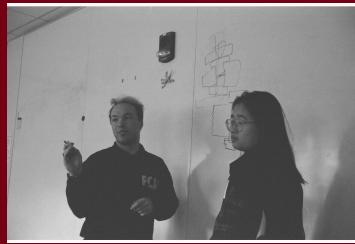




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# Aaron Becker - Background and Experience

## Fall 2023





Massachusetts Institute of Technology

# Background, Portfolio & GitHub

Currently a junior at MIT, Mechanical Engineering major & CS minor.



<https://ambecker.com>

<https://github.com/aaroexxt>

**Please visit my portfolio for additional background on my previous experiences and projects.**

**My GitHub has much of the source code and design files from projects, as well as the website itself!**

# Previous Work Experience

## *Tesla Motors - 2022*

Power Electronics Mechanical team - design of production-ready parts for PW3 assembly line

Thermal modelling and analysis for component validation in reflow  
Powerwall 3 Team - Tesla's innovative Energy products



*No additional  
publicly available  
pictures due to NDA*





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# Previous Work Experience

## Rain Aerospace - 2020/2021

Design and implementation of practical avionics for flight vehicle in 6 weeks. Ground & vibration test campaign completed during internship

*No additional publicly available pictures due to NDA*





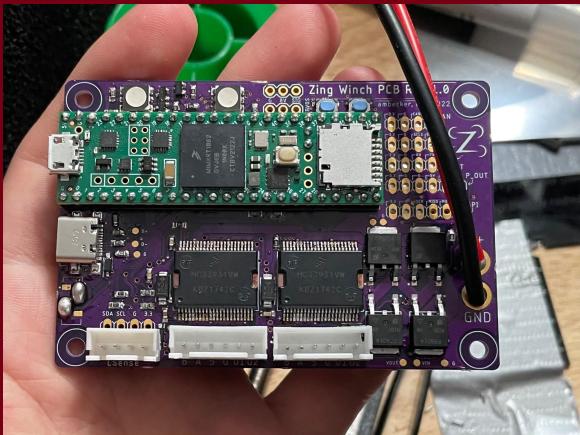
# Previous Work Experience

## Zing Drones - 2021

Initial design of drone delivery system

Thermal model for motors

Remote activation, custom PCB



```
//Motor parameters, from Pololu
//TODO update these for 10:1 motor and test again on drone
mParams_s mParams = {
    .ratedVoltage = 12.0, //V
    .noLoadPM = 1600.0, //RPM
    .noLoadCurrent = 200.0, //mA
    .stallTorque = 3.0, //kg-cm
    .stallCurrent = 5500.0, //mA
    .mass = 0.19, //kg
    .gearRatio = 6.3 //ratio
};

//Slope of torque vs current
float torqueVsCurrentSlope = (mParams.stallTorque*0.098065)/mParams.stallCurrent; //torque (N/m) per current (mA)

//Current at high side of motor driver, mA
#define DRIVER_SENSE_CURRENT_POINTS 6
float DRIVER_SENSE_CURRENT_MOTOR[6] = {
    0.0,
    300.0,
    500.0,
    1500.0,
    3000.0,
    6000.0
};

//Current at measure resistor, mA
float DRIVER_SENSE_CURRENT_MEASURE[6] = {
    0.05,
    0.75,
    1.56,
    4.28,
    8.57,
    17.15
};
```

**No additional  
publicly available  
pictures due to NDA**



```
***  
or efficiency and simple thermal model calculation  
in = I^W (current * voltage)  
out = T^W (torque * angular velocity)  
  
= Pout + Pthermal  
we know thermal power, we can estimate motor temperature in the following way.  
  
les in = Pthermal / time  
on temp = Coules in / (mass * specific heat capacity)) + initial temp  
**/  
  
at motor_powerIN = (motor_current / 1000.0) * supplyVoltageAverage;  
at motor_powerOUT = (motor_torque * motor_angularVelocity);  
  
at motor_powerThermal = motor_powerIN - motor_powerOUT;  
(motor_powerThermal < 0) {  
    motor_powerThermal = 0;  
  
dt = (millis() - lastThermalSampleTime) / 1000.0;  
at deltaTempPowerLoss = (motor_powerThermal * dt) / (COPPER_MASS_XG * COPPER_SPECIFIC_HEAT_CAPACITY);  
  
at deltaTempNewton = -NEWTON_COOLING_CONSTANT * (motorTemp - TEMP_AMBIENT_CELSIUS) * dt;  
  
onTemp += deltaTempPowerLoss;  
onTemp += deltaTempNewton;  
  
(motorTemp >= (MOTOR_ALARM_TEMP*MOTOR_ALARM_DERACTING_FACTOR)) {  
    LAG.motor_alarm = true;  
    //Disable motor controllers  
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_EN_PIN, LOW);  
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_EN_PIN, LOW);  
    if ((FLAME.sense == 1) && motorTemp < (MOTOR_ALARM_TEMP*MOTOR_ALARM_DERACTING_FACTOR)-MOTOR_REENABLE_TEMP_DROP_BELOW_THRESHOLD)  
        LAG.motor_alarm = false;  
    //Enable motor controllers  
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_1_EN_PIN, HIGH);  
    digitalWrite(MOTOR_2_EN_PIN, HIGH);
```



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# Personal Projects - Summary

Multidisciplinary engineer with background in mechanical, electrical engineering and systems integration

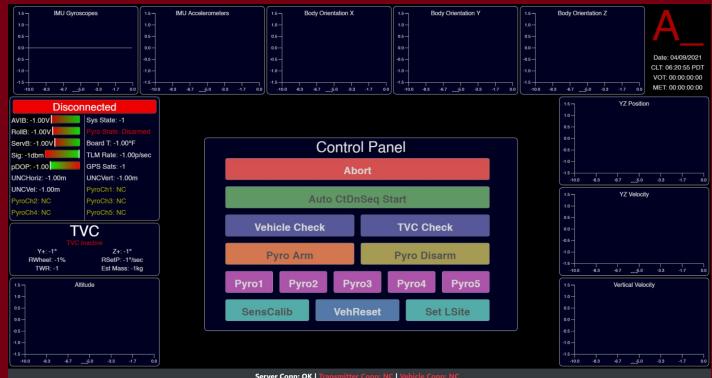
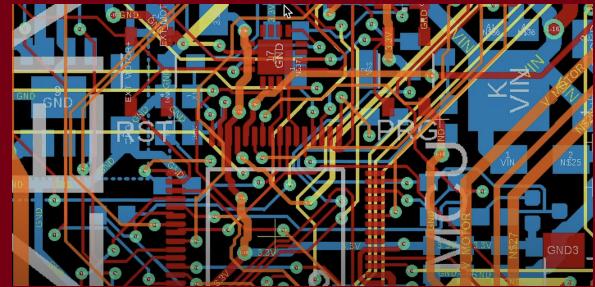




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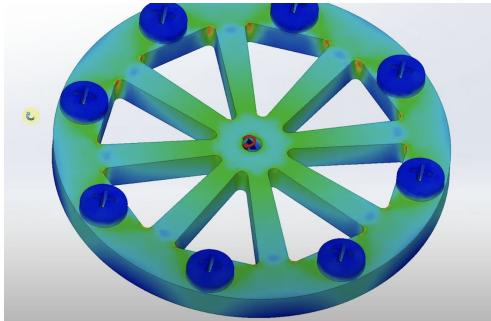
# Personal Project Focus - ZENITH

Thrust Vector Control at the model scale; design and development of guidance computer, thrust vector control mount



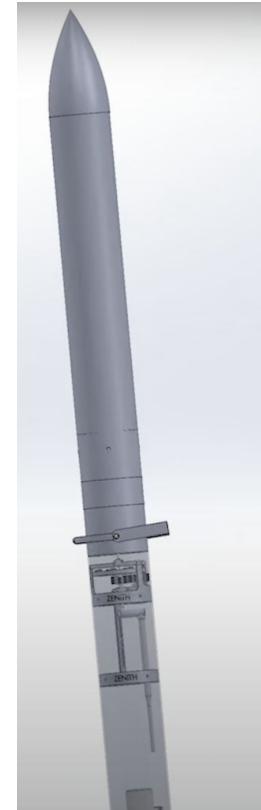
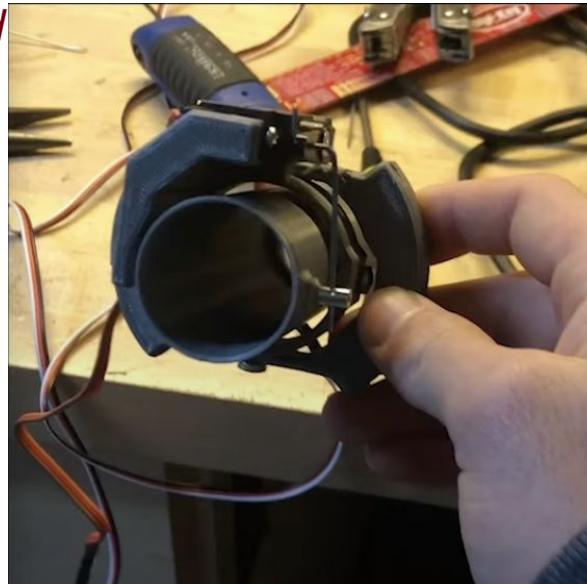
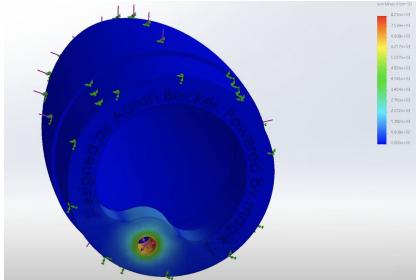
# Personal Project Focus - ZENITH 2

Mechanical and Electrical Focus, with strong software background - Kalman recursive state estimation



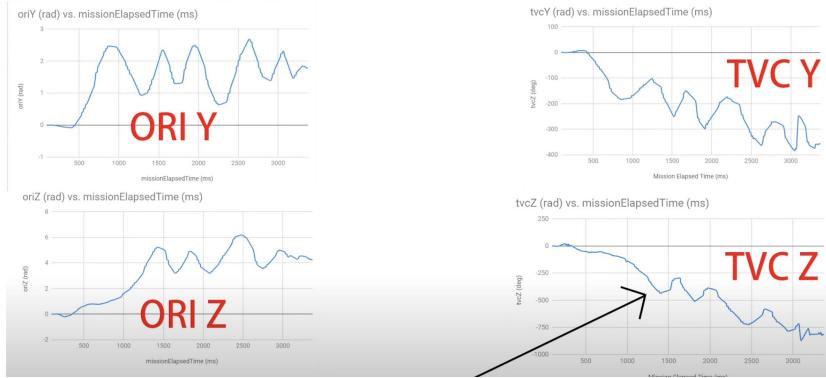
*Roll flywheel and motor controller integrated*

*FEM performed on custom nosecone for tear-out of threads*



# Personal Project Focus - ZENITH 3

## Software and background - C++



Datalogging for  
debugging and  
optimization of  
control parameters

Complementary filter  
for accel/gyro fusion in  
flight  
Kalman state  
estimator to fuse GPS  
and inertial data

The code block contains several sections of C++ code. A red box highlights the 'Complementary Filter (Pad)' section, which includes code for calculating roll, pitch, yaw, and updating orientation based on gyro and accelerometer measurements. Another red box highlights the 'Gyro Biasing' section, which deals with bias correction for gyroscopes. A third red box highlights the 'Quaternions used internally' section, which includes a method for applying complementary filter output to a quaternion and a rotation matrix. The code also includes sections for pyro channel handling and a finite state machine for pyro states.

```
double dtOrl = (Clock::getMicros() - lastOrlMicros) / 1000000.0;
if (oriMode == ORI_CALC_DELTA) {
    if ((oriMode == COMPLEMENTARY && gyro_ready && accel_ready) && !gyro.readSensor()) {
        gyro_ready = false;
        accel_ready = false;
        ori.update(gyroMeasure, dtOrl);
    }
    accel.readSensor();
    Quaternion accVec(0,0,0);
    ori.applyComplementary(accVec, dtOrl);
} else if (oriMode == GONLY && gyro_ready) {
    gyro.readSensor();
    gyroMeasure.roll = -(gyro.getGyroX_rads() + gbiasX);
    gyroMeasure.pitch = -(gyro.getGyroY_rads() + gbiasY);
    gyroMeasure.yaw = -(gyro.getGyroZ_rads() + gbiasZ);
    ori.update(gyroMeasure, dtOrl);
} else if (oriMode == CALCIMUS & gyro_ready) {
    gyro.readSensor();
    gyroMeasure.roll = -(gyro.getGyroX_rads() + gbiasX);
    gyroMeasure.pitch = -(gyro.getGyroY_rads() + gbiasY);
    gyroMeasure.yaw = -(gyro.getGyroZ_rads() + gbiasZ);
    ori.update(gyroMeasure, dtOrl);
}
else if (oriMode == CALIBRATES & gyro_ready) {
    gyro.readSensor();
    gbiasX += (double)gyro.getGyroX_rads();
    gbiasY += (double)gyro.getGyroY_rads();
    gbiasZ += (double)gyro.getGyroZ_rads();
    biasCount++;
    if (biasCount == biasStart) { //biasStart = 000000
        if (biasCount == biasEnd) { //biasEnd = 000000
            Serial.println(biasCount);
            gbiasX /= biasCount; //Find bias in 1 reading
            gbiasY /= biasCount;
            gbiasZ /= biasCount;
            Serial.print("gbiasX:");
            Serial.println(gbiasX, 5);
            Serial.print("gbiasY:");
            Serial.println(gbiasY, 5);
            Serial.print("gbiasZ:");
            Serial.println(gbiasZ, 5);
        }
    }
}

bool firePyroChannel(byte nChannel, int time) { //We don't really care about continuity when firing channels, may as well turn it off
    if (pyroState == PY_ARMED) {
        if (nChannel <= 5 && nChannel >= 1) {
            if ((pyroStates[nChannel-1]) { //gets subtract one because of array indexing being weird
                pyroStates[nChannel-1] = true; //set channel to fire
                pyroOffTimes[nChannel-1] = millis() + time;
                pyrosInUse++;
            }
            debugPrint("PYRO0 ch ");
            debugPrint(nChannel);
            debugPrint("on");
        }
        switch (nChannel) {
            case 1:
                digitalWrite(PYRO1_PIN, HIGH);
                break;
            case 2:
                digitalWrite(PYRO2_PIN, HIGH);
                break;
            case 3:
                digitalWrite(PYRO3_PIN, HIGH);
                break;
            case 4:
                digitalWrite(PYRO4_PIN, HIGH);
                break;
            case 5:
                digitalWrite(PYRO5_PIN, HIGH);
                break;
        }
    }
    return true;
}
```

Complementary Filter (Pad)

Gyro Biasing

Quaternions used internally 😍

Finite State Machine



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# FSAE

Practical, hands-on design experience - CAD,  
FEM, bolted joint analysis, statics, vibration and  
structures  
Read on!





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# FSAE - Years

2023 - Powertrain Lead

2022 - Front Powertrain Team

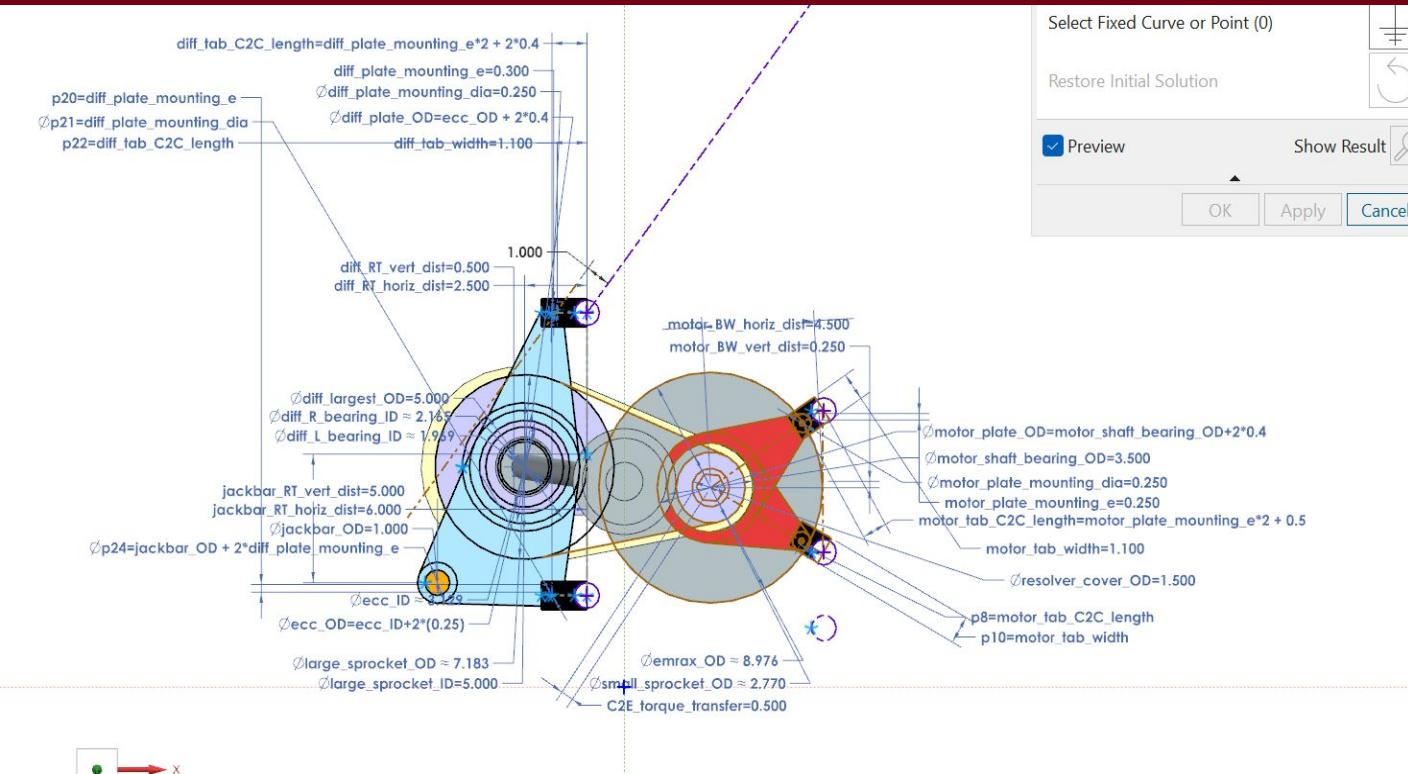
2021 - Brakes and Mechanical Team





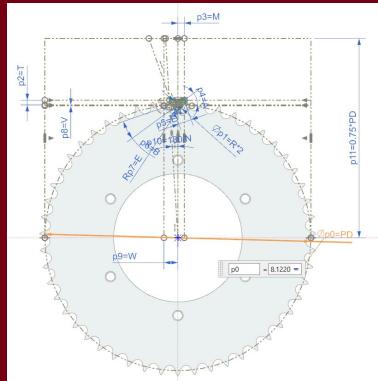
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# FSAE - CAD (NX)



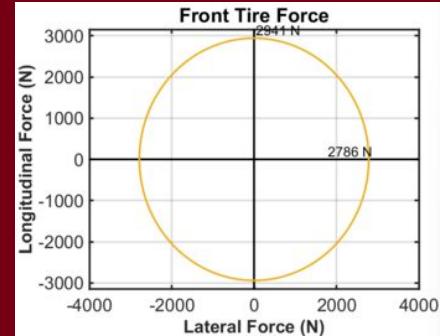
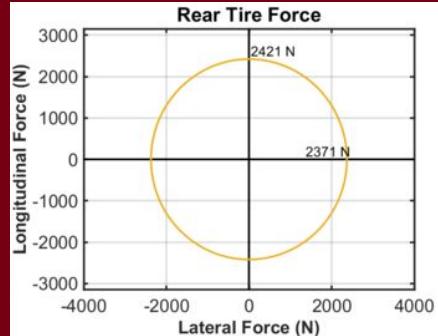
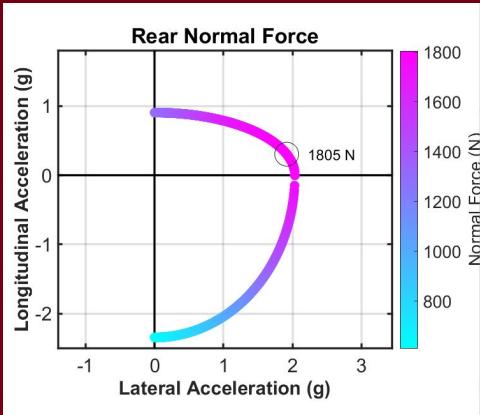
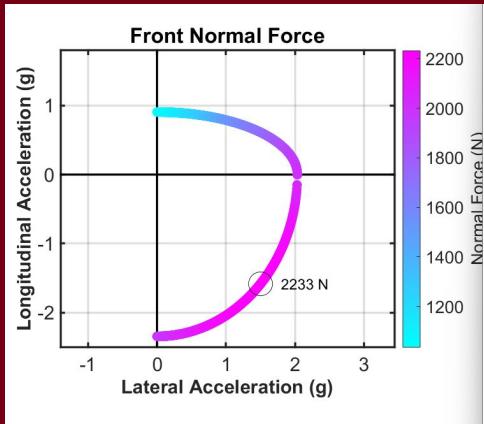
Parametric CAD in  
Siemens NX - same  
software SpaceX  
uses I believe

Spreadsheet-driven  
dimensions



# FSAE - Sizing

(credit: Claudio Tewari, Jeremy Noel,  
Rebecca McCabe, myself)



*Force per tire derived  
from simulation data  
validated against  
previous cars*

*Yields **nominal  
contact patch  
loading***



## Nominal Contact Patch Loading

X = Long	Front	Rear
Y = Lat		
Z = Norm	Front	Rear
X +	0.0 kN	2.0 kN
X -	2.0 kN	1.8 kN
Y +	3.3 kN	3.4 kN
Y -	3.3 kN	3.4 kN
Z +	2.3 kN	2.3 kN
Z -	0.5 kN	0.9 kN
M_y +	425 Nm	205 Nm



# FSAE - Spreadsheet Design

(credit: Hezekiah Pendley, myself)

Assuming SAE Grade 8				
Inputs:				
Value Name:	Value:	Units	Value	Units
Tensile Strength:	1034 [Mpa]		1034000000 [Pa]	
Shear Strength:	620.4 [Mpa]		620400000 [Pa]	
Factor of Safety:	1.5	n/a		
General Car Forces				
Rear				
Force Name:	Value	Units	Value	Units
Max Lateral(+/-)	3.4 [kN]		3400 [N]	
Max Longitudinal	2 [kN]		2000 [N]	
??	-1.8 [kN]		-1800 [N]	
Max Normal	2.3 [kN]		2300 [N]	
Max Bump	3 [kN]		3000 [N]	
Front				
Symbol	Value	Units	Converted Val.	Units
Fr_T_Brake	425	Nm	Front Brake Moment (M_y+)	Sam
Re_T_Brake	205	Nm	Rear Brake Moment (M_y+)	Sam
T_Tie_Rod	100	Nm	Tie Rod Moment (M_ye)	Suspension
UBJ	x	Nm	Upper Ball Joint Moment (M_y+)	Suspension
LBJ	x	Nm	Lower Ball Joint Moment (M_y+)	Suspension
Input Forces				
Symbol	Value	Units	Descr.	Source
Fr_T_Brake	425	Nm	Front Brake Moment (M_y+)	Sam
Re_T_Brake	205	Nm	Rear Brake Moment (M_y+)	Sam
T_Tie_Rod	100	Nm	Tie Rod Moment (M_ye)	Suspension
UBJ	x	Nm	Upper Ball Joint Moment (M_y+)	Suspension
LBJ	x	Nm	Lower Ball Joint Moment (M_y+)	Suspension
Derived Forces				
Symbol	Value	Units	Descr.	Source
Fr_Caliper	1257.83	N	Force at the Front Brake Caliper	Derived
FR_Caliper	2578.55	N	Force at the Rear Brake Caliper	Derived
T_Tie_Rod	1238.44	N	Force at Tie Rod	Derived
UBJ	x	N	Force at Upper Ball Joint	Derived
LBJ	x	N	Force at Lower Ball Joint	Derived
Dimensions				
Symbol	Value	Units	Value	Units
Bolt_CR	3.13	in	0.0795	m
Bolt_OD	0.3125	in	0.00794	m
C_Tab_t	0.2	in	0.00508	m
Tab_OD	0.625	in	0.0159	m
TR_Dist	3.179	in	0.08075	m
TR_Bolt_O	0.1875	in	0.004763	m
TR_Tab_t	0.1	in	0.00254	m
TR_Tab_O	0.375	in	0.009525	m

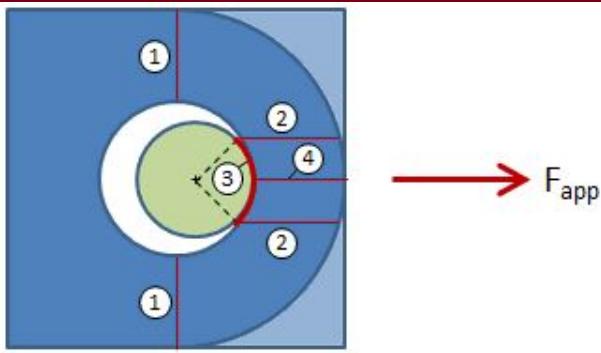
Margins				
3.632072625	Tearout	Front Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
8.264145249	Tension	Front Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
6.645987924	Bearing	Front Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
4.187221939	Tearout	Rear Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
9.374443878	Tension	Rear Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
7.562352001	Bearing	Rear Upright	Toe Tie Rod	
2.22411535	Tearout	Rear Upright	UBJ	
4.504587183	Tension	Rear Upright	UBJ	
17.87287034	Bearing	Rear Upright	UBJ	
1.660969869	Tearout	Rear Upright	Camber bracket upright attachment	
3.543119289	Tension	Rear Upright	Camber bracket upright attachment	
11.82977726	Bearing	Rear Upright	Camber bracket upright attachment	

Material allowables from  
**MMPDS-20**, formulae  
derived from **Shigley's**,  
**Roark's**, **Machinery's**  
**Handbook**



# FSAE - Bolted Joint Analysis

(credit: Hezekiah Pendley, myself)



Shear Forces/Shear stresses			
Name of Output	Value	Units	Description/Note
<b>Front Toe Rod</b>			
<b>Bearing failure:</b>			
Min thickness:	0.20762523	mm	thickness of plate
	0.008174222	in	
Chosen Thickness	0.125	in	
	3.175	mm	
<b>Tension failure:</b>			
Lug OD	6.0810	mm	
	0.2394	in	
<b>Shear Failure:</b>			
Lug OD	6.9295	mm	
	0.2728	in	
Chosen OD	0.8250	in	
	20.955	mm	
<b>Rear Toe Rod</b>			
<b>Bearing failure:</b>			
Min thickness:	0.185404664	mm	
	0.007299396	in	
Chosen Thickness	0.125	in	
	3.175	mm	
<b>Tension failure:</b>			
Lug OD	5.9902	mm	
	0.2358	in	
<b>Shear Failure:</b>			
Lug OD	6.7479	mm	
Lug OD	0.2657	in	
Chosen OD	0.8250	in	
	20.955	mm	



$$MoS = \frac{\sigma_Y}{FoS \cdot \sigma_{VM}} - 1$$

*Sizing done with Air Force method/first principles*

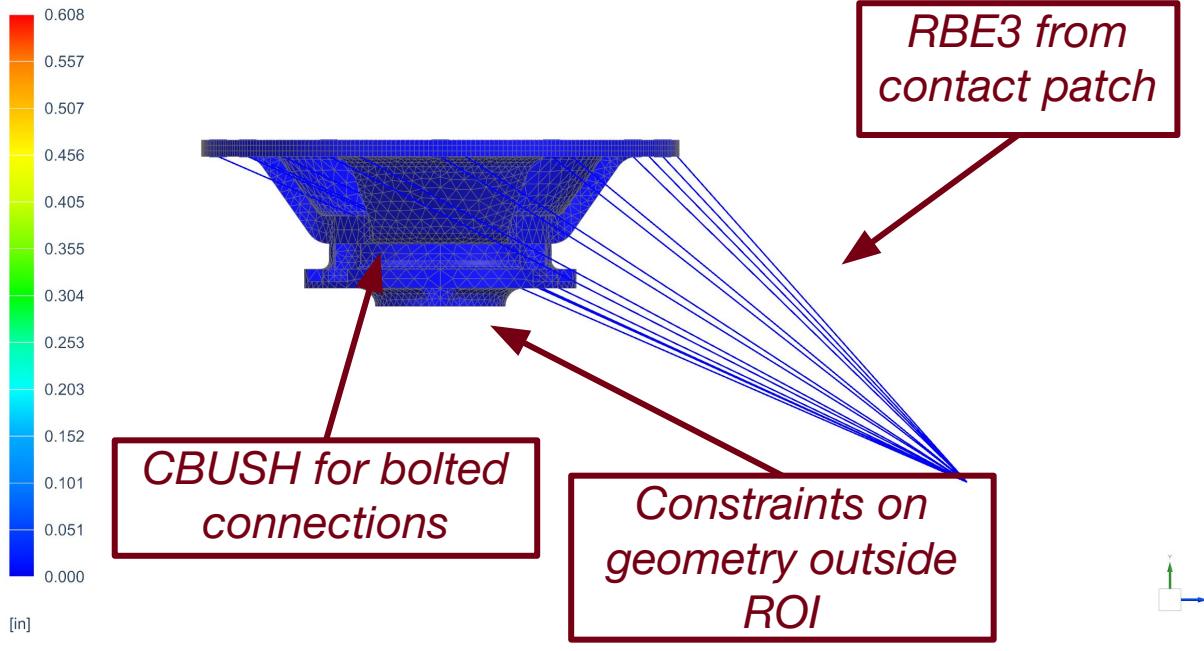
- 1) Tension failure across net section
- 2) Shear failure along two planes
- 3) Hoop tension failure
- 4) Out of plane buckling



# FSAE - FEM

(credit: Levi Gershon, Ander Jurs, myself)

MY24\_4201\_011.sim2\_A : Soln 2 Result  
Subcase - Statics 1, Static Step 1  
Displacement - Nodal, Magnitude  
Min : 0.000, Max : 0.608, Units = in  
Deformation : Displacement - Nodal Magnitude  
Animation Frame 1 of 8



Joint Parameters	
Max Preload	12,313 lbf
Nominal Preload	39,606 N
Minimum Preload	23,217 N
Assembly Axial Stiffness	301,871 N/mm
Bolt Axial Stiffness	378,804 N/mm
Grip Axial Stiffness	1,486,360 N/mm
Parallel Stiffness	1,865,164 N/mm
Huth Shear Stiffness	115,624 N/mm

*Bolt analysis done with **in-house calculator** that yields stiffnesses*  
**RBE3** models forces from contact patch  
**CBUSH** elements used to model bolts (stiffness from calculator)  
**CHEXA** and standard tetrahedral elements to model geometry

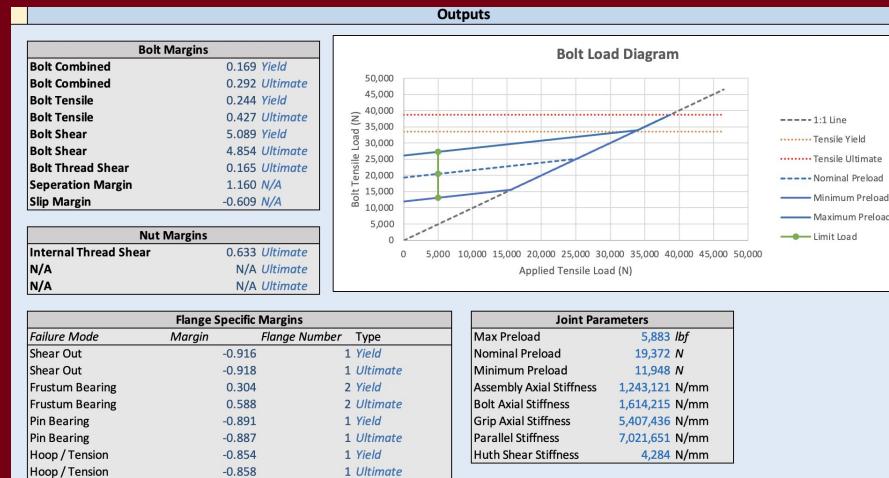


# FSAE - Bolt Analysis

(credit: Levi Gershon)

Inputs			
Joint Overview		Limit Loads	
Joint Type	Nut	Tensile Force	5000 N
Bolt Selection	Data Set	Shear Force	2000 N
Nut Selection	Data Set		
Bolt Inputs			
Thread Type	Unified Fine		
Bolt Selection	5/16 - 24		
Bolt Diameter	0.313 in		
Bolt Material	SAE Grade 8		
Bolt Pitch	24.00 tpi		
Bolt Torque	272 in-lbf		
Unthreaded Length	0.000 in		
Effective Head Diameter	0.469 in		
Nut Inputs			
Nut Grade	SAE Grade 8		
Nut Type	Regular / Distorted Thread		
Nut Height	0.266 in		
Washer Height	0.063 in		
N/A	0.500 in		
Insert External Pitch	13.00 tpi		
N/A	400 MPa		
N/A	600 MPa		
Generic Parameters			
Preload Uncertainty	35% N/A		
Lubricated	NO N/A		
Friction Carries Shear	NO N/A		
Edge to Diameter Ratio (E/D)	1.5 N/A		

*Bolt analysis done with in-house calculator that yields stiffnesses (shear and tensile) + margins Full bolt stackup modelled Similar to SpaceX internal calculator? Tool was not made by me, internal team resource - familiar with use*





# FSAE - Tab Analysis

(credit: Levi Gershon, Keiji Imai)

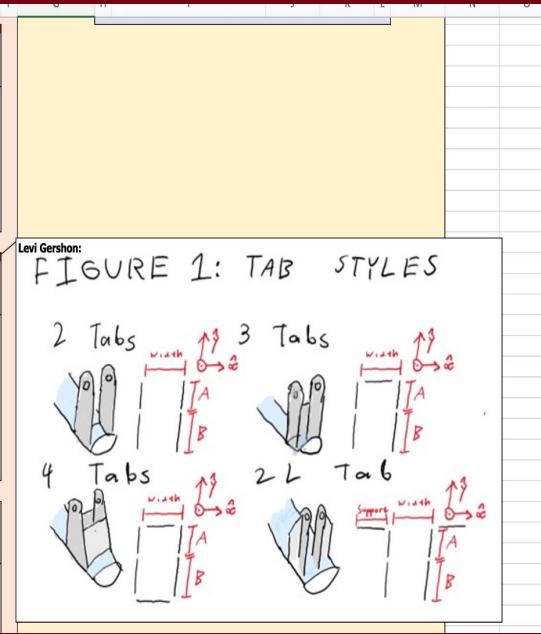
Case Specific Loads		
Tensile Load:	4000 N	See figure 2
Vertical Shear Load:	1500 N	See figure 2
Horizontal Shear Load:	200 N	See figure 2
Torsional Moment:	0 Nmm	See figure 2
Vertical Moment:	0 Nmm	See figure 2
Horizontal Moment:	0 Nmm	See figure 2

Geometry		
Plate Thickness:	0.1 in	Sheet metal gauge used for tab
Length:	1.000 in	Distance from bolt center to tube
Width:	0.800 in	See figure 1
Height A:	0.500 in	See figure 1
Height B:	0.500 in	See figure 1
Support Width:	0.000 in	See figure 1, if 2L style
Tab End Diameter:	0.400 in	See figure 1
Bead Size:	0.049 in	Confirm with welder if changed

Material Parameters		
Tab Tensile Yield:	360 MPa	4130 Steel Plate, MATWEB annealed
Tab Bearing Yield:	619 MPa	Ratioed to the above, MMPPDS ratio, 2 E/D



Outputs	
Bolt Margins	
Beam Stress	152.93 MPa
Beam Von Mises	0.57 N/A
Weld Stress	307.88 MPa
Weld Von Mises	-0.15 N/A

Tab analysis done with **in-house calculator** that yields stresses (von mises - can compare to tensile allowable)  
Inputs are tab styles and geometry



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# Teams and Leadership



2023 - FSAE Hybrid /  
Michigan - Powertrain Lead



2021 - Flight Club

2019 - FRC Robotics World  
Champions - Mechanical  
Co-Lead

**Thank you for viewing!**  
**Please contact me at ambecker@mit.edu.**

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