

US Patent & Trademark Office

Patent Public Search | Text View

United States Patent Application Publication

20250256862

Kind Code

A2

Publication Date

August 14, 2025

Inventor(s)

McCormick; Patrick et al.

SYSTEM AND METHOD TO DETECT ANOMALOUS WINGTIP EXTENSION FOR A FOLDING WING TIP AIRCRAFT

Abstract

A folding wingtip aircraft includes a wing that includes a primary portion and a wingtip. The folding wingtip aircraft includes a folding wingtip system configured to rotate the wingtip relative to the primary portion. The folding wingtip aircraft also includes a flight control computer. The flight control computer is configured to, in response to a first determination that a wingtip position of the wingtip is not in a folded position when a second determination indicates that a last completed command by the folding wingtip system was a fold command, set error codes for the folding wingtip system. The flight control computer is also configured to change a setting to indicate that the folding wingtip aircraft is grounded based on the error codes.

Inventors: McCormick; Patrick (Mukilteo, WA), Bujnowski; Christopher (Everett, WA), Moy; George (Seattle, WA), Sheehy; Sarah (Shoreline, WA), Kerici; Endri (Mountlake Terrace, WA), Schantz; Austin (Everett, WA), Leonard; Paul Ryan (Seattle, WA), Boxell; Caitlin (Lancaster, CA), Campbell; Erin (Lake Forest Park, WA), Gunderson; John W. (Issaquah, WA)

Applicant: THE BOEING COMPANY (Arlington, VA)

Family ID: 1000008755705

Appl. No.: 18/357570

Filed: July 24, 2023

Prior Publication Data

Document Identifier

Publication Date

US 20250033797 A1

Jan. 30, 2025

Publication Classification

Int. Cl.: B64F5/40 (20170101); **B64C3/56** (20060101); **B64D45/00** (20060101); **G06F11/07** (20060101)

U.S. Cl.:

CPC B64F5/40 (20170101); **B64D45/00** (20130101); **G06F11/0739** (20130101); **G06F11/079** (20130101); **B64C3/56** (20130101)

Background/Summary

FIELD OF THE DISCLOSURE

[0001] The present disclosure is generally related to detecting anomalous wingtip extension for a folding wingtip aircraft.

BACKGROUND

[0002] As a general rule, larger aircraft and aircraft with longer wingspans tend to be more efficient for transporting people, cargo, or both. For example, operating larger aircraft, which can carry more passengers and payload, is generally more efficient between two destinations than flying several trips with smaller aircraft. Some airports are able to accommodate large wingspan aircraft (e.g., type F airports), however, taxiway spacing and gate locations for most airports were established without providing adequate spacing for aircraft with long wingspans.

[0003] To have a large wingspan and to accommodate wingspan limitations associated with some airports (e.g., type E airports), some aircraft are folding wingtip aircraft. Each wing of the aircraft includes a primary portion coupled to a fuselage of the aircraft, a wingtip that is configured to fold (e.g., rotate) relative to the primary portion, and a folding wingtip system configured to fold the wingtips relative to the primary portions. When the wingtips are in a flight position, the aircraft has a large wingspan to improve flight efficiency of the aircraft, and when the wingtips are in a folded position, the aircraft has a smaller wingspan that conforms to wingspan limitations of airports.

[0004] The folding wingtip systems (i.e., one folding wingtip system for each wing of the aircraft) are designed to raise and lower the wing tip. Although occurrence of anomalous operation of a folding wingtip system (e.g., due to human error, component failure, or both) is highly unlikely, it is desirable to detect if such an anomaly occurred and desirable to provide instructions detailing an appropriate response.

SUMMARY

[0005] In a particular implementation, an aircraft includes a wing. The wing includes a primary portion and a wingtip. The aircraft includes a folding wingtip system configured to rotate the wingtip relative to the primary portion. The aircraft also includes a flight control computer. The flight control computer is configured to, in response to a first determination that a wingtip position of the wingtip is not in a folded position when a second determination indicates that a last completed command by the folding wingtip system was a fold command, set error codes for the folding wingtip system. The flight control computer is also configured to change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the error codes.

[0006] In another particular implementation, a method includes determining, at a flight control computer of an aircraft, a wingtip position of a wingtip in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command. The method includes, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position, setting, via the flight control computer, first error codes for the folding wingtip system. The method includes, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in the folded position, changing, via the flight control computer, a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded. The

method also includes, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in the folded position, scheduling, via the flight control computer, maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

[0007] In another particular implementation, a non-transitory computer-readable medium includes instructions executable by one or more processors of an aircraft. The instructions are executable by the one or more processors to determine a wingtip position of a wingtip of an aircraft in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command. The instructions are executable by the one or more processors to, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position, set first error codes for the folding wingtip system. The instructions are executable by the one or more processors to change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first error codes. The instructions are also executable by the one or more processors to schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

[0008] The features, functions, and advantages described herein can be achieved independently in various implementations or may be combined in yet other implementations, further details of which can be found with reference to the following description and drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0009] FIG. 1A depicts a representation of a folding wingtip aircraft, which includes a wingtip extension anomaly detector, with the wingtips in a flight position.

[0010] FIG. 1B depicts a representation of the folding wingtip aircraft of FIG. 1A with the wingtips in a folded position.

[0011] FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a folding wingtip aircraft that includes a wingtip extension anomaly detector.

[0012] FIG. 3 is a diagram of a folding wingtip system of a folding wingtip aircraft that includes a wingtip extension anomaly detector.

[0013] FIG. 4 is a flow chart of an implementation of a first method of use of a folding wingtip system of an aircraft including wingtip extension anomaly detection.

[0014] FIG. 5 is a flow chart of an implementation of a second method of use of a folding wingtip system of an aircraft including wingtip extension anomaly detection.

[0015] FIG. 6 is a flow chart of an implementation of a third method of use of a folding wingtip system of an aircraft including wingtip extension anomaly detection.

[0016] FIG. 7 is a flow chart of an implementation of a fourth method of use of a folding wingtip system of an aircraft including wingtip extension anomaly detection.

[0017] FIG. 8 is a flow chart illustrating a life cycle of an aircraft that includes the wingtip extension anomaly detector of FIG. 1A.

[0018] FIG. 9 is a block diagram of an aircraft.

[0019] FIG. 10 is a block diagram of a computing environment including a computing device configured to support aspects of computer-implemented methods and computer-executable program instructions (or code) according to the present disclosure.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0020] A folding wingtip aircraft includes a folding wingtip system for each wing of the aircraft. A folding wingtip system enables rotation of a wing from a flight position to a folded position and vice versa. The folding wingtip systems receive commands from a flight control computer to use the folding wingtip systems.

[0021] The folding wingtip systems are designed so that motion of the wingtips is controlled and the wingtips are secured in place by brake systems when the wingtips are in the folded position and

are secured in place by latch pin systems when the wingtips are in the flight position. When a folding wingtip system of an aircraft fails to operate correctly to implement a command to change a wingtip from a first position (e.g., a folded position) to a second position (e.g., a flight position) based on data provided by sensors that monitor the folding wingtip system, the aircraft is grounded and scheduled for maintenance. A fault isolation manual, an aircraft maintenance manual, and information provided by a flight control computer of the aircraft are used by maintenance personnel to perform maintenance to determine why the folding wingtip system failed, to make the folding wingtip system functional, to address and correct problems caused by the failure, or combinations thereof.

[0022] Although it is very unlikely to occur, it is possible for a wingtip to fall from the folded position or to fall when the folding wingtip system is in use to change the position of the wingtip. Wingtip fall could be due to human error (e.g., improper maintenance), due to failure of one or more components of the folding wingtip system (e.g., failure of a torque tube that supports the wingtip as the wingtip is rotated from one position to another position), other causes, or combinations thereof. If a wingtip should fall, wingtip lugs of the wingtip could contact stops of a primary portion of the wing that provide an end limit to rotation for the wingtip, which may cause damage to one or more of the wingtip lugs, one or more of the stops, or both; or one or more wingtip lugs of the wingtip could contact one or more latch pins of the latch pin system, which could cause damage to one or more of the wingtip lugs, one or more latch pins, or both.

[0023] The present disclosure describes systems and methods that enable determination of anomalous wingtip extension, such as when a wingtip falls, and determination of a type of maintenance that is needed to return the aircraft to service. A technical advantage of the present disclosure is increased efficiency, reduced time that a folding wingtip aircraft is out of service for maintenance, and reduced cost associated with maintenance, due to maintenance scheduled for the aircraft as a result of failure of a folding wingtip system, including particular maintenance to address a probable cause of the failure of the folding wingtip system. The maintenance scheduled for the aircraft includes particular maintenance to be performed to address the probable cause of failure of the folding wingtip system identified based on sensor data obtained during use of the folding wingtip system. Another technical advantage is that maintenance scheduled for the aircraft identifies whether the wingtip fell, which can increase efficiency by eliminating a need for maintenance personnel to determine if the wingtip fell. If the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft indicates that the wingtip fell, particular components of the folding wingtip system that are identified based on sensor data as possibly having been damaged by the fall of the wingtip (e.g., one or more latch pins, one or more wingtip lugs, etc.) can be identified and examined for non-visible damage instead of having all components that could have been damaged by the fall examined for non-visible damage, which also increases efficiency, reduces time that the folding wingtip aircraft is out of service, and reduces costs associated with the maintenance.

[0024] The figures and the following description illustrate specific exemplary implementations. It will be appreciated that those skilled in the art will be able to devise various arrangements that, although not explicitly described or shown herein, embody the principles described herein and are included within the scope of the claims that follow this description. Furthermore, any examples described herein are intended to aid in understanding the principles of the disclosure and are to be construed as being without limitation. As a result, this disclosure is not limited to the specific embodiments or examples described below, but by the claims and their equivalents.

[0025] Particular implementations are described herein with reference to the drawings. In the description, common features are designated by common reference numbers throughout the drawings. In some drawings, multiple instances of a particular type of feature are used. Although these features are physically and/or logically distinct, the same reference number is used for each, and the different instances are distinguished by addition of a letter to the reference number. When the features as a group or a type are referred to herein (e.g., when no particular one of the features

is being referenced), the reference number is used without a distinguishing letter. However, when one particular feature of multiple features of the same type is referred to herein, the reference number is used with the distinguishing letter. For example, referring to FIG. 3, multiple electronic controllers are illustrated and associated with reference numbers **316A** and **316B**. When referring to a particular one of these electronic controllers, such as the electronic controller **316A**, the distinguishing letter “A” is used. However, when referring to any arbitrary one of these electronic controllers or to these electronic controllers as a group, the reference number **316** is used without a distinguishing letter.

[0026] The disclosure is directed to folding wingtip aircraft. The term “aircraft” as used herein refers to a folding wingtip aircraft. As used herein, various terminology is used for the purpose of describing particular implementations only and is not intended to be limiting. For example, the singular forms “a,” “an,” and “the” are intended to include the plural forms as well, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Further, some features described herein are singular in some implementations and plural in other implementations. To illustrate, FIG. 2 depicts a flight control computer **202** including one or more processors (“processor(s)” **216** in FIG. 2), which indicates that in some implementations the flight control computer **202** includes a single processor **216** and in other implementations the flight control computer **202** includes multiple processors **216**. For ease of reference herein, such features are generally introduced as “one or more” features and are subsequently referred to in the singular unless aspects related to multiple of the features are being described.

[0027] The terms “comprise,” “comprises,” and “comprising” are used interchangeably with “include,” “includes,” or “including.” Additionally, the term “wherein” is used interchangeably with the term “where.” As used herein, “exemplary” indicates an example, an implementation, and/or an aspect, and should not be construed as limiting or as indicating a preference or a preferred implementation. As used herein, an ordinal term (e.g., “first,” “second,” “third,” etc.) used to modify an element, such as a structure, a component, an operation, etc., does not by itself indicate any priority or order of the element with respect to another element, but rather merely distinguishes the element from another element having a same name (but for use of the ordinal term). As used herein, the term “set” refers to a grouping of one or more elements, and the term “plurality” refers to multiple elements. As used herein, A “and/or” B may mean that either “A and B”, or “A or B”, or both “A and B” and “A or B” are applicable or acceptable.

[0028] As used herein, “generating,” “calculating,” “using,” “selecting,” “accessing,” and “determining” are interchangeable unless context indicates otherwise. For example, “generating,” “calculating,” or “determining” a parameter (or a signal) can refer to actively generating, calculating, or determining the parameter (or the signal) or can refer to using, selecting, or accessing the parameter (or signal) that is already generated, such as by another component or device. As used herein, “coupled” can include “communicatively coupled,” “electrically coupled,” or “physically coupled,” and can also (or alternatively) include any combinations thereof. Two devices (or components) can be coupled (e.g., communicatively coupled, electrically coupled, or physically coupled) directly or indirectly via one or more other devices, components, wires, buses, networks (e.g., a wired network, a wireless network, or a combination thereof), etc. Two devices (or components) that are electrically coupled can be included in the same device or in different devices and can be connected via electronics, one or more connectors, or inductive coupling, as illustrative, non-limiting examples. In some implementations, two devices (or components) that are communicatively coupled, such as in electrical communication, can send and receive electrical signals (digital signals or analog signals) directly or indirectly, such as via one or more wires, buses, networks, etc. As used herein, “directly coupled” is used to describe two devices that are coupled (e.g., communicatively coupled, electrically coupled, or physically coupled) without intervening components.

[0029] FIG. 1A depicts a representation of a folding wingtip aircraft **100** with wingtips **102** of the

aircraft **100** in a flight position. FIG. 1B depicts a representation of the aircraft **100** with wingtips **102** in a folded position. Each wing **104** of the aircraft **100** includes a primary portion **106** coupled to a fuselage **108** of the aircraft **100** and the wingtip **102**. Folding wingtip systems of the aircraft **100** are able to rotate the wingtips **102** from the flight position to the folded position and vice versa. In an implementation, a horizontal length of the wingtip **102** from a wingtip end to a hinge axis is about eleven feet. In other implementations, the horizontal length of the wingtip **102** may be shorter or longer. In some implementations, ends of the wingtip **102** may include winglets.

[0030] Sensor data associated with one or more components of the folding wingtip systems are processed by a wingtip extension anomaly detector **110** to determine if the folding wingtip systems operated correctly to position the wingtips **102** in an appropriate position (e.g., the folded position or the flight position). In FIG. 1A and 1B, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110** is illustrated using dashed lines to indicate that it is not typically visible from an exterior of the aircraft **100**. Examples of operation of the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110** are described below with reference to FIGS. 2-7.

[0031] FIG. 2 depicts a block diagram of an aircraft **100**. The aircraft **100** includes the wings **104**, a flight control computer **202**; input devices **204** (e.g., a steering yoke, sidestick, levers, buttons, dials, keyboards, touchscreens, etc.) to receive data, commands, and other information from flight crew members and external sources; output devices **206** (e.g., displays, gauges, speakers, headphones, haptic devices, etc.) to provide information about operating conditions associated with the aircraft **100** to flight crew members and external sources; engines **208** to provide power to the aircraft **100**, operation systems **210**; a sensor system **212** to enable the flight control computer **202**, the operation systems **210**, or both, to determine the operating conditions associated with the aircraft **100**; and other components. Each wing **104** includes the primary portion **106** and the wingtip **102** that is configured to rotate relative to the primary portion **106** about a hinge axis **214**.

[0032] The flight control computer **202** controls operation of the aircraft **100** based on input received from crew members and from external sources, and based on use conditions. The flight control computer **202** includes one or more processors **216** and a memory **218**. The memory **218** stores data **220** associated with operation of the aircraft **100** and instructions **222** executable by the processor **216** to perform operations. The instructions **222** may include flight instructions **224** to operate the aircraft **100**, warning systems **226** to provide indications should one or more abnormal conditions occur, a maintenance scheduler **228** to schedule maintenance of the aircraft **100**, a wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A**, other applications, or combinations thereof. Maintenance scheduled by the maintenance scheduler **228** may include routine maintenance, particular maintenance to address a problem detected by the flight control computer **202**, or combinations thereof.

[0033] The operation systems **210** are configured to implement control commands sent by the flight control computer **202**, provided by crew members via the input devices **204**, or both. The operation systems **210** include folding wingtip systems **230**, a navigation system, a communication system, and other systems utilized during use of the aircraft **100**. Each folding wingtip system **230** is associated with a wing **104** and configured to rotate a wingtip **102** of the wing **104** relative to the primary portions **106** of the wing from a folded position to a flight position and vice versa. Each folding wingtip system **230** is also configured to secure the wingtip **102** in the flight position and the folded position.

[0034] Use of the folding wingtip system **230** is controlled by the flight instructions **224**. The flight instructions **224** include logic that determines when the folding wingtip system **230** is usable. For example, flight instructions **224** prohibit the flight control computer **202** from sending a fold command to fold the wingtips **102** from the flight position to the folded position when the aircraft **100** is in a takeoff phase or a flight phase and prevents the flight control computer **202** from sending the fold command during a landing phase until the aircraft **100** is on the ground and is traveling at a speed below a threshold speed. The threshold speed is below a speed needed for the

aircraft **100** to resume flight. In some implementations, the threshold speed is a taxi speed. As another example, the flight instructions **224** prohibit the flight control computer **202** from sending an extend command to extend the wingtips **102** from the folded position to the flight position based on a comparison of a current location of the aircraft **100** to wingspan limit data for an airport where the aircraft **100** is located when the aircraft **100** is not in flight and is in a taxi-in phase, taxi-out phase, or located at a stand (e.g., a gate).

[0035] The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** can represent a portion of the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110** that is implemented at the flight control computer **202** and that operates based on input from the sensor system **212**, the folding wingtip systems **230**, or both. The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** receives notification signals regarding operation of the folding wingtip systems **230** in response to commands sent from the flight control computer **202** to the folding wingtip systems **230**. When a received notification signal includes one or more error codes, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** is configured to change a setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded, is configured to provide information to the warning systems **226** to enable crew notification of one or more problems with the folding wingtip systems **230** and notification that the aircraft is grounded, and is configured to provide the one or more error codes to the maintenance scheduler **228** so that particular maintenance to address the one or more problems can be performed.

[0036] The flight control computer **202** may determine that last completed commands by the folding wingtip systems **230** were fold commands. The determination may be made when the aircraft **100** transitions from an idle or low power state to a powered state, periodically, when the flight control computer **202** determines to implement one or more extend commands to move the wingtips **102** from folded positions to flight positions, or combinations thereof. For example, before the one or more extend commands are sent to the folding wingtip systems **230**, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** sends a request for position of the wingtips **102** to the folding wingtip systems **230** and determines a last implemented command of the folding wingtip systems **230** from the data **220**. When the response to the requests for wingtip positions indicates the wingtips **102** are in the folded positions and the last implemented commands of the folding wingtip systems **230** were fold commands, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** determines there is no anomaly and sends the one or more extend commands to the folding wingtip systems **230**.

[0037] When the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** determines that one or both of the wingtips **102** are not in the folded position and last implemented commands by the folding wingtip systems were fold commands, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** determines that there is an anomaly. The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** sets a setting that grounds the aircraft **100** and sets error codes associated with the anomaly. The error codes include one or more codes used by the maintenance scheduler **228** to specify particular maintenance to be performed to place the aircraft **100** back in service. The error codes includes codes indicating problems with a brake system (e.g., brake system **308** of FIG. 3) configured to maintain the wingtip **102** in the folded position and prevent unintentional movement of the wingtip **102** from the folded position, error codes associated with a wingtip actuation system of the folding wingtip systems **230** (e.g., wingtip actuation system **304** of FIG. 3), and error codes associated with a position of a wingtip **102** that is not in the folded position. For example, if one of the wingtips **102** is in a position at or near to the flight position, the error codes associated with the position of the wingtip **102** enable the maintenance scheduler **228** to specify particular maintenance (e.g., wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance) that addresses problems associated with the wingtip **102** falling from the folded position to the flight position.

[0038] FIG. 3 is a block diagram of the folding wingtip system **230** for a wing **104** of the aircraft **100**. The folding wingtip system **230** includes a control system **302**, a wingtip actuation system **304** to rotate the wingtip **102** between the folded position and the flight position, a latch pin system **306** to lock the wingtip **102** in the flight position, a brake system **308** to lock the wingtip **102** in the

folded position, a portion of the sensor system **212** (e.g., hingeline sensors **310**, drivetrain actuator position sensors **312**, and drivetrain position sensors **314**), other components, or combinations thereof.

[0039] The control system **302** includes an electronic controller **316A**, a hydraulic controller **318A** coupled to the electronic controller **316A**, a redundant electronic controller **316B**, a redundant hydraulic controller **318B** coupled to the electronic controller **310B**, and an isolation valve **320** communicatively coupled to the electronic controllers **316**. The electronic controllers **316** are communicatively coupled to the flight control computer **202**.

[0040] In some implementations, the electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** are shared by the folding wingtip system **230** of the other wing **104** of the aircraft **100** to enable simultaneous control of both folding wingtip systems **230** via one of the electronic controllers **310A**, **310B** in response to a command received from the flight control computer **202**. Sharing the electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** by the folding wingtip systems **230** enables the folding wingtip aircraft **100** to have two electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** instead of four electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** as when each folding wingtip system **230** includes its own electronic controllers **316A**, **316B**. Similarly, in some implementations, the hydraulic controllers **318A**, **318B** are shared by the folding wingtip system **230** of the other wing **104** of the aircraft **100**. Spacing and system weight considerations of components and connection systems (e.g., wiring for electronic controllers **316** and hydraulic lines for hydraulic controllers **318**) may be considerations during a design phase of the aircraft **100** used in determining whether to use two electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** or four electronic controllers **316A**, **316B** and whether to use two hydraulic controllers **318A**, **318B** or four hydraulic controllers **318A**, **318B**.

[0041] Each electronic controller **316** includes one or more processors **322** and a memory **324**. The memory **324** is configured to store data and instructions. The instructions include extend instructions **326**, fold instructions **328**, and a wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B**. When a particular electronic controller **316** receives an extend command from the flight control computer **202**, the one or more processors **322** execute the extend instructions **326** to implement a procedure that causes the folding wingtip system **230** to rotate the wingtip **102** from the folded position to the flight position and secure the wingtip **102** in the flight position. When the particular electronic controller **316** receives a fold command from the flight control computer **202**, the one or more processors **322** execute the fold instructions **328** to implement a procedure that causes the folding wingtip system **230** to rotate the wingtip **102** from the flight position to the folded position and secure the wingtip **102** in the folded position.

[0042] The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** can represent a portion of the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110** that is implemented at the electronic controllers **316** and that monitors execution of a particular command received from the flight control computer **202** via the extend instructions **326** or the fold instructions **328**. When the command implements correctly, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** provides a notification to the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** of the flight control computer **202** that indicates successful implementation of the received command. When the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** detects, based on sensor data, that implementation of the received command stops before completion, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops further implementations of instructions (e.g., the extend instructions **326** or the fold instructions **328**), closes the isolation valve **320**, sets one or more error codes associated with the folding wingtip system **230**, sends a notification signal including the one or more error codes to the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A**, or combinations thereof.

[0043] Each electronic controller **316** is communicatively coupled to a corresponding hydraulic controller **318**. Each hydraulic controller **318** is coupled by a hydraulic supply line to the isolation valve **320** to receive pressurized hydraulic fluid from a hydraulic fluid system **330**. The hydraulic fluid system **330** may be a centralized system that supplies hydraulic fluid to the folding wingtip system **230** of each wing **104** of the aircraft **100**. Each hydraulic controller **318** is coupled to a

return hydraulic line that directs return hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic fluid system **330**. The hydraulic controllers **318** include a number of ports. Supply hydraulic lines and return hydraulic lines are connected to the ports and hydraulic units of the folding wingtip system **230** (e.g., a power drive unit **332**, latch pin actuators **334**, the brake system **308**, etc.). When an electronic controller **316** is implementing a first command (e.g., the extend command or the fold command), the electronic controller **316** sends an open signal to the isolation valve **320**, and sends various signals to the corresponding hydraulic controller **318** during implementation of the first command to cause the hydraulic controller **318** to direct pressurized hydraulic fluid to appropriate hydraulic units at appropriate times and to stop supplying hydraulic fluid to particular units at particular times. A last, or near to last signal, sent by the electronic controller **316** during implementation of the first command is a close signal to close the isolation valve **320**, which stops the folding wingtip system **230** from functioning, until one of the electronic controllers **316** receive a second command signal (e.g., the fold command or the extend command) from the flight control computer **202** to use the folding wingtip system **230** and the electronic controller **316** sends a signal to open the isolation valve **320** as part of a procedure to implement the second command.

[0044] The isolation valve **320** is associated with a first valve coil controlled by the first electronic controller **316A** to open and close the isolation valve **320**, a second valve coil controlled by the second electronic controller **316B** to open and close the isolation valve **320**, and one or more valve sensors for each valve sensor configured to monitor operation of the valve coils. Data from the valve sensors is used by the electronic controllers **316** to determine if an open valve command or a close valve command was implemented. When a particular electronic controller **316** implements a particular command (i.e., a valve open command or a valve close command) and valve sensor data indicates that the particular command was not completed, a first isolation valve error code associated with the particular controller is set and the particular electronic controller **316** causes the particular command to be implemented by the other electronic controller **316**. When the valve sensor data indicates that the particular command was completed by the other electronic controller **316**, a notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** includes the first isolation valve error code. Presence of the first isolation valve error code in the notification signal without presence of a second isolation valve error code associated with the other electronic controller **316** allows the flight control computer **202** to keep the aircraft in service and schedule maintenance of the aircraft **100** to address issues with the particular electronic controller **316**, the valve sensor associated with the particular electronic controller **316**, or both.

[0045] When valve sensor data indicates that the particular command was also not completed by the other electronic controller **316**, the second isolation valve error code associated with the other electronic controller is set, and a notification signal is sent to the flight control computer **202** that includes the first isolation valve error code and the second isolation valve error code. The flight control computer **202**, in response to the presence of the first isolation valve error code and the second isolation valve error code in the notification signal, causes to change a setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded and causes maintenance to be scheduled to address one or more problems associated with the valve sensors, the isolation valve **320**, or both.

[0046] The wingtip actuation system **304** includes the power drive unit **332** that rotates a first torque tube **336**, an angle gear box **338** driven by the first torque tube **336**, a second torque tube **340** driven by the angle gear box **338**, and a rotary fold actuator **342** that is driven by the second torque tube **340**. The rotary fold actuator **342** is aligned on the hinge axis **214** and is coupled to wingtip structure **344**. Rotation of the second torque tube **340** causes rotation of the rotary fold actuator **342** about the hinge axis **214**, which causes rotation of the wingtip **102** about the hinge axis **214**. The power drive unit **332** is coupled to primary portion structure **346** of the primary portion **106** of the wing **104**. The power drive unit **332** may be a hydraulic unit with a first unit configured to rotate the first torque tube **336** in a first direction that results in rotation of the wingtip **102** by the rotary fold actuator **342** about the hinge axis **214** toward the flight position and

a second unit configured to rotate the first torque tube **336** in a second direction that results in rotation of the wingtip **102** by the rotary fold actuator **342** about the hinge axis **214** in a second direction toward the folded position. The first unit and the second unit of the power drive unit **332** are each connected to the hydraulic controllers **318** by a supply hydraulic line and a return hydraulic line.

[0047] The latch pin system **306** includes a plurality of latch pin actuators **334**, a drivetrain **348** coupled to drive shafts of lock systems **350** of the latch pin actuators **334**, a drivetrain actuator **352** configured to rotate the drivetrain **348**, a plurality of wingtip lugs **354** structurally coupled to the wingtip structure **344** such that rotation of the rotary fold actuator **342** about the hinge axis **214** rotates the plurality of wingtip lugs **354**, and a plurality of primary portion lugs **356** that are part of the primary portion structure **346**. The lugs **354**, **356** include support structure with an opening that is sized to receive a latch pin **358** of the latch pin actuators **334** when the openings are aligned and the wingtip **102** is in the flight position.

[0048] The latch pin actuators **334** are coupled to the primary portion structure **346** in working relation to the openings in the primary portion lugs **356**. The latch pin actuators may be, or may be similar to, the latch pin actuators shown and described in U.S. Pat. No. 5,427,329. FIG. **3** depicts four latch pin actuators **334**. In other implementations, each folding wingtip system **230** may include a different number of latch pin actuators **334**. Each latch pin actuator **334** may be a hydraulic unit configured to extend the latch pin **358** of the latch pin actuator **334** through the openings of the lugs **354**, **356** associated with the latch pin actuator **334** to secure the wingtip **102** in the flight position. Each latch pin actuator **334** is also configured to retract the latch pin **358** from the openings of the lugs **354**, **356** to allow the wingtip actuation system **304** to rotate the wingtip **102** to the folded position.

[0049] Each latch pin actuator **334** includes a first hydraulic fluid port, a second hydraulic fluid port, the latch pin **358**, and the lock system **350**. When hydraulic fluid is supplied to the first hydraulic fluid ports of the latch pin actuators **334** through a first hydraulic line by one of the hydraulic controllers **318**, the hydraulic fluid fills and expands first chambers of the latch pin actuators **334** to cause the latch pins **358** to extend from housings of the latch pin actuators **334**. Expansion of the first chambers causes reduction of second chambers of the latch pin actuators **334**. Hydraulic fluid from the second chambers flows through the second hydraulic ports and a second hydraulic line to the hydraulic controller **318**. When hydraulic fluid is supplied to the second hydraulic fluid ports through the second hydraulic line by one of the hydraulic controllers **318**, the hydraulic fluid fills and expands the second chambers of the latch pin actuators **334** to cause the latch pins **358** to retract into the housings. Expansion of the second chambers causes reduction of the first chambers. Hydraulic fluid from the first chambers flows through the first hydraulic ports and the first hydraulic line to the hydraulic controller **318**.

[0050] The drivetrain actuator **352** is configured to rotate the drivetrain **348** in a first direction to a locked position to cause the lock systems **350** to place locking members in positions that inhibit retraction of the latch pins **358** of the latch pin actuators **334**, and is configured to rotate the drivetrain **348** in a second direction to an unlocked position to cause the lock systems **350** to move the locking members to positions that allow the latch pins **358** to retract into the housings of the latch pin actuators **334**. The drivetrain actuator **352** can be a hydraulic unit or an electrically driven unit.

[0051] During implementation of a command received from the flight control computer **202** by one of the electronic controllers **316** to use the folding wingtip system **230**, the electronic controller **316** implements the extend instructions **326** or the fold instructions **328** depending on the command. Implementation of the instructions **326** or the instructions **328** causes the electronic controller **316** to send signals to use the latch pin system **306**. The signals includes signals to the drivetrain actuator **352** that causes the drivetrain actuator **352** to be idle, to rotate the drivetrain **348** to the unlocked position, or to rotate the drivetrain **348** to the locked position. The wingtip extension

anomaly detector **110B** receives sensor data from the corresponding drivetrain actuator position sensor **312** and the corresponding drivetrain position sensor **314**. The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** analyzes the sensor data, and if the analysis indicates that the latch pin system **306** did not function correctly, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops implementation of the procedure, sets one or more error codes, and sends a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** that indicates failure of the command. The notification signal includes the one or more error codes. In response to the notification signal, the flight control computer **202** may change a setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded and may schedule maintenance for the aircraft **100** based on the one or more error codes.

[0052] For example, if the electronic controller **316A** sent a signal to the drivetrain actuator **352** to cause the drivetrain actuator **352** to rotate the drivetrain **348** to a locked position and data from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312A** indicates that the drivetrain **348** is idle and data from the drivetrain position sensor **314A** associated with the electronic controller **316A** indicates that the drivetrain **348** is not in the locked position, the notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** by the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** includes one or more first error codes (e.g., one or more numbers, one or more characters, or both) that causes the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft **100** to include drivetrain actuator maintenance. As another example, if the electronic controller **316A** sent a signal to the drivetrain actuator **352** to cause the drivetrain actuator **352** to rotate the drivetrain **348** to the unlocked position and data from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312A** indicates that the drivetrain **348** is set to rotate the drivetrain **348** to the unlocked position, but data from the drivetrain position sensor **314A** indicates that the drivetrain **348** is not in the unlocked position after passage of a threshold time, the notification signal includes one or more second error codes that cause the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft **100** to include latch pin actuator maintenance to identify one or more latch pin actuators **334** that are not functioning correctly.

[0053] The brake system **308** secures the wingtip **102** in the folded position. In some implementations, the brake system **308** is a hydraulic unit coupled to an output of the power drive unit **332**. The brake system **308** includes a torque limiter and a clutch. When the brake system **308** is in a locked configuration, no hydraulic fluid is supplied to the brake system **308** and the torque limiter is biased against the output of the power drive unit **332** to secure the wingtip **102** in place and prevent movement of the wingtip **102**. When hydraulic fluid is supplied to the brake system **308**, the brake system **308** transitions to an unlocked configuration. The hydraulic fluid activates the clutch to disengage the torque limiter and allow rotation of the first torque tube **336** by the power drive unit **332** to rotate the wingtip **102**.

[0054] During use of the aircraft **100**, the flight control computer **202** is configured to send a fold command to the electronic controller(s) **316** associated with folding wingtip systems **230** to cause the wingtips **102** of the aircraft **100** to rotate from the flight position to the folded position. The fold command may be sent automatically based on one or more conditions associated with operation of the aircraft **100** (e.g., a taxi-in flight phase after landing and a speed less than a threshold speed) or may be sent in response to crew member input that does not violate one or more conditions associated with use of the folding wingtip systems **230** to move the wingtips **102** from the flight position to the folded position. If the crew member input violates one or more conditions associated with use of the folding wingtip system **230**, the warning system **226** provides indication of any violations and the flight control computer **202** does not send the fold command to one of the electronic controllers **316**.

[0055] When the electronic controller **316** associated with the wingtip **102** receives the fold command, the electronic controller **316** sends an open signal to the isolation valve **320**. The electronic controller **316** sends a plurality of signals to the drivetrain actuator **352** and to the hydraulic controller **318** associated with the electronic controller **316** to cause the latch pins **358** of the latch pin actuators **334** to be retracted from the primary portion lugs **356** and the wingtip lugs

354. When sensor data received from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312** and the drivetrain position sensor **314** associated with the electronic controller **316** indicate that the latch pins **358** are retracted, the electronic controller **316** sends a signal to the brake system **308** that causes the brake system **308** to change from a locked configuration to an unlocked configuration and sends signals to the hydraulic controller **318** that cause the hydraulic controller **318** to activate the wingtip actuation system **304** to rotate the wingtip **102** to the folded position. When the electronic controller determines that data from the hingeline sensor **310** indicates that the wingtip **102** is in the folded position, the electronic controller **316** sends a signal to stop operation of the drivetrain actuator **352** to rotate the drivetrain **348**, and a plurality of signals to the hydraulic controller **318** that cause the brake system **308** to change from the unlocked configuration to the locked configuration to lock the wingtip **102** in the folded position, stop operation of the power drive unit **332**, and stop supply of hydraulic fluid to the latch pin actuators **334** that maintain the latch pins **358** in the retracted position. The wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** sends a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** indicating completion of the fold command. A close signal is sent to the isolation valve **320**.

[0056] If the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** determines that the fold command did not complete during implementation of the fold instructions **328**, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops further implementation of the fold instructions **328** and sends a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** indicating failure of the fold command. The notification signal includes one or more error codes usable by the maintenance scheduler **228** to schedule particular maintenance to address a probable cause of failure of the folding wingtip system **230** and to fix the folding wingtip system **230** so that the aircraft **100** is flightworthy.

[0057] For example, if the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** detects, based on data from the hingeline sensor **310** associated with the electronic controller **116**, that the wingtip **102** initially moved from the flight position toward the folded position and then moved back toward the flight position, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops further implementation of the fold instructions **328** and the notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** includes error codes indicating a fall of the wingtip **102**. The error codes include one or more first codes that cause the aircraft **100** to be scheduled for maintenance of the wingtip actuation system **304** to identify and fix one or more portions of the wingtip actuation system **304** that failed and allowed the wingtip **102** to fall (e.g., the first torque tube **336**, the second torque tube **340**, etc.), and one or more second codes based on a position of the wingtip **102**.

[0058] If the position of the wingtip **102** is at or near the flight position, the one or more second codes includes one or more particular codes that instructs the flight control computer **202** to schedule the aircraft for wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance. Wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance includes instructions to remove the wingtip lugs **354** and lug stops **360** of the primary portion **106** that limit the rotational range of the wingtip **102**, and replace the removed wingtip lugs **354** and lug stops **360**. A first set of the removed wingtip lugs **354** with visible damage (e.g., warping, cracks, etc.) are identified as scrap. A second set of the removed wingtip lugs **354** without visible damage are subjected to testing (e.g., x-ray imaging, sonic imaging, or other non-destructive testing method) to determine if the wingtip lugs **354** sustained non-visible damage. Wingtip lugs **354** that have non-visible damage are identified as scrap and, in some implementations, wingtip lugs **354** that do not have visible or non-visible damage can be reused.

[0059] If the position of the wingtip **102** is in a latch pin interference range, the one or more second codes include one or more codes that instructs the flight control computer **202** to schedule the aircraft **100** for wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance. The latch pin interference range corresponds to an angle range of the wingtip **102** relative to the primary portion as indicated by data from the hingeline sensor **310** where one or more wingtip lugs **354** could be in contact with one or more latch pins **358** of the latch pin actuators **334**. The latch pin interference range may be a narrow range (e.g., 14 degrees to 15 degrees or some other range) for latch pin systems **306** where

central axes of the latch pins **358** are aligned relative to the hinge axis **214** and may be a broad range (e.g., 10 degrees to 20 degrees or some other range) for latch pin systems **306** where central axes of one or more latch pins **358** are not aligned relative to the hinge axis **214**. Central axes of the one or more latch pins **358** may not be aligned relative to the hinge axis **214** due to spacing limitations in the wing **104**, to be able to determine one or more particular latch pins **358** contacted by one or more wingtip lugs **354** based on an angle of the wingtip **102**, or both.

[0060] Wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance includes instructions to identify one or more particular latch pins **358** that were contacted by one or more particular wingtip lugs **354** and replace each of the one or more particular latch pins **358** with a replacement latch pin **358**. Replacing a latch pin **358** may entail removing the latch pin **358** from the latch pin actuator **334** and replacing the latch pin **358** with the replacement latch pin **358**, or replacing the latch pin actuator **334** with another latch pin actuator **334**. A first subset of contacted latch pins **358** with visible damage (e.g., dents or cracks) are identified as scrap. A second subset of contacted latch pins **358** that do not include visible damage are subjected to testing to determine if there is non-visible damage. Based on the testing, and in some implementations, contacted latch pins **358** without visible damage and non-visible damage can be reused, and contacted latch pins **358** with visible damage or non-visible damage are identified as scrap.

[0061] Also, the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance includes instructions to identify one or more particular wingtip lugs **354** that contacted a latch pin **358** and replace each of the one or more particular wingtip lugs **354** with a replacement wingtip lug **354**. A first subset of wingtip lugs **354** that contacted a latch pin **358** and include visible damage are identified as scrap. A second subset of wingtip lugs **354** that contacted a latch pin **358** that do not include visible damage are subjected to testing to determine if there is non-visible damage. Based on the testing, and in some implementations, wingtip lugs **354** without visible damage and non-visible damage can be reused, and wingtip lugs **354** with visible damage or non-visible damage are identified as scrap.

[0062] During use of the aircraft **100**, the flight control computer **202** is configured to send an extend command to the electronic controller(s) **316** associated with folding wingtip systems **230** to cause the wingtips **102** of the aircraft **100** to move from the folded position to the flight position. The flight control computer **202** may send the extend command automatically based on occurrence of one or more conditions (e.g., a location of the aircraft **100** is in an area where having the wingtips **102** in the flight position is allowed and a flight phase of the aircraft **100** is taxi-out or taxi-in, etc.), or in response to crew input that will not violate one or more conditions that prohibit having the wingtips **102** in the flight position if implemented.

[0063] Before sending the extend command, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** of the flight control computer **202**, based on data received from one or more of the electronic controllers **316** that indicates the positions of the wingtips **102**, determines whether the folding wingtip systems **230** are functional. When the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** determines that the folding wingtip systems **230** are functional, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** sends the extend commands to the one or more controllers **316**.

[0064] In response to the extend command, the electronic controller **316** implements the extend instructions **326** and sends an open signal to the isolation valve **320**. The electronic controller **316** sends a plurality of signals to the drivetrain actuator **352**, to the hydraulic controller **318** associated with the electronic controller **316**, and to the latch pin system **306** to cause the latch pins **358** of the latch pin actuators **334** to be retracted so that the wingtip lugs **354** can rotate into position relative to the primary portion lugs **356** without contact with any of the latch pins **358**. When sensor data received from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312** and the drivetrain position sensor **314** associated with the electronic controller **316** indicate that the latch pins **358** are retracted, the electronic controller **316** sends a signal that causes the brake system **308** to change from a locked configuration to an unlocked configuration and sends signals to the hydraulic controller **318** that cause the hydraulic controller **318** to activate the wingtip actuation system **304** to rotate the wingtip

102 to the flight position. When the electronic controller **316** determines that data from the hingeline sensor **310** indicates that the wingtip **102** is in the flight position, the electronic controller **316** sends a signal to the drivetrain actuator **352** to cause the drivetrain actuator **352** to rotate the drivetrain **348** toward the locked position, and a plurality of signals to the hydraulic controller **318** that cause the latch pin actuators **334** to extend the latch pins **358** through the openings of the primary portion lugs **356** and the wingtip lugs **354**, stop operation of the power drive unit **332**, and change the brake system **308** from the unlocked configuration to the locked configuration. When data from the drivetrain position sensor **314** indicates that the lock system **350** are fully locked, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** **316** sends a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** indicating completion of the extend command. The close signal is sent to the isolation valve **320**.

[0065] If the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** determines that the extend command stops before completion, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops further implementation of the extend instructions **326** and sends the notification signal to the flight control computer **202** to indicate failure of the extend command. The notification signal includes one or more error codes usable by the maintenance scheduler **228** to schedule particular maintenance to address a probable cause of failure of the extend command and to repair the aircraft **100**.

[0066] For example, if the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** detects, based on data from the hingeline sensor **310** associated with the electronic controller **116**, that the wingtip **102** initially moved from the folded position toward the flight position and stopped before reaching the flight position, the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** stops further implementation of the extend instructions **328** and sends the notification signal to the flight control computer **202** with one or more particular error codes. The one or more particular error codes are dependent on the angle of the wingtip **102** relative to the primary portion **106**. If the angle of the wingtip **102** is not in the latch pin interference range, the one or more particular error signals include one or more first error codes that cause the flight control computer **202** to schedule the aircraft **100** for maintenance that includes examination of the components of the wingtip actuation system **304** to determine why motion of the wingtip **102** stopped and to fix the wingtip actuation system **304**. If the angle of the wingtip **102** is in the latch pin interference range, the one or more particular error codes include one or more second error codes that cause the flight control computer **202** to schedule the aircraft **100** for maintenance that includes determining if one or more wingtip lugs **354** contacted corresponding latch pins **358**, and if there was contact, performing wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance. The one or more second error codes also include one or more error codes that cause, if there was not contact of one or more wingtip lugs **354** with corresponding latch pins **358**, the maintenance to a determination of why motion of the wingtip **102** stopped and to repair the wingtip actuation system **304**.

[0067] As another example, if the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B** determines that the wingtip **102** arrived at the flight position, or near to the flight position, in a time quicker than a threshold time, the notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** includes one or more third error codes indicating that there was a wingtip-to-stop drop. The flight control computer **202** changes a particular setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded and schedules maintenance for the aircraft **100** including wingtip-to-stop drop and wingtip actuation system maintenance to fix the wingtip actuation system based on the one or more third error codes.

[0068] FIG. 4 depicts a flow chart of an implementation of a first method **400** of use of a folding wingtip system **230**. The method **400** may be performed by the flight control computer **202**, including the maintenance scheduler **228** and the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A**. The method **400**, at block **402** includes determining that a last completed command by the folding wingtip system **230** was a fold command. The determination may include a check that last implemented commands by the folding wingtip systems **230** were fold commands based on the data **220** stored in the memory **218** of the flight control computer **202**. The determination is made

when the aircraft **100** transitions from an idle or unpowered state to a powered state and the determination can be made periodically when the aircraft **100** is powered by the engines **208** of the aircraft **100** or by a connection to an external power source.

[0069] The determination can also be made in response to a determination to send an extend command to use the folding wingtip system **230** to move the wingtip **102** from the folded position to the flight position. Determining to use the folding wingtip system **230** may be performed automatically based on conditions of use of the aircraft **100** determined by the flight control computer **202** based on sensor data from the sensor systems **212** (e.g., the aircraft **100** is in a taxi out phase and is not in a section of an airport where having the wingtips **102** in the flight position is prohibited), based on input received from a crew member to implement an extend command that will not violate one or more conditions associated with changing to the flight position, or combinations thereof. If input from the crew member would violate the one or more conditions, the warning systems **226** provide output that informs the crew member of a problem associated with the extend command and the flight control computer **202** does not cause implementation of the extend command.

[0070] The method **400**, at block **404**, includes determining the wingtip position of the wingtip **102**. Determining the wingtip position may include sending a position request to the folding wingtip system **230** and receiving position data from a hingeline sensor **310**. The position data corresponds to an angle of the wingtip **102** relative to the primary portion **106** of the wing **104**.

[0071] The method **400**, at decision block **406**, determines if the wingtip position is in the folded position. When the determination, at decision block **406**, is that the wingtip **102** is in the folded position and the method **400** is implemented based on a determination to send the extend command to the folding wingtip system **230**, the method **400**, at optional block **408**, includes sending the extend command to an electronic controller **316** of the folding wingtip system **230** associated with the wingtip **102**, and the method **400** ends at block **410**. When the determination, at decision block **406**, is that the wingtip **102** is in the folded position and the method is not implemented based on a determination to send the extend command to the folding wingtip system **230**, the method **400** ends at block **410**.

[0072] When the determination, at decision block **406**, is that the wingtip **102** is not in the folded position, the method **400** includes, at block **412** setting error codes for the folding wingtip system **230**. The error codes include an error code associated with failure of the brake system **308** and an error code associated with failure of the wingtip actuation system **304**. The error code associated with failure of the brake system **308** causes the maintenance scheduler **228** of the flight control computer **202** to schedule brake system maintenance to determine why the brake system **308** failed and to repair the brake system **308**. The error code associated with failure of the wingtip actuation system **304** causes the maintenance scheduler **228** to schedule wingtip actuation system maintenance to determine which component(s) of the wingtip actuation system **304** failed such that the wingtip **102** was able to fall and to fix the wingtip actuation system **304**.

[0073] The error codes also include one or more additional error codes dependent on the angle of the wingtip **102** determined based on the position data. For example, if the angle of the wingtip **102** is in the latch pin interference range, the error codes include one or more additional error codes that indicate that the wingtip **102** fell and may have contacted a latch pin **358**, and the maintenance is to include wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance; and if the wingtip is at the flight position, or substantially at the flight position (e.g., within 1 degree, 2 degrees, or some other small number of degrees of the flight position), the error codes include one or more additional error codes that indicate that the wingtip **102** fell and the maintenance is to include wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance.

[0074] The method **400**, at block **414**, includes changing a setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded. The setting prevents the flight control computer **202** from allowing the aircraft **100** to fly. The method **400**, at block **416**, also includes scheduling maintenance of the aircraft **100**. The

types of maintenance scheduled for the aircraft are based on the error codes. The method **400** then ends at **410**.

[0075] FIG. **5** depicts a flow chart of an implementation of a second method **500** of use of a folding wingtip system **230**. The method **500** may be performed by the flight control computer **202**. The method **500**, at block **502** includes sending a command to a first electronic controller **316A** of a folding wingtip system **230** to move a wingtip **102** from a first position to a second position. The command may be a fold command to move the wingtip **102** from a flight position to a folded position, or the command may be an extend command to move the wingtip **102** from the folded position to the flight position.

[0076] The method **500**, at block **504**, includes receiving a first notification signal from the first electronic controller **316A** regarding implementation of the command. The method **500**, at decision block **506**, includes determining if the command completed successfully based on content of the notification. When the determination at decision block **506** is that the command completed successfully, the method **500** ends at block **508**. When the determination at decision block **506** is that the command did not complete successfully, the method **500**, at block **510** includes changing a setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is grounded. The method **500**, at block **512**, includes scheduling maintenance of the aircraft **100**, where the type of maintenance is based on one or more error codes included in the first notification signal.

[0077] When the determination at decision block **506** indicates that the command did not complete successfully, there is a possibility that the problem with the folding wingtip system **230** is a problem with one or more sensors associated with the first electronic controller **316A** and not with the mechanics of the folding wingtip system **230**. The redundant control system **316B** of the folding wingtip system **230** can be used to determine if the problem with the folding wingtip system **230** is a problem with one or more of the sensors associated with the first electronic controller **316A**. If the problem is a problem with the one or more sensors, the aircraft **100** does not need to be grounded for maintenance, but maintenance can be scheduled for the sensors associated with the electronic controller **316A** at a convenient time and the aircraft **100** may be used for one or more additional flights.

[0078] In conjunction with determining whether the command did not complete successfully due to one or more sensors associated with the first electronic controller **316A**, the method **500**, at block **514**, includes sending the command to the second electronic controller **316B**. The method **500**, at block **516**, includes receiving a second notification signal from the second controller **316B** regarding implementation of the command.

[0079] The method **500**, at decision block **518**, includes determining if the command completed successfully based on content of the second notification. When the determination at decision block **518** is that the command completed successfully, the method **500**, at block **520**, includes changing the setting to indicate that the aircraft **100** is not grounded. The method **500**, at block **522**, includes changing the scheduled maintenance to include maintenance of the sensor system associated with the first electronic controller **316A**. The method **500** then ends at **508**.

[0080] When the determination at decision block **518** is that the command did not complete successfully, the method **500**, at decision block **524** includes determining if the error codes of the notification signals are the same. When the determination, at decision block **518**, is that the notification signals include the same error codes, the method **500** ends at **508**. When the determination, at decision block **524**, is that the notification signals include different error codes, the method **500**, at block **526**, includes amending the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft to include maintenance based on all error codes in the notification signals. The method **500** then ends at **508**.

[0081] FIG. **6** depicts a flow chart of an implementation of a third method **600** of use of a folding wingtip system **230** to implement an extend command. The method **600** may be used to change a position of the wingtip **102** from the folded position to the flight position. The method **600** may be

performed by one of the electronic controllers **316** in response to receipt of the extend command from the flight control computer **202** and the method **600** includes the use of the extend instructions **326** and the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B**. The method **600**, at block **602** includes sending an open signal to the isolation valve **320**. Opening the isolation valve enables hydraulic powered components of the folding wingtip system **230** to function when supplied with hydraulic fluid from the hydraulic controller **318** associated with the electronic controller **316**.

[0082] The method **600**, at decision block **604**, determines if the isolation valve **320** opened. The determination is based on data from valve sensors. When the determination at decision block **604** is that the isolation valve did not open, the method **600**, at block **606** includes setting isolation valve error codes. The method **600**, at block **608**, includes sending a notification signal to the flight control computer **202**. The notification signal includes the isolation valve error codes, which cause the aircraft **100** to be grounded and cause maintenance to be scheduled for the aircraft **100** to fix one or more problems associated with the isolation valve, the valve sensors, or both. The method **600** ends at **610**.

[0083] When the determination at decision block **604** is that the isolation valve **320** opened, the method **600**, at block **612**, includes sending a first series of signals that cause the latch pins **358** of the latch pin actuators **334** to be fully retracted. The first signals may include signals to the hydraulic controller **318** to cause supply of hydraulic fluid to the latch pin system **306** and signals to the drivetrain actuator **352** to cause rotation of the drivetrain **348**.

[0084] The method **600**, at decision block **614**, determines if the lock systems **350** of latch pin actuators **334** operated correctly. The determination may be based on sensor data from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312** and the drivetrain position sensor **314**. When the determination at decision block **614** is that the lock systems **350** did not operate correctly, the method **600**, at block **616**, includes closing the isolation valve **320** by sending a close signal to the isolation valve **320**.

[0085] The method **600**, at decision block **618**, determines if the isolation valve **320** operated correctly to close the isolation valve **320**. When the determination at decision block **618** is that the isolation valve **320** did not operate correctly, the method, at block **620**, includes setting one or more isolation valve error codes. The method **600**, at block **622**, includes setting one or more error codes. Also, when the determination at decision block **618** is that the isolation valve operated correctly to shut the isolation valve **320**, the method **600** moves to block **622** and sets the one or more error codes. The error codes may indicate that one or more of the lock systems **350** did not function correctly. The method **600** proceeds to block **608** to send the notification signal to the flight control computer **202**. The notification signal includes the error codes, any isolation valve error codes, and indicates failure of the extend command. The method **600** then ends at block **610**.

[0086] When the determination at decision block **614** is that the lock systems **350** operated correctly, the method **600**, at block **624**, includes sending a second series of signals to cause the brake system **308** to change from a locked configuration to an unlocked configuration and to cause activation of the wingtip actuation system **304** to move the wingtip **102** from the folded position to the flight position.

[0087] The method **600**, at decision block **626**, determines if the wingtip **102** obtained the flight position. The determination may be based on hingeline sensor data from the hingeline sensor **310** that indicates the angle of the wingtip **102** relative to the primary portion **106** of the wing **104**.

[0088] When the determination at decision block **626** is that the wingtip **102** did not obtain the flight position, the method **600** proceeds to block **616** and then to decision block **618**. The method **600** returns to block **622** to set one or more error codes after implementing decision block **618** or decision block **618** and block **620**. The one or more error codes may include particular error code based on analysis of the hingeline sensor data, clock data, or both. If the hingeline sensor data indicates that the wingtip **102** did not move from the folded position, particular error codes indicating problems associated with the brake system **308** and the wingtip actuation system **304** are

set.

[0089] If the hingeline sensor data indicates that the wingtip **102** stopped at a position outside of a latch pin interference range, particular error codes that indicate problems associated with the wingtip actuation system **304** are set. If the hingeline sensor data indicates that the wingtip **102** stopped in the latch pin interference range, particular error codes that indicate occurrence of wingtip-to-latch pin drop are set. The particular error codes enable scheduled maintenance to determine, and address problems that could have occurred, if the wingtip **102** stopped in the latch pin interference range due to failure of the wingtip actuation system **304** without contact with one or more of the latch pins **358**, if the wingtip actuation system **304** failed and allowed the wingtip lugs **354** to fall and contact one or more of the latch pins **358**, or if the wingtip actuation system **304** did not fail and one or more of the wingtip lugs **354** were driven against one or more of the latch pins **358** by the wingtip actuation system **304**.

[0090] If the clock data indicates that the wingtip obtained a position at or near the flight position too quickly (e.g., faster than a threshold time), the particular error codes indicate occurrence of wingtip-to-stop drop. The error codes enable scheduled maintenance to address problems with the wingtip actuation system **304** that allowed the wingtip **102** to fall and to address damage that might have occurred due to the wingtip **102** falling.

[0091] When the determination at decision block **626** is that the wingtip **102** did obtain the flight position, the method **600**, at block **628**, includes sending a third series of signals to stop operation of the wingtip actuation system **304**, supply hydraulic fluid to the latch pin actuators **334** to extend the latch pins **358** through the wingtip lugs **354** and the primary portion lugs, and change the brake system **308** to a locked configuration. When the latch pins **358** are extended through the wingtip lugs and the primary portion lugs, the wingtip is secured to the primary portion **106** and the aircraft **100** is configured for flight.

[0092] The method **600**, at decision block **630**, includes determining if actions based on the third series of signals completed successfully. When the determination, at block **630**, is that the actions based on the third series of signals did not complete successfully, the method **600** proceeds to block **616** and then to decision block **618**. The method **600** proceeds from decision block **618**, or from decision block **618** and block **620**, to block **622** to set one or more error codes. For example, if data from the drivetrain position sensor **314** indicates that the drivetrain **348** did not obtain the fully locked position, the one more error signals include particular error codes to indicate failure of the lock systems **150**, the drivetrain **348**, or both.

[0093] When the determination, at decision block **630**, is that the actions based on the third series of signals did complete successfully, the method **600**, at block **632**, includes closing the isolation valve **320**. The method **600**, at decision block **634**, determines if the isolation valve closed. When the determination at decision block **634** is that the isolation valve **320** did not close, the method **600**, at block **636**, includes setting isolation valve error codes. The method proceeds to block **608** to send the notification signal to the flight control computer **202** and the method **600** ends at **610**. The notification signal indicates that the extend command failed and includes the isolation valve error codes. The flight control computer **202** grounds the aircraft **100** and scheduled appropriate maintenance to address issues with the isolation valve **320** responsive to the notification signal.

[0094] When the determination at decision block **634** is that the isolation valve **320** did close, the method **600**, at block **638**, includes sending a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** to indicate completion of the extend command. The method then ends at block **610**. The notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** at block **638** may include one or more isolation valve error codes that indicate an issue with one or more valve sensors if the open signal sent to the isolation valve **320** at block **602**, the close signal sent to the isolation valve at block **632**, or both were not implemented by the electronic controller **316** executing the extend instructions **326** but by the redundant electronic controller **316**. In response to the presence of at least one isolation valve error code in the notification signal that indicates completion of the extend

command, the flight control computer **202** schedules maintenance to address issues with the valve sensor.

[0095] FIG. 7 depicts a flow chart of an implementation of a fourth method **700** of use of the folding wingtip system **230** to implement a fold command. The method **700** may be used to change a position of the wingtip **102** from the flight position to the folded position. The method **700** may be performed by one of the electronic controllers **316** in response to receipt of the fold command from the flight control computer **202** and the method **700** includes the use of the fold instructions **328** and the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B**. The method **700**, at block **702** includes sending an open signal to the isolation valve **320**.

[0096] The method **700**, at decision block **704** determines if the isolation valve **320** opened. The determination is based on data from valve sensors. When the determination at decision block **704** is that the isolation valve did not open, the method **700**, at block **706** includes setting isolation valve error codes. The method **700**, at block **708** includes sending a notification signal to the flight control computer **202**. The notification signal includes the isolation valve error codes, which cause the aircraft **100** to be grounded and cause maintenance to be scheduled for the aircraft **100** to fix one or more problems associated with the isolation valve, the valve sensors, or both. The method **700** ends at **710**.

[0097] When the determination at decision block **704** is that the isolation valve opened, the method **700**, at block **712**, includes sending a first series of signals to cause the brake system **308** to be in the unlocked configuration and to cause the latch pin system **306** to retract the latch pins **358** from openings in the wingtip lugs **354** and openings in the primary portion lugs **356**. The signals may include signals from the electronic controller **316** to the corresponding hydraulic controller **318** and signals to the drivetrain actuator **352** to rotate the drivetrain **348**.

[0098] The method **700**, at decision block **714**, determines if lock systems **350** of the latch pin actuators **334** operated correctly. The determination may be based on sensor data from the drivetrain actuator position sensor **312** and the drivetrain position sensor **314**.

[0099] When the determination at decision block **714** is that the lock systems **350** did not operate correctly, the method **700**, at block **716**, includes closing the isolation valve **320**.

[0100] The method **700**, at decision block **718**, determines if the isolation valve **320** operated correctly to close the isolation valve **320**. When the determination at decision block **718** is that the isolation valve **320** did not operate correctly, the method, at block **720**, includes setting one or more isolation valve error codes. The method **700**, at block **722**, includes setting one or more error codes. Also, when the determination at decision block **718** is that the isolation valve operated correctly to shut the isolation valve **320**, the method **700** moves to block **722** and sets the one or more error codes. The error codes may indicate that one or more of the lock systems **350** did not function correctly. The method **700** proceeds to block **708** to send the notification signal to the flight control computer **202**. The notification signal includes the error codes, any isolation valve error codes, and indicates failure of the fold command. The error codes inform the flight control computer **202** to ground the aircraft **100** and enable the flight control computer **202** to schedule appropriate maintenance for the aircraft **100** to allow the aircraft **100** to return to service. The method **700** ends at block **710**.

[0101] When the determination at decision block **714** is that the lock systems **350** operated correctly, the method **700**, at block **724**, includes sending a second series of signals to the wingtip actuation system **304** to cause the wingtip **102** to move to the folded position. The method **700**, at decision block **726**, determines if the wingtip **102** obtained the folded position. The determination may be based on hingeline sensor data from the hingeline sensor **310** that indicates the angle of the wingtip **102** relative to the primary portion **106** of the wing **104**.

[0102] When the determination at decision block **726** is that the wingtip **102** did not obtain the folded position, the method **700** proceeds to block **716** and then to decision block **718**. The method **700** proceeds from decision block **718**, or from block **718** and block **720**, to block **722** to set one or

more error codes. For example, one or more particular error codes may be based on analysis of the hingeline sensor data. If the hingeline sensor data indicates that the wingtip **102** did not rise, the particular error codes may include one or more error codes that indicate a problem with one or more of the torque tubes **336, 340** of the wingtip actuation system **304**. If the hingeline sensor data indicates that the wingtip **102** initially rose and stopped at a particular angle, the particular error codes may be one or more error codes that indicate a problem with the power drive unit **332**, the angle gear box **338**, the rotary fold actuator **342**, or combinations thereof. If the wingtip **102** initially rose and then fell back to, or near to, the flight position, the particular error codes may be error codes that indicate a problem with one or more of the torque tubes **336, 340** of the wingtip actuation system **304** and error codes that indicate that a wingtip-to-stop drop of the wingtip **102** occurred. If the wingtip **102** initially rose and then fell and stopped in the latch pin interference range, the particular error codes may be error codes that indicate a problem with torque tubes **336, 340** of the wingtip actuation system **304** and error codes that indicate that a wingtip-to-latch pin drop occurred. Additional error codes could be set based on the hingeline sensor data or other sensor data.

[0103] When the determination at decision block **726**, indicates that the wingtip **102** obtained the folded position, the method **700**, at block **728**, includes sending a third series of signals to stop hydraulic fluid supply to retract the latch pins **358**, stop operation of the wingtip actuation system **304**, and set the brake system **308** to a locked configuration. The method **700** proceeds to decision block **730** to determine if actions implemented by the third set of signals completed successfully.

[0104] When the determination at decision block **730** is that the actions implemented by the third set of instructions did not complete successfully, the method **700** proceeds to block **716** and then to decision block **718**. The method **700** proceeds from decision block **618**, or from decision block and block **720**, to block **722** to set one or more error codes after decision block **718**. For example, if data from a brake system sensor indicates that the brake system **308** did not change to the locked configuration, a particular error code is set to indicate a problem with the brake system **308** or the brake system sensor.

[0105] When the determination at decision block **730** is that the actions based on the third series of signals completed successfully, the method **700**, at block **732**, includes closing the isolation valve **320**. The method **700**, at decision block **734**, determines if the isolation valve **320** closed. When the determination at decision block **734** is that the isolation valve **320** did not close, the method **700**, at block **736**, includes setting isolation valve error codes. The method proceeds to block **708** to send the notification signal to the flight control computer **202**, and the method **700** ends at **710**. The notification signal indicates that the extend command failed and includes the isolation valve error codes. The flight control computer **202** grounds the aircraft **100** and scheduled appropriate maintenance to address issues with the isolation valve **320** responsive to the notification signal.

[0106] When the determination at decision block **734** is that the isolation valve **320** did close, the method **700**, at block **738**, includes sending a notification signal to the flight control computer **202** to indicate completion of the fold command. The method then ends at block **710**. The notification signal sent to the flight control computer **202** at block **738** may include one or more isolation valve error codes that indicate an issue with one or more valve sensors if the open signal sent to the isolation valve **320** at block **702**, the close signal sent to the isolation valve at block **732**, or both were not implemented by the electronic controller **316** executing the fold instructions **328** but by the redundant electronic controller **316**. In response to the presence of at least one isolation valve error code in the notification signal that indicates completion of the fold command, the flight control computer **202** schedules maintenance to address issues with the valve sensor.

[0107] FIG. **8** is a flowchart illustrating a method **800** representing a life cycle of an aircraft that includes the flight control computer **202** with the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A** and the folding wingtip system **230** of FIG. **2**. The folding wingtip system **230** includes (or is otherwise coupled to) the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B**. During pre-production, the exemplary

method **800** includes, at block **802**, specification and design of an aircraft, such as the aircraft **100** described with reference to FIGS. **1A-3**. During specification and design of the aircraft, the method **800** may include specification and design of the flight control computer **202** and the folding wingtip system **230**. At block **804**, the method **800** includes material procurement, which may include procuring the flight control computer **202** and components of the folding wingtip system **230**.

[0108] During production, the method **800** includes, at block **806**, component and subassembly manufacturing and, at block **808**, system integration of the aircraft. For example, the method **800** may include component and subassembly manufacturing of the flight control computer **202** and the folding wingtip system **230**. At block **810**, the method **800** includes certification and delivery of the aircraft and, at block **812**, placing the aircraft in service. Certification and delivery may include certification of the flight control computer **202** and the folding wingtip system **230** to place the flight control computer **202** and the folding wingtip system **230** in service. While in service by a customer, the aircraft may be scheduled for routine maintenance and service (which may also include modification, reconfiguration, refurbishment, and so on). At block **814**, the method **800** includes performing maintenance and service on the aircraft, which may include performing maintenance and service on the flight control computer **202** and the folding wingtip system **230**.

[0109] Each of the processes of the method **800** may be performed or carried out by a system integrator, a third party, and/or an operator (e.g., a customer). For the purposes of this description, a system integrator may include without limitation any number of aircraft manufacturers and major-system subcontractors; a third party may include without limitation any number of vendors, subcontractors, and suppliers; and an operator may be an airline, leasing company, military entity, service organization, and so on.

[0110] Aspects of the disclosure can be described in the context of an example of an aircraft. A particular example of the aircraft **100** of FIGS. **1A-3** is shown in FIG. **9**.

[0111] In the example of FIG. **9**, the aircraft **100** includes an airframe **902** with a plurality of systems **904** and an interior **906**. Examples of the plurality of systems **904** include one or more of a propulsion system **908**, an electrical system **910**, an environmental system **912**, and a hydraulic system **914**. Any number of other systems may be included. In the example illustrated in FIG. **9**, some components of the folding wingtip system **230** of FIG. **2** are included in the electrical system **910** and other components of the folding wingtip system **230** are included in the hydraulic system **914**. The flight control computer **202** of FIG. **2** is included in the electrical system **910**.

[0112] FIG. **10** is an illustration of a block diagram of a computing environment **1000** including a computing device **1002** configured to support implementations of computer-implemented methods and computer-executable program instructions (or code) according to the present disclosure. For example, the computing device **1002**, or portions thereof, may execute instructions to perform, or cause equipment to perform, operations described with reference to FIGS. **2-9**. In implementations, computing devices **1002** are, or are components of, the aircraft **100**, the flight control computer **202**, the folding wingtip system **230**, and the electrical controllers **316** of FIGS. **1A-3**.

[0113] The computing device **1002** includes one or more processors **1004**. The processor **1004** communicates with a system memory **1006**, one or more storage devices **1008**, one or more input/output interfaces **1010**, one or more communications interfaces **1012**, or a combination thereof. The system memory **1006** includes non-transitory computer readable media, including volatile memory devices (e.g., random access memory (RAM) devices), nonvolatile memory devices (e.g., read-only memory (ROM) devices, programmable read-only memory, and flash memory), or both. The system memory **1006** includes an operating system **1014**, which may include a basic input/output system for booting the computing device **1002** as well as a full operating system to enable the computing device **1002** to interact with users, other programs, and other devices. The system memory **1006** includes one or more applications **1016** (e.g., instructions) which are executable by the processor **1004**. For example, when the computing device **1002** is the

flight control computer **202**, the one or more applications **1016** include the flight instructions **224**, warning systems **226**, the maintenance scheduler **228**, and the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110A**; and when the computing device is the electronic controller **316**, the one or more applications **1016** include the extend instructions **326**, the fold instructions **328**, and the wingtip extension anomaly detector **110B**.

[0114] In some configurations, the processor **1004** communicates with the one or more storage devices **1008**. For example, the storage device **1008** includes non-transitory computer readable media that can include nonvolatile storage devices, such as magnetic disks, optical disks, or flash memory devices. The storage devices **1008** can include both removable and non-removable memory devices. The storage devices **1008** can be configured to store an operating system, images of operating systems, applications, and program data. In particular implementations, the system memory **1006**, the storage device **1008**, or both, include tangible computer-readable media incorporated in hardware and which are not signals.

[0115] In some configurations, the processor **1004** communicates with the one or more input/output interfaces **1010** that enable the computing device **1002** to communicate with one or more input/output devices **1018** to facilitate user interaction. The input/output interfaces **1010** can include serial interfaces (e.g., universal serial bus (USB) interfaces or Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) interfaces), parallel interfaces, display adapters, audio adapters, and other interfaces (“IEEE” is a registered trademark of The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. of Piscataway, New Jersey). The input/output devices **1018** can include keyboards, pointing devices, displays (e.g., one or more monitors, one or more gauges, etc.), speakers, microphones, touch screens, rotatable selectors, levers, knobs, slides, switches, and other devices. The processor **1004** detects interaction events based on user input received via the input/output interfaces **1010**. Additionally, the processor **1004** sends a display to a display device via the input/output interfaces **1010**.

[0116] In some configurations, the processor **1004** can communicate with one or more devices **1020** via the one or more communications interfaces **1012**. The one or more devices **1020** can include external computing devices contacted via a communication network and controllers, sensors, and other devices coupled to the computing device **1002** via wired or wireless local connections. For example, when the computing device **1002** is the electronic controller **316** of FIG. 3, the computer device **1002** is configured to communicate via the interface **1012** with the flight control computer **202** of FIG. 2 and with particular sensors of the folding wingtip system **230**. The one or more communications interfaces **1012** may include wired Ethernet interfaces, IEEE **802** wireless interfaces, other wireless communication interfaces, one or more converters to convert analog signals to digital signals, electrical signals to optical signals, one or more converters to convert received optical signals to electrical signals, or other network interfaces.

[0117] In some implementations, a non-transitory, computer readable medium stores instructions that, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to initiate, perform, or control operations to perform part or all of the functionality described above. For example, the instructions may be executable to implement one or more of the operations or methods of FIGS. **1A-10**. In some implementations, part or all of one or more of the operations or methods associated with FIGS. **1A-10** may be implemented by one or more processors (e.g., one or more central processing units (CPUs), one or more graphics processing units (GPUs), one or more digital signal processors (DSPs)) executing instructions, by dedicated hardware circuitry, or any combination thereof.

[0118] Particular aspects of the disclosure are described below in sets of interrelated Examples:

[0119] According to Example 1, an aircraft comprises: a wing, wherein the wing includes a primary portion and a wingtip; and a folding wingtip system configured to rotate the wingtip relative to the primary portion, wherein the folding wingtip system includes an electronic controller configured to: implement an extend command received from a flight control computer to rotate the wingtip

from a folded position to a flight position; and in response to a determination that rotation of the wingtip stopped before the flight position during implementation of the extend command, send a first signal to the flight computer to cause the folding wingtip aircraft to be grounded and to schedule maintenance of the folding wingtip aircraft, wherein the first signal indicates that the maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance in response to a determination by the control unit that a first particular angle of the wingtip relative to the primary portion is in a latch pin interference range.

[0120] Example 2 includes the aircraft of Example 1, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance includes instructions to: identify one or more particular latch pins that were contacted by one or more particular lugs of the wingtip; replace the one or more particular latch pins; identify a first subset of the one or more particular latch pins with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the one or more particular latch pins without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0121] Example 3 includes the aircraft of Example 2, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance further includes instructions to: replace the one or more wingtip lugs; identify a first subset of the wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the wingtip lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0122] Example 4 includes the aircraft of any of Example 1 to Example 3, wherein the first signal also causes the flight control computer to schedule the aircraft for wingtip actuation system maintenance.

[0123] Example 5 includes the aircraft of any of Example 1 to Example 4, wherein the first signal indicates that the maintenance includes wingtip actuator maintenance when the determination by the electronic controller indicates the first particular angle is not in the latch pin interference range.

[0124] Example 6 includes the aircraft of any of Example 1 to Example 5, wherein the electronic controller is further configured to: receive a request from the flight control computer for position data associated with an angle of the wingtip relative to the primary portion; and send the position data to the flight control computer based on data received from a hingeline sensor, wherein the flight control computer causes the aircraft to be grounded and schedules maintenance of the aircraft when the position of the wingtip indicated by the position data is not in the folded position.

[0125] Example 7 includes aircraft of Example 6, wherein the maintenance includes brake system maintenance of a brake system configured to maintain the wingtip in the folded position.

[0126] Example 8 includes aircraft of Example 6 or Example 7, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance when the angle of the wingtip relative to the primary portion is in the latch pin interference range.

[0127] Example 9 includes aircraft of Example 6 or Example 7, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance when the wingtip is in, or near to, the flight position.

[0128] Example 10 includes the aircraft of Example 9, wherein the wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance includes: replace the wingtip lugs; replace lug stops of the primary portion; identify a first subset of the wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0129] According to Example 11, a method comprises: implementing, via an electronic controller of a folding wingtip system of an aircraft, an extend command received by the electronic controller from a flight control computer to rotate a wingtip of a wing from a folded position to a flight position; and in response to a first determination at the electronic controller that rotation of the wingtip stopped before the flight position during implementation of the extend command, sending a first notification signal to the flight control computer from the electronic controller to cause the aircraft to be grounded and to schedule maintenance of the aircraft, wherein the first notification signal includes one or more first error codes, and wherein the first notification signal causes the maintenance to include wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance responsive to a determination of the electronic controller indicating that a first particular angle of the wingtip relative to a primary

portion of the wing is in a latch pin interference range.

[0130] Example 12 includes the method of Example 11, wherein, in response to a second determination that an implementation time of the extend command from a start of implementation of the extend command to completion of implementation of the extend command as indicated when rotation of the wingtip relative to the primary portion stops at the flight position is shorter than a threshold implementation time, the one or more first error codes indicate wingtip-to-stop drop, and wherein the one or more first error codes are configured to cause the maintenance of the aircraft to include wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance.

[0131] Example 13 includes the method of Example 11 or Example 12, further comprising: detecting, at the control unit, that the aircraft transitioned from a power-down state to a power-up state; determining, at the control unit, a particular angle of the wingtip relative to the primary portion; determining, at the control unit, that a last implemented command to the folding wingtip system positioned the wingtip in the folded position; and sending a signal to the flight computer to cause the aircraft to be grounded and to schedule maintenance of the aircraft when the particular angle is different than a first angle associated with the folded position.

[0132] Example 14 includes the method of Example 13, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance when the wingtip position data indicates the wingtip is at a particular angle in the latch pin interference range.

[0133] Example 15 includes the method of Example 13, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance when the wingtip position data indicates the wingtip is at, or substantially at, the flight position.

[0134] Example 16 includes the method of any of Examples 11 to Example 15, further comprising: receiving, at the control unit from the flight control computer, a second command to transition the wingtip from a first position to a second position; sending control signals to a drivetrain actuator, a hydraulic control module, or both, to implement the second command; and in response to a determination by the control unit based on drivetrain actuator data from a drivetrain actuator sensor and drivetrain position data from a drivetrain position sensor, that lock systems of latch pin actuators did not function correctly, sending a particular notification signal to the flight control computer, wherein the particular notification signal includes one or more particular error codes associated with lock system failure, wherein the particular notification signal causes the aircraft to be grounded and causes particular maintenance of the aircraft to be scheduled, and wherein the particular maintenance includes latch pin system maintenance.

[0135] According to Example 17, a device includes: a memory configured to store instructions; and a processor configured to execute the instructions to perform the method of any of Example 11 to Example 16.

[0136] According to Example 18, a non-transitory computer-readable medium stores instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the method of any of Example 11 to Example 16.

[0137] According to Example 19, an apparatus includes means for carrying out the method of any of Example 11 to Example 16.

[0138] According to Example 20, a non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising instructions executable by one or more processors of an electronic controller of an aircraft to: implement an extend command received from a flight control computer to rotate a wingtip of a wing about a hinge axis from a folded position to a flight position; and in response to a first determination that rotation of the wingtip stopped before the flight position during implementation of the extend command, send a first signal to the flight control computer to cause the aircraft to be grounded and to schedule maintenance of the folding wingtip aircraft, wherein the first signal causes the maintenance to include wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance responsive to a second determination that indicates that a first particular angle of the wingtip relative to a primary portion of the wing is in a latch pin interference range.

[0139] Example 21 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 20, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: implement a fold command to transition the wingtip from the flight position to the folded position; determine that a position of the wingtip relative to the primary portion at an end of implementation of the fold command is not at the folded position; and send a second notification signal to the flight control computer, wherein the second notification signal includes one or more second error codes associated with the position, and wherein the second notification signal causes the aircraft to be grounded and causes particular maintenance of the aircraft to be scheduled based on the one or more second error codes.

[0140] Example 22 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 21, wherein the particular maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance when the position is in the latch pin interference range.

[0141] Example 23 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 21, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance when position is at, or is near to, the flight position.

[0142] According to Example 24, an aircraft comprises: a wing, wherein the wing includes a primary portion and a wingtip; a folding wingtip system configured to rotate the wingtip relative to the primary portion; and a flight control computer, wherein the flight control computer is configured to: in response to a first determination that a wingtip position of the wingtip is not in a folded position when a second determination indicates that a last completed command by the folding wingtip system was a fold command, set first error codes for the folding wingtip system; and change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first error codes.

[0143] Example 25 includes the aircraft of Example 24, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

[0144] Example 26 includes the aircraft of Example 25, wherein the maintenance includes maintenance of a brake system configured to maintain the wingtip in the folded position.

[0145] Example 27 includes the aircraft of Example 25 or Example 26, wherein the maintenance includes maintenance of a wingtip actuation system.

[0146] Example 28 includes the aircraft of any of Example 25 to Example 27, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance responsive to a third determination that the wingtip position is in a latch pin interference range.

[0147] Example 29 includes the aircraft of Example 28, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance includes instructions to: identify one or more latch pins that were contacted by one or more wingtip lugs of the wingtip; replace the one or more latch pins; identify a first subset of the one or more particular latch pins with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the one or more particular latch pins without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0148] Example 30 includes the aircraft of Example 29, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance further includes instructions to: replace the one or more wingtip lugs; identify a first subset of the one or more wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the one or more wingtip lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0149] Example 31 includes the aircraft of any Example 25 to Example 27, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance responsive to a third determination that the wingtip position is at or near a flight position.

[0150] Example 32 includes the aircraft of Example 31, wherein the wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance includes instructions to: replace wingtip lugs of the wingtip; replace lug stops of the primary portion; identify a first subset of the wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the wingtip lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

[0151] Example 33 includes the aircraft of any of Example 24 to Example 32, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is in the folded position and a determination to send an extend command to move the

wingtip from the folded position to a flight position, send the extend command to an electronic controller of the folding wingtip system.

[0152] Example 34 includes the aircraft of any of Example 24 to Example 33, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a first electronic controller, a first extend command to change the wingtip position from the folded position to a flight position; receive a first notification signal from the first electronic controller that indicates that the first extend command failed; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first notification signal; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on one or more second error codes included in the first notification signal.

[0153] Example 35 includes the aircraft of Example 34, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal, a second extend command; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates successful completion of the second extend command; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is not grounded based on the second notification signal; and change a type of maintenance scheduled for the aircraft based on the second notification signal.

[0154] Example 36 includes the aircraft of Example 34, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal, a second extend command; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates failure of the second extend command; and amend the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft to include additional maintenance in response to the second notification signal including one or more additional error codes not included in the first notification signal.

[0155] According to Example 37, a method comprises: determining, at a flight control computer of an aircraft, a wingtip position of a wingtip in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command; and in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position: setting, via the flight control computer, first error codes for the folding wingtip system; changing, via the flight control computer, a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded; and scheduling, via the flight control computer, maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

[0156] Example 38 includes the method of Example 37, wherein said determining the wingtip position of the wingtip is made in response to a transition of the aircraft from an idle or low power state to a powered state.

[0157] Example 39 includes the method of Example 37, wherein said determining the wingtip position of the wingtip is made in response to making a particular determination to send an extend command to the folding wingtip system.

[0158] According to Example 40, a device includes a memory configured to store instructions; and a processor configured to execute the instructions to perform the method of any of Example 37 to Example 39.

[0159] According to Example 41, a non-transitory computer-readable medium stores instructions that, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the method of any of Example 37 to Example 39.

[0160] According to Example 42, an apparatus includes means for carrying out the method of any of Example 37 to Example 39.

[0161] According to Example 43, A non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising instructions executable by one or more processors to: determine a wingtip position of a wingtip of an aircraft in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command; and in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position, set first error codes for the folding wingtip system; change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first error codes; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

[0162] Example 44 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 42, wherein

the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a first fold command to a first electronic controller to change the wingtip position from a flight position to the folded position; receive a first notification signal from the first electronic controller that indicates that the first fold command failed; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first notification signal; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on one or more second error codes in the first notification signal.

[0163] Example 45 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 44, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a second fold command to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates successful completion of the second fold command; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is not grounded based on the second notification signal; and change a type of maintenance scheduled for the aircraft based on the second notification signal.

[0164] Example 46 includes the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Example 44, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a second fold command to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates failure of the second fold command; and amend the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft to include additional maintenance in response to the second notification signal including one or more additional error codes not included in the first notification signal.

[0165] The illustrations of the examples described herein are intended to provide a general understanding of the structure of the various implementations. The illustrations are not intended to serve as a complete description of all of the elements and features of apparatus and systems that utilize the structures or methods described herein. Many other implementations may be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the disclosure. Other implementations may be utilized and derived from the disclosure, such that structural and logical substitutions and changes may be made without departing from the scope of the disclosure. For example, method operations may be performed in a different order than shown in the figures or one or more method operations may be omitted. Accordingly, the disclosure and the figures are to be regarded as illustrative rather than restrictive.

[0166] Moreover, although specific examples have been illustrated and described herein, it should be appreciated that any subsequent arrangement designed to achieve the same or similar results may be substituted for the specific implementations shown. This disclosure is intended to cover any and all subsequent adaptations or variations of various implementations. Combinations of the above implementations, and other implementations not specifically described herein, will be apparent to those of skill in the art upon reviewing the description.

[0167] The Abstract of the Disclosure is submitted with the understanding that it will not be used to interpret or limit the scope or meaning of the claims. In addition, in the foregoing Detailed Description, various features may be grouped together or described in a single implementation for the purpose of streamlining the disclosure. Examples described above illustrate but do not limit the disclosure. It should also be understood that numerous modifications and variations are possible in accordance with the principles of the present disclosure. As the following claims reflect, the claimed subject matter may be directed to less than all of the features of any of the disclosed examples. Accordingly, the scope of the disclosure is defined by the following claims and their equivalents.

Claims

1. An aircraft comprising: a wing, wherein the wing includes a primary portion and a wingtip; a folding wingtip system configured to rotate the wingtip relative to the primary portion; and a flight

control computer, wherein the flight control computer is configured to: in response to a first determination that a wingtip position of the wingtip is not in a folded position when a second determination indicates that a last completed command by the folding wingtip system was a fold command, set first error codes for the folding wingtip system; and change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first error codes.

2. The aircraft of claim 1, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

3. The aircraft of claim 2, wherein the maintenance includes maintenance of a brake system configured to maintain the wingtip in the folded position.

4. The aircraft of claim 2, wherein the maintenance includes maintenance of a wingtip actuation system.

5. The aircraft of claim 2, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance responsive to a third determination that the wingtip position is in a latch pin interference range.

6. The aircraft of claim 5, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance includes instructions to: identify one or more latch pins that were contacted by one or more wingtip lugs of the wingtip; replace the one or more latch pins; identify a first subset of the one or more particular latch pins with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the one or more particular latch pins without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

7. The aircraft of claim 6, wherein the wingtip-to-latch pin drop maintenance further includes instructions to: replace the one or more wingtip lugs; identify a first subset of the one or more wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the one or more wingtip lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

8. The aircraft of claim 2, wherein the maintenance includes wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance responsive to a third determination that the wingtip position is at or near a flight position.

9. The aircraft of claim 8, wherein the wingtip-to-stop drop maintenance includes instructions to: replace wingtip lugs of the wingtip; replace lug stops of the primary portion; identify a first subset of the wingtip lugs with visible damage as scrap; and cause a second subset of the wingtip lugs without visible damage to be tested for non-visible damage.

10. The aircraft of claim 1, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to, in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is in the folded position and a determination to send an extend command to move the wingtip from the folded position to a flight position, send the extend command to an electronic controller of the folding wingtip system.

11. The aircraft of claim 1, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a first electronic controller, a first extend command to change the wingtip position from the folded position to a flight position; receive a first notification signal from the first electronic controller that indicates that the first extend command failed; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first notification signal; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on one or more second error codes included in the first notification signal.

12. The aircraft of claim 11, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal, a second extend command; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates successful completion of the second extend command; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is not grounded based on the second notification signal; and change a type of maintenance scheduled for the aircraft based on the second notification signal.

13. The aircraft of claim 11, wherein the flight control computer is further configured to: send, to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal, a second extend command; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates failure of the second extend command; and amend the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft to include additional maintenance in response to the second notification signal including one or more additional error codes not included in the first notification signal.

14. A method comprising: determining, at a flight control computer of an aircraft, a wingtip position of a wingtip in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command; and in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position: setting, via the flight control computer, first error codes for the folding wingtip system; changing, via the flight control computer, a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded; and scheduling, via the flight control computer, maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said determining the wingtip position of the wingtip is made in response to a transition of the aircraft from an idle or low power state to a powered state.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein said determining the wingtip position of the wingtip is made in response to making a particular determination to send an extend command to the folding wingtip system.

17. A non-transitory computer-readable medium comprising instructions executable by one or more processors to: determine a wingtip position of a wingtip of an aircraft in response to a determination that a last completed command by a folding wingtip system was a fold command; and in response to the wingtip position indicating that the wingtip is not in a folded position: set first error codes for the folding wingtip system; change a setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first error codes; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on the first error codes.

18. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a first fold command to a first electronic controller to change the wingtip position from a flight position to the folded position; receive a first notification signal from the first electronic controller that indicates that the first fold command failed; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is grounded based on the first notification signal; and schedule maintenance of the aircraft based on one or more second error codes in the first notification signal.

19. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a second fold command to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates successful completion of the second fold command; change the setting to indicate that the aircraft is not grounded based on the second notification signal; and change a type of maintenance scheduled for the aircraft based on the second notification signal.

20. The non-transitory computer-readable medium of claim 18, wherein the instructions are further executable by the one or more processors to: send a second fold command to a second electronic controller in response to the first notification signal; receive a second notification signal from the second electronic controller that indicates failure of the second fold command; and amend the maintenance scheduled for the aircraft to include additional maintenance in response to the second notification signal including one or more additional error codes not included in the first notification signal.
