Optimization of Quadcopter Frame using Generative Design and Comparison with DJI F450 Drone Frame

Authors:

- Jerrin Bright¹
- Suryaprakash Rajkumar¹
- Akash S¹
- A. Giridharan¹

¹School of Mechanical Engineering, Vellore Institute of Technology Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.



What is Generative Designing?



Iterative Design exploration process



Uses AI to generate multiple Design in a single computation



GAN is used to generate surfaces between constraints



Mainly used for mass reduction and structural optimization

Steps involved in Generative Design



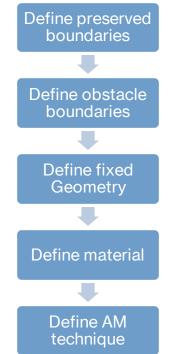
Define

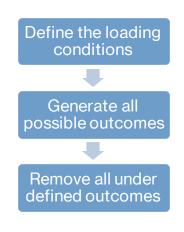


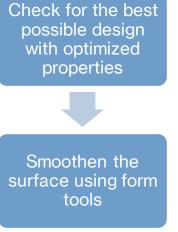
Generate



Explore







Loading conditions

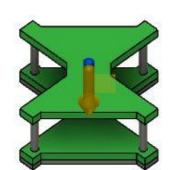
Component	Number of individual components	Weight of individual component (g)	Net Weight of individual component (g)
RS2205S Motor	4	28.8	115.2
Pixhawk FC	1	73	73
M8N GPS	1	32	32
5" Propeller	4	4	16
BL Heli ESC	4	14	56
PC Hub PDB	1	8.5	8.5
Camera	1	12	12
Telemetry	1	15	15
IA6B Receiver	1	14.6	14.6
LIPO Battery	1	200	200
TOTAL	19		542.3

- Approx. weight of frame = 250 g
- 15% buffer in tot. mass = 1000 g
- M = 1000g = 1 Kg
- F = M * g = 10 N
- So for hovering,
- A minimum of 10 N thrust from all 4 motors is required.

Defining of our Generative Design Models

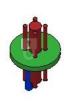






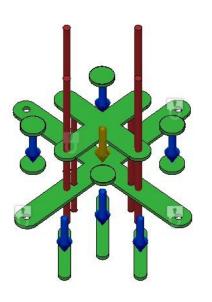
















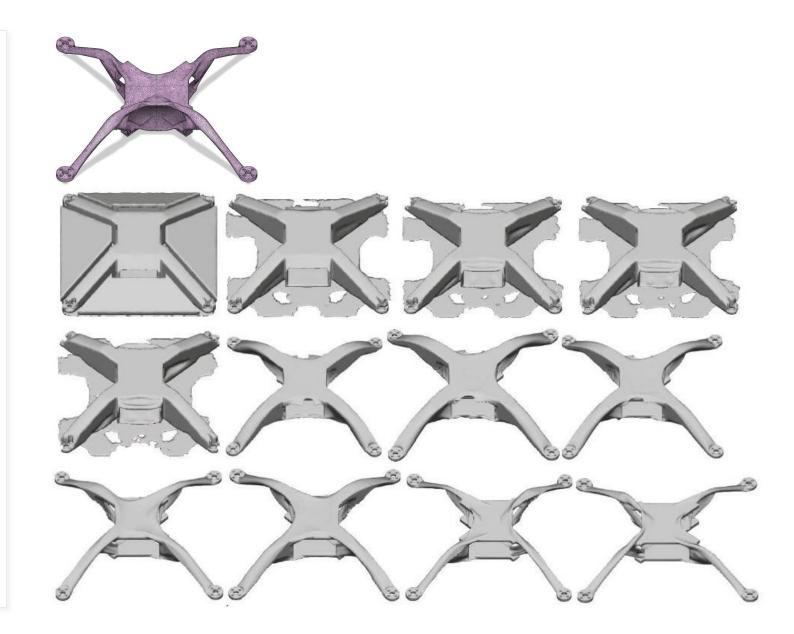
QUAD SPECS:

- 450 mm size.
- True X shape.
- Centre of mass.
 maintained at the center of Quad.
- Symmetric in nature.



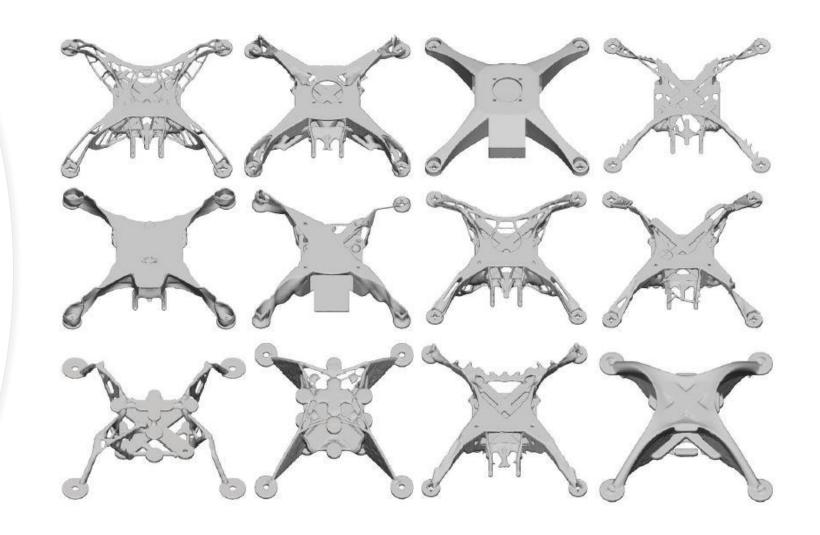
ITERATIONS

- GAN creates surfaces and overhangs.
- The iterative mechanism removes mass from the surfaces while optimizing mechanical properties.
- Final model is converged, that is, no mass can be removed while having maximum mechanical strength at that particular iteration.



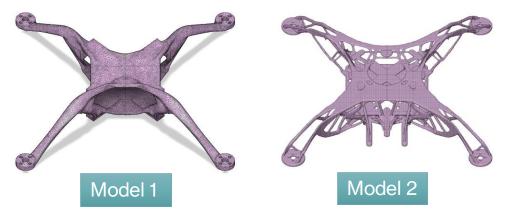
OUTCOMES

- A total of 74 designs were generated throughout the experimentation.
- Fusion 360 autonomously classifies the models based upon Mass, FOS, Von Misses Stress, etc.
- The best model is chosen based upon its mechanical properties.



RESULTS

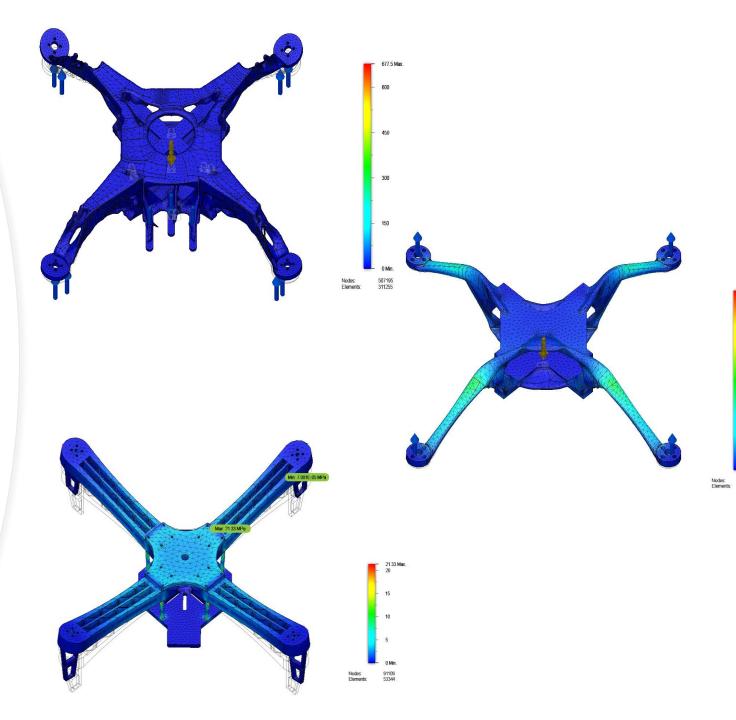
- Mechanical properties of generatively designed frame in comparison with DJI F450 Drone frame
- ABS plastic is used for Additive manufactured Drone frame



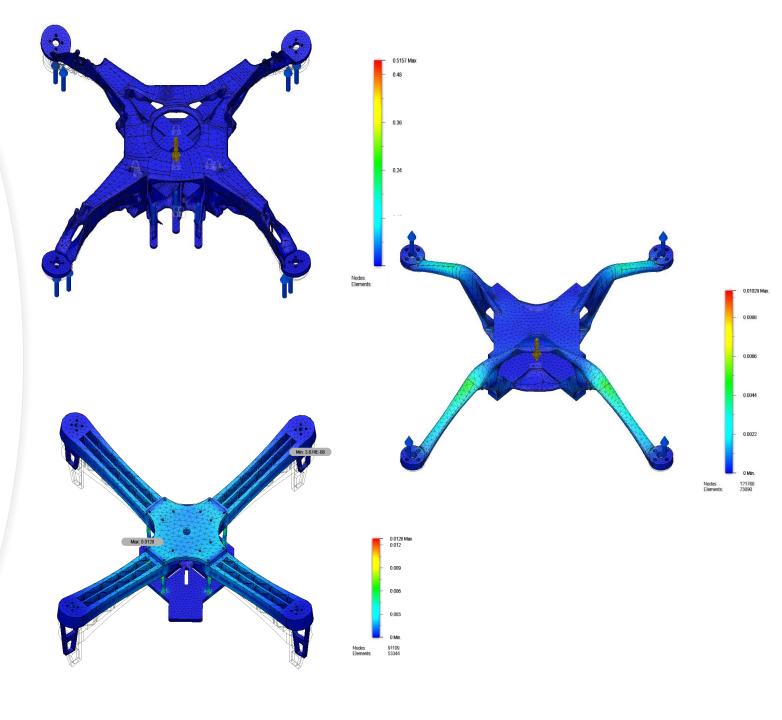
FACTORS	MODEL 1	MODEL 2	DJIF450
Mass of the frame(g)	267	227	330
Minimum FOS	133	13.3	3.301
Manufacturing Method	Additive Manufacturing	Additive Manufacturing	Advanced Manufacturing
Maximum Von Mises stress(MPa)	17.11	1.5	21.33
Maximum Displacement Global (mm)	0.01	6.22	4.016
Materialused	ABS	ABS	Polyamide Nylon

DJI F450 FRAME

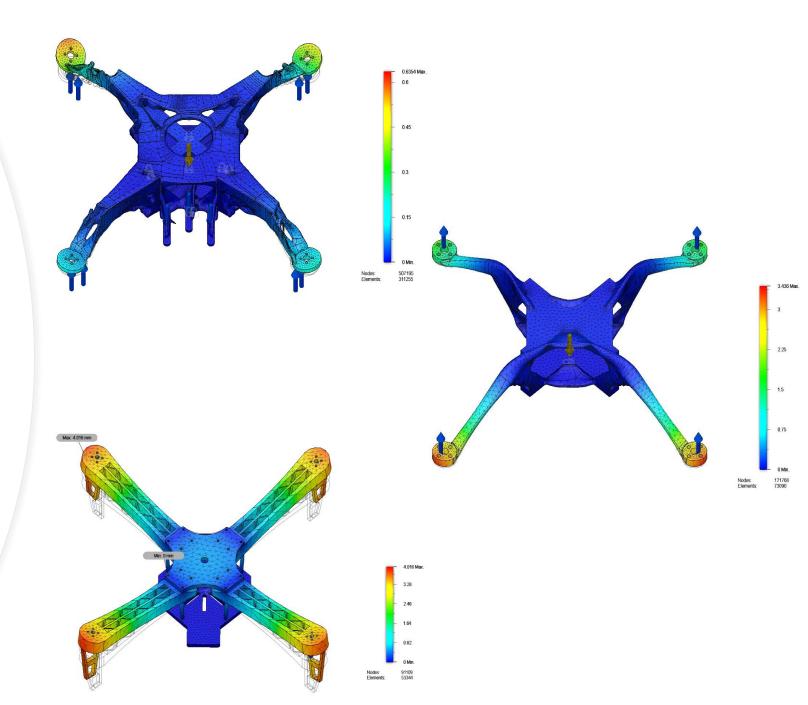
STRESS ANALYSIS



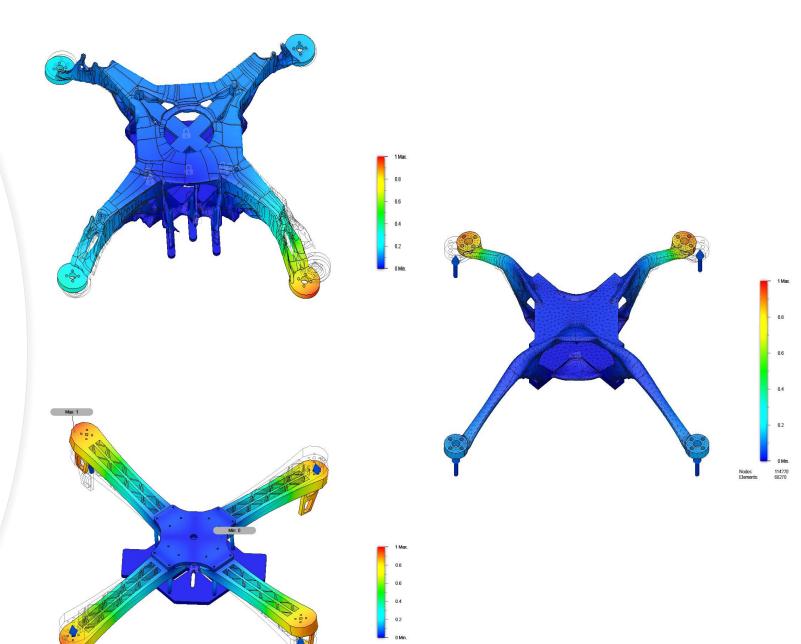
STRAIN ANALYSIS



DISPLACEMENT ANALYSIS



FREQUENCY ANALYSIS AT 300 Hz



CONCLUSION

All the designs generated are within the safety limits.

Mass is significantly less for generatively designed frames when compared to traditionally designed UAV frame.

Factor of Safety of model 1 is almost 40 times of DJI F450 frame.

Maximum displacement of model 2 is just about 0.1 mm under the loading conditions which is 400 times when compared to DJI frame.

Von Misses Stress is 11.4 times less for the model 2 frame in comparison to DJI F450 frame.

Model 1 and 2 can withstand cyclic load and can survive from failure for a longer period of time when compared to the F450 frame.

Thank you