtual Sensor would compare the "Digital Twin" expected position against the "Real" sensor data to generate a "Residual Signal," which acts as an early warning system for mechanical drift or incipient failure.

6. Future Roadmap

Current research is focused on integrating an **Observer** into the control loop. This Virtual Sensor would compare the "Digital Twin" expected position against the "Real" sensor data to generate a "Residual Signal," which acts as an early warning system for mechanical drift or incipient failure.