



# **Blender - An Automated Mesh Morphing Blending Tool to Extend Blend Limits for Inserted Blade and Bladed Rotors**

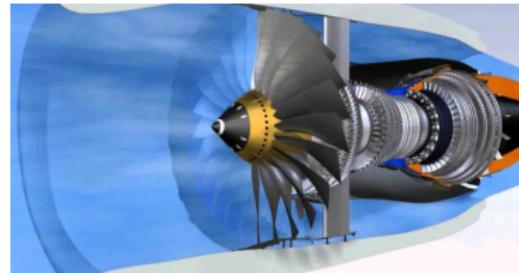
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**ENGINE INTEGRITY BRANCH  
TURBINE ENGINE DIVISION  
AEROSPACE SYSTEMS DIRECTORATE  
25 APRIL 2019**

**2019 PS&S CONFERENCE**

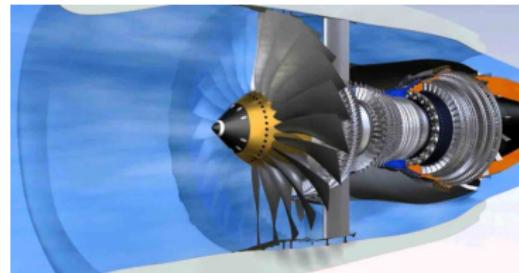
## Overview

- RQTI in-house team developing methods to build validated as-manufactured component models
- Use large populations of components to quantify uncertainty
- Take advantage of this information to change durability criteria
- This work describes part specific airfoil blending analysis



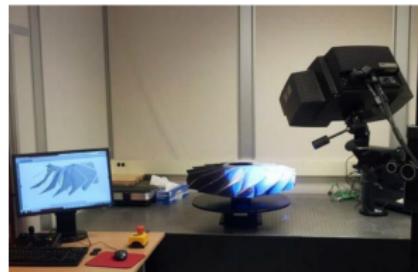
## Blended Repairs

- Blends are an affordable method of repair
- On-wing blending capability increases ATOW
- A part specific approach can lead to extension in blend limits and significant cost savings



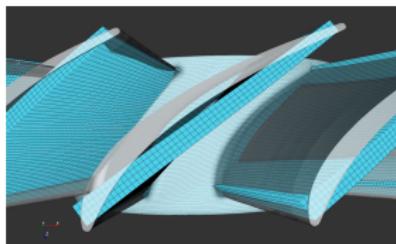
## Enablers for Part-Specific Blend Analysis

- Increased understanding of variations in mechanical and aerodynamic behavior
- Rigorously validated analysis and test methodologies
- Advanced measurement systems for geometry, material properties, bench, and operational response
- Automated analysis work flows with robust computational grid permutation

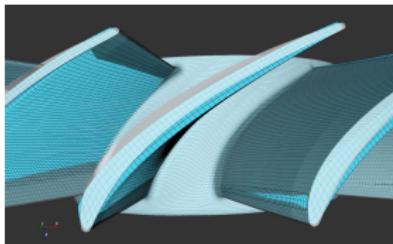


# Automation and Permutation with FEMORPH, Blender, and PyIBR

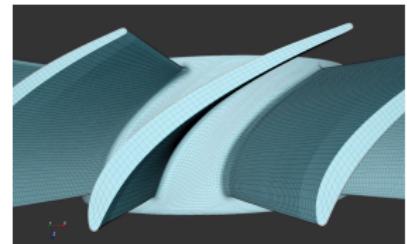
- FEMORPH maps existing computational meshes to defined target surfaces (CMM points, point clouds, \*.stl)
- Blender parametrically defines blends and modifies target surface
- PyIBR automates the use of FEMORPH, Blender, FEM solution, and post processing



Before Morphing



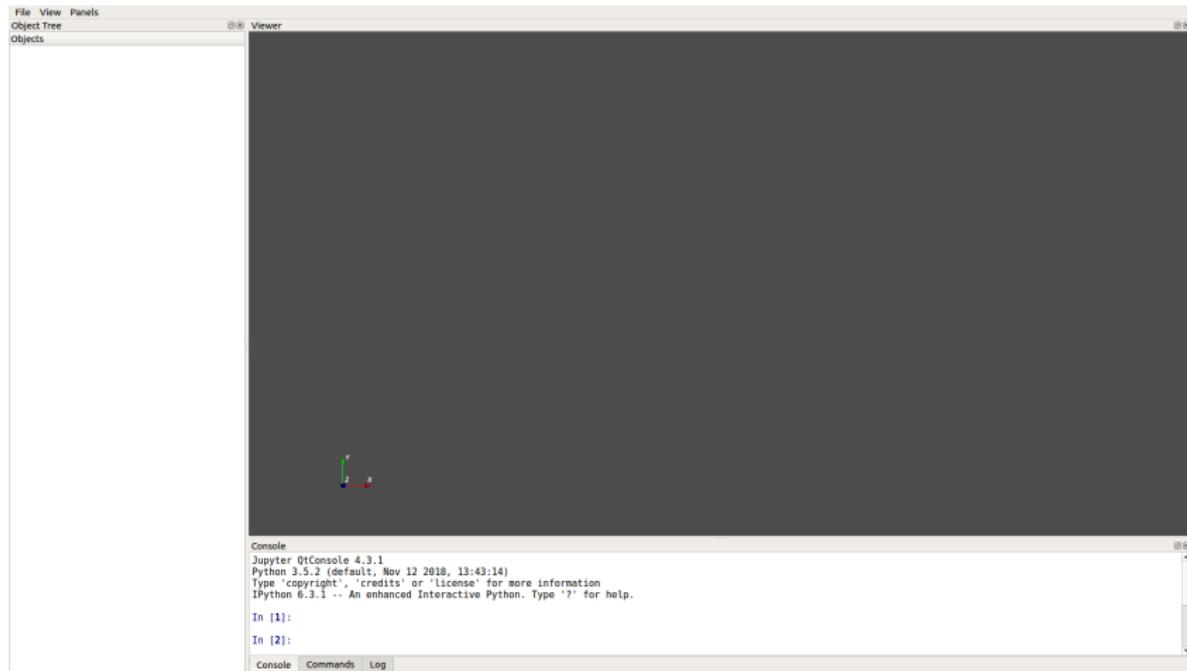
Mid Morphing



After Morphing

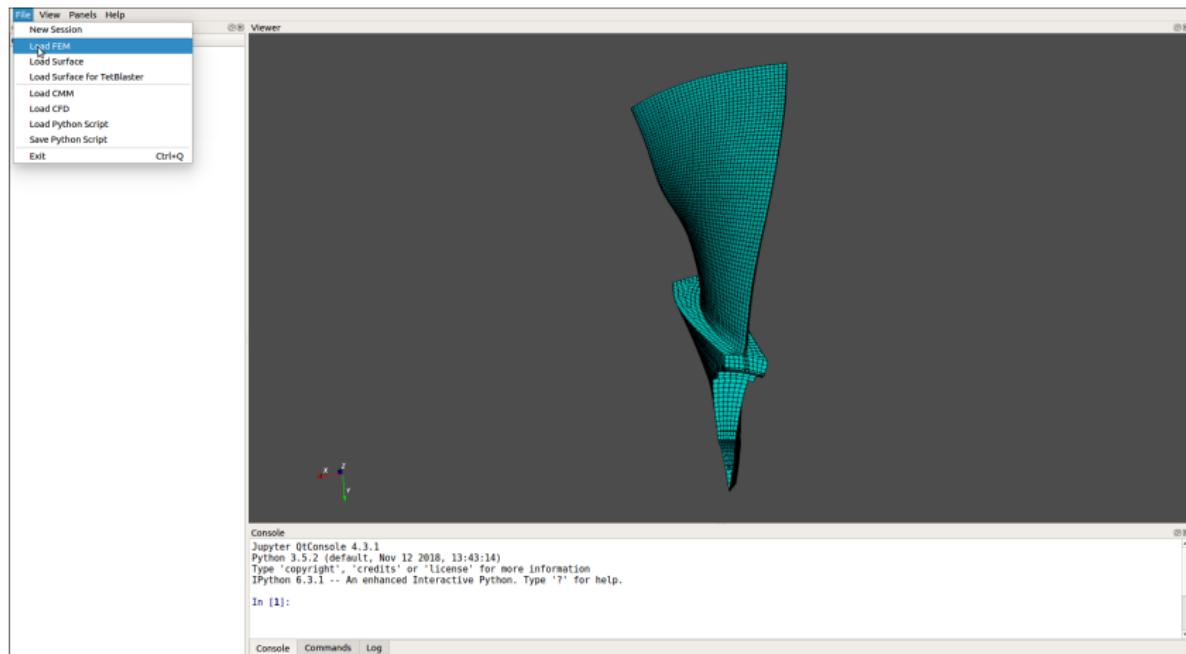
# FEMORPH and Blender Process

# FEMORPH Graphical Interface



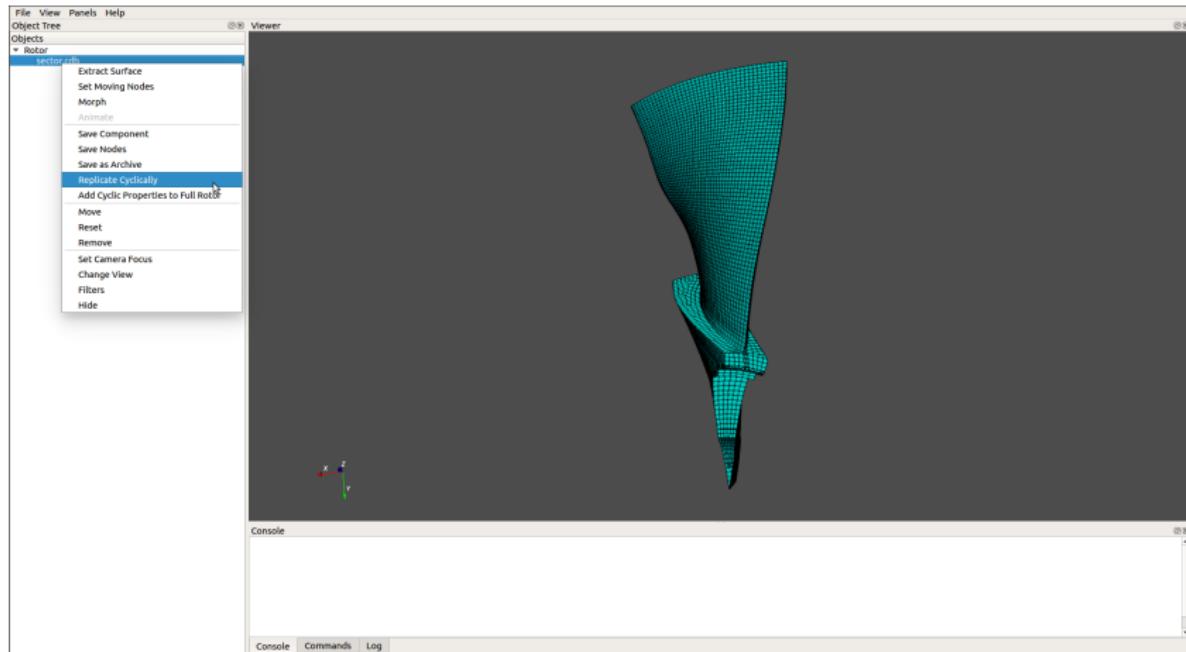
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Load Cyclic ANSYS FEM (\*.cdb)



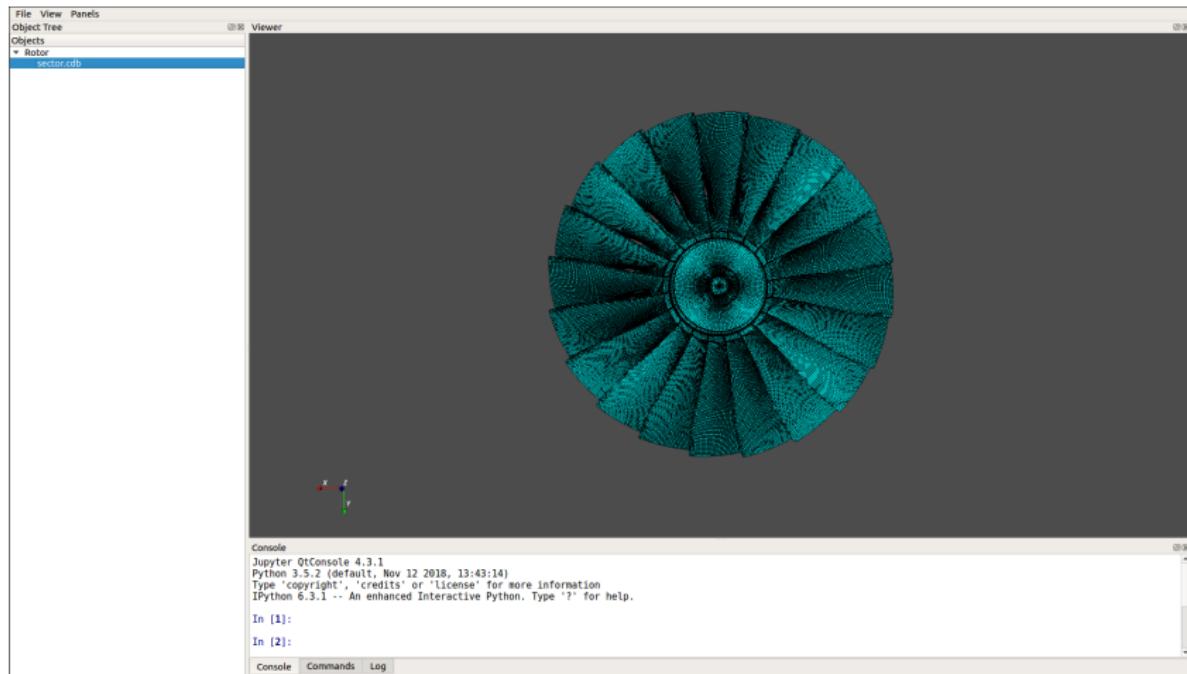
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Replicate Sectors for Full Rotor



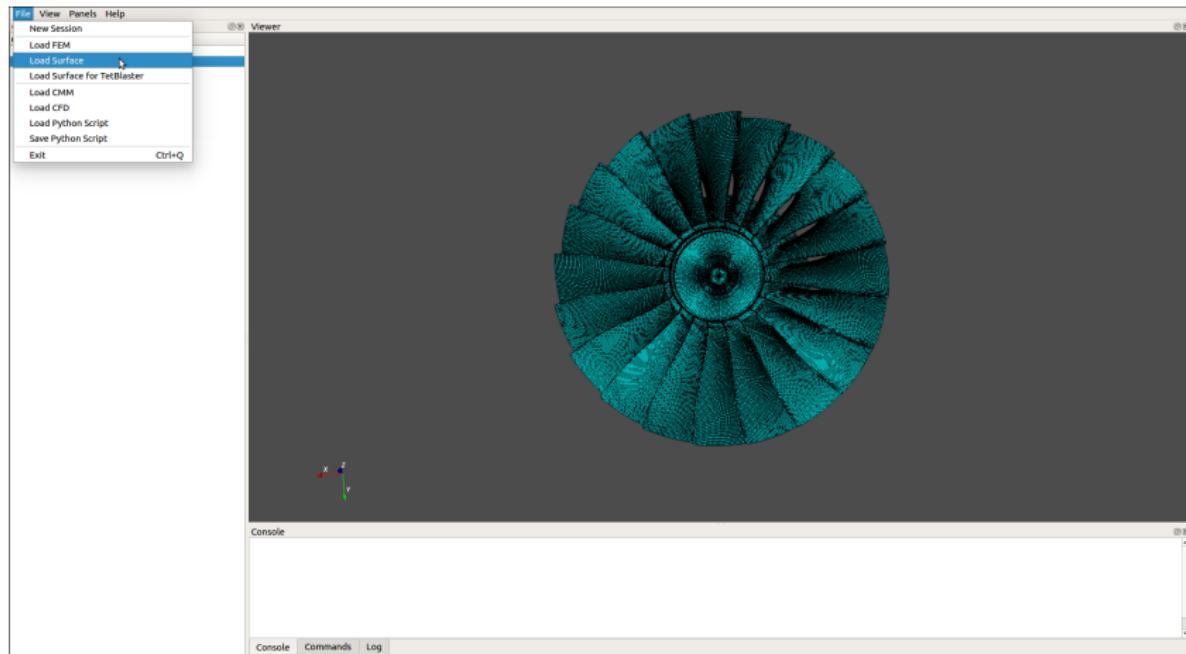
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Full Rotor FEM



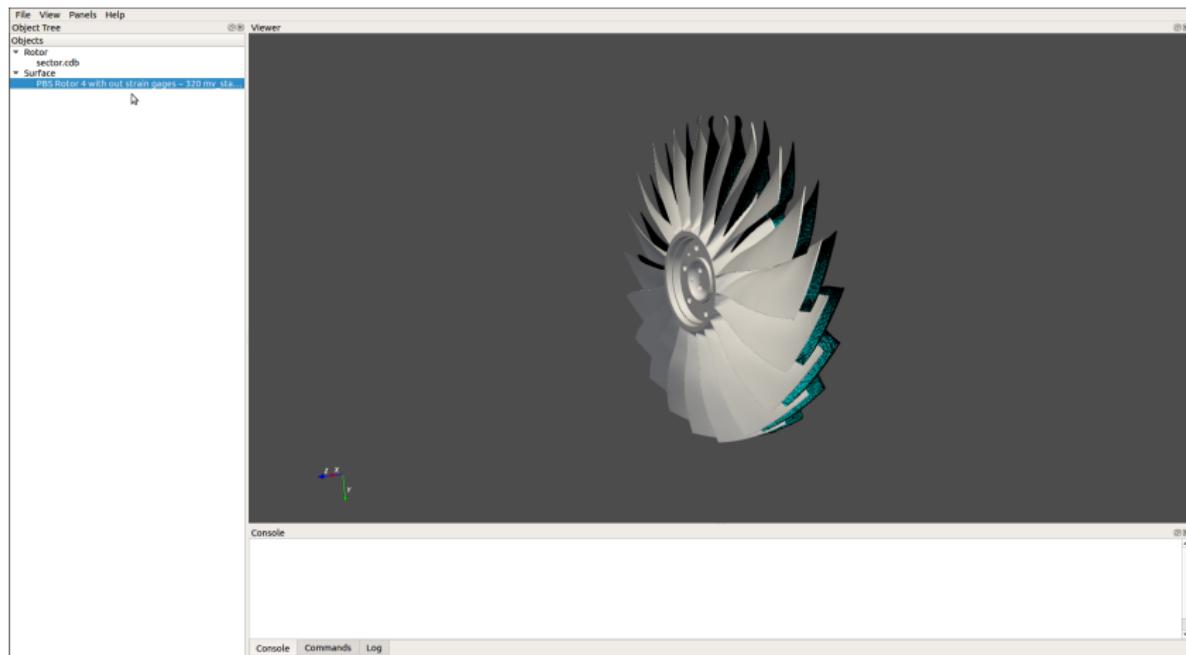
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Import 3D Point Cloud \*.stl



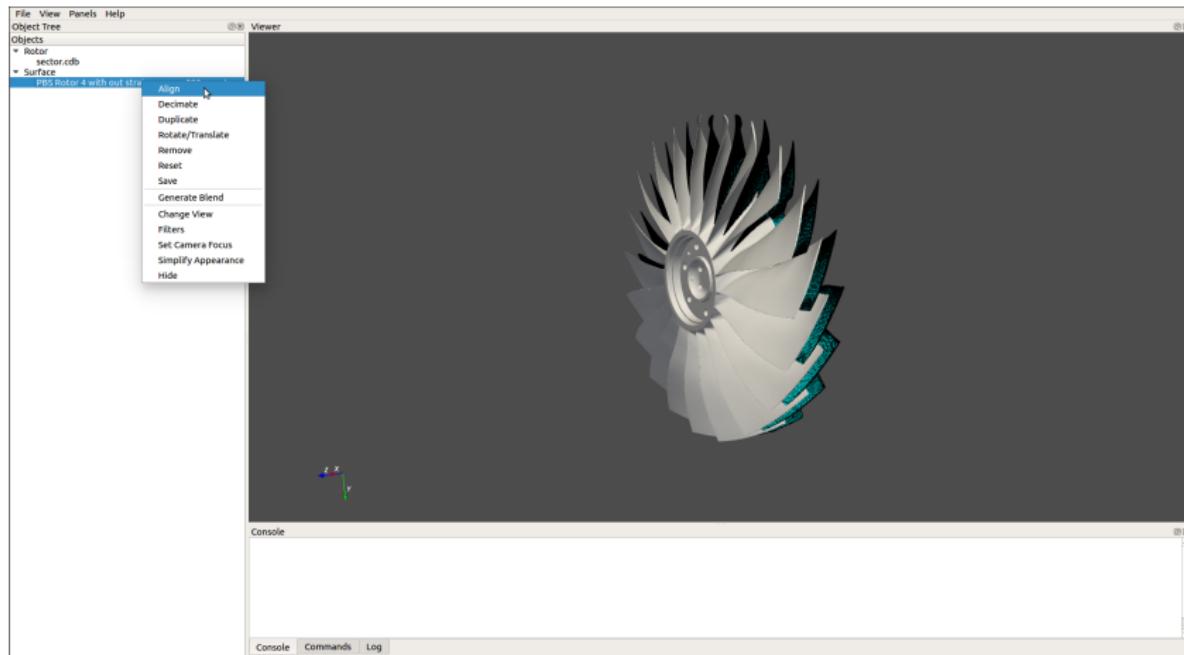
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Imported 3D Point Cloud



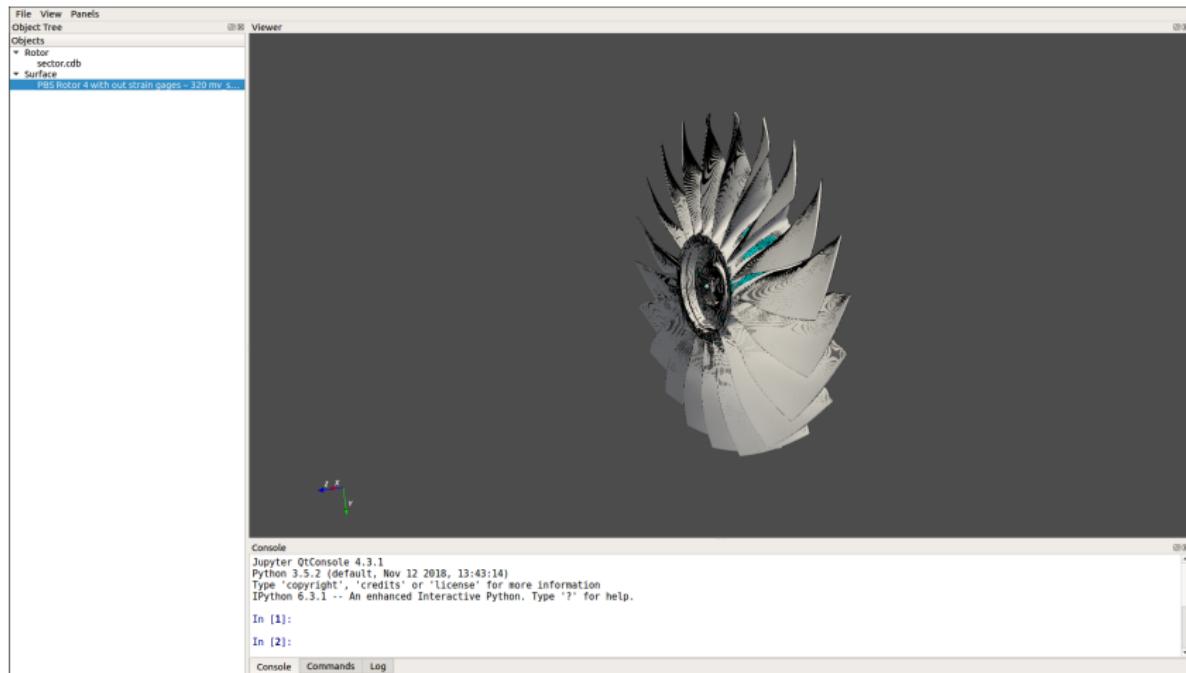
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Align 3D Point Cloud with FEM



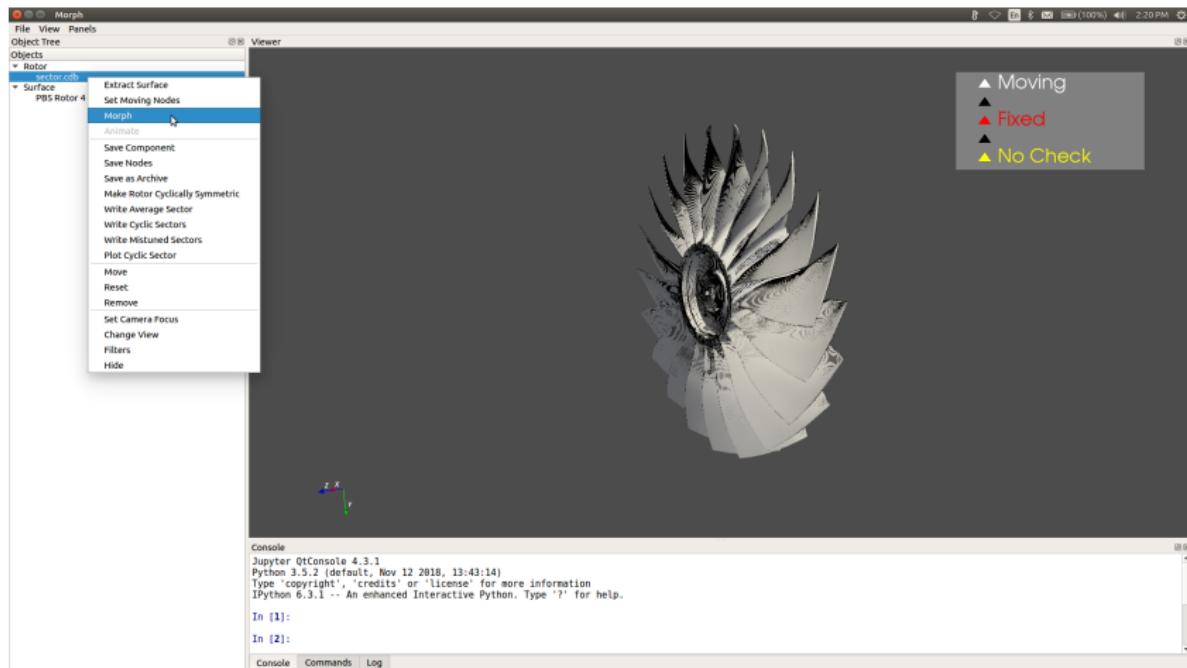
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Aligned Data Sets



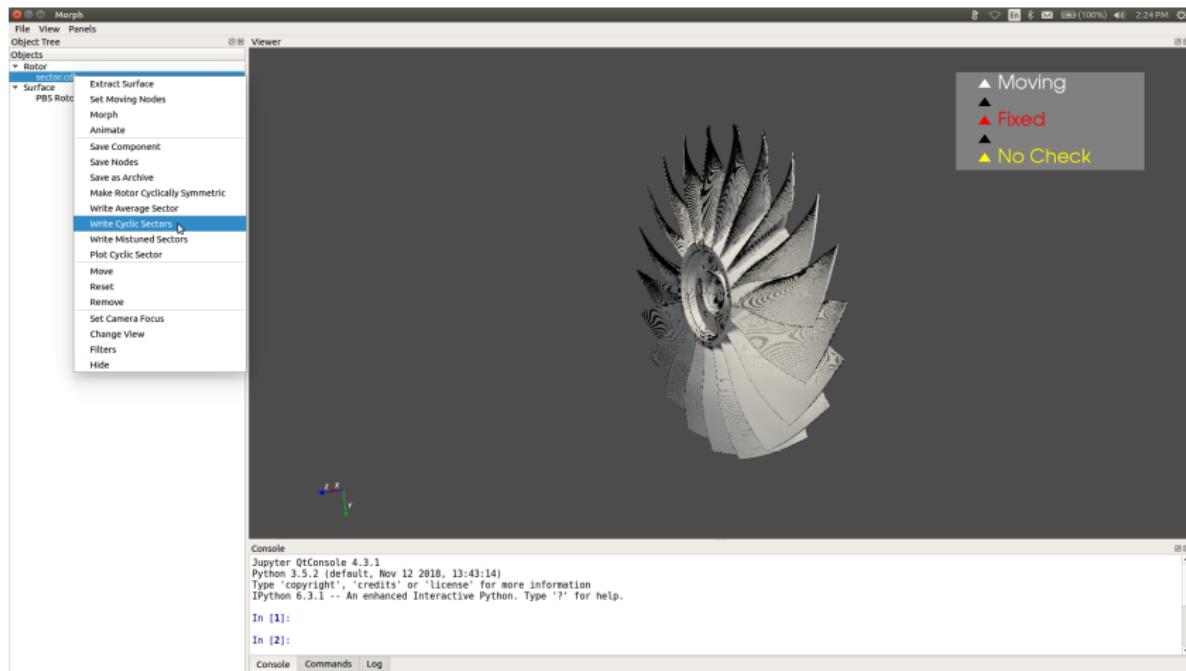
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

Morph - Transformation time: 65 seconds, 4 core i5-6300HQ @2.30Ghz, 8GB RAM



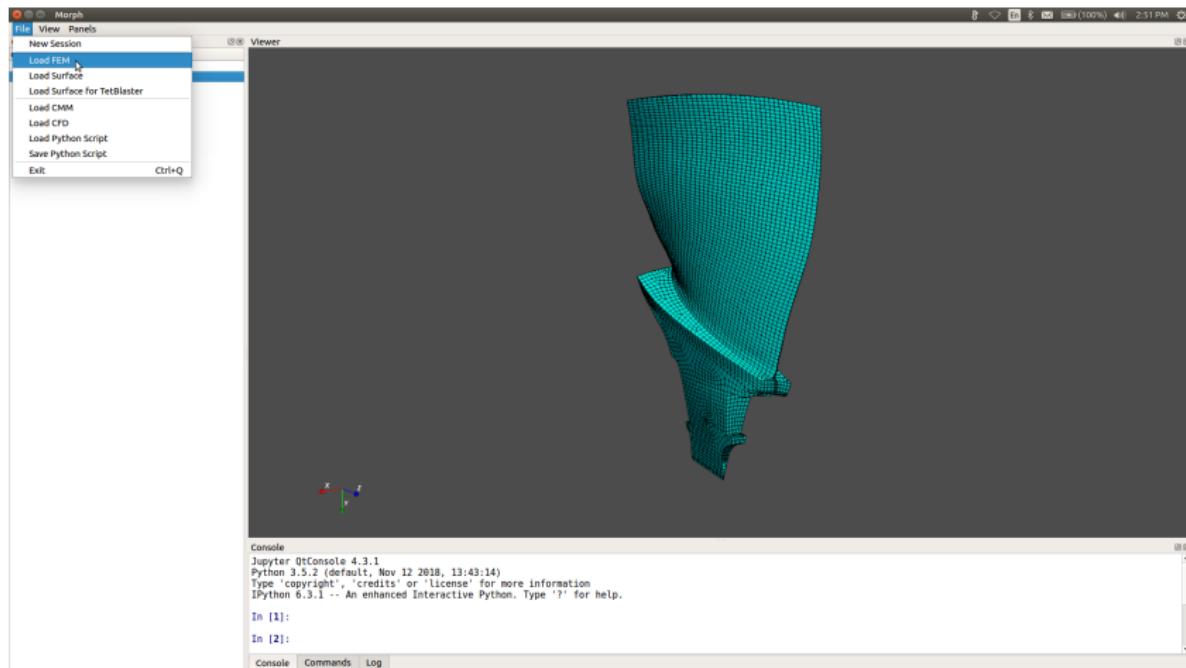
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Write Average, Cyclic Sector, and Full Rotor .cdb or NBLOCK file



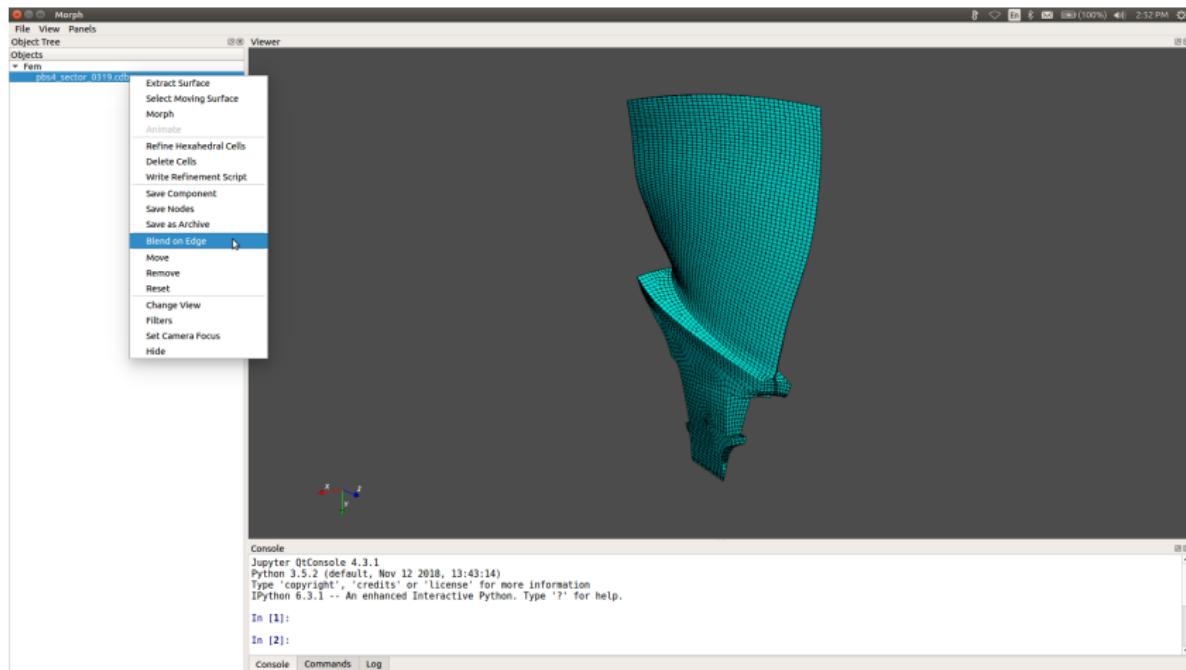
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

To blend a morphed sector, load a morphed sector .cdb File



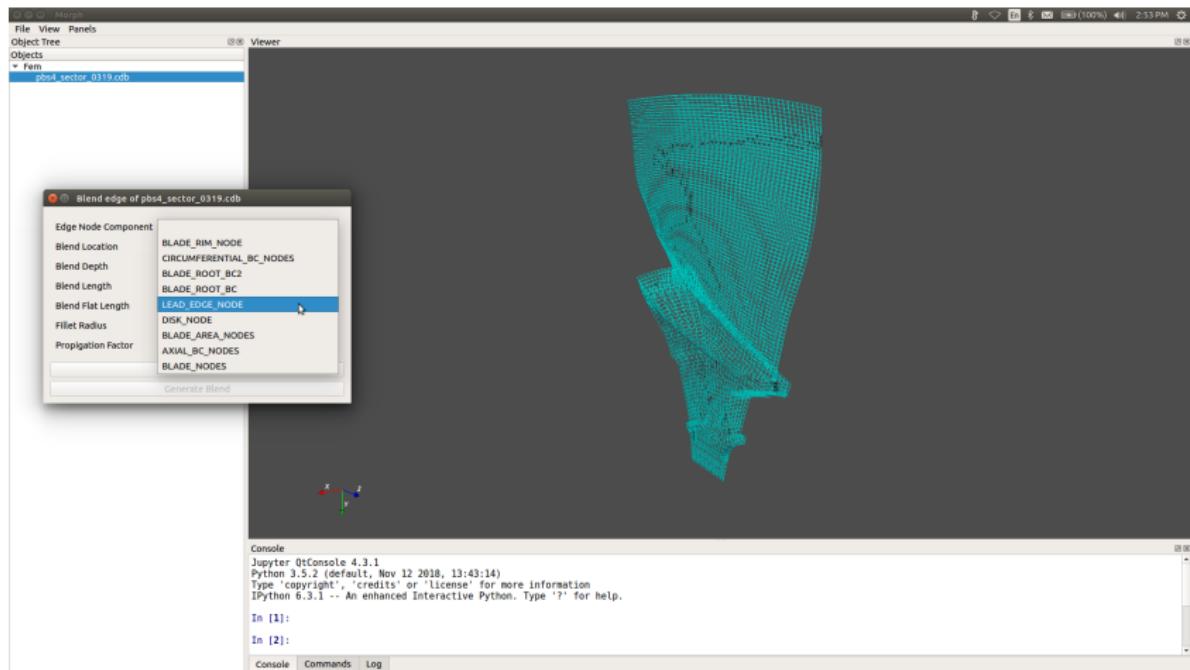
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Select Blend on Edge



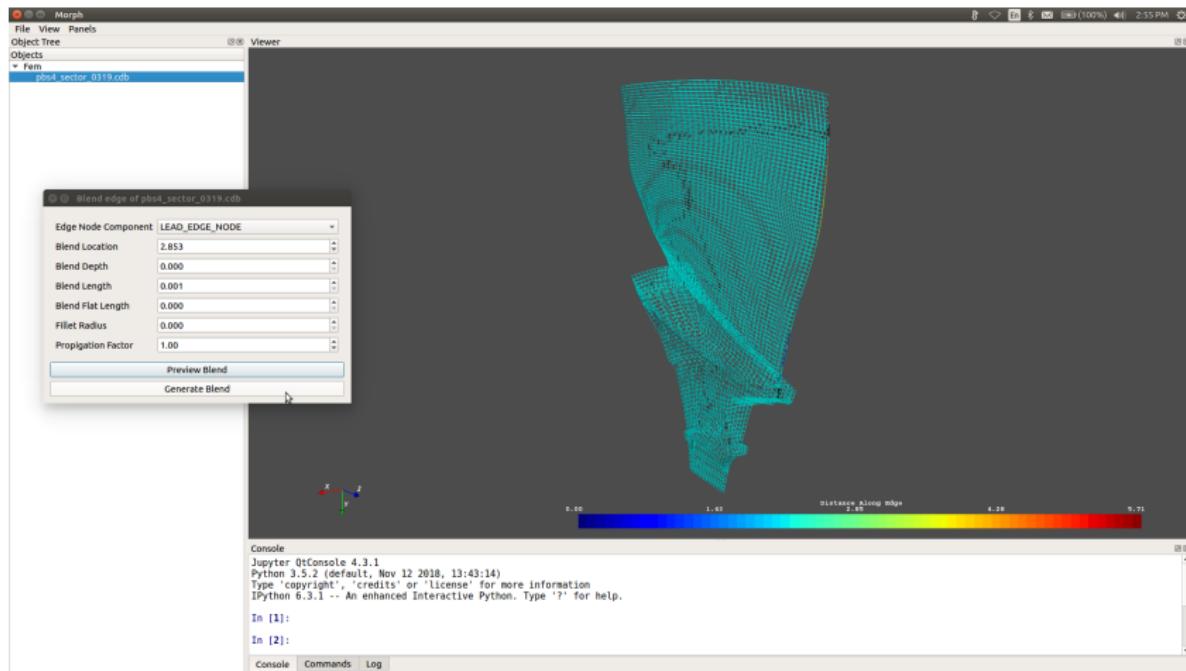
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Select defined NODE component with leading edge nodes



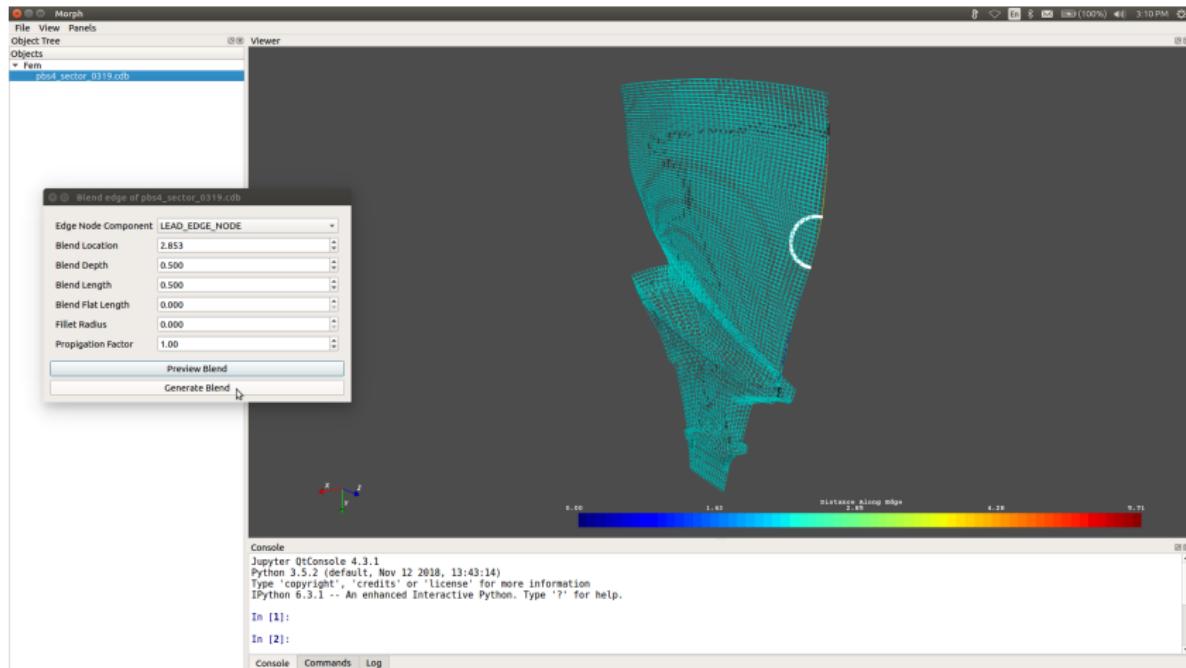
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Define blend geometry parameters



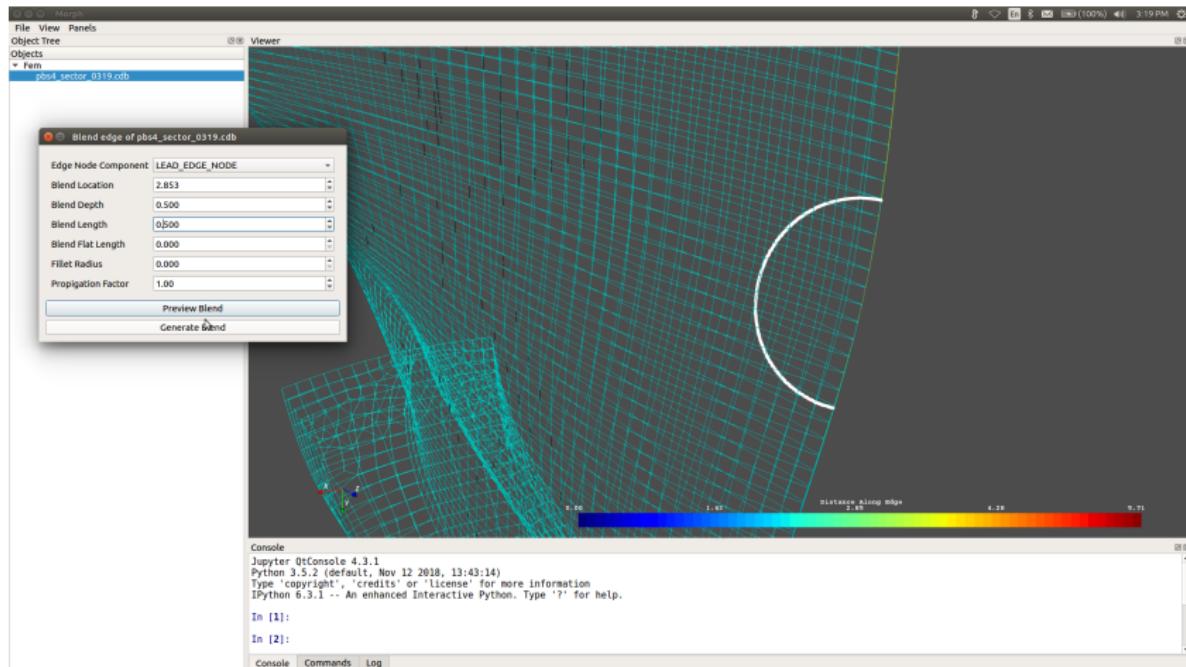
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Visualize blend definition



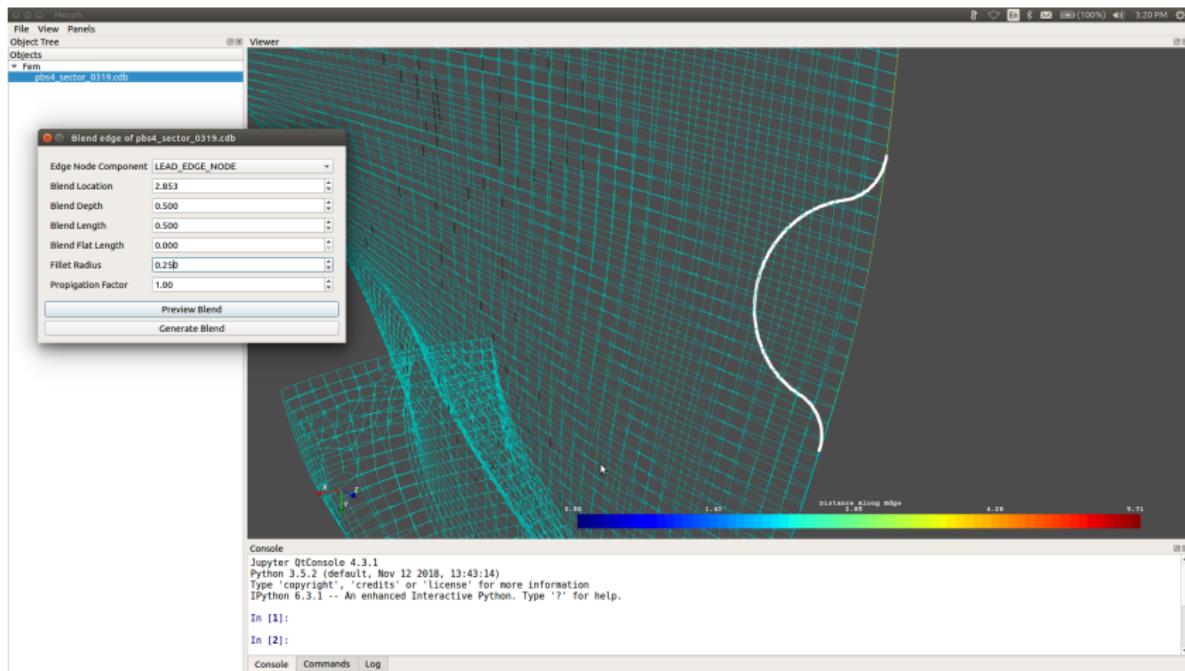
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Zoom in



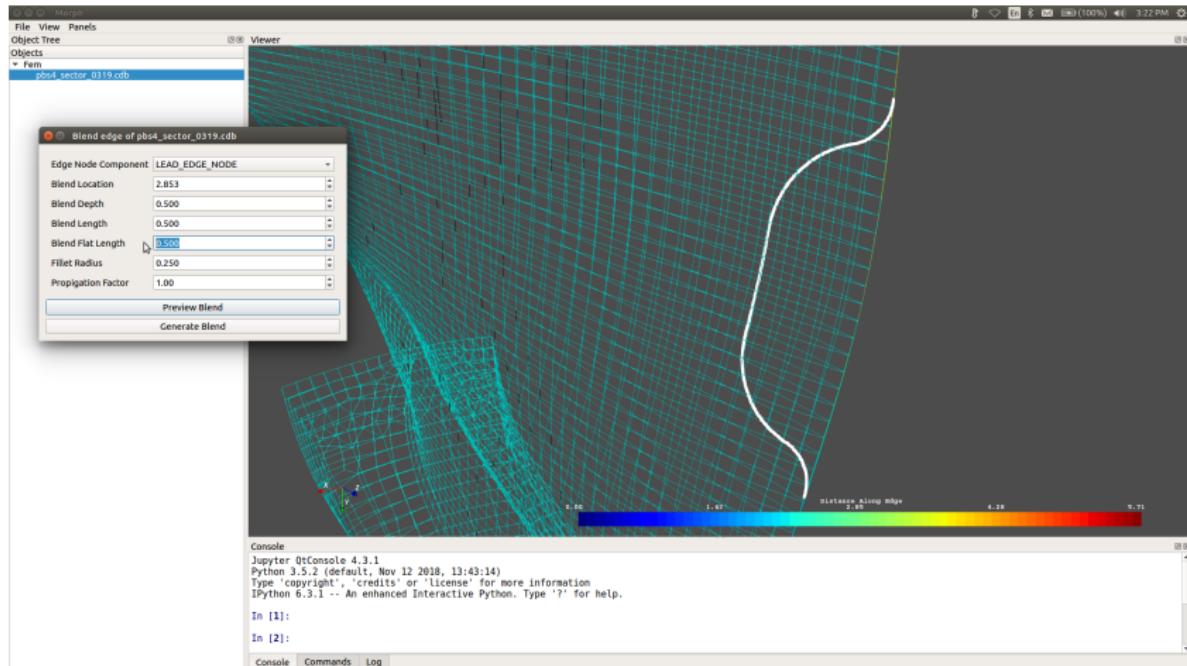
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Add blend smoothing radius



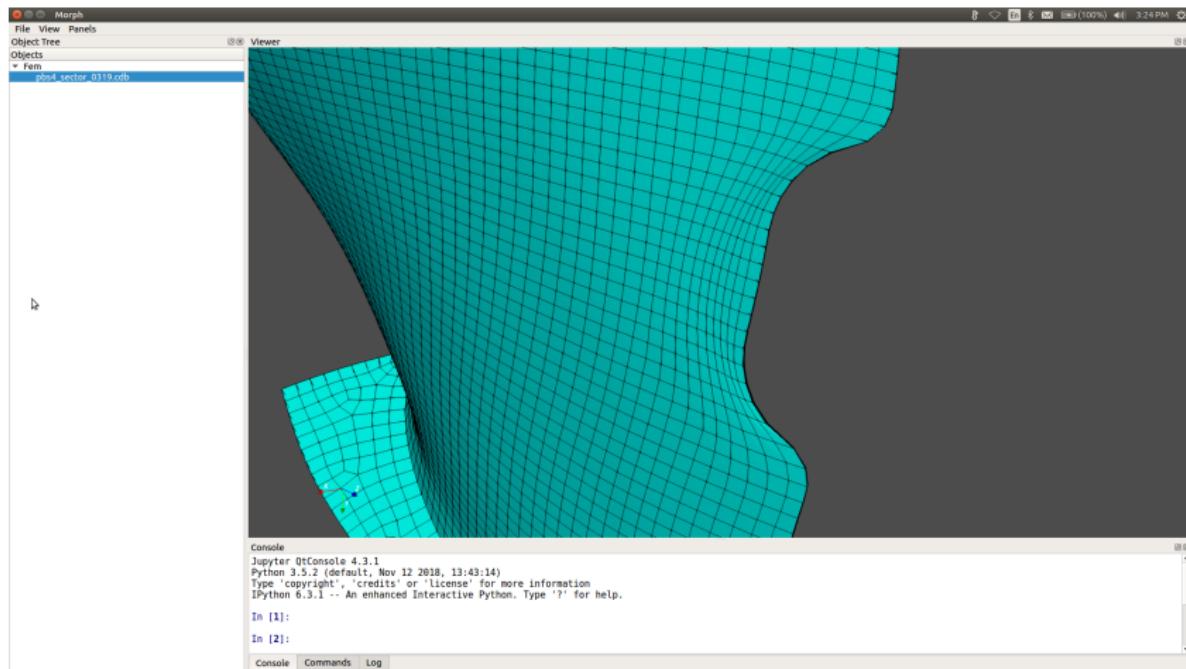
# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Add blend flat



# FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Morph to defined blend



## FEMORPH Graphical Interface

## Python Script of Process. 10 lines of code.

```
1 /**
2 Auto-generated script for femorph
3 Using femorph v1.0.4
4   femorph_gui v1.1.2
5 /**
6
7 Import femorph
8 Import femorph.blender
9
10 # Rotor FEM Morphing
11 rotor000 = femorph.Rotor("sector.cdb")
12 rotor000.replicate_cyclically(20, 1e-05, "z")
13 surface000 = femorph.Surface("PBS_Rotor_4_with_out_strain_gages - 320_mv_standard_7june2018.ply")
14 surface000.align(rotor000, True, True, 5, True)
15
16 # Sector Aiffoil Blend
17 fem002 = femorph.Fem("pbs4_sector_0319.cdb")
18 fem002 = femorph.blender.Blender(fem002, "LEAD_EDGE_NODE")
19 fem002.blend_on_edge(z=0.853000, 0.500000, 0.500000, 0.250000, 0.500000, 1.000000)
20
21
22 #*** morph_script_pss.py  All L20  (Python FlyC || Elpy)
23 Mark set
```

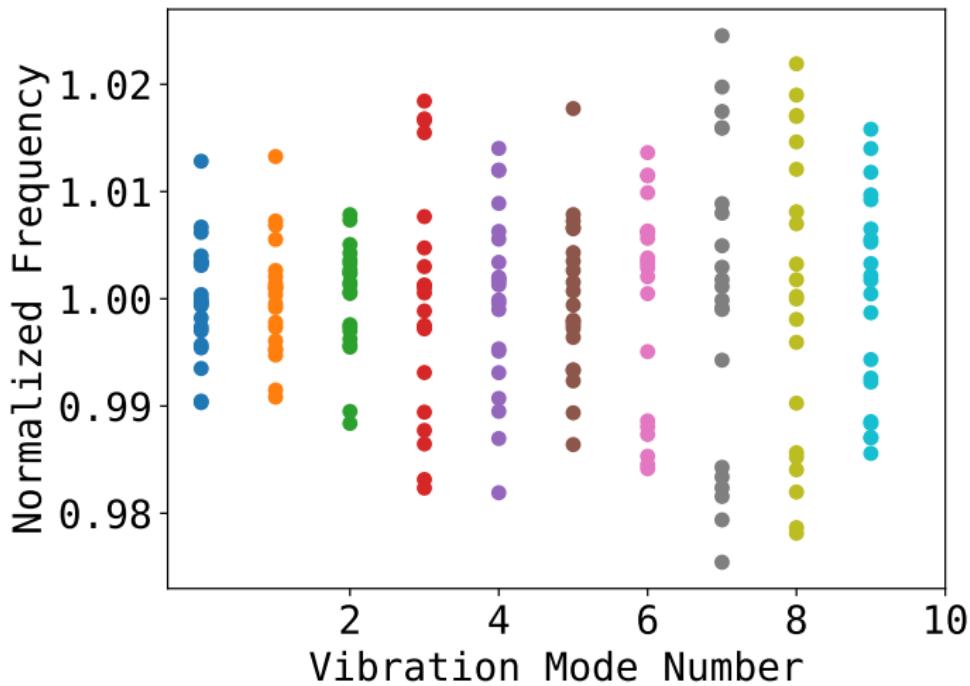
## PyIBR Process Automation

- PyIBR.Blend
- PyIBR.Solve
- PyIBR.Post
  - Frequency
  - MAC
  - Stress
  - Campbell
  - Goodman
  - LE Goodman
  - Modal Force
  - Mistuning
- PyIBR.Emulate
- PyIBR.ROM
- PyIBR.Validate

# PBS 4 As-manufactured Airfoil Results

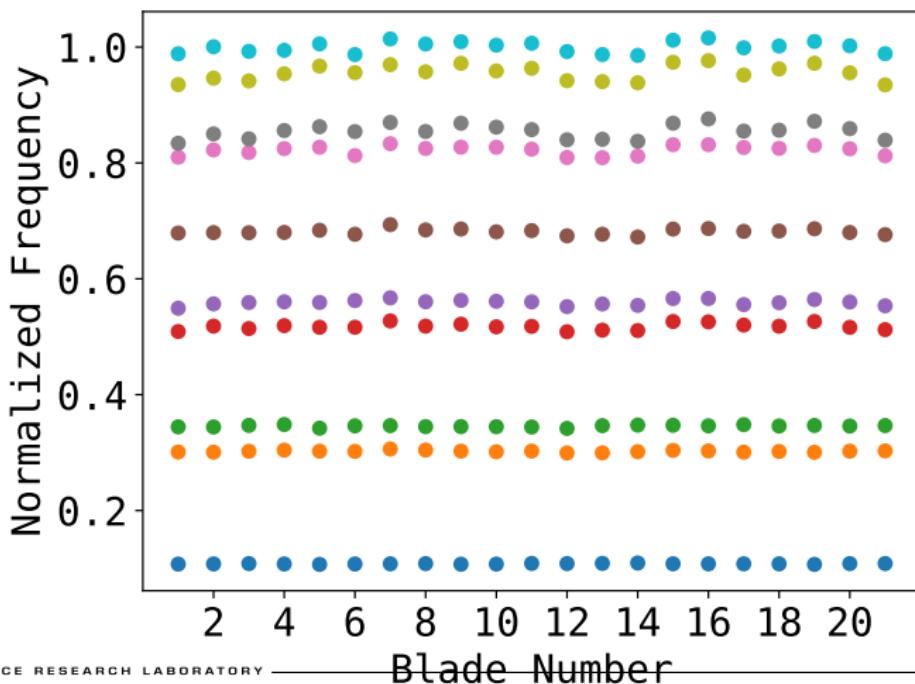
## As-manufactured Frequency Results

Scatter of each mode frequency. Finding: typical blade frequency variation.  
Blended airfoil frequency limit can be based on part-specific frequency



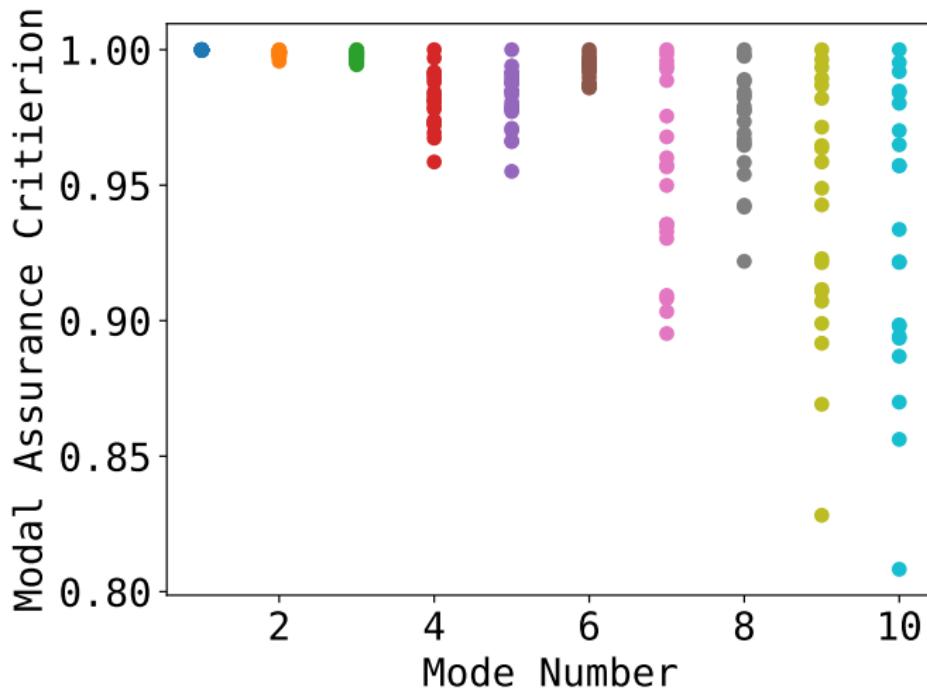
## As-manufactured Frequency Results

Blade frequency variation. Finding: Closely spaced modes. Modes pairs (4,5), (7,8), (9,10) at risk for large mode shape variation.



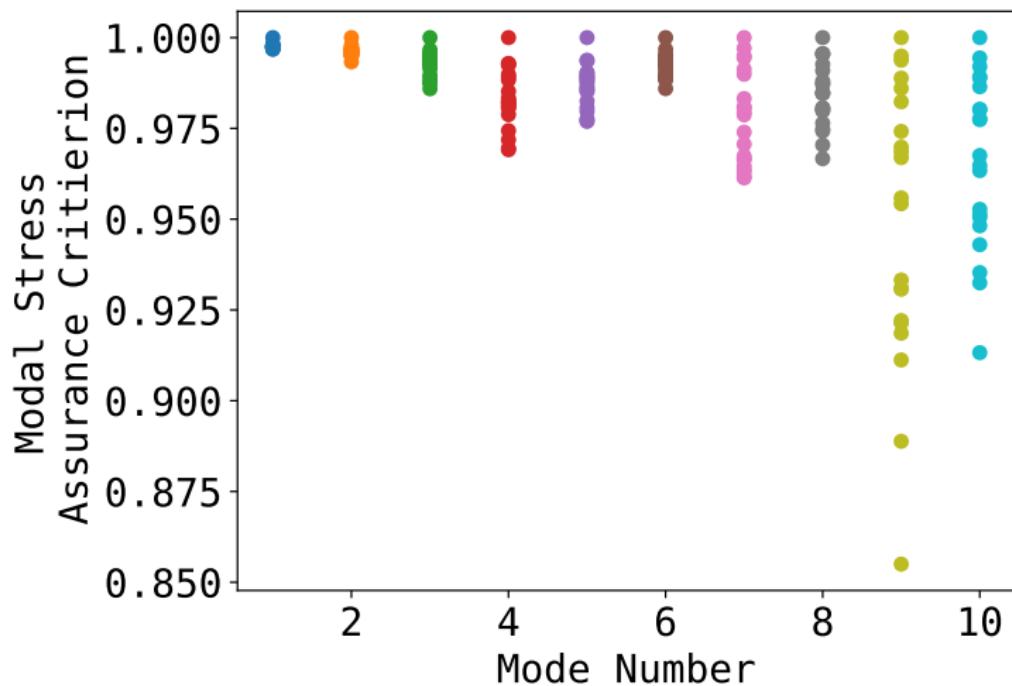
## As-manufactured Mode Shape Results

Modal Assurance Criterion variation. Finding: Large mode shape variations confirmed. Airfoil blending should leverage this information.



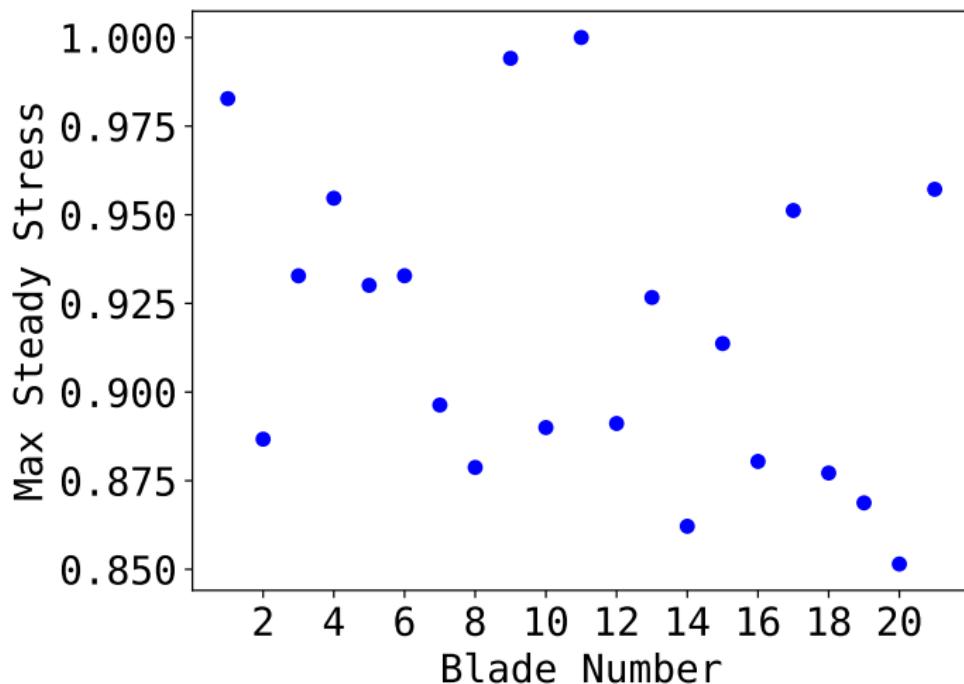
## As-manufactured Modal Stress Results

For completeness...modal stress. Finding: Less modal stress shape variation.



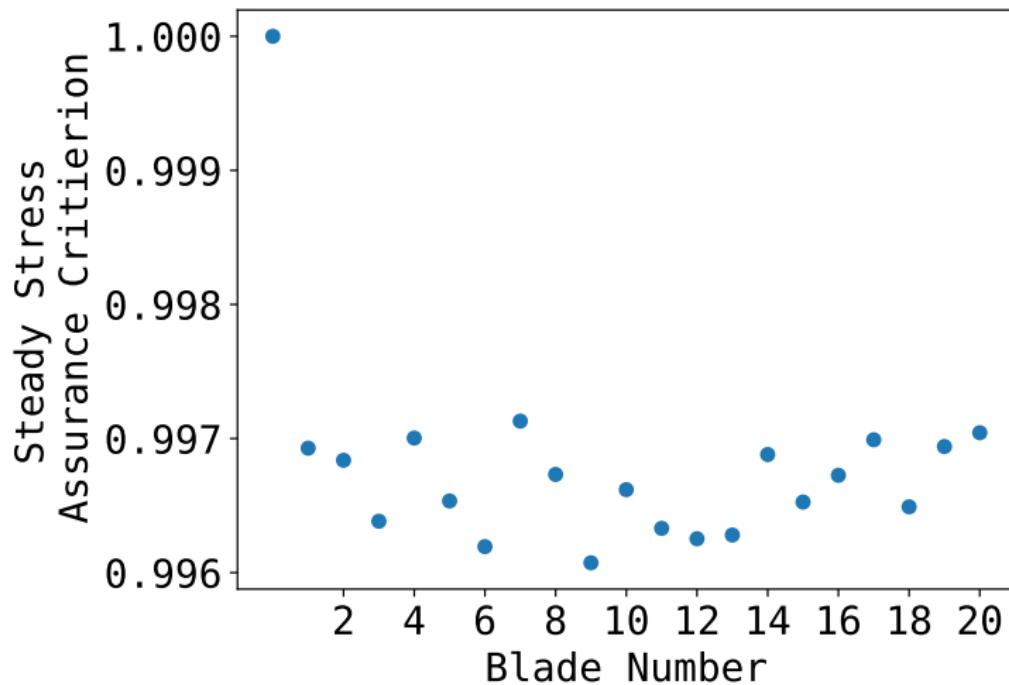
# As-manufactured Steady Stress Results

Max stress variation normalized by blade of maximum stress



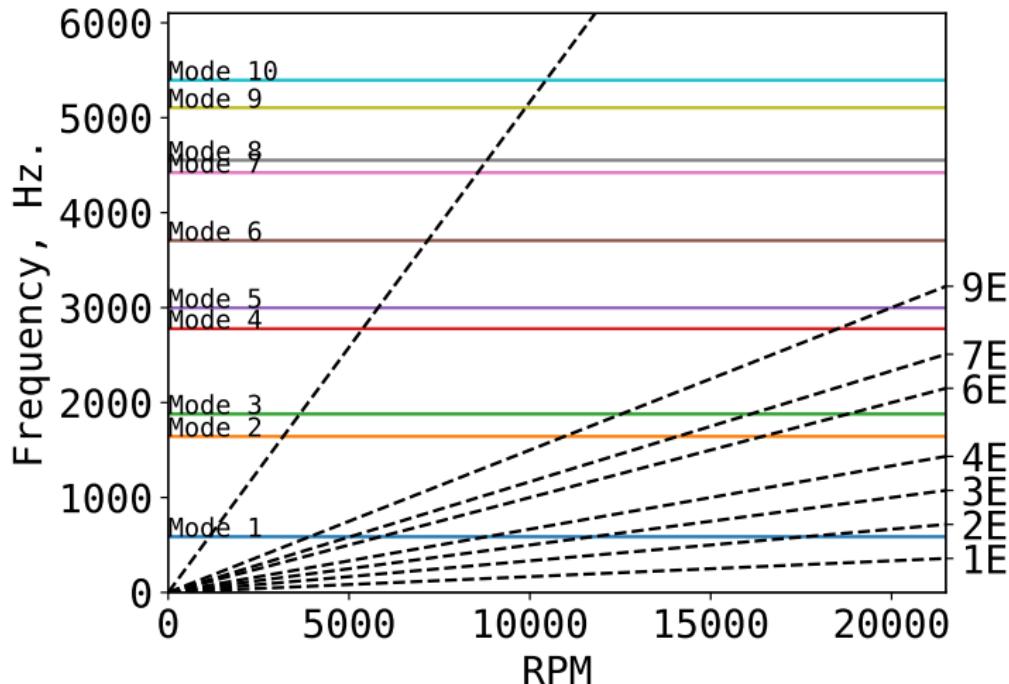
## As-manufactured Steady Stress Results

Steady Stress Assurance Criterion shows small variation. SSAC versus nominal blade.



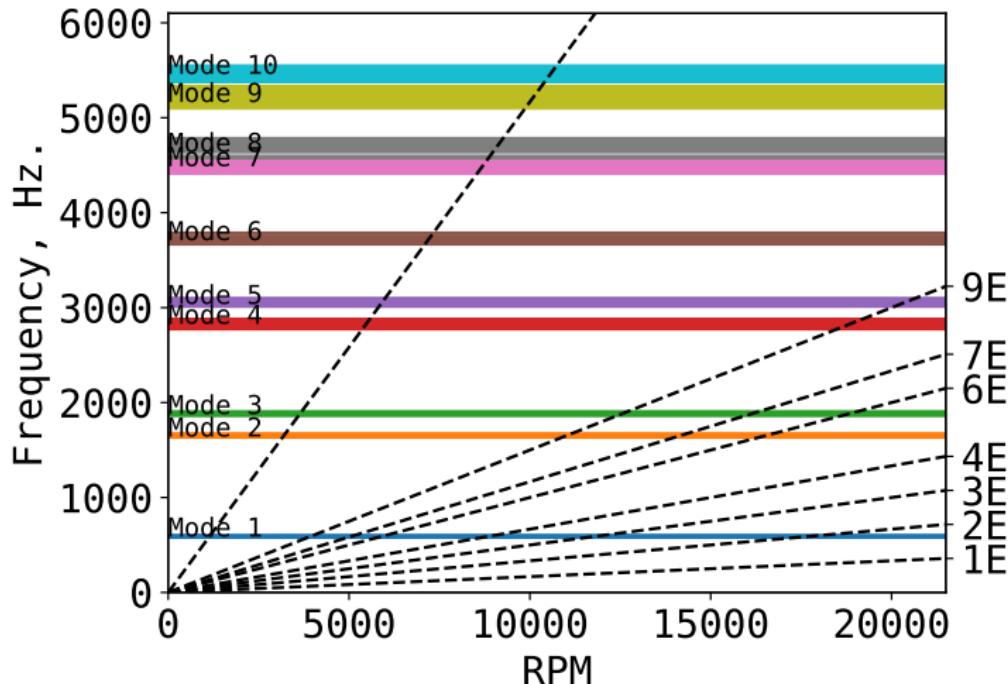
# Nominal Airfoil Campbell Diagram

No crossings within 5% at 100% RPM



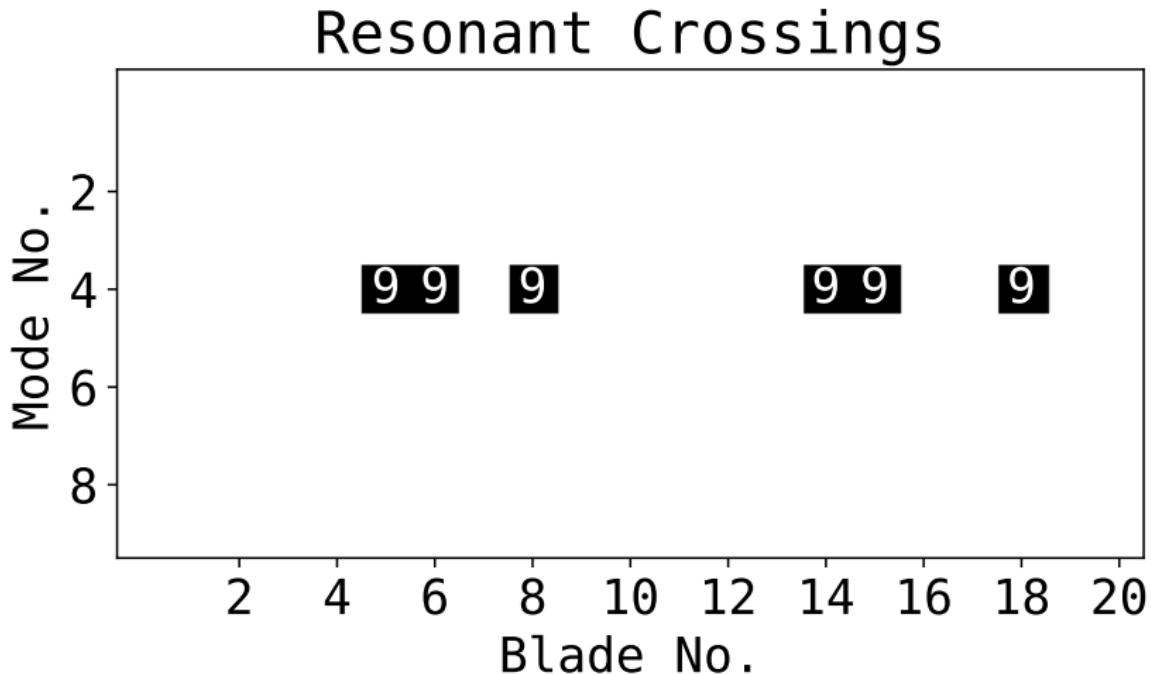
# As-manufactured Airfoil Campbell Diagram

Mode 5 Crossings within 5% of 9EO driver at 100% RPM



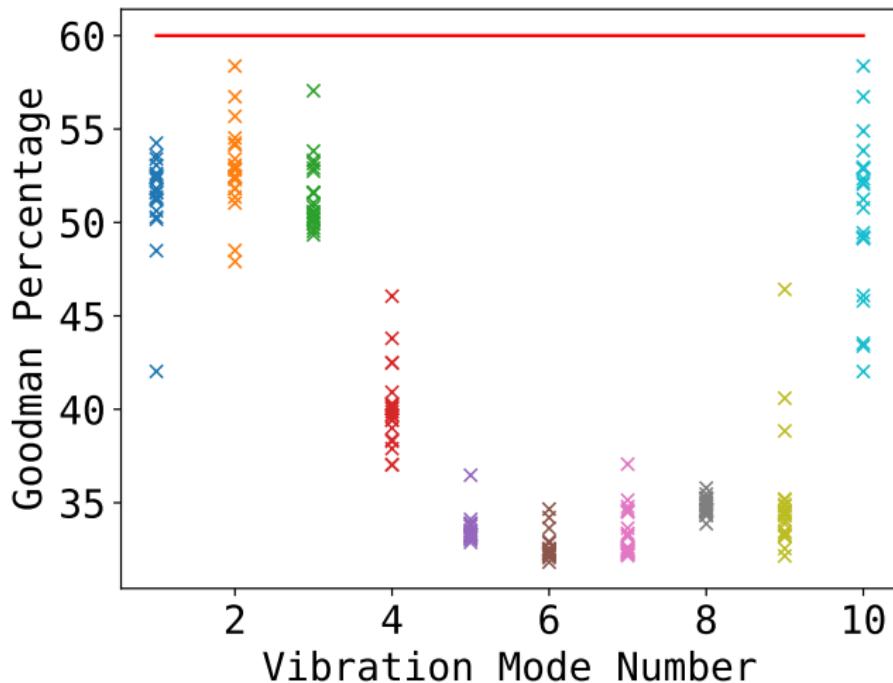
## As-manufactured Frequency Margin at Max Speed

No resonant crossings within 5% of EO drivers



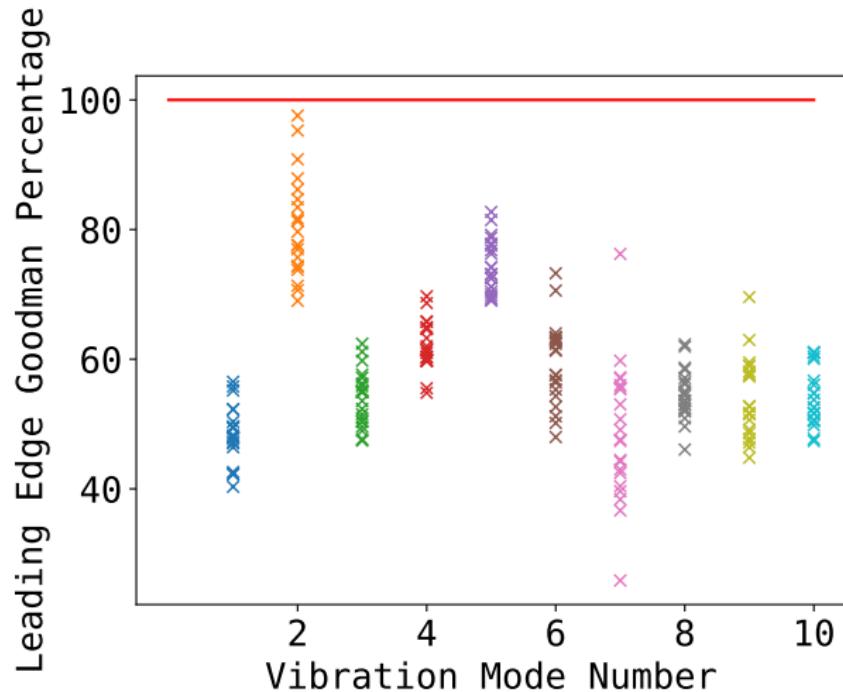
# As-manufactured Goodman Percentage

Scaled modal stress to a maximum stress value. All airfoils below 60%



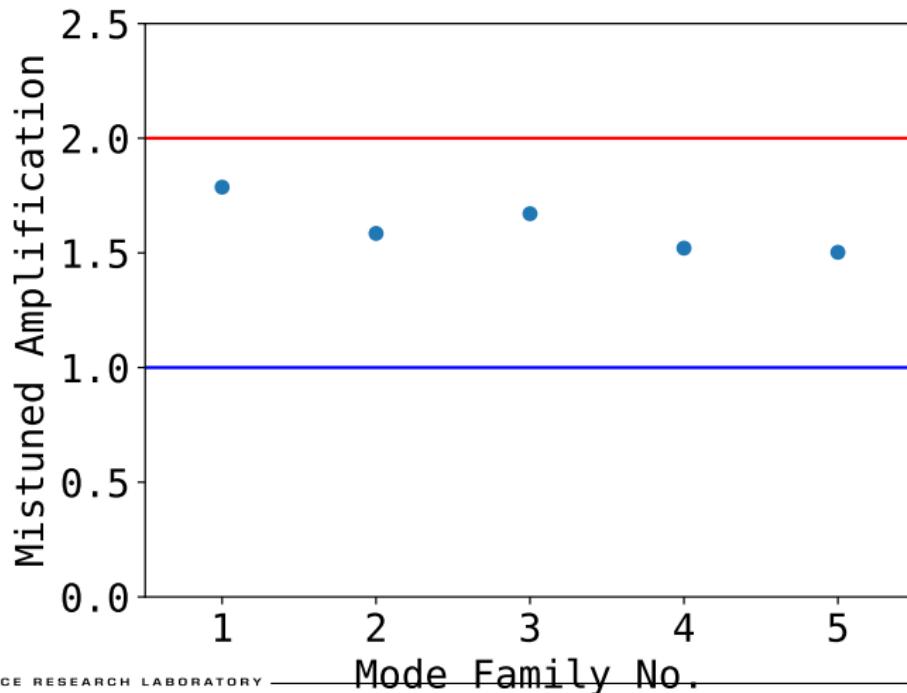
# As-manufactured Leading Edge Goodman Percentage

Applied Kt to steady and alternating stress and allowed 100% capability



## As-manufactured Rotor Mistuned Amplification

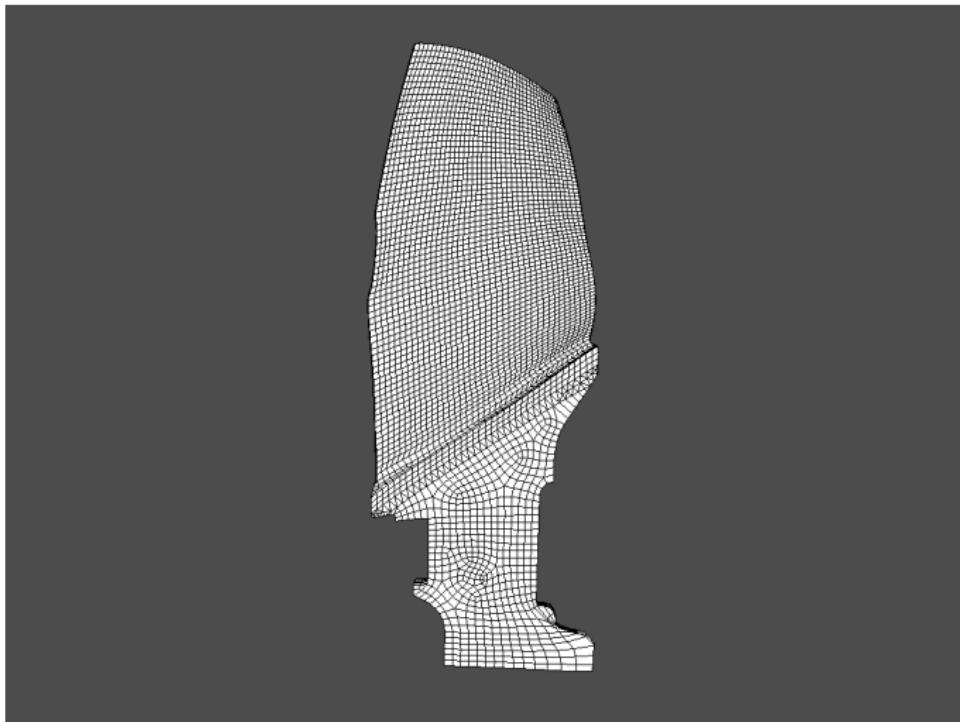
FMM predicted amplifications. Maximum amplification of 6 EO excitations.  
2.0 set as limit.



# Blended Airfoil Results

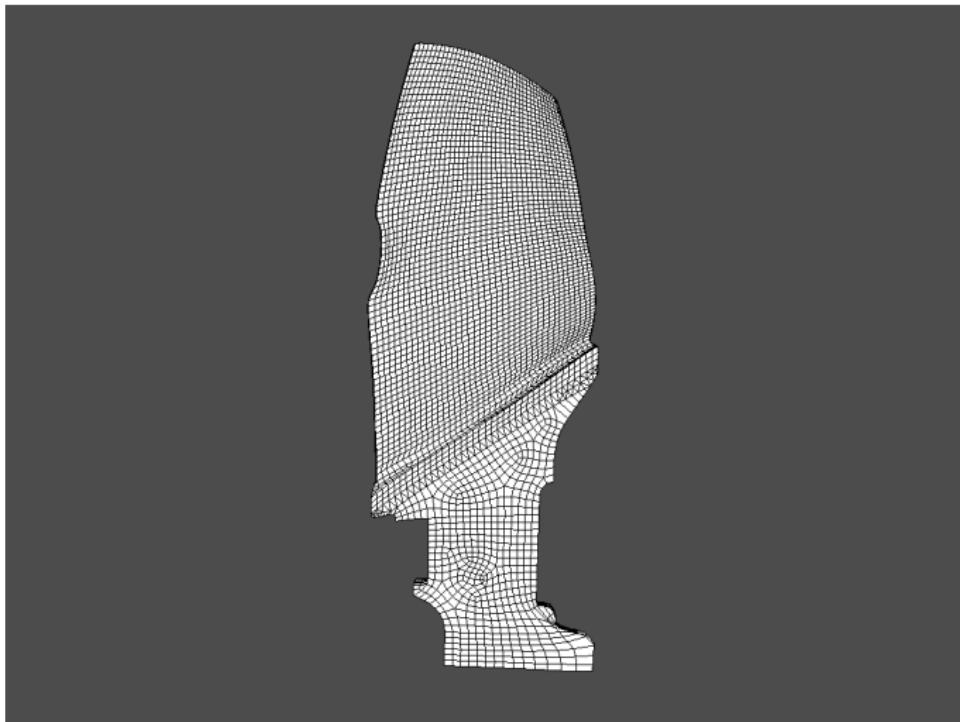
## Blended Airfoil Models

Blade 1, Blend 1: loc=3.0", len=0.5", depth=0.1", radius=0.25", flat=0.0



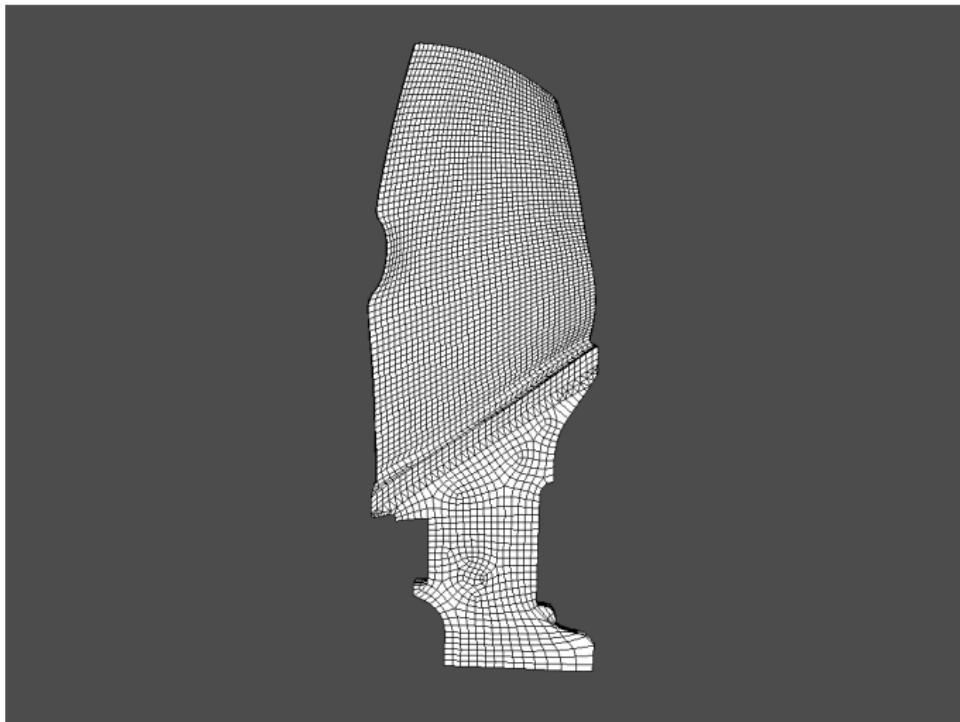
## Blended Airfoil Models

Blade 1, Blend 2: loc=3.0", len=0.5", depth=0.2", radius=0.25", flat=0.0



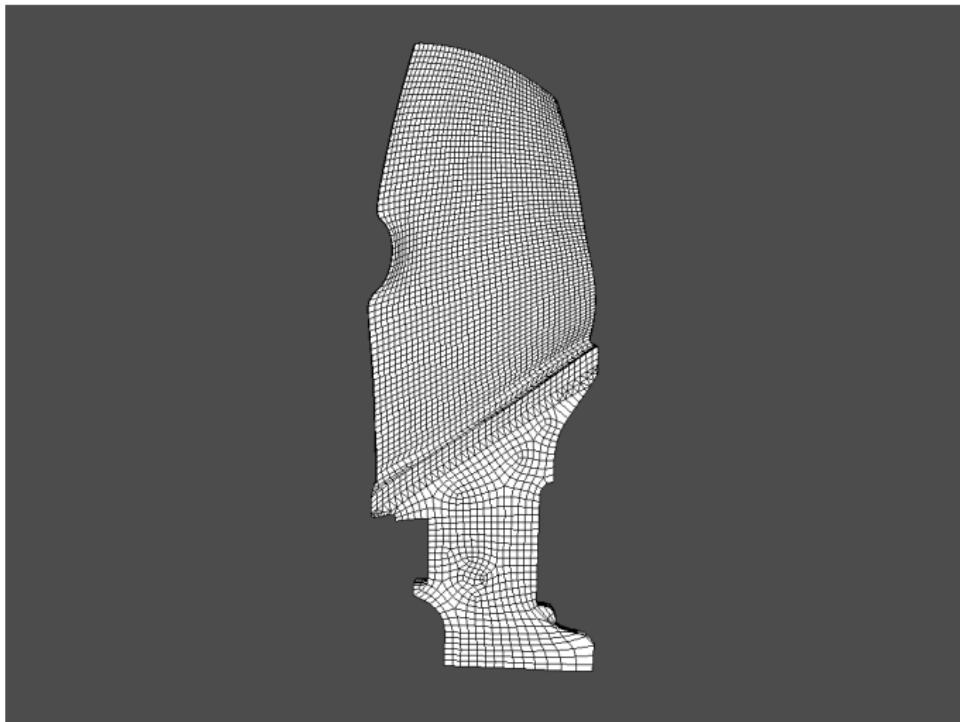
## Blended Airfoil Models

Blade 1, Blend 3: loc=3.0", len=0.5", depth=0.3", radius=0.25", flat=0.0



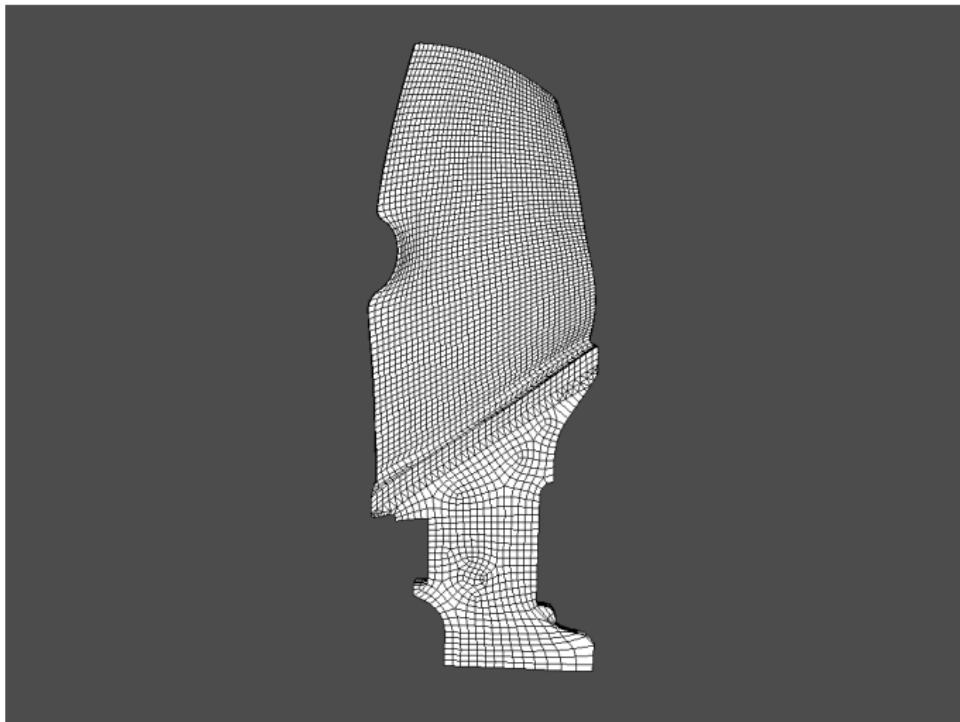
## Blended Airfoil Models

Blade 1, Blend 4: loc=3.0", len=0.5", depth=0.4", radius=0.25", flat=0.0



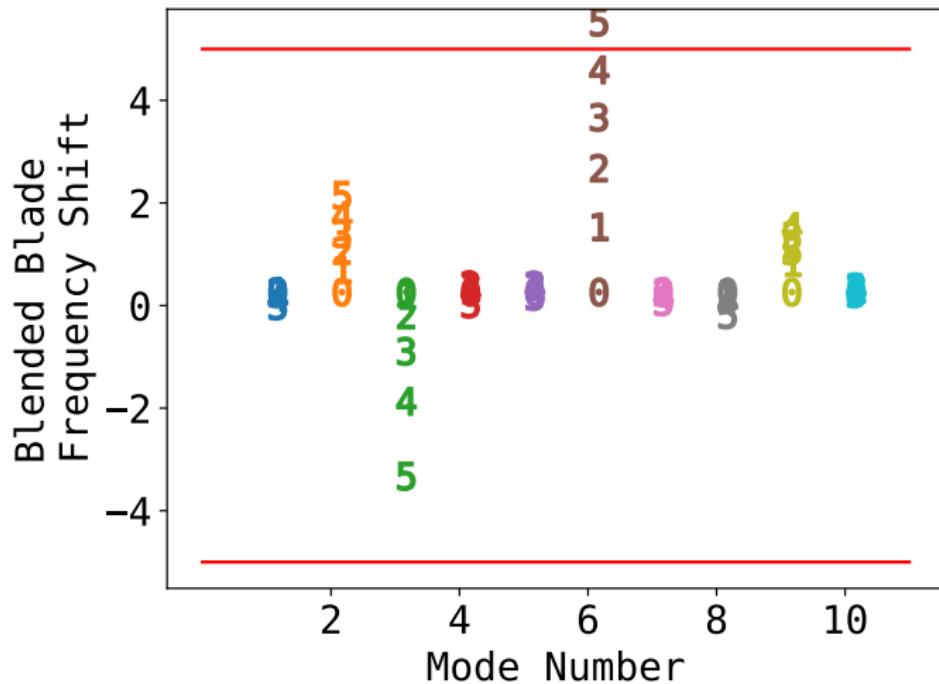
## Blended Airfoil Models

Blade 1, Blend 5: loc=3.0", len=0.5", depth=0.5", radius=0.25", flat=0.0



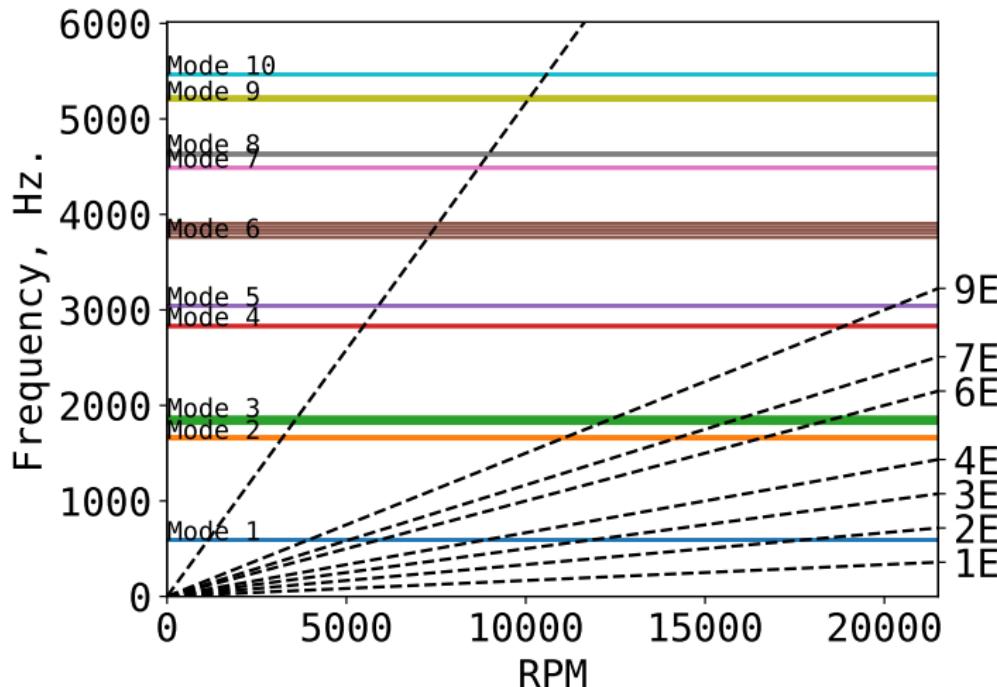
## Sector 1 Blended Airfoil Frequency Delta

Defined 5% frequency limits. Mode 6 exceeds limit.



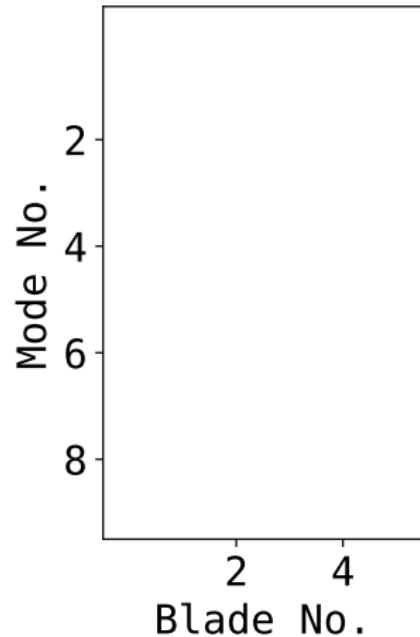
## Blended Airfoil Campbell Results

Blended Mode 6 does not show crossing



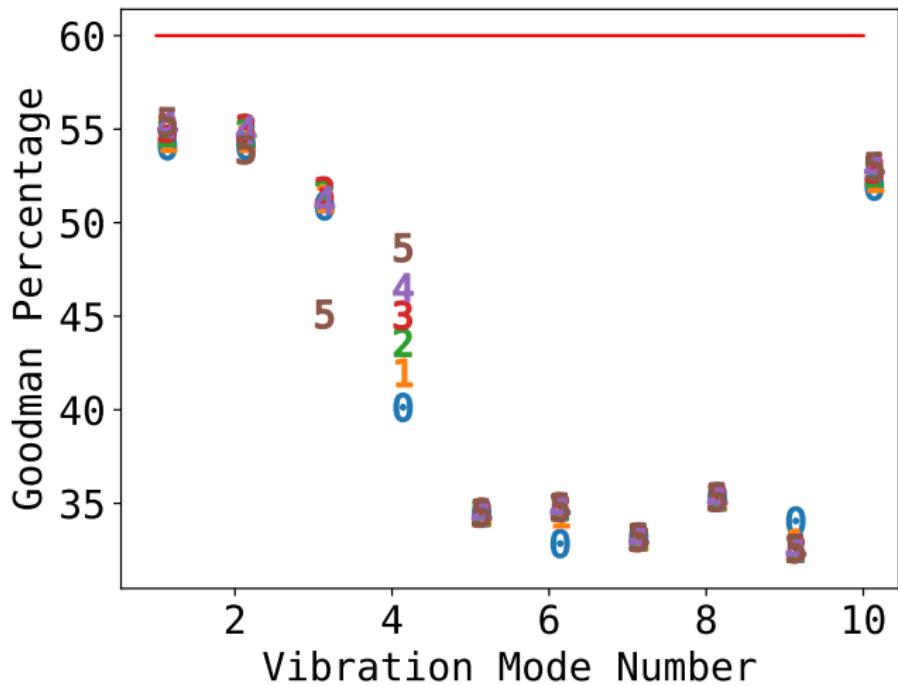
## Blended Airfoil Crossing Check

Resonant Crossings



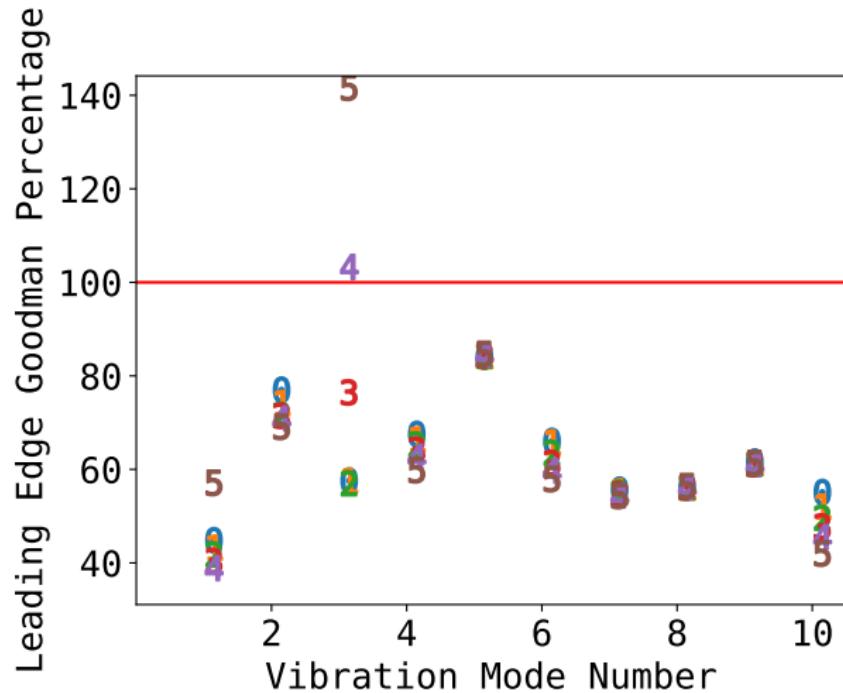
## Blended Airfoil Goodman limits

Mode 4 shows greatest sensitivity



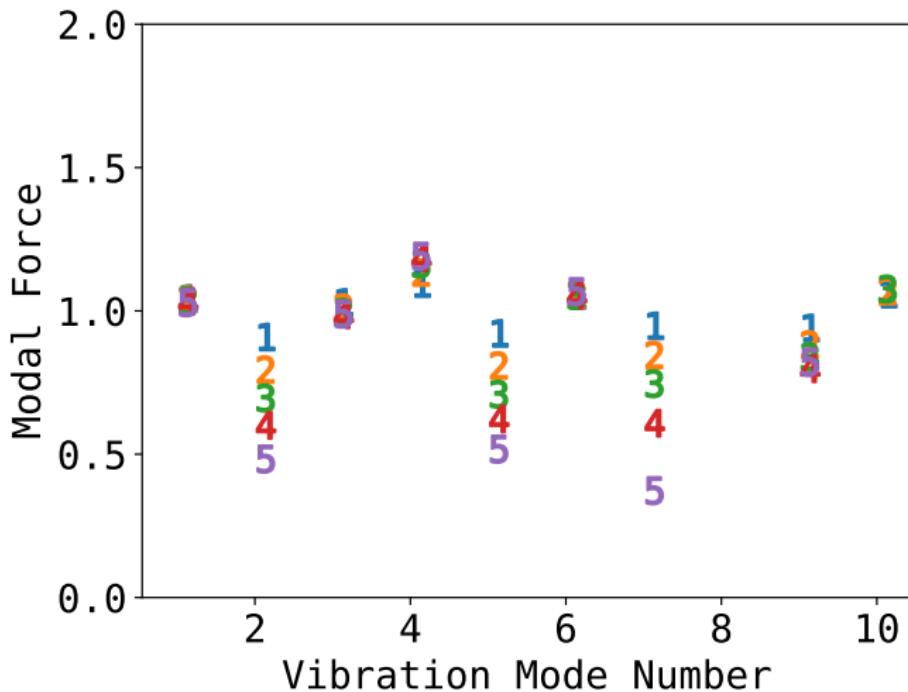
# Blended Airfoil Leading Edge Goodman Assessment

Mode 3 exceeds limits



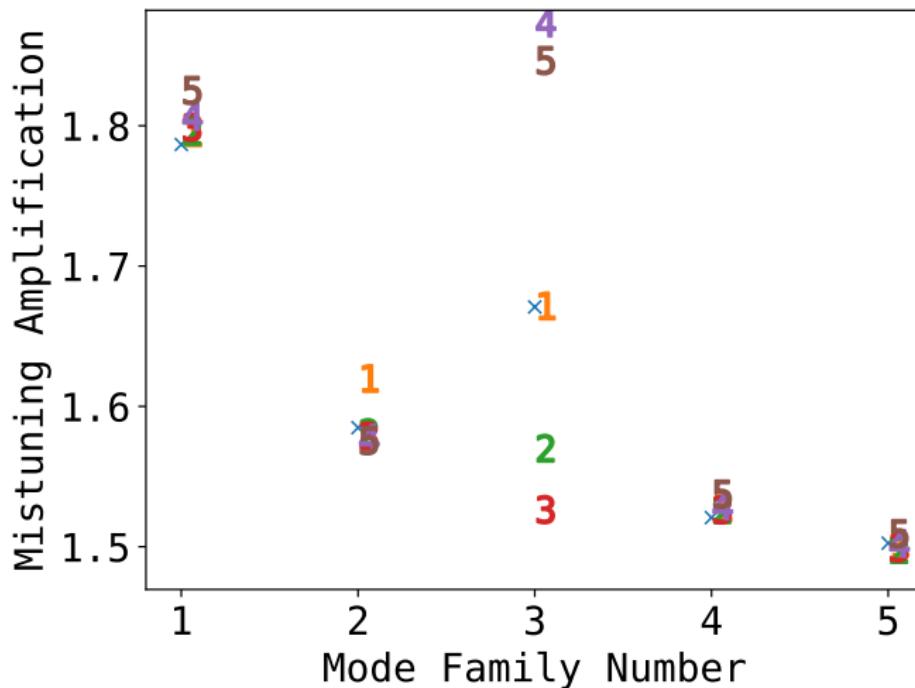
# Blended Airfoil Modal Force Assessment

Modal Force drops for several modes as a function of blend depth



# Mistuning Amplification Assessment

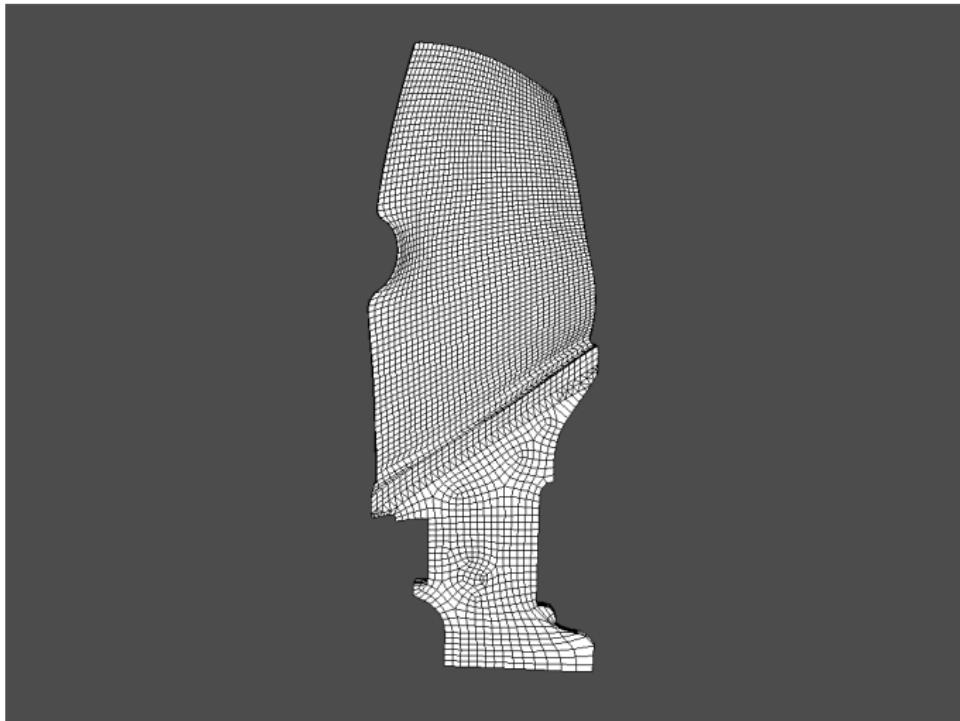
## Mode 3 approaching mistuning limit



# Blend Shape Optimization

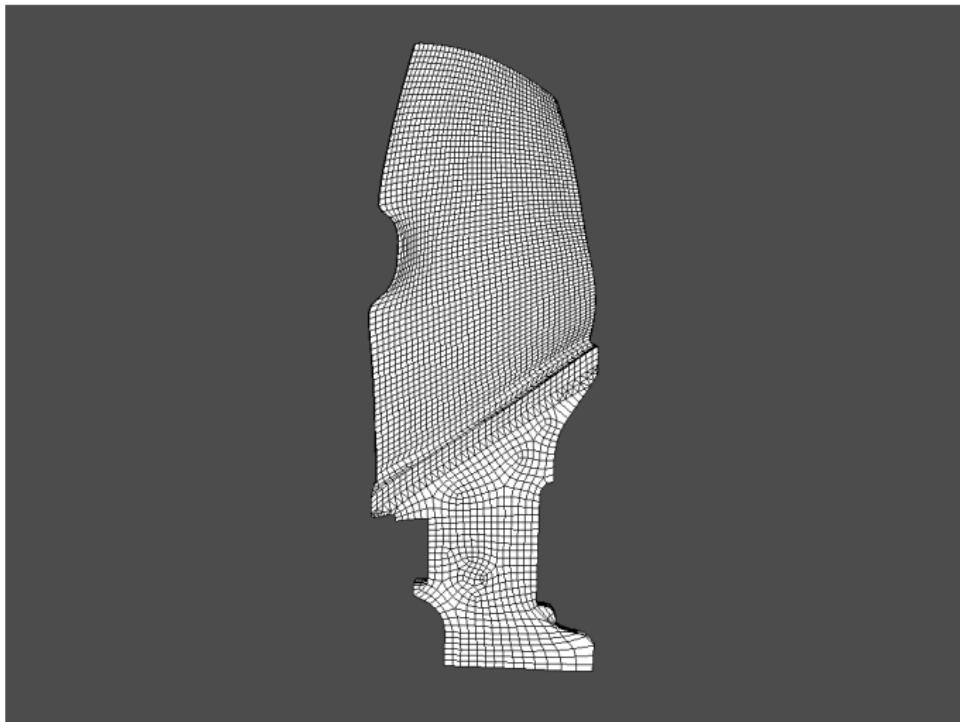
# Blend Optimization

Opt 1 - Increased length



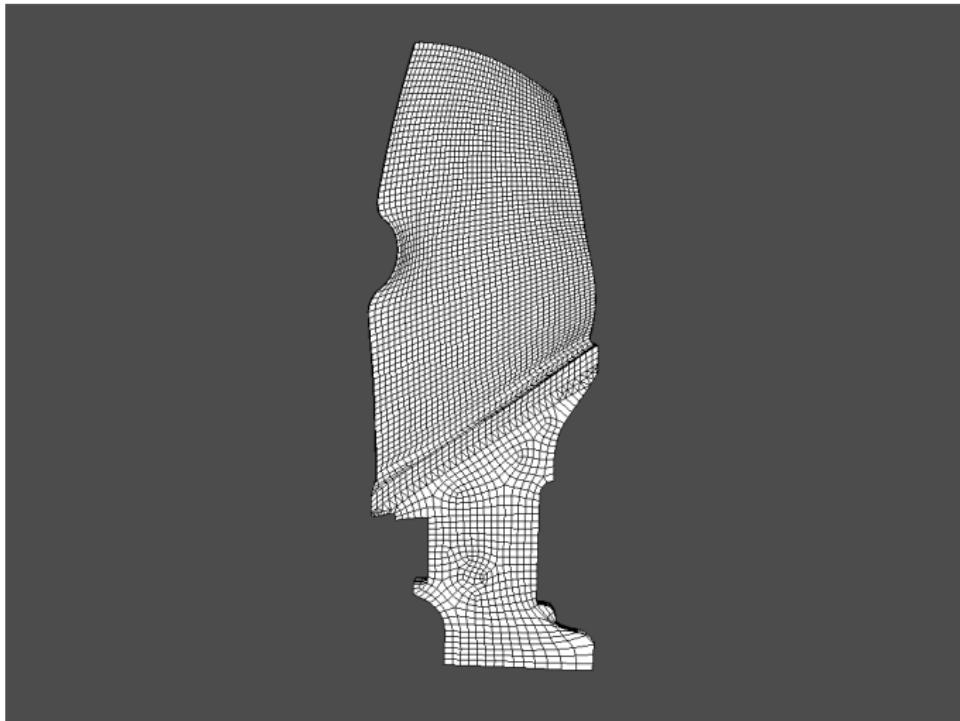
# Blend Optimization

Opt 2 - Increased flat



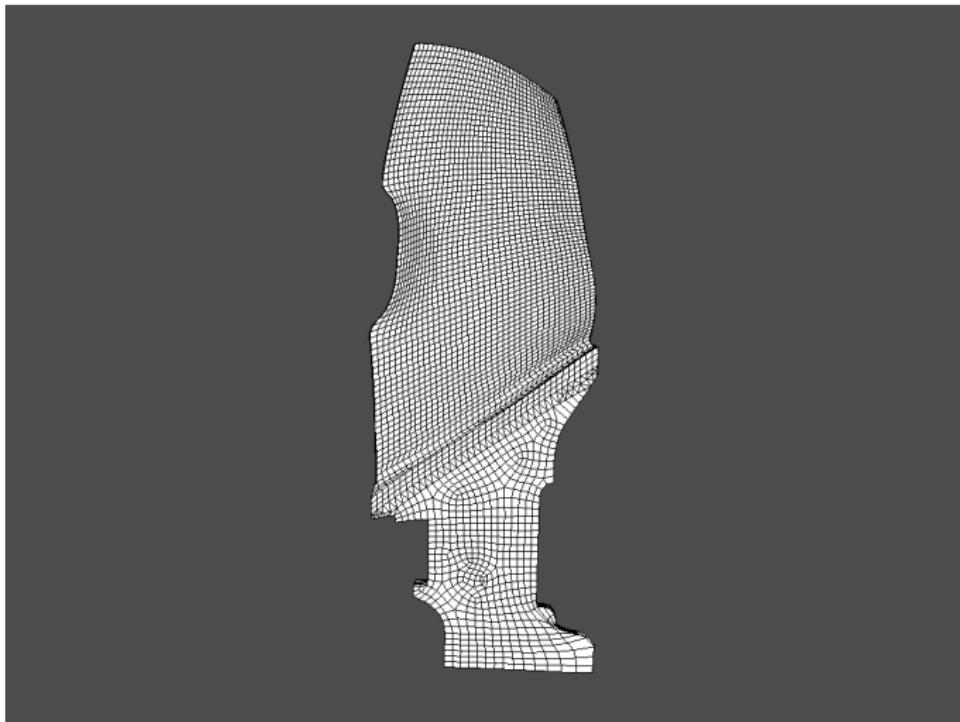
# Blend Optimization

Opt 3 - Increased radius



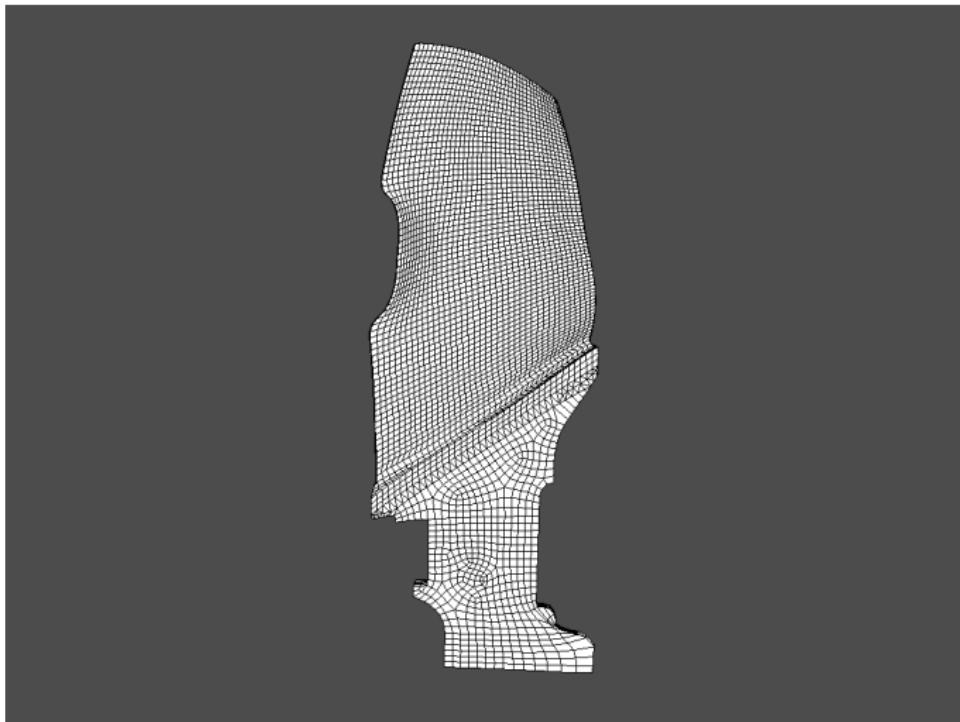
## Blend Optimization

Opt 4 - Small increase in length, increase in flat



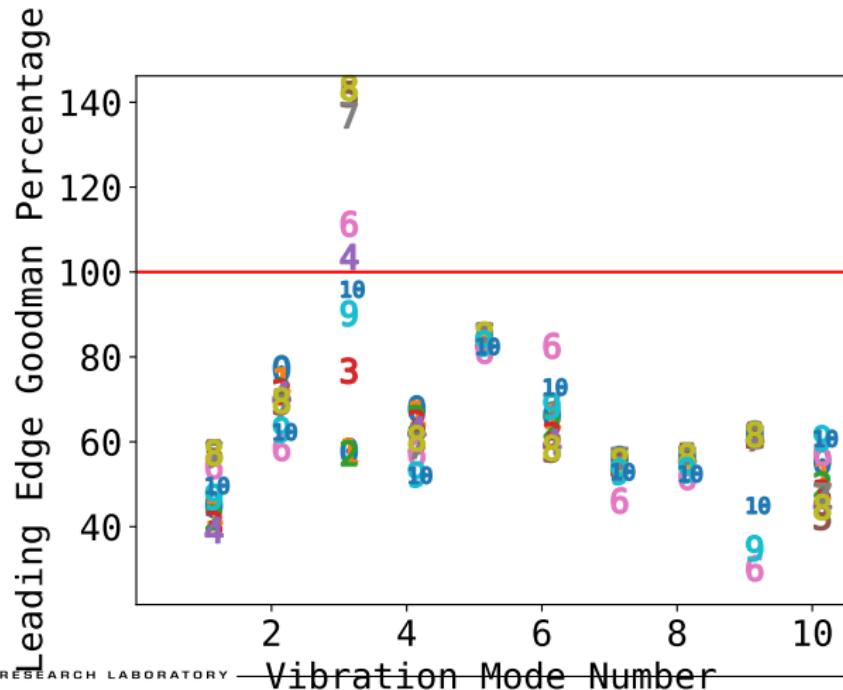
# Blend Optimization

Opt 5 - Smaller increase in length, same increase in flat



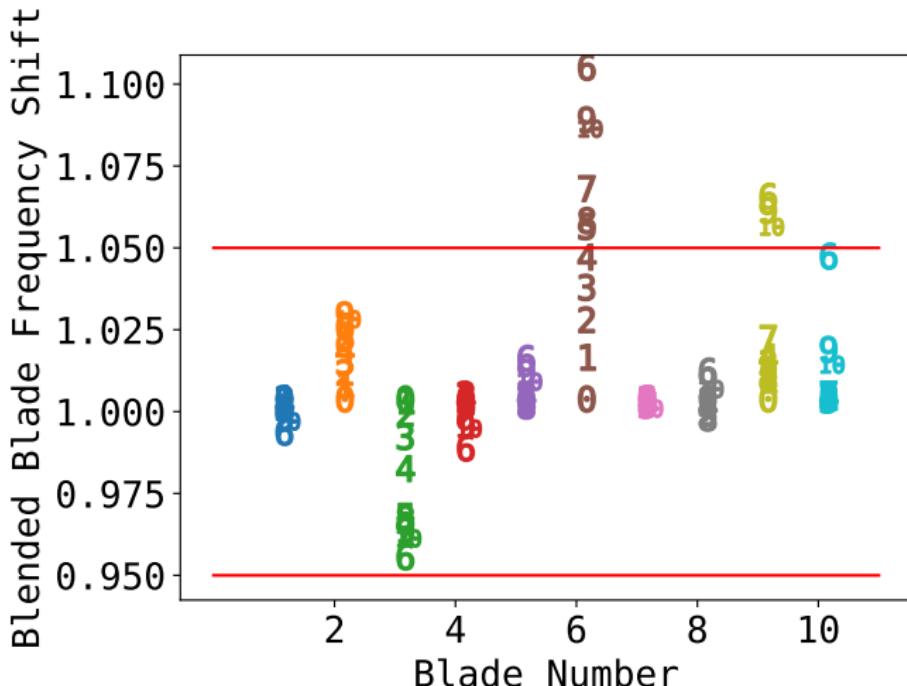
## Blend Optimization

Leading edge Goodman results, optimum shapes are numbers 6-10. Blend #5, i.e. result #10, meets LE Goodman requirement



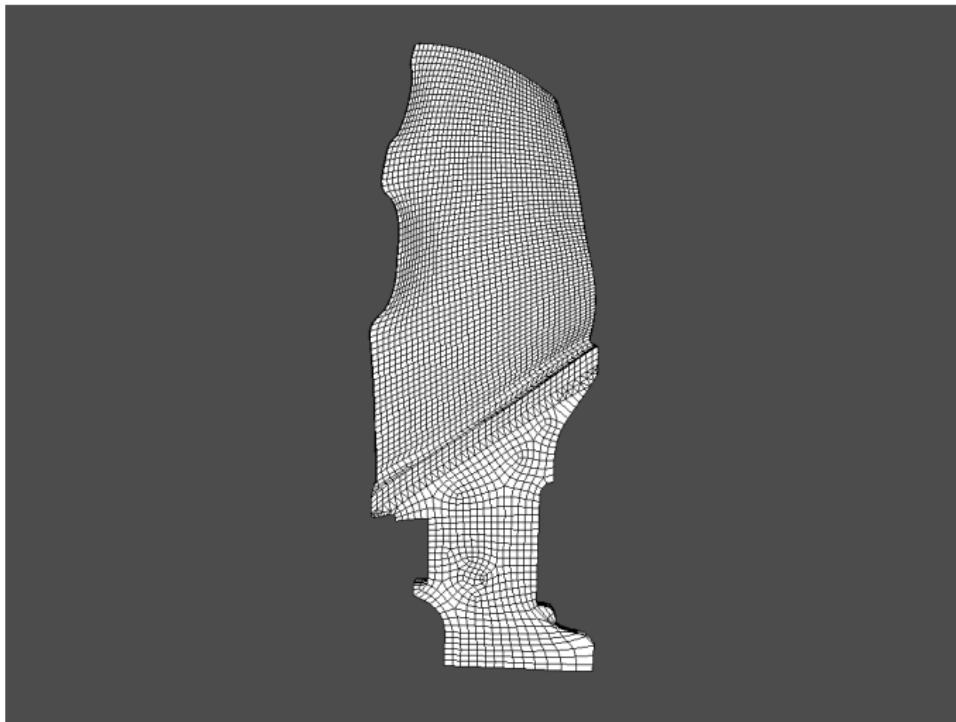
## Blend Optimization

Frequency delta results, optimum shapes are #6—#10. Optimized blends exceed Mode 6 frequency limit. However, Campbell shows no crossing within 10%.



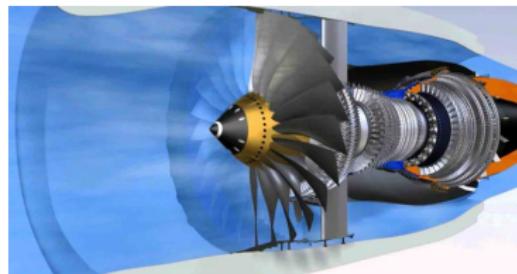
## Even more blends options

N-number of blends can be applied



## Conclusion

- Blends are an affordable method of repair and can be done on-wing
- Current limits based on assumptions that consider an entire fleet
- A part specific approach can lead to extension in blend limits and significant cost savings
- FEMORPH and Blender are capable of rapidly building models for this purpose





**AFRL**