

# Accounting for Post Buckled Effects in Spectra Development



James Burd

[www.aeronauticausa.com](http://www.aeronauticausa.com)

AFGROW Users Workshop 2025

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

---

Focus of this presentation is to demonstrate a potential approach to more accurately representing the effects of post buckled structure in the development of fatigue spectra.

- Review of Buckling in Airframe Structures
- Examples of Various Buckled Structures
- Front Spar Web Analytical Example
- Fuselage Lap Joint Example

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

---

For semi-monocoque airframe design and construction, it is common to permit structures to buckle in order to meet weight requirements. The common misconception assumes this is only permitted between limit and ultimate loads and does not impact fatigue and damage tolerance analysis.

In most semi-monocoque airframes, thin sheet structure is permitted to buckle below limit load. Typical structural components which are permitted to buckle are as follows:

- Fuselage skins
- Wing Skins and Spar Caps and Webs
- Vertical Tail Skins and Spars
- Horizontal Tail Skins and Spars

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

---

Two primary types of buckling occurring in airframe built up stiffened flat and curved panels are:

- Compression Buckling
- Shear Web Buckling

The methods for determining the effects of each type of buckling on the surrounding structure has long been established in industry standard methods:

- NACA-TN-2661 Summary of Diagonal Tension Part I
- NACA-TN-2662 Summary of Diagonal Tension Part II
- Stresses in Aircraft and Shell Structures by Paul Kuhn
- Aircraft Structures by Peery
- Airplane Structural Analysis & Design by Sechler and Dunn
- Analysis & Design of Flight Vehicle Structures by E.F. Bruhn

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

For most modern day transports but not all, wing skins are typically maintained shear resistant up to limit load so as not to alarm the passengers. In the past however, it was commonplace to allow the wing skins to buckle below limit load.



US Navy R4D (DC-3) Wing Proof Test – Extent of Buckling at 80% of Limit Load

Ref. National Archives Public Data – SM107340

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

However, there is still current evidence that several aircraft depending on the components and aircraft model still permit in flight buckling.



Large Transport Category

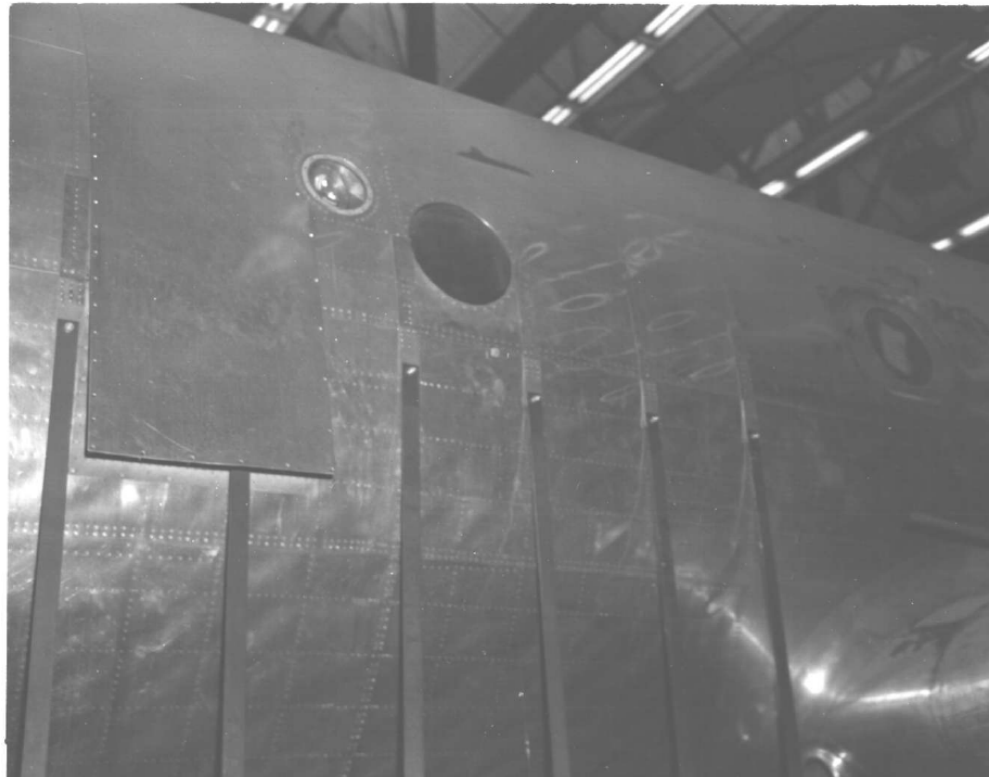
Ref. [Airliners.net](http://Airliners.net)



Small Aircraft General Aviation

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

Most modern day transports, still permit the lower fuselage skins to buckle. This generally can occur anywhere between 50% to 100% of limit load depending on the manufacturer and aircraft model.



Model 1049 Fuselage Proof Test – Extent of Buckling from 50% to 75% of Limit Load

Ref. National Archives Public Data – LR 8603

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

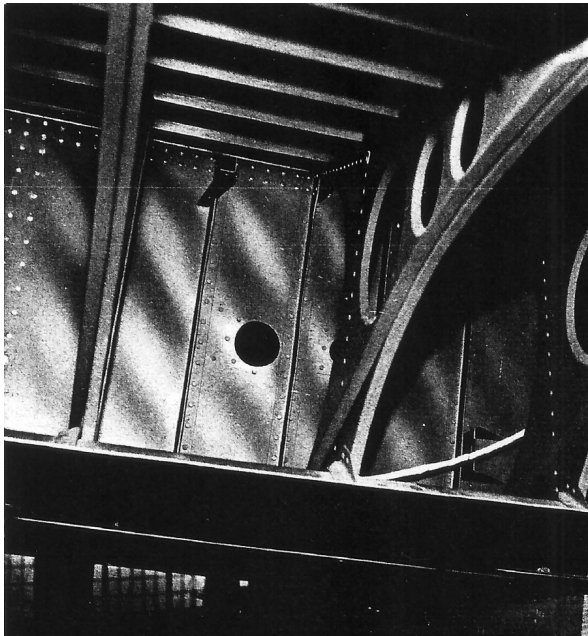
There are many examples of commercial transport fuselage buckling during normal flight particularly on approach when balancing tail loads are highest.



Ref. Altair.com

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

For wings and stabilizers, depending on the aircraft model, it is common even today to permit the spar webs to buckle to a certain degree. Buckling below limit load can induce fatigue cracking which is often not accounted for or in unexpected areas.



USN P2V-4 Static Test Rear Spar Buckling

Ref. National Archives Public Data – LR 7217

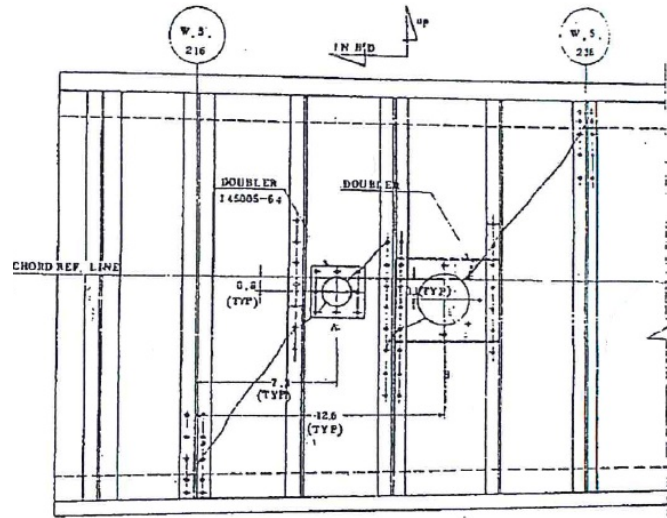
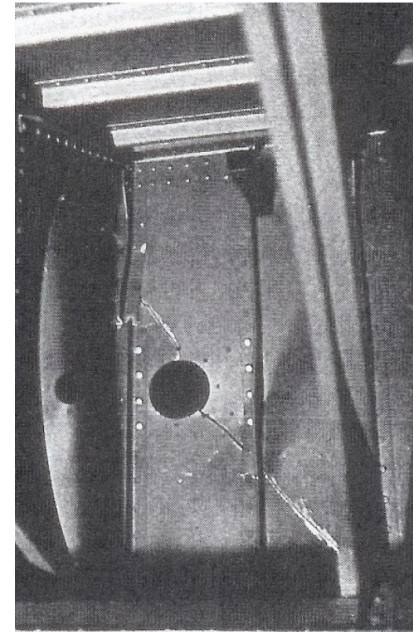


FIGURE 1. FATIGUE FAILURE OF REAR SPAR WEB

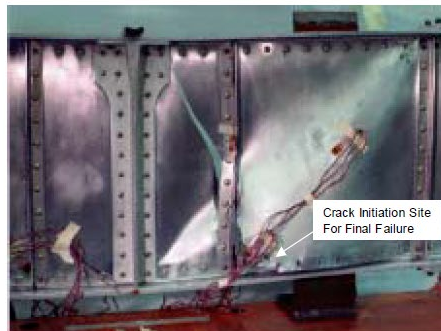
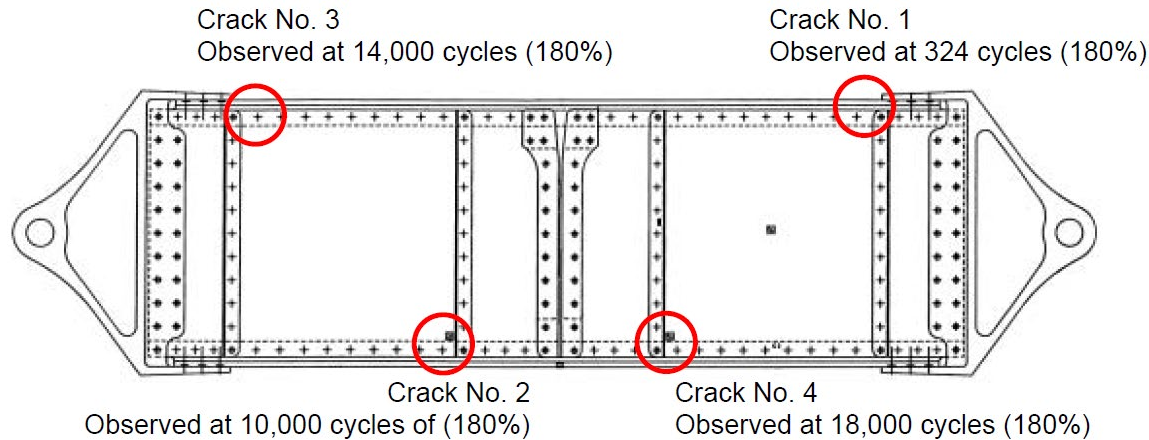


P2V-7 Japanese JDF Full Scale Fatigue Test Cracking

Ref. USFS via Japanese Embassy

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

Crack initiation locations due to the buckling of the web are different than what would normally be expected in a built up structure such as this.



Failed at 18,862 cycles (total 78,862 cycles)

- Test Load Sequences

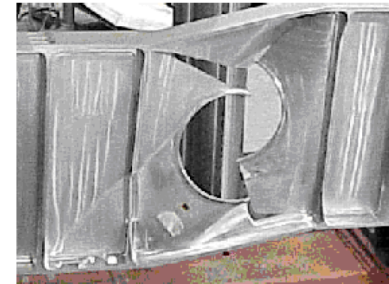
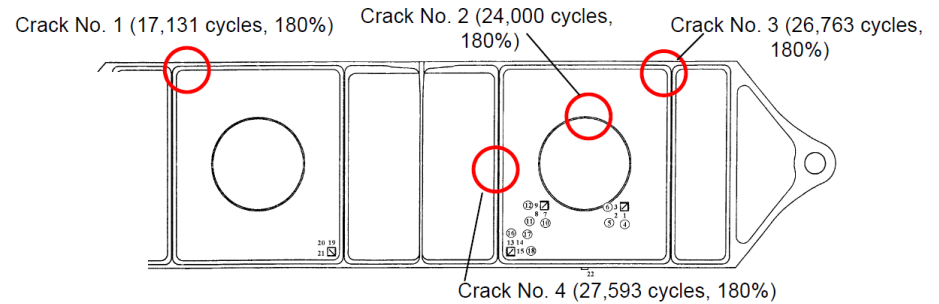
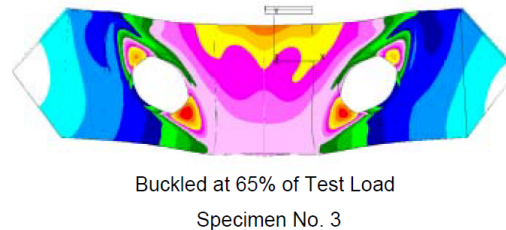
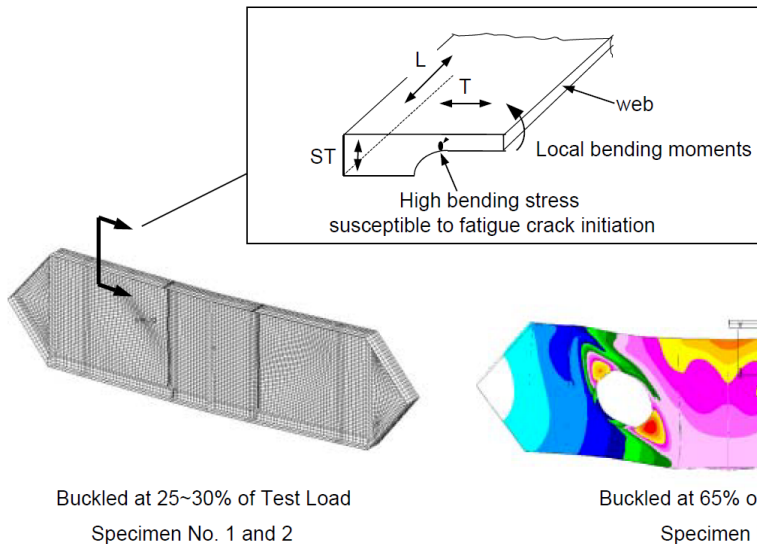
No. Of Cycles	Load Level	Loads (lbs)
30,000	100%	8820
10,000	120%	10584
10,000	140%	12701
10,000	160%	14112
As required	180%	15876

- Stress Survey up to 100% load
- Stress ratio .10 for fatigue cycles

Ref: Investigations of Post-Buckled Behaviors of Monolithic Bulkhead by Test & Analysis, by Hsu, Tzong, Chan  
The Boeing Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Joint FAA/DoD/NASA Conference on Aging Aircraft, 2002

# Post Buckled Spectra Effects

With the need for increasing performance and thus the need to reduce weight, additional structure is being designed to buckle below limit load in integrally machined parts such as floor beams and bulkheads.

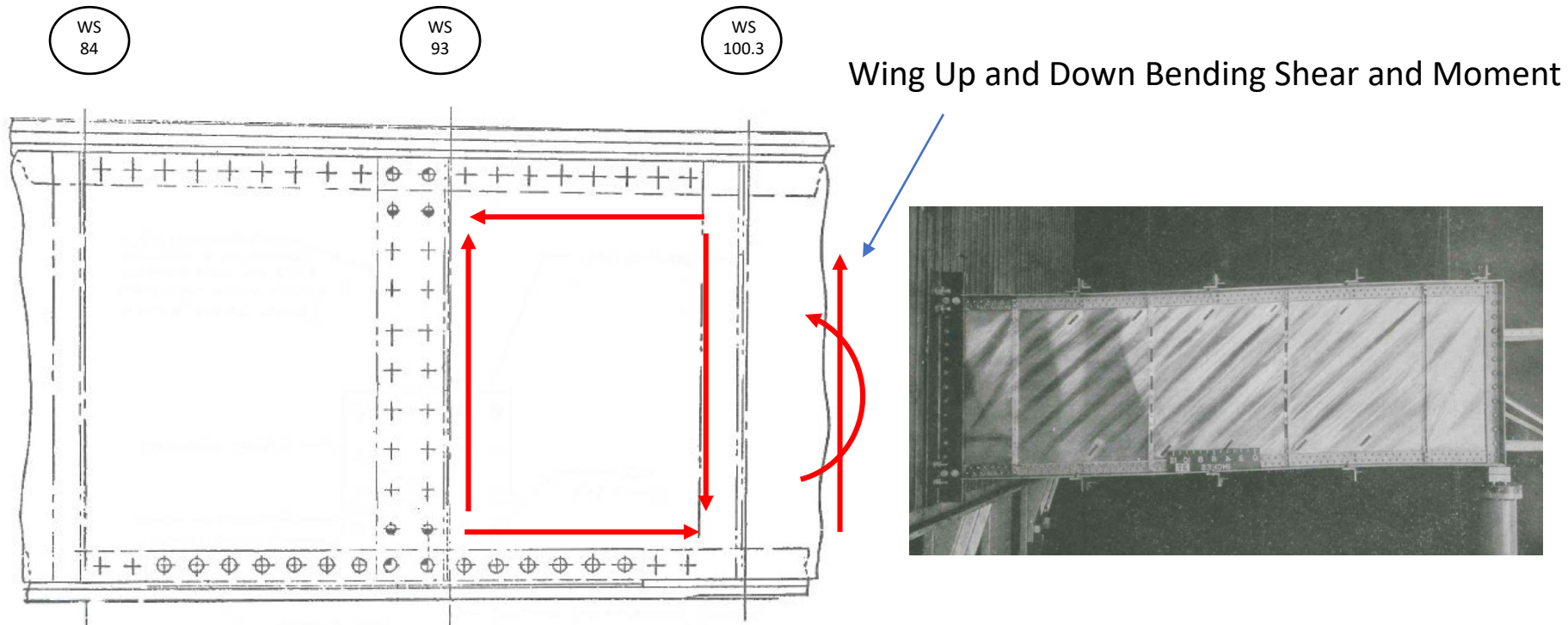


Failed at 27,731 cycles (total 87,731 cycles)

Ref: Investigations of Post-Buckled Behaviors of Monolithic Bulkhead by Test & Analysis, by Hsu, Tzong, Chan  
The Boeing Company, 6<sup>th</sup> Joint FAA/DoD/NASA Conference on Aging Aircraft

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## USAF T-28 Trainer Front Spar Cap and Web

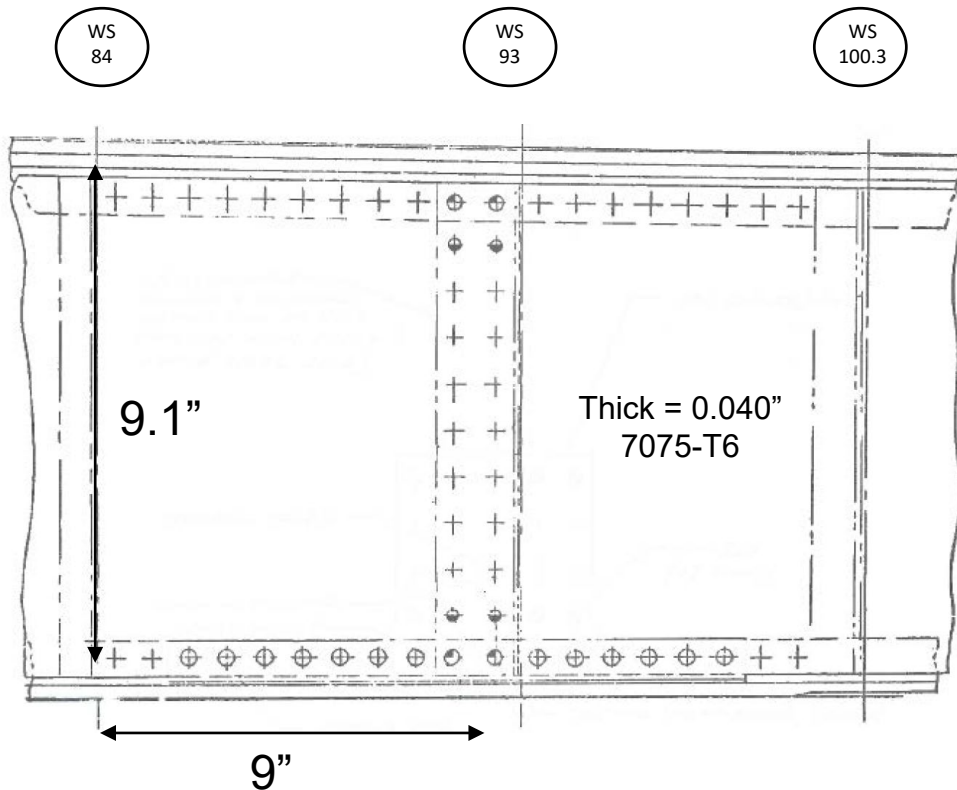


- Example Problem 1A – Shear Resistant Spar Web
- Example Problem 1B – Web Buckles at 50% of Fatigue Loads

Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Dr. Fawaz, 2025  
Ref. National Archives, NA-48-1007, Wing Analysis for an Airplane, Model T-28, 1956  
Ref. Stresses in Aircraft and Shell Structures, by Paul Kuhn, 1956.

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## T-28 Trainer Front Spar Cap and Web



Front Spar properties:

Web thickness = 0.040" 7075-76  
Spar Cap = 2014-T6  
Spar Cap flange thickness = 0.125"  
Spar Cap Area = 0.870 in<sup>2</sup>  
(Cap area includes skin and web)  
Stiffener = 7075-T6  
Stiffener thickness = 0.094"  
Stiffener Area = 0.155 in<sup>2</sup>

Limit Load Condition – Max Wing Up-bending

Spar cap ult stress = 30.431 ksi  
Spar cap limit stress = 20.287 ksi  
Web ult shear flow = 570 lbs/inch  
Web ult shear stress =  $570 / .04 = 14.25$  ksi  
Web limit shear flow = 380 lbs/inch  
Web limit shear stress = 9.5 ksi

Ref. National Archives, NA-48-1007, Wing Analysis for an Airplane, Model T-28, 1956  
Ref. NACA-TN-1364 Strength Analysis of Stiffened Web Beams

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

The original analysis of the T-28 spar web used NACA-TN-1364. The same method is presented in several references. For ease of illustration, Bruhn is cited for the example. Primarily, the main focus is to determine when the spar web buckles and what are the increase in loads as a result. For this analysis section, ultimate stresses are used.

The elastic critical shear stress is calculated using Equation 53 from Section C11.17.

$$F_{s_{cr}} = k_{SS} E \left( \frac{t}{d_c} \right)^2 \left[ R_h + \frac{1}{2} (R_d - R_h) \left( \frac{d_c}{h_c} \right)^2 \right] \quad (53)$$

Following thru the calculation and using Figures C11.16a and C11.16b, the following elastic critical shear stress is obtained:

$$F_{s_{cr}} = 2000 \text{ psi}$$

$$f_s/F_{s_{cr}} = 14250/2000 = 7.125$$

$$\text{from Fig. C11.19} \quad \text{Diagonal factor } k = 0.42$$

So, this means that the spar web will buckle for any applied load that is above the following shear flow:

$$q = 2000 * 0.040 = 80 \text{ lbs/inch}$$

Note: Example assumption this occurs 50% of time

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

To calculate the increase in spar cap stress, the method in Bruhn on Page C11.22 is utilized.

Ultimate bending moment on front spar  $M_x = -255,720$  inch-lbs

$I_{xx}$  all intact =  $51.47$  in<sup>4</sup>

$I_{xx}$  web buckled =  $49.01$  in<sup>4</sup>

Moment for shear resistant web =  $(1-k)M_x = (1-0.42)*(-255720) = -148,300$  inch-lbs

Moment for diagonal tension =  $k*M_x = (0.42)*(-255720) = -107,420$  inch-lbs

Stress =  $17649 + 13728 = 31377$  psi

Spar cap stress increase factor =  $31377/30431 = 1.03$

Additionally, the effective web area must be removed since it is no longer effective.

Spar cap revised area =  $0.870 - (1 \text{ inch width})*(0.040 \text{ web}) = 0.83$  in<sup>2</sup>

Spar cap stress with web failed =  $31377*0.87/0.83 = 32.889$  ksi ultimate

Limit spar cap stress with web buckled =  $21.926$  ksi

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

To calculate the increase in fastener load in the web to flange, Equation 53 on Page C11.18 of Bruhn is used along with the k value previously determined:

$$\text{Fastener load per inch} = q*(1+0.414*k) = 570*(1+0.414*0.42) = 670 \text{ lbs/inch}$$

$$\text{Fastener load increase factor} = 670/570 = 1.18$$

Effective fasteners per bay for shear flow = 11

Bay width at web to spar cap attachment = 9 inches

$$\text{Shear resistant fastener load} = 570*9/11 = 466 \text{ lbs per fastener}$$

$$\text{Ultimate Bearing stress for shear resistant web} = 466/(0.1875*0.04) = 62.133 \text{ ksi}$$

$$\text{Ultimate Bearing stress for shear resistant web} = 62.133/1.5 = 41.422 \text{ ksi}$$

$$\text{Ultimate Bearing stress for buckled web} = 41.422*1.18 = 48.671 \text{ ksi}$$

Impact of buckling:

Axial stress increase = 8%

Bearing stress increase = 18%

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1A - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Shear Resistant Web:

Spectrum is developed using the Aspec tool for a simple Mission mix of 3 flights (see Ref)

The screenshot displays the ASPEC LOADSGEN Analysis software interface. The main window is titled "ASPEC LOADSGEN Analysis" and shows "Analysis Details" for a project named "WS93 without Buckling" on a T28D aircraft. The analysis was run on August 6, 2025, and was successful. The mission mix is defined as 50% T28D Training Practice, 25% T28D Air Ground Training, and 25% T28D Air Ground Combat. The analysis inputs include enabling DMF Factor, overriding maneuver segments, enabling non-constant 1g, and enabling alternating load factor. The results table shows three segments: Taxi-Out (5 min), Flight Training (85 min), and Taxi-in (5 min), with various stress and load factor values.

**Project Details**

Project Name: Afgrow T-28 Buckling  
Aircraft: T28D  
Run Date: Aug 6, 2025  
Status: SUCCESSFUL

**Activity Log**

Date Created: 2025-08-06T19:55:47.695Z  
Last Update: 2025-08-06T19:56:23.563Z

**Predefined Data**

Mission Mix: 50%, 25%, 25%  
GAG Cycle Type: MiniMax  
Include Damage Code: Yes  
Verbose Output: No  
Keep Negative-Negative Pairs: No

**Mission Mix Variation**

T28D Training Practice 50% | T28D Air Ground Training 25% | T28D Air Ground Combat 25%

**Mission Flight Segment Definition**

TAXI OUT, TAKEOFF ROLL, DEPARTURE, CLIMB, CRUISE, DESCENT, APPROACH, LANDING ROLL, TAXI IN

**Analysis Inputs**

Enable DMF Factor  Override maneuver segments  Enable Non-Constant 1g  Enable Alternating Load Factor

**T28D Training Practice 1.6 HR 50%**

ID	Segment Description	Segment Length (min)	Merge ID	DMF Factor	Constant Load Stress 1G (KSI)	Alternating Load Stress (KSI)	Alternating Load Factor	Alternating Load Stress 2 (KSI)	Pressure Load Stress (KSI)
01	Taxi-Out	5		--	-3.042	-3.042	0	-3.042	
02	Flight Training	85		--	3.577	4.316	0	5.54	0
01	Taxi-in	5		--	-3.042	-3.042	0	-3.042	

**T28D Air Ground Training 1.6 HR 25%**

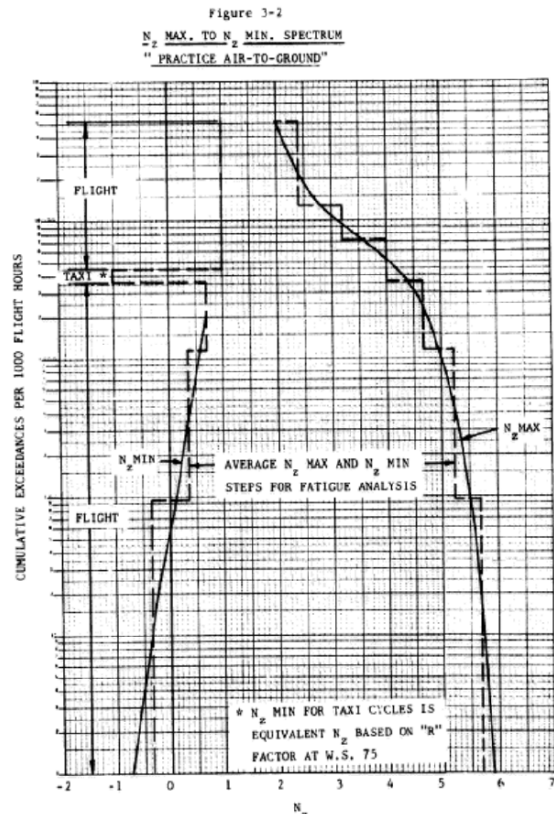
**T28D Air Ground Combat 1.6 HR 25%**

Ref: Fatigue Loads and Damage Tolerance Methods for Airworthiness, by Burd, 2024 ASIP Conference, Austin, Tx.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1A - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Shear Resistant Web:

Spectrum uses T-28 USAF load histories: Sample Load History for Mission 3



Notes:

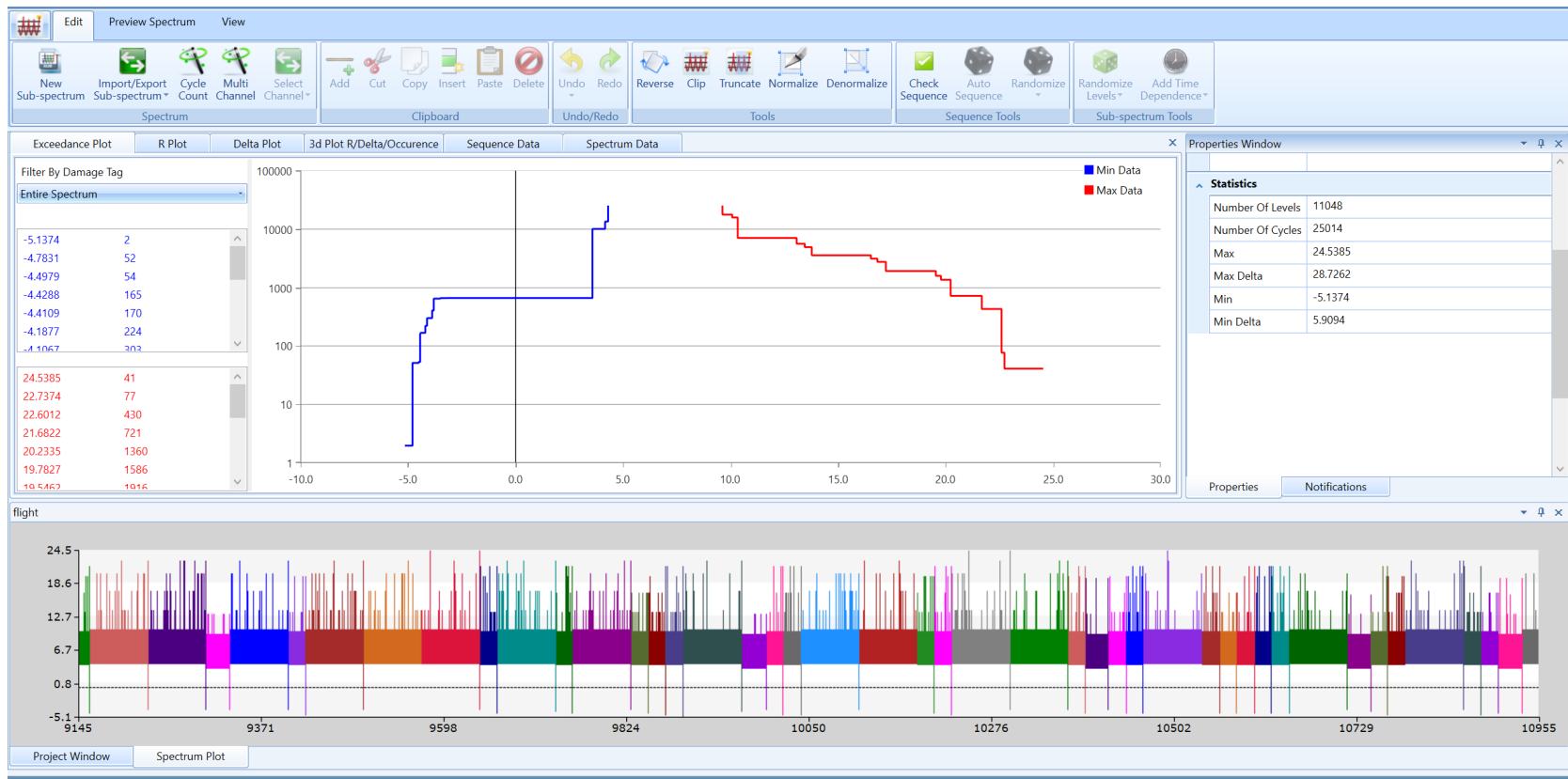
1. Spectrum includes load histories which slightly exceed limit load.
2. Spectrum is limited since load history is not separated into individual flight segments such as takeoff, climb, approach, landing, etc. and use of flight controls. Spar Webs are heavily driven by conditions which induce torsion. If load histories are not detailed enough, this imposes very conservative assumptions to be used throughout spectrum.

Ref: USAF FOIA NR73H-9 Model T-28A/D/D-5/D-10 Airplane Fatigue Life Evaluation, Burd.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1A - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Shear Resistant Web:

Maximum spar cap spectrum stress for the shear resistant web configuration is 24.54 ksi. Note this is above limit because spectrum includes loads above it and buckling effects.



Ref: USAF FOIA NR73H-9 Model T-28A/D/D-5/D-10 Airplane Fatigue Life Evaluation, Burd.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1A - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Shear Resistant Web:

Afgrow analysis is performed on vertical flange of spar cap at web attachment. AFMAT tabular data is used for 2014-T6.

Limit stress = 20.287 ksi

Shear resistant fastener load = 466 lbs/1.5 = 311 lbs/inch

Spar cap vertical flange thickness = 0.125 inches

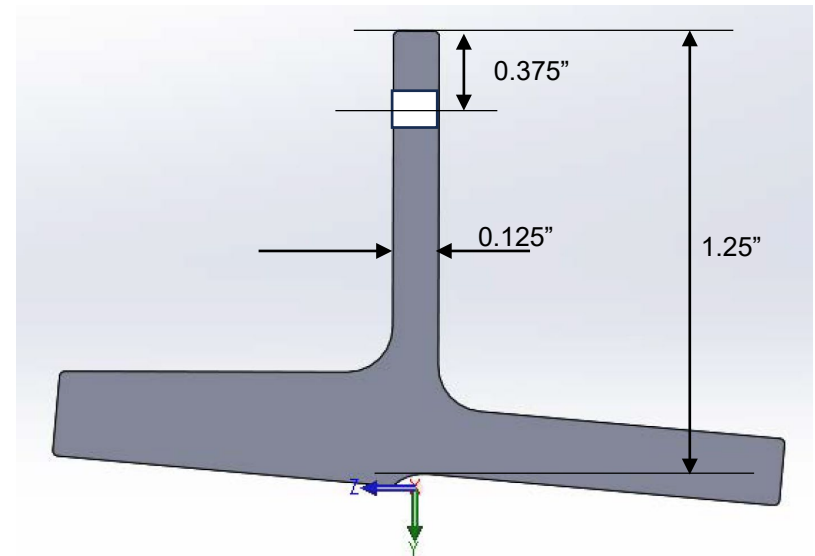
Fastener hole diameter 0.1875 inches

Bearing stress = 13.269 ksi

Bearing/Ref =  $13.269/20.287 = 0.65$

Effective vertical flange length = 1.25 inches

Thickness of flange = 0.125 inches



Ref: USAF FOIA NR73H-9 Model T-28A/D/D-5/D-10 Airplane Fatigue Life Evaluation, Burd.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## Example 1A - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Shear Resistant Web Phase 1:

The screenshot displays a finite element analysis (FEA) software interface with the following components:

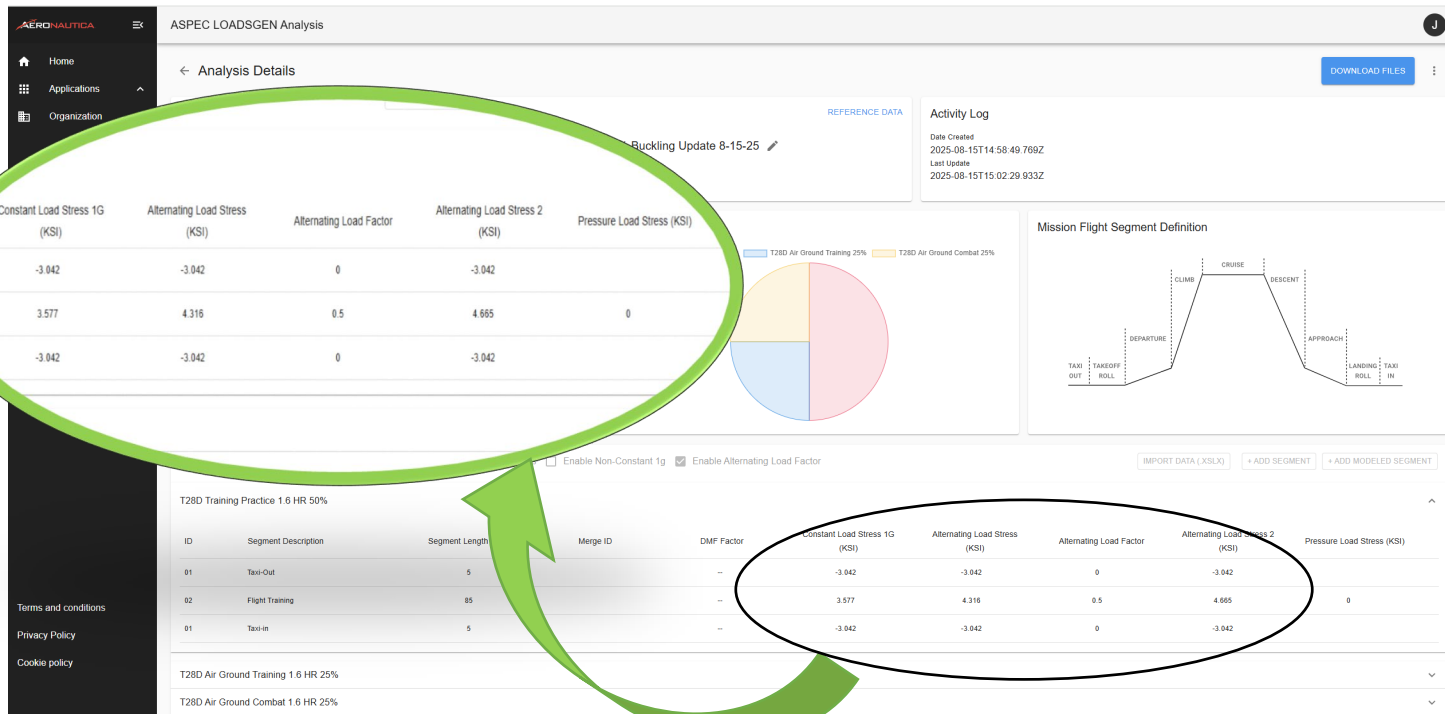
- Status Panel (Left):** Lists simulation parameters including:
  - Specimen: WS28 without Buckling
  - Load: Axial Stress Fraction= 1, Bending Stress Fraction= 0, Bearing Stress Fraction= 0.65
  - Width (W)=1.25, Thickness (T)=0.125
  - Crack #1 (Corner Crack at Hole), Crack #2 (Corner Crack at Hole), Hole #1 (Hole)
  - Material: 2014-T6 L-T Lab air Sheet (Lookup Tabular Data)
  - Spectrum File: 'AFGROW.spx'
  - Willenborg Retardation Model: SOLR= 2.3, Adjust Yield Zone Size for Compressive Cycles = Yes
- Specimen View (Center):** Shows a 3D model of a rectangular specimen with a central hole and two corner cracks.
- ToolBox (Right):** Lists object types: Hole, Countersunk Hole, Through Crack, Part-Through Crack, Slot.
- Properties Panel (Right):** Shows specimen details:
  - Appearance: Specimen
  - Size: Width= 1.250000, Thickness= 0.125000, Constrained=
  - Load: Axial= 1.000000, Bending= 0.000000, Bearing= 0.650000
  - Solution: [Remove All](#)
- Output Panel (Bottom):** Displays simulation results:
  - Max stress: 13.776,  $r = 0.31$ , 50965 Cycles, flight 10: 10, Pass: 3, Hours: 2094.01
  - Fracture based on 'Net Section Yield' Criteria (current maximum spectrum value)
  - Crack #1: C Length= 0.15066, Beta Tension= 2.5938, Beta Compression= 2.5938,  $R(k)= 0.1754$ ,  $R(\text{final})= 0.1754$ ,  $\Delta k=3.6106e+01$ ,  $D_0/DN=7.2648e-04$
  - Max stress: 24.638,  $r = 0.18$ , 50400 Cycles, flight 10: 10, Pass: 3, Hours: 2096.47
  - Stress State in the 'C' direction (PSC): 2
  - Fracture has occurred- run time: 0 hour(s) 0 minute(s) 14 second(s)
  - 2096.4666 hours have passed

Ref: USAF FOIA NR73H-9 Model T-28A/D/D-5/D-10 Airplane Fatigue Life Evaluation, Burd.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1B - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Buckled Web Mode:

Spectrum is developed using the Aspec tool for a simple Mission mix of 3 flights (see Ref) using a factor 0.5 for the alternating load. Any load greater than this percentage will use post buckled stresses while those below this percentage will use the shear resistant stresses.



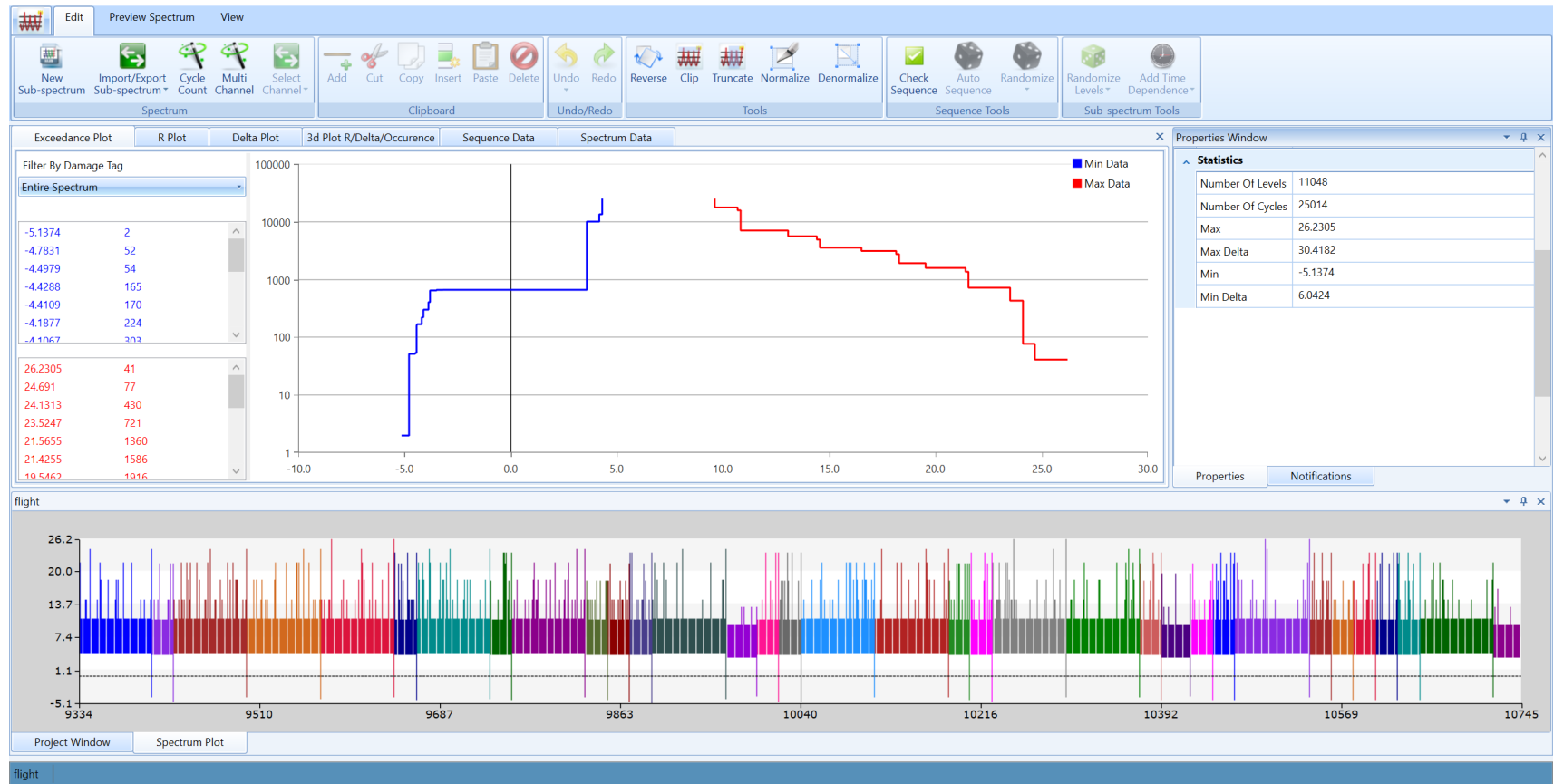
**\*\*New:**  
Aspec  
capable of  
using  
different  
alternating  
loads  
based on  
assigned  
load factor  
for all  
segments.

Ref: Fatigue Loads and Damage Tolerance Methods for Airworthiness, by Burd, 2024 ASIP Conference, Austin, Tx.  
Ref: Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1B - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Buckled Web Mode:

Maximum spar cap spectrum stress for the buckled web configuration is 26.23 ksi



Ref: Fatigue Loads and Damage Tolerance Methods for Airworthiness, by Burd, 2024 ASIP Conference, Austin, Tx.  
Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

Example 1B - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Buckled Web Mode:

Afgrow analysis is performed on vertical flange of spar cap at web attachment. AFMAT tabular data is used for 2014-T6.

Limit stress cap with web buckled = 21.926 ksi

Diagonal tension fastener load =  $311 * 1.175 = 365$  lbs

Spar cap vertical flange thickness = 0.125 inches

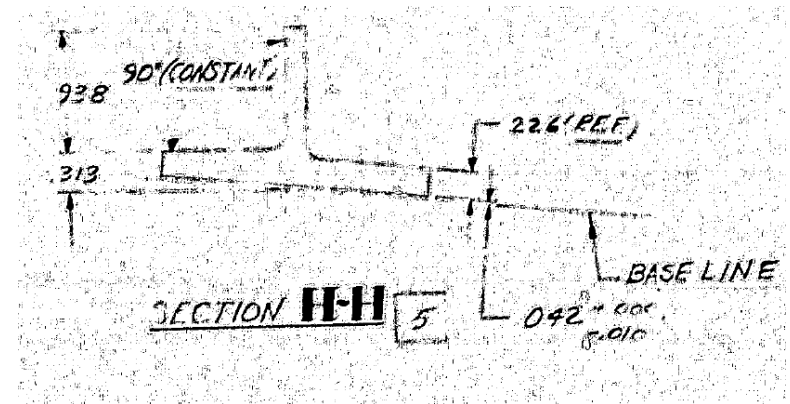
Fastener hole diameter 0.1875 inches

Bearing stress = 15.573 ksi

Bearing/Ref =  $15.573 / 21.926 = 0.71$

Effective vertical flange length = 1.25 inches

Thickness of flange = 0.125 inches



# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## Example 1B - Analysis of Spar Cap at Web Attach Flange – Buckled Web Mode:

The screenshot displays the software interface for a finite element analysis. The left pane shows the specimen configuration tree, including material properties (2014-T6 L-T Lab air Sheet), stress state settings, and crack definitions. The central area shows a 3D model of the specimen, a rectangular bar with a central hole and two corner cracks. The right pane shows the 'Objects' list and the 'Properties' panel for the specimen, detailing its dimensions and load conditions. The bottom pane shows the 'Output' window with analysis results, including maximum stress, fatigue life, and fracture criteria.

**Specimen Properties:**

- Width (W)=1.25
- Thickness (T)=0.125
- No In-Plane Bending
- Crack #1 (Corner Crack at Hole)
  - C Length = 0.05
  - A Length = 0.05
  - Position: Left At Hole
- Crack #2 (Corner Crack at Hole)
  - C Length = 0.005
  - A Length = 0.005
  - Position: Right At Hole
- Hole #1 (Hole)
  - Diameter = 0.15625
  - Offset = 0.375

**Load and Solution Settings:**

- Axial Stress Fraction = 1
- Bending Stress Fraction = 0
- Bearing Stress Fraction = 0.71
- Load: Axial = 1.000000, Bending = 0.000000, Bearing = 0.710000

**Analysis Results (Output):**

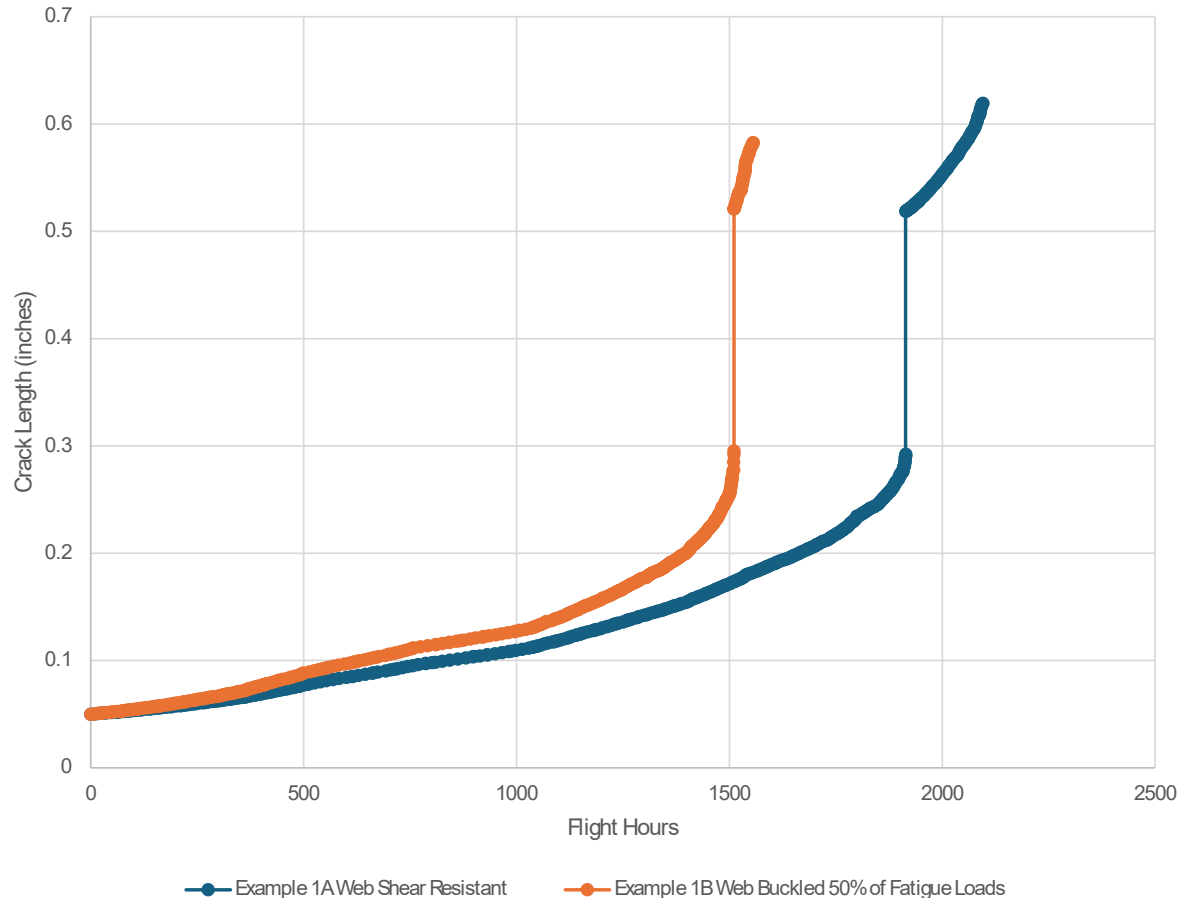
```
Max stress 10.836, r = 0.40, 37420 Cycles, flight 326: 326, Pass: 2, Hours: 1555.8
*****Fracture based on 'Net Section Yield' Criteria (current maximum spectrum value)
Crack #1
C Length = 0.11387, Beta Tension=2.9113, Beta Compression=2.9113, R(k)=0.1641, R(final)=0.1641, Delta k=3.8178e+01, D(J)/DN=8.9515e-04
Max stress 26.230, r = 0.16, 37421 Cycles, flight 326: 326, Pass: 2, Hours: 1555.84

Stress State in the 'C' direction (PSC): 2
Fracture has occurred-run time: 0 hour(s) 0 minute(s) 14 second(s)
1555.8423 hours have passed
```

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## Example 1A and Example 1B – Crack growth Life Comparison

T-28 Spar Cap Crack Growth Life - Shear Resistant Web vs Buckled Web



Life is reduced 26% as a result of the spar web buckling.

Potential impacts:

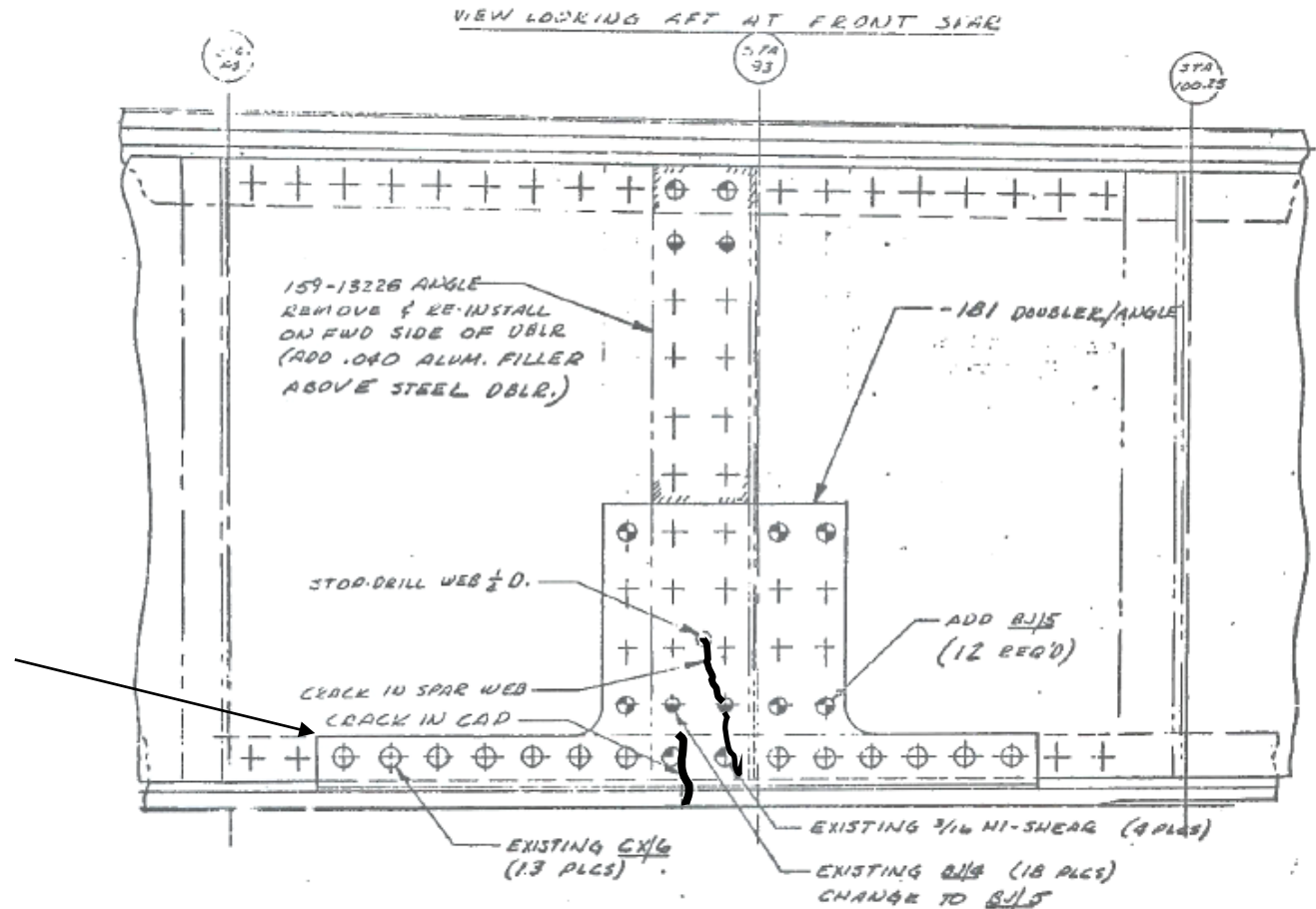
1. Need revised load history per flight segment to determine for which conditions panel buckles
2. Revise spectrum with actual percentage of buckling in missions.
3. Use a multi channel spectrum to account for bearing and axial out of phase.
4. Determine additional effects of buckling such as fastener loads in corners of spar web, bending stresses in web at flange attachment, etc.

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

## T-28 Trainer Front Spar Cap and Web

Front Spar at WS93 cracked during the USAF T-28 Full Scale Fatigue Test at 12,900 hours.

Repair doubler applied to continue testing.



Ref. ADA018907, NR73H-35 T-28 Service Life Evaluation

# Example 1 – Front Spar Cap & Web

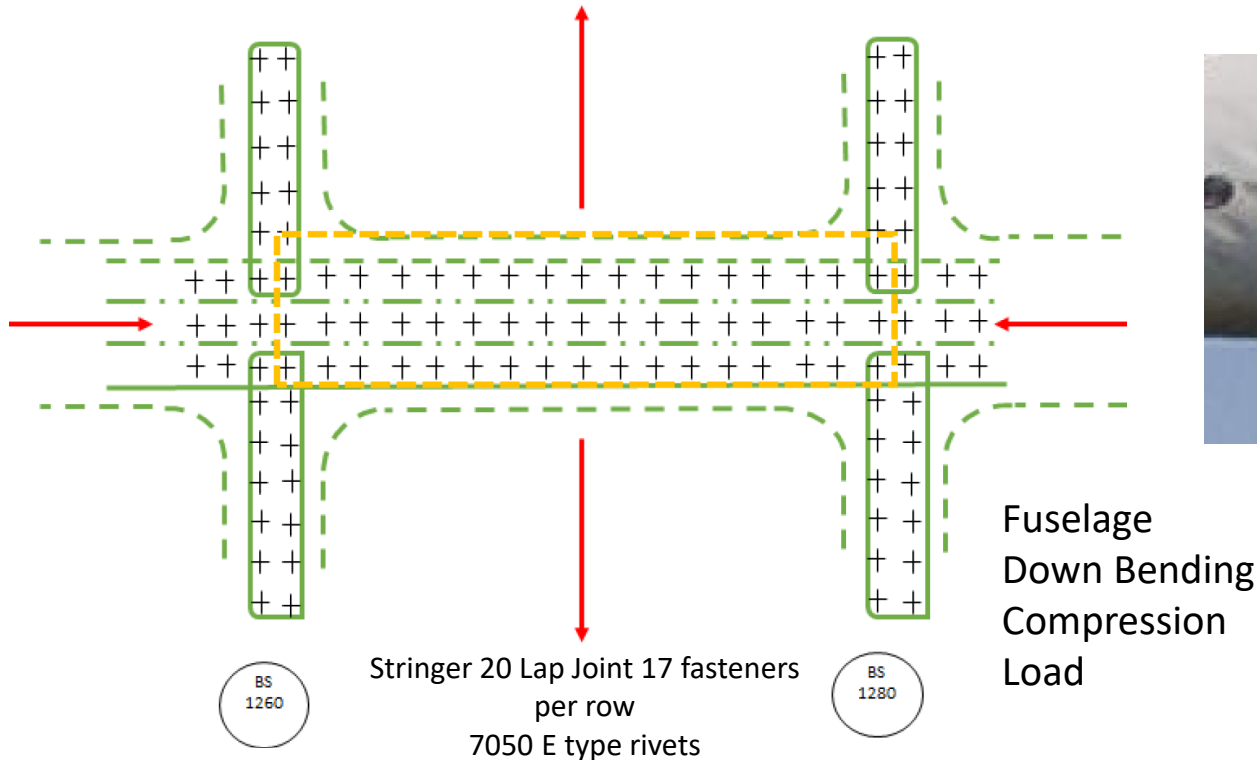
---

## SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS:

1. Fully understand loading of structure --- Free Body Diagram
2. Does complex loading apply? Axial and Shear?
3. Determine if structure is impacted by buckling during spectra
4. Impact of buckling on load in other components, caps, fasteners, etc.
5. Determine other effects of buckling, ie secondary bending stress in webs, etc.
6. Does spectrum need to account for pre and post buckling?
7. At what percent of applied fatigue loads does structure buckle?
8. Is load history detailed enough to capture when buckling occurs?
9. Are loads out of phase? Axial due to wing bending, shear due to torsion?
10. Is a multi-channel spectrum needed?

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

## Large Transport Aft Lower Fuselage Lap Joint

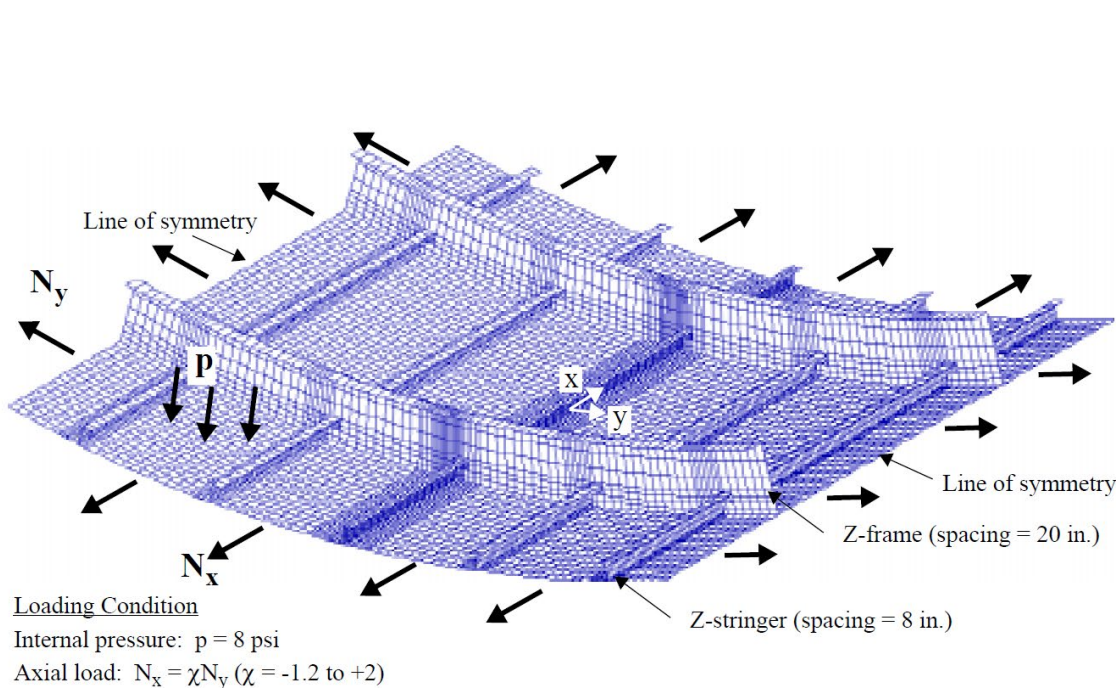


Aircraft Usage is around  
1000 flight cycles / 2500  
flight hours per year

- Example Problem 2A – Const Amplitude Press
- Example Problem 2B – Const Amplitude Press + Shear Flow
- Example Problem 2C – Const Amplitude Press + Shear Flow + Buckled Skin above 0.2g
- Example Problem 2D – Flight by Flight Multi Channel Spectra Buckled above 0.2g

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Buckling can occur during both unpressurized and pressurized conditions:



### Loading Condition

Internal pressure:  $p = 8$  psi

Axial load:  $N_x = \chi N_y$  ( $\chi = -1.2$  to  $+2$ )

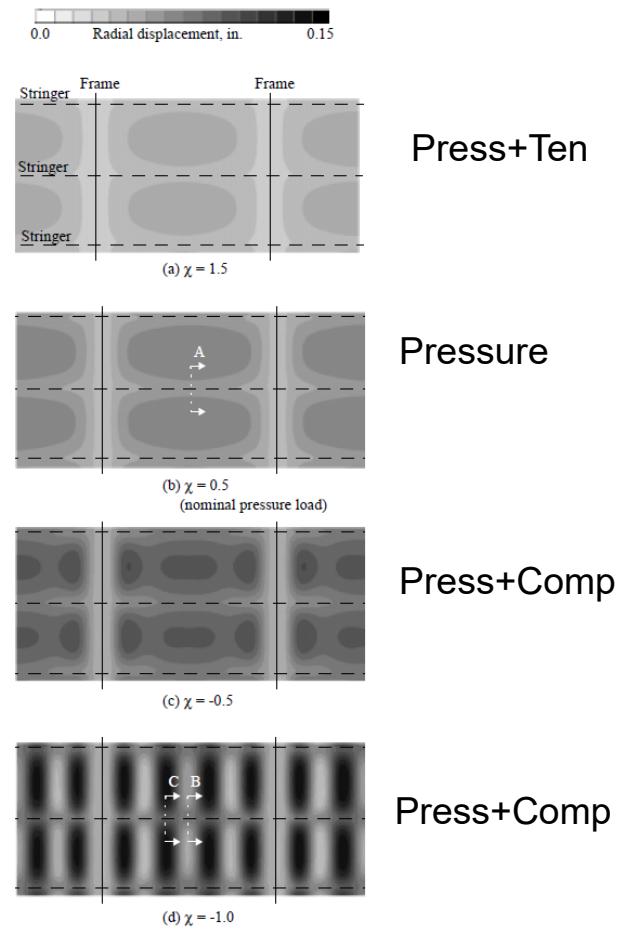


Figure 5. Fuselage-skin radial displacement for biaxial loading ratio values of  $\chi = 1.5, 0.5, -0.5,$  and  $-1.0$ .

Ref: Skin, Stringer and Fastener Loads in Buckled Fuselage Panels by Young, Rose and Starnes, NASA Langley, AIAA-2001-1326

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

## Assumptions for Example 2:

1. Example 2A: Assume skins are fully effective throughout all fatigue load cases and primary loading is only hoop pressure
  1. Fully effective bay width
  2. Fastener Load Transfer Only due to Hoop Pressure
2. Example 2B: Assume skins are fully effective throughout all fatigue load cases but include loading from hoop and shear flow fastener loads
  1. Fully effective bay width
  2. Biaxial fastener loads due to both hoop and shear flow
3. Example 2C: Assume skins are buckled and assume hoop pressure and shear flow loading
  1. Reduced effective skin width for loads due to buckling
  2. Biaxial fastener loads due to both hoop and shear flow
  3. Increased fastener shear loads due to buckling
4. Example 2D: Develop a flight by flight complex spectrum where hoop axial load and bearing due to shear are included with buckling assumed to occur for any fatigue loads above a delta  $N_z$  of 0.2g.

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

## General Geometry Assumptions:

Frame Bay Width = 20 inches

Stringer Bay Pitch = 8 inches (7 degree spacing)

Skin Material = 2024-T3

Skin Thickness = 0.050 inches in chem milled pockets

Skin Thickness = 0.056 inches at pad ups

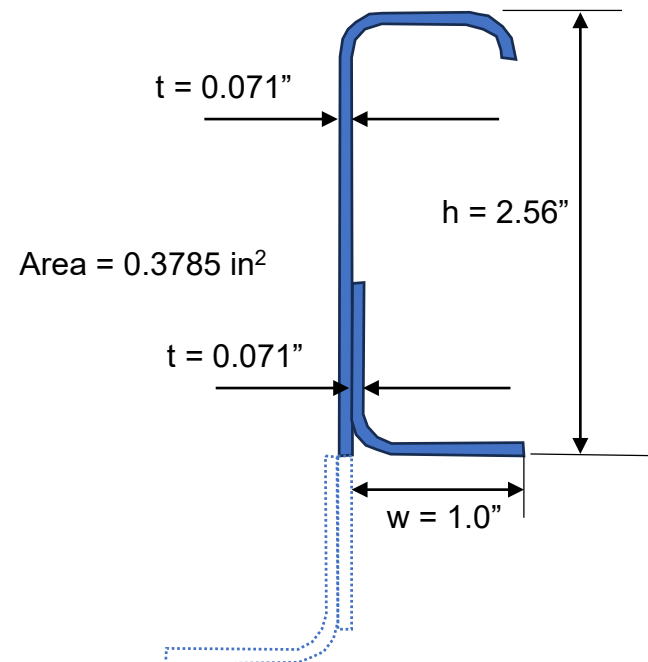
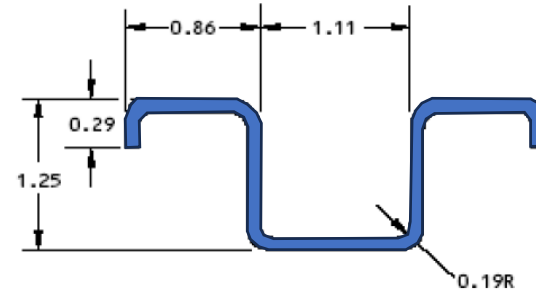
Frame Material = 7075-T6

Frame Area = 0.392 inches<sup>2</sup> (plus skin pad up)

Stringer Material = 7075-T6

Stringer Thickness = 0.16 inches

Stringer Area = 0.543 inches<sup>2</sup>



# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Stringer 20 Lap Joint Details:

Fastener Rows in Lap Joint = 3

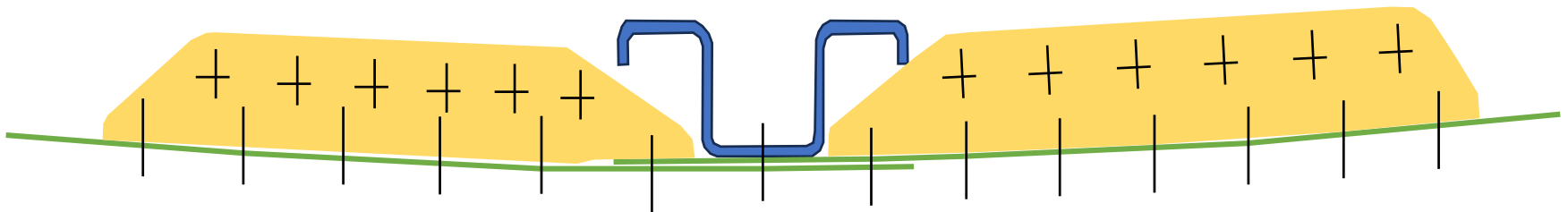
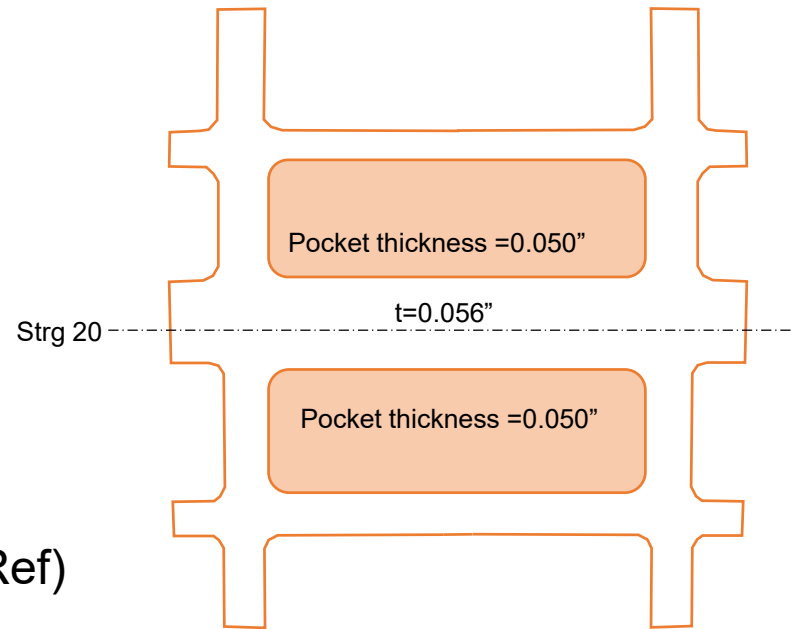
Fastener Types = 3/16" diameter rivet

Fastener pitch = 1.25 inches

Lap joint width = 3.5 inches

Fuselage Internal Pressure = 8.6 psi

Hoop Fastener Load Transfer = 33.8% (see Ref)



Ref: Fawaz, S. A. (2000). Equivalent Initial Flaw Size Testing and Analysis, Air Force Research Laboratory.

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Pressure stresses determined using Flugge NACA-TN-2612:

## Pressurized Cabin Stress Analysis

NACA TN 2612 Stress Problems in Pressurized Cabins  
W. Flugge, Stanford University

### Input Values

Fuselage radius,	$a = 74$ in.
Cabin pressure,	$p = 8.6$ psi
Stringer area,	$A_L = 0.543$ in <sup>2</sup>
Stringer angular spacing,	$\delta = 7^\circ$
Frame area,	$A_R = 0.392$ in <sup>2</sup>
Frame spacing,	$\lambda = 20$ in.
Skin thickness,	$t = 0.05$ in.
Poisson Ratio,	$\nu = 0.33$

### Calculated Values

Longitudinal load per inch in shell:  $N_x = \frac{1}{2} p a = 318.2$  lb/in

Hoop load per inch in shell:  $N_\phi = p a = 636.4$  lb/in

Effective longitudinal thickness:  $t_x = t + \frac{A_L}{a \delta} = 0.110$  in.

Effective hoop thickness:  $t_\phi = t + \frac{A_R}{\lambda} = 0.070$  in.

### Results

Hoop Stress:  $\sigma_\phi = \frac{t_x N_\phi + \nu(t_y - t) N_x}{(1 - \nu^2) t_\phi t_x + \nu^2 t(t_\phi + t_x - t)} = 9573$  psi

Frame Stress:  $\sigma_R = \frac{[(1 - \nu^2) t_x + \nu^2 t] N_\phi - \nu t N_x}{(1 - \nu^2) t_\phi t_x + \nu^2 t(t_\phi + t_x - t)} = 8050$  psi

Longitudinal Stress:  $\sigma_x = \frac{t_\phi N_x + \nu(t_y - t) N_\phi}{(1 - \nu^2) t_\phi t_x + \nu^2 t(t_\phi + t_x - t)} = 4615$  psi

Stringer Stress:  $\sigma_L = \frac{[(1 - \nu^2) t_\phi + \nu^2 t] N_x - \nu t N_\phi}{(1 - \nu^2) t_\phi t_x + \nu^2 t(t_\phi + t_x - t)} = 1456$  psi

Per FAA FAR 25.571 for pressure only, the residual strength hoop stress is as follows:

Residual Strength Pxx = 1.15\*9.573 = 11 ksi

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

To determine if panel buckles, a fuselage bending analysis is performed:

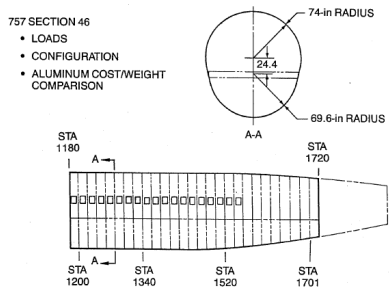


Figure 2.4-2. Commercial Transport Baseline Study Section

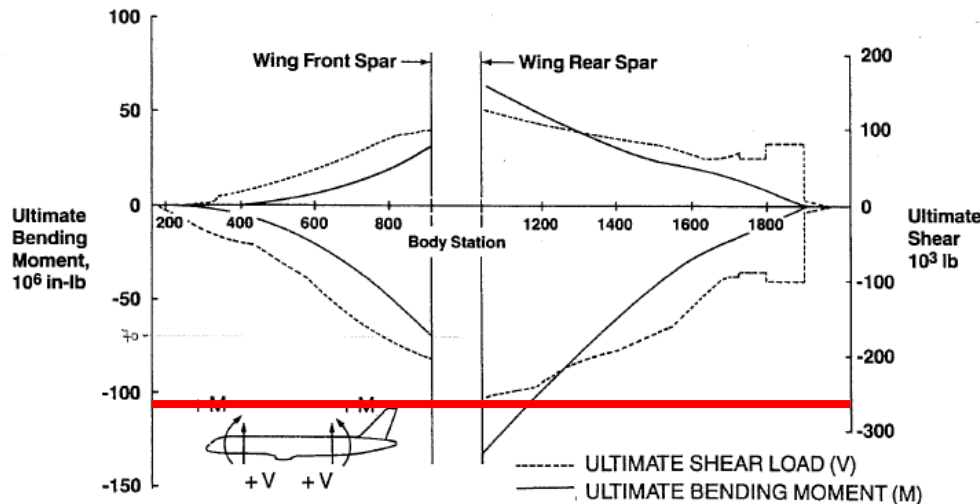


Figure 2.5-1. Ultimate Bending Moment and Shear Load Envelopes for Fuselage During Flight

Ref: NASA-CR-172406 Study on Advanced Composite Fuselage Structure (757).

Ultimate loads at station:

$$V_z = -285000 \text{ lbs}$$

$$M_y = -118000000 \text{ inch-lbs}$$

Limit loads at station:

$$V_z = -190,000 \text{ lbs}$$

$$M_y = -78,667,000 \text{ inch-lbs}$$

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Limit load is applied to a classical internal loads model (see Ref):

100% OF LIMIT LOAD

V	M	V	M	TORSION	TOTAL	TOTAL	FACTOR
Z	Y	Y	Z		EFF. A	TEN. A	PRESS.
LB.-KIP	IN.-KIP	LB.	IN.-KIP		SO.IN.	SO.IN.	
-190000.	-78667.	0.	0.	0.	52.084	61.011	1.000
K	BAR	BAR	I	I	I	DELTA V	DELTA V
P	Z	Y	Y	Z	ZY	Z	Y
PPI	IN.	IN.	IN.4TH	IN.4TH	IN.4TH	LB.	LB.
338.41	223.08	-0.00	199919.	134163.	-0.	0.	0.

STRINGERS ON THE RIGHT SIDE													
STIFF.	SKIN	STIFF.	DELTA	EFF.	BAR	BAR	F	P	Q	DELTA	P	DELTA	F
NO.	GAGE	AREA	AREA	AREA	DZ	DY	B	B	TOTAL	FC	PRESS	FT	TOTAL
IN.	IN.	SO.IN.	SO.IN.	SO.IN.	IN.	IN.	PSI	LB.	PPI	PSI	LB.	PSI	PSI
100.00	0.050	0.603	0.150	1.232	83.42	0.00	32825.	40441.	49.	0.	3242.	2631.	35457.
200.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	82.80	9.56	32581.	35271.	134.	-130.	3246.	2998.	35579.
300.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	80.94	18.98	31849.	34485.	217.	-629.	3247.	2999.	34848.
400.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	77.89	28.07	30649.	33185.	297.	-1354.	3247.	2999.	33648.
500.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.059	73.68	36.70	28992.	30698.	372.	-2198.	3248.	3067.	32060.
600.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.034	68.39	44.70	26911.	27838.	439.	-3022.	3245.	3137.	30047.
700.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.025	62.12	51.95	24444.	25055.	499.	-3540.	3174.	3096.	27540.
800.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.016	55.29	58.07	21756.	22111.	553.	-3996.	3108.	3058.	24814.
900.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.017	47.73	63.31	18781.	19095.	599.	-4450.	3111.	3060.	21841.
1000.00	0.045	0.603	0.135	1.151	39.59	67.57	15578.	17931.	642.	-4279.	3106.	2699.	18277.
1100.00	0.080	0.311	0.000	0.881	31.00	70.78	12198.	10751.	668.	-3464.	3088.	3704.	15702.
1200.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.333	21.92	71.00	8625.	2874.	675.	-9159.	2819.	8460.	17085.
1300.00	0.080	0.311	0.000	0.616	14.88	73.80	5855.	3606.	684.	-4152.	2580.	4189.	10044.
1400.00	0.080	0.543	0.000	1.151	7.21	73.97	2837.	3266.	692.	-451.	2573.	2235.	5072.
1500.00	0.040	0.561	0.000	0.905	-0.30	73.36	-118.	-107.	691.	-3150.	2556.	2520.	-3269.
1600.00	0.040	0.543	0.000	0.629	-7.77	72.11	-3058.	-1922.	687.	-7319.	2530.	3005.	-10377.
1700.00	0.040	0.800	0.000	0.873	-14.98	70.53	-5895.	-5148.	674.	-8288.	3835.	3060.	-14183.
1800.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.736	-30.10	68.31	-11844.	-8721.	653.	-9849.	3915.	3435.	-21689.
1900.00	0.040	0.543	0.000	0.602	-37.65	66.14	-14815.	-8812.	632.	-7416.	2659.	3102.	-22231.
2000.00	0.050	0.543	0.150	0.766	-44.91	63.13	-17672.	-13538.	599.	-5197.	2660.	2541.	-22869.
2100.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.628	-51.79	59.33	-20379.	-12792.	568.	-5544.	2660.	2842.	-25923.
2200.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.624	-58.20	54.78	-22902.	-14300.	534.	-5159.	2659.	2841.	-28061.
2300.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.622	-64.06	49.55	-25207.	-15675.	496.	-4718.	2658.	2841.	-29926.
2400.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.620	-69.29	43.69	-27265.	-16900.	455.	-4237.	2659.	2841.	-31503.
2500.00	0.050	0.677	0.000	0.753	-73.84	37.28	-29056.	-21884.	402.	-3002.	2660.	2486.	-32058.
2600.00	0.050	0.677	0.150	0.903	-77.64	30.40	-30551.	-27576.	336.	-1984.	2660.	2180.	-32535.
2700.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.737	-80.65	23.14	-31736.	-23391.	279.	-2114.	2659.	2580.	-33850.
2800.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.724	-82.82	15.59	-32589.	-23595.	222.	-1883.	2658.	2681.	-34472.
2900.00	0.040	2.000	0.000	2.048	-84.14	7.85	-33109.	-67800.	58.	-279.	2574.	1117.	-33387.
3000.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.725	-84.58	0.50	-33282.	-24124.	0.	0.	1415.	1676.	-33282.

Internal loads indicate that at 100% limit load there is considerable buckling. This is evidenced by the Delta Fc which is the additional compression the stringer must carry due to the reduced effective width of the skin.

Axial load at Stringer 20 is -13538 lbs and as a result the panel buckles. This adds additional compression in the stringers, -5.2 ksi worth.

Note that there is also skin shear flow of 599 lbs/inch present.

Ref: Fatigue Loads and Damage Tolerance Methods for Airworthiness, by Burd, 2024 ASIP Conference, Austin, Tx.

Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

Ref. Analysis & Design of Flight Vehicle Structures”, by E.F. Bruhn, 1973

Ref. Progress Report on Methods of Analysis Applicable to Monocoque Aircraft Structures, by J.S. Newell and J.H. Harrington, Air Corps Information Circular No. 713, May 15, 1939.

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

60% of Limit load is also applied to determine if buckling under fatigue loading:

60% OF LIMIT LOAD

V	M	V	M	TORSION	TOTAL	TOTAL	FACTOR
Z	Y	Y	Z		EFF. A	TEN. A	PRESS.
LB.	IN.-KIP	LB.	IN.-KIP		SQ.IN.	SQ.IN.	
-114000.	-47200.	0.	0.	0.	52.983	61.011	1.000
K	BAR	BAR	I	I	I	DELTA V	DELTA V
P	Z	Y	Y	Z	ZY	Z	Y
PPI	IN.	IN.	IN.4TH	IN.4TH	IN.4TH	LB.	LB.
338.41	222.38	0.00	202330.	137197.	0.	0.	0.

60% is an approximate 1.5G condition if we consider limit load to be a 2.5G condition.

STRINGERS ON THE RIGHT SIDE

STIFF.	SKIN	STIFF.	DELTA	EFF.	BAR	BAR	F	P	Q	DELTA	P	DELTA	F
NO.	GAGE	AREA	AREA	AREA	DZ	DY	B	B	TOTAL	FC	PRESS	FT	TOTAL
	IN.	SQ.IN.	SQ.IN.	SQ.IN.	IN.	IN.	PSI	LB.	PPI	PSI	LB.	PSI	PSI
100.00	0.050	0.603	0.150	1.232	84.12	-0.00	19624.	24176.	29.	0.	3242.	2631.	22255.
200.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	83.50	9.56	19479.	21087.	80.	0.	3246.	2998.	22477.
300.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	81.64	18.98	19045.	20621.	130.	-112.	3247.	2999.	22044.
400.00	0.050	0.603	0.000	1.083	78.59	28.07	18334.	19851.	178.	-437.	3247.	2999.	21332.
500.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.059	74.38	36.70	17351.	18372.	222.	-979.	3248.	3067.	20418.
600.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.034	69.09	44.70	16117.	16673.	263.	-1512.	3245.	3137.	19254.
700.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.025	62.82	51.95	14655.	15021.	299.	-1818.	3174.	3096.	17751.
800.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.016	55.99	58.07	13061.	13274.	331.	-2087.	3108.	3058.	16120.
900.00	0.045	0.603	0.000	1.017	48.43	63.31	11298.	11486.	359.	-2360.	3111.	3060.	14358.
1000.00	0.045	0.603	0.135	1.151	40.29	67.57	9399.	10818.	385.	-2295.	3106.	2699.	12097.
1100.00	0.080	0.311	0.000	0.881	31.70	70.78	7395.	6518.	400.	-1564.	3088.	3504.	10999.
1200.00	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.333	22.62	71.00	5277.	1758.	405.	-4602.	2819.	8460.	13737.
1300.00	0.080	0.311	0.000	0.616	15.58	73.80	3634.	2239.	410.	-2489.	2580.	4189.	7823.
1400.00	0.080	0.543	0.000	1.151	7.91	73.97	1845.	2124.	415.	0.	2573.	2238.	4080.
1500.00	0.040	0.561	0.000	1.014	0.40	73.36	93.	95.	415.	-1268.	2556.	2520.	2614.
1600.00	0.040	0.543	0.000	0.661	-7.07	72.11	-1649.	-1090.	413.	-3853.	2530.	3005.	-5502.
1700.00	0.040	0.800	0.000	0.898	-14.28	70.53	-3331.	-2991.	406.	-4649.	3835.	3060.	-7981.
1800.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.755	-29.40	68.31	-6859.	-5181.	393.	-5524.	3905.	3435.	-12383.
1900.00	0.040	0.543	0.000	0.621	-36.35	66.14	-8620.	-5352.	380.	-3947.	3659.	3102.	-12567.
2000.00	0.050	0.543	0.150	0.790	-44.21	63.13	-10314.	-8150.	361.	-2600.	2660.	2541.	-12914.
2100.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.657	-51.09	59.33	-11918.	-7825.	342.	-2516.	2660.	2842.	-14434.
2200.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.652	-57.50	54.78	-13414.	-8744.	328.	-2292.	2659.	2841.	-15705.
2300.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.648	-63.36	49.55	-14781.	-9581.	297.	-2033.	2658.	2841.	-16813.
2400.00	0.050	0.543	0.000	0.645	-68.59	43.69	-16001.	-10327.	272.	-1751.	2659.	2841.	-17751.
2500.00	0.050	0.677	0.000	0.778	-73.14	37.28	-17062.	-13275.	240.	-1167.	2660.	2486.	-18229.
2600.00	0.050	0.677	0.150	0.927	-76.94	30.40	-17949.	-16638.	200.	-673.	2660.	2180.	-18621.
2700.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.756	-79.95	23.14	-18651.	-14105.	166.	-771.	2659.	2580.	-19422.
2800.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.739	-82.12	15.59	-19157.	-14154.	132.	-766.	2658.	2681.	-19923.
2900.00	0.040	2.000	0.000	2.062	-83.44	7.85	-19465.	-40145.	35.	-105.	2574.	1117.	-19570.
3000.00	0.040	0.677	0.000	0.739	-83.88	0.50	-19568.	-14469.	0.	0.	1415.	1676.	-19568.

As can be seen, at 1.5G the amount of added compression is lower but this indicates the effective width of the panel is still reduced.

Note also that there is still shear flow in the panel of 361 lbs/inch.

So, the effective width of panel due to buckling needs to be considered.

Ref: Fatigue Loads and Damage Tolerance Methods for Airworthiness, by Burd, 2024 ASIP Conference, Austin, Tx.

Ref. Advanced Spectrum and DTA Applications Course, Burd and Fawaz, 2025

Ref. Analysis & Design of Flight Vehicle Structures”, by E.F. Bruhn, 1973

Ref. Progress Report on Methods of Analysis Applicable to Monocoque Aircraft Structures, by J.S. Newell and J.H. Harrington, Air Corps Information Circular No. 713, May 15, 1939.

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

When the panel buckles, properties are reduced:

Assume panel buckles during fatigue loading

Assume panel becomes ineffective for tension loads

Hoop direction: only pad-up is effective in corner:

Effective Hoop Loading Width = 8.75 inches

Thickness of skin = 0.056 inches

Area =  $8.75 \times 0.056 = 0.49 \text{ in}^2$

Area of Frame =  $0.3785 \text{ in}^2$

Total Area =  $0.8685 \text{ in}^2$

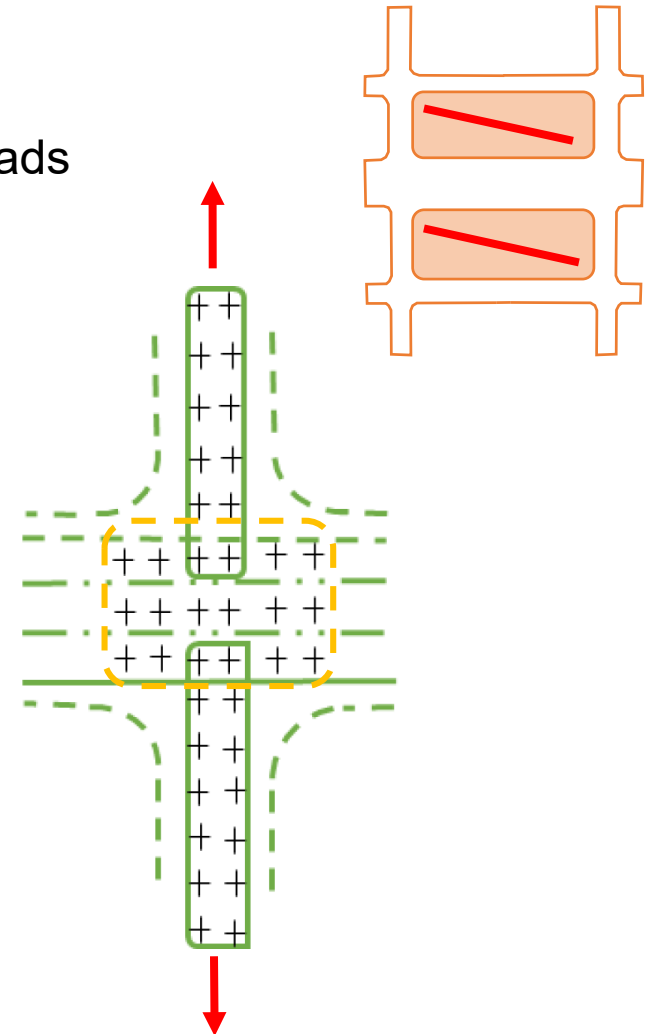
Hoop running load = 636.4 lbs/inch

Bay width = 20 inches

Hoop load =  $636.4 \times 20 = 12728 \text{ lbs}$

Hoop stress =  $12728 / 0.8685 = 14.655 \text{ ksi}$

Residual strength =  $14.655 \times 1.15 = 16.853 \text{ ksi}$



# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

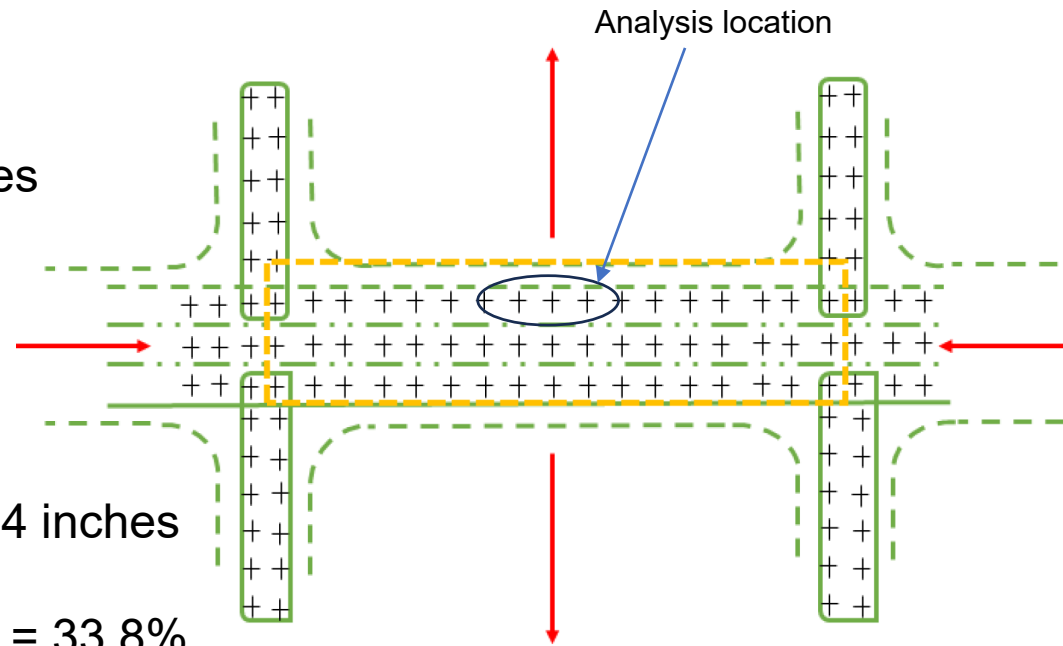
## Example 2A - Pressure Only Analysis:

Assumed width = 20 inches  
 Thickness = 0.056 inches  
 Fastener diameter = 0.1875 inches  
 Pitch = 1.25 inches

Spectrum stress = 9.573 ksi  
 Residual strength = 11 ksi

8.6 psi Hoop load per inch = 636.4 inches  
 Bay width = 20 inches  
 Fastener load transfer in first row = 33.8%  
 Number of fasteners in first row = 17  
 Fastener load =  $(636.4 \cdot 20 \cdot 0.338) / 17 = 253$  lbs  
 Brg stress =  $253 / (0.1875 \cdot 0.056) = 24.095$  ksi  
 Bypass load =  $636.4 \cdot 20 \cdot (1 - 0.338) = 8426$  lbs  
 Bypass stress =  $8426 / (20 \cdot 0.056) = 7.523$  ksi

## Pressure Only Spectrum



Bypass/Ref =  $7.523 / 9.573$   
 Bypass/Ref = 0.786  
 Brg/Ref =  $24.095 / 9.573$   
 Brg/Ref = 2.517

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Assumptions: Two 0.005” Corner Flaws, Nasgro 2024-T3 L-T, Advanced Model

Crack Length vs Life

Output

Left Tip C = 0.62433 Beta Tension= 0.9768 Beta Compression= 0.9768 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.3096e+01 D()/DN=8.1372e-06  
Right Tip C = 0.62433 Beta Tension= 0.9768 Beta Compression= 0.9768 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.3096e+01 D()/DN=8.1372e-06  
Max stress 9.573, r = 0.00, 276545 Cycles, Constant amp.: 1, Pass: 276463

Crack #1

Left Tip C = 0.62501 Beta Tension= 0.9752 Beta Compression= 0.9752 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.3082e+01 D()/DN=8.1046e-06  
Right Tip C = 0.62501 Beta Tension= 0.9752 Beta Compression= 0.9752 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.3082e+01 D()/DN=8.1046e-06  
Max stress 9.573, r = 0.00, 276545 Cycles, Constant amp.: 1, Pass: 276546

Stress State in the 'C' direction (PSC): 5.07492  
Crack length exceeded stop value- run time: 0 hour(s) 0 minute(s) 34 second(s)

Properties

Specimen

Appearance

(Name)  Specimen

Size

Width  20.000000

Thickness  0.056000

Constrained

Load

Axial  0.786000

Bending  0.000000

Bearing  2.517000

Solution

Type  Two Points

[Remove All](#)

Growth limited to half of fastener pitch:

$N = 276,546$  flight cycles /  $276,546$  flight hours

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

## Example 2B: Press + Shear Flow – No Buckling:

Geometry remains the same

### Pressure + Shear Flow Spectrum

Spectrum stress = 9.573 ksi

Residual strength = 11 ksi

8.6 psi Hoop load per inch = 636.4 inches

Bay width = 20 inches

Fastener load transfer in first row = 33.8%

Number of fasteners in first row = 17

Hoop Fastener load =  $(636.4 * 20 * 0.338) / 17 = 253$  lbs

Limit Load Shear Flow = 599 lbs/inch

Effective rows in shear = 3

Fastener load =  $599 * 20 / (17 * 3) = 235$  lbs

Brg stress =  $\sqrt{(253^2 + 235^2) / (0.1875 * 0.056)} = 32.886$  ksi

Note: Bypass stress is set to 1 since fastener load includes shear flow now

Bypass/Ref = 1.0  
Brg/Ref = 3.435

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Assumptions: Two 0.005” Corner Flaws, Nasgro 2024-T3 L-T, Advanced Model

The screenshot displays a software interface for a finite element analysis of a fuselage lap joint. The left sidebar shows a tree view of the model's components, including a specimen with a hole and two corner cracks. The central area shows a 3D model of the specimen with the cracks highlighted in pink. The right sidebar contains a 'Properties' panel for the specimen, showing dimensions (Width: 20.000000, Thickness: 0.056000) and load conditions (Axial: 1.000000, Bending: 0.000000, Bearing: 3.435000). The bottom panel shows the output of the analysis, including stress state and crack growth data.

**Output**

Left Tip C= 0.62426 Beta Tension= 1.2545 Beta Compression= 1.2545 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.6817e+01 D(I)/DN=2.0520e-05  
Right Tip C= 0.62426 Beta Tension= 1.2545 Beta Compression= 1.2545 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.6817e+01 D(I)/DN=2.0520e-05  
Max stress= 9.573, r = 0.00, 102076 Cycles, Constant amp., 1, Pass: 102076

Crack #1  
Left Tip C= 0.62502 Beta Tension= 1.2545 Beta Compression= 1.2545 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.6828e+01 D(I)/DN=2.0566e-05  
Right Tip C= 0.62502 Beta Tension= 1.2545 Beta Compression= 1.2545 R(k)= 0.0000 R(final)= 0.0000 Delta k=1.6828e+01 D(I)/DN=2.0566e-05  
Max stress= 9.573, r = 0.00, 102112 Cycles, Constant amp., 1, Pass: 102113

Stress State in the 'C' direction (PSC): 4.00854  
Crack length exceeded stop value- run time: 0 hour(s) 0 minute(s) 34 second(s)

Life limited to half of pitch to adj fastener:

$N = 102,113$  flight cycles /  $102,113$  flight hours

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

## Example 2C: Press + Shear Flow with Buckled Skin:

Constant Pressure +  
Shear Flow  
Buckled Panel

Panel buckling occurs in the thin pocketed section of skin  
Only remaining effective skin is at frame locations at corners with  
a loading width limited to 8.75”

Stress = 14.655 ksi

Residual Strength = 16.853 ksi

8.6 psi Hoop loading:

Fasteners per row = 6

Rows effective = 3

Total fasteners = 18

Fastener load =  $(636.4 \cdot 20 \cdot .338) / 6$

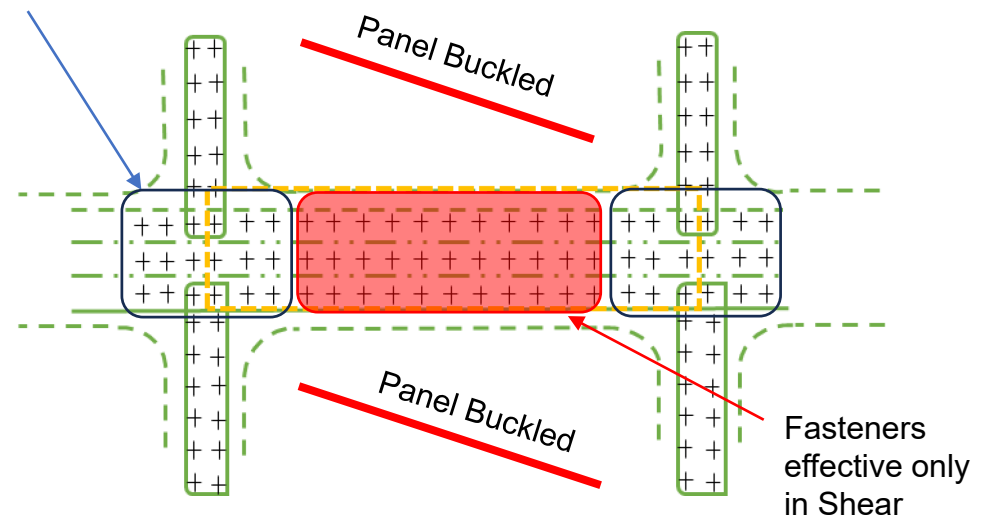
Fastener load = 717 lbs

Shear flow fastener load = 361 lbs

Total fastener load =  $\sqrt{(717^2 + 361^2)} = 803$  lbs

Bearing stress =  $803 / (0.1875 \cdot 0.056) = 76.453$  ksi

Analysis location



Bypass/Ref = 1.0

Brg/Ref = 5.22

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Assumptions: Two 0.005” Corner Flaws, Nasgro 2024-T3 L-T, Advanced Model

The screenshot displays the Nasgro software interface for a finite element analysis of a fuselage lap joint. The left-hand tree view shows the model configuration, including material properties (1000-9000 series aluminum, 2024-T3 Al), stress state determination, and a spectrum loading profile (Constant Amp. Loading, R=0, Cycles=1). The main window shows a 2D cross-section of the joint with a hole and two corner cracks. The right-hand panels show the 'ToolBox' with object types (Hole, Countersunk Hole, Through Crack, Part-Through Crack, Slot) and the 'Properties' panel for the selected specimen, showing dimensions like Width (8.750000) and Thickness (0.056000). The bottom 'Output' window displays simulation results for crack growth, including parameters like 'Left Tip C = 0.62488', 'Beta Tension=1.4021', and 'Max stress 14.655, r = 0.00, 10616 Cycles, Constant amp.: 1, Pass: 10617'.

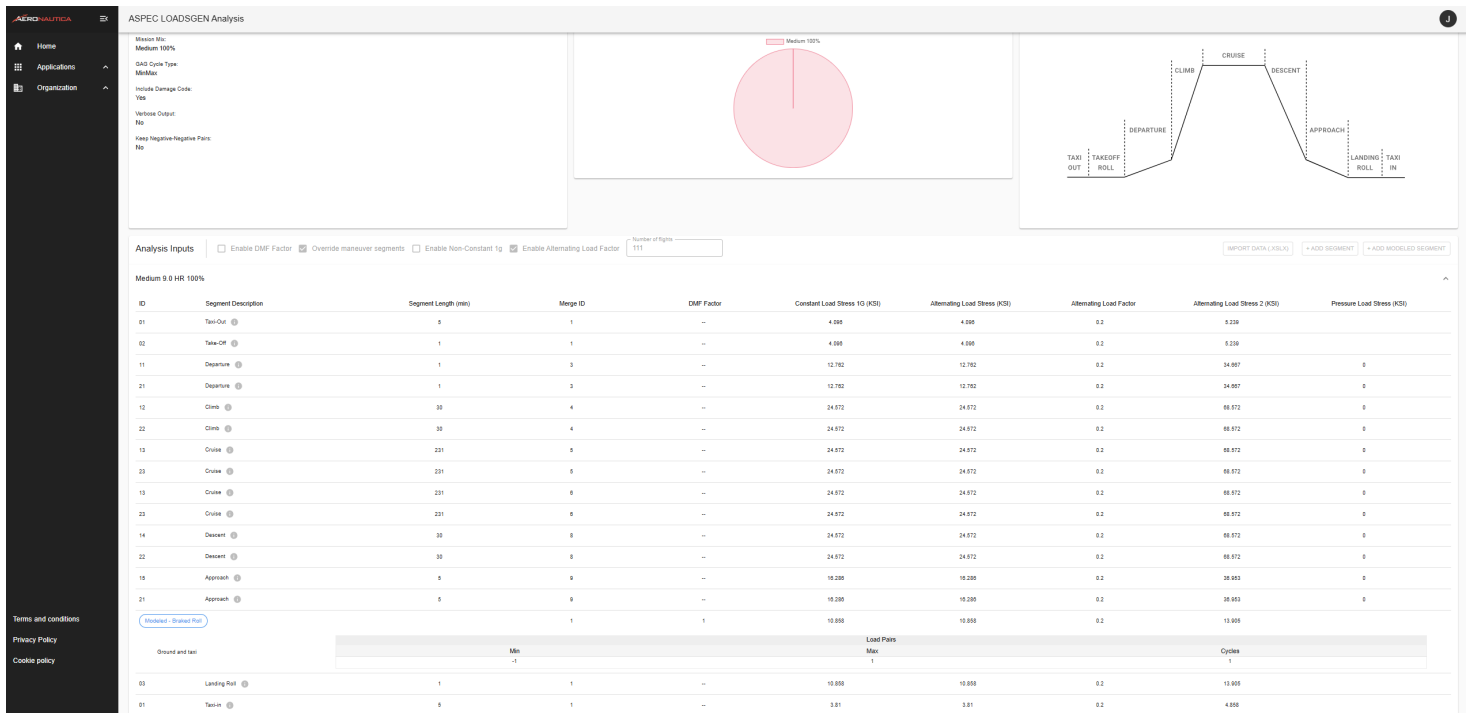
Life limited to half of pitch to adj fastener:

$N = 10,618$  flight cycles /  $10,618$  flight hours

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

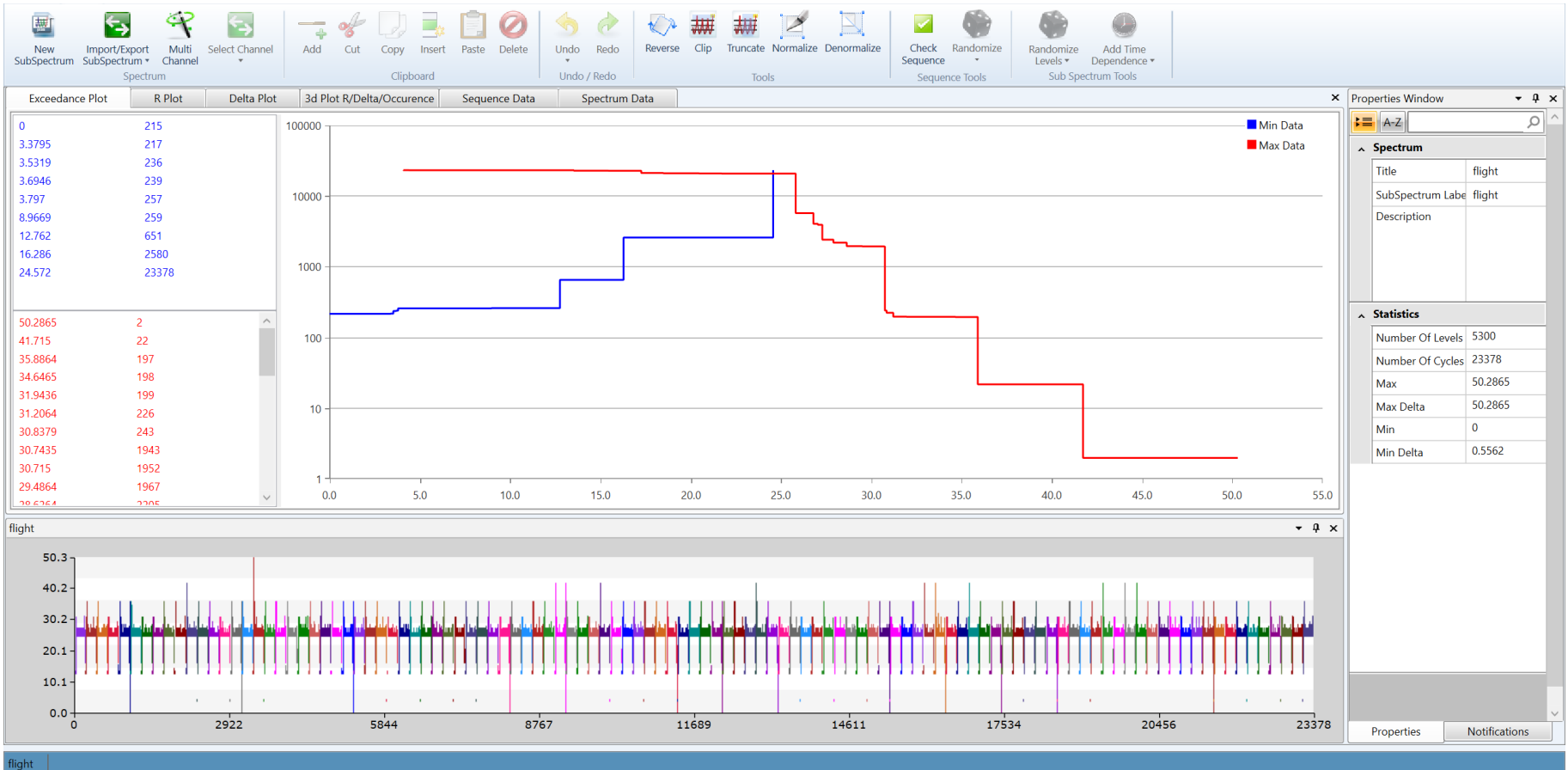
## Example 2D: Flight by Flight Multi Channel Spectrum with Buckling:

To develop the spectrum, the fatigue loads are generated for a standard Medium Mission using Aspec for each of the flight segments using the previous cited internal loads methods. The primary flight loading is the bearing stress due to the shear flow while the axial loading is due to hoop pressure.



# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Max spectrum bearing stress due to shear flow is 50.286 ksi. Spectrum consists of 1000 flight hours / 111 flight cycles



# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

A multi channel spectrum was then generated combining axial pressure stresses for both conditions when panel is buckled and not buckled which is assumed to occur above and below a delta Nz of 0.2g in the spectrum.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
1	delta Nz > 0.2g Buckled Results					Skin Not Buckled Results					Inertia Load Factors					Max Pressure Unbuckled	Max Pressure Buckled	Min Press					
2	13.528	12.762	3	1021	flight 1	13.528	12.762	3	1021	flight 1	1.06	1	3	1021	flight 1	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
3	30.744	24.572	4	1022	flight 1	26.784	24.572	4	1022	flight 1	1.09	1	4	1022	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
4	27.889	24.572	1	1012	flight 1	27.889	24.572	1	1012	flight 1	1.135	1	1	1012	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
5	30.744	24.572	12	1022	flight 1	26.784	24.572	12	1022	flight 1	1.09	1	12	1022	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
6	25.801	24.572	14	1023	flight 1	25.801	24.572	14	1023	flight 1	1.05	1	14	1023	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
7	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 1	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 1	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
8	25.801	24.572	22	1023	flight 1	25.801	24.572	22	1023	flight 1	1.05	1	22	1023	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
9	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 1	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 1	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
10	25.801	24.572	9	1023	flight 1	25.801	24.572	9	1023	flight 1	1.05	1	9	1023	flight 1	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
76	17.263	16.286	8	1021	flight 2	17.263	16.286	8	1021	flight 2	1.06	1	8	1021	flight 2	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
77	20.462	16.286	1	1015	flight 2	18.126	16.286	1	1015	flight 2	1.113	1	1	1015	flight 2	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
78	17.263	16.286	7	1021	flight 2	17.263	16.286	7	1021	flight 2	1.06	1	7	1021	flight 2	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
79	35.886	0	1	1100	flight 2	30.838	0	1	1100	flight 2	1.255	0	1	1100	flight 2	BUCKLED	9.573	14.656	0				
80	13.528	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	13.528	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	1.06	1	1	1021	flight 3	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
81	14.485	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	14.485	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	1.135	1	1	1021	flight 3	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
82	13.528	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	13.528	12.762	1	1021	flight 3	1.06	1	1	1021	flight 3	LINEAR	4.787	4.787	4.787				
83	27.889	24.572	1	1012	flight 3	27.889	24.572	1	1012	flight 3	1.135	1	1	1012	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
84	30.744	24.572	8	1022	flight 3	26.784	24.572	8	1022	flight 3	1.09	1	8	1022	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
85	35.886	24.572	1	1022	flight 3	28.626	24.572	1	1022	flight 3	1.165	1	1	1022	flight 3	BUCKLED	9.573	14.656	14.65626				
86	30.744	24.572	7	1022	flight 3	26.784	24.572	7	1022	flight 3	1.09	1	7	1022	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
87	25.801	24.572	11	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	11	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	11	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
88	27.275	24.572	2	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	2	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	2	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
89	25.801	24.572	47	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	47	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	47	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
90	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
91	25.801	24.572	6	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	6	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	6	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
92	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
93	27.029	24.572	1	1013	flight 3	27.029	24.572	1	1013	flight 3	1.1	1	1	1013	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
94	25.801	24.572	16	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	16	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	16	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
95	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
96	25.801	24.572	5	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	5	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	5	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
97	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
98	25.801	24.572	2	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	2	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	2	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
99	28.626	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	28.626	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.165	1	1	1023	flight 3	BUCKLED	9.573	14.656	14.65626				
100	25.801	24.572	25	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	25	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	25	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
101	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
102	25.801	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
103	28.626	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	28.626	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.165	1	1	1023	flight 3	BUCKLED	9.573	14.656	14.65626				
104	25.801	24.572	7	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	7	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	7	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
105	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	27.275	24.572	1	1023	flight 3	1.11	1	1	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				
106	25.801	24.572	21	1023	flight 3	25.801	24.572	21	1023	flight 3	1.05	1	21	1023	flight 3	LINEAR	9.573	9.573	9.573				

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

This resulted in a multi channel spectrum with axial hoop pressure stress and bearing due to shear flow for both linear and buckled panel configurations which could be used in Nasgro.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	Hoop Press and Fast Brg 20% Buckles Multi Channel										
2	3	4.787	4.787	0	0	0	0	13.528	12.762		
3	4	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	30.744	24.572		
4	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.889	24.572		
5	12	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	30.744	24.572		
6	14	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
7	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
8	22	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
9	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
10	9	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
11	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
12	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
13	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
14	4	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
15	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
16	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
17	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
18	7	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
19	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
20	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
21	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
22	16	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
23	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
24	20	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
25	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
26	26	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
27	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
28	3	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
29	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.029	24.572		
30	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
31	5	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
32	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		
33	2	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
34	8	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	26.784	24.572		
35	1	14.656	14.656	0	0	0	0	31.206	24.572		
36	8	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	26.784	24.572		
37	16	4.787	4.787	0	0	0	0	17.263	16.286		
38	1	14.656	0.000	0	0	0	0	31.206	0		
39	3	4.787	4.787	0	0	0	0	13.528	12.762		
40	11	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	30.744	24.572		
41	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.889	24.572		
42	1	14.656	14.656	0	0	0	0	35.886	24.572		
43	4	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	30.744	24.572		
44	20	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
45	1	14.656	14.656	0	0	0	0	28.626	24.572		
46	11	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	25.801	24.572		
47	1	9.573	9.573	0	0	0	0	27.275	24.572		

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

Assumptions: Two 0.005” Corner Flaws, Nasgro 2024-T3 L-T, Same Example 2C Geometry using Same SIF Solution as with Afgrow

The screenshot displays the CC16 software interface for a crack case analysis. The main window is titled "CC16 - corner crack(s) at a hole based on Fawaz-Anderson solution".

**CC16**

Diagram 1: A rectangular plate of width  $W$  and thickness  $t$  is shown under tension  $S_0 + P/Wt$  and bending moment  $M$ . A central hole of diameter  $D$  is present. Two corner cracks of length  $a$  are shown, each with a distance  $c$  from the hole edge. The stress intensity factor is given as  $S_1 = 6M/Wt^2$ .

Diagram 2: A similar plate under tension  $S_0$  and bending moment  $M$ . The stress intensity factor is given as  $S_3 = P/Dt$ .

Diagram 3: A cross-sectional view of the hole and cracks. The hole diameter is  $D$ , the crack length is  $a$ , and the distance from the hole edge to the crack tip is  $c$ . The total width is  $W$  and the thickness is  $t$ .

Parameters and Equations:

- $W/D \geq 1.5$
- $0.2 \leq D/t \leq 20$
- $0.1 \leq a/c \leq 10$
- $0 \leq a/t \leq 0.95$
- $(D/2 + c)/B \leq 0.9$

**Input Parameters:**

Thickness, t	0.056
Width, W	8.75
Hole diameter, D	0.1875
Initial flaw size, a	0.005
Initial a/c	1

**Initial flaw option:**  
 User entry  
 NASA std NDE

**Checkboxes:**  
 Two symmetric cracks  
 Include S2  
 Set crack size limit(s): a [ ] c [0.625]  
 SIF Compounding  
 After transition to TC03, Enable Continuing Damage to TC02

**Negative Pin Load (Bearing Stress) Assumption:**  
 Compression Clipping (if  $K_{min} < 0$ , then  $K_{min} = 0$ )  
 Full Range (use actual values of  $K_{min}$ ,  $K_{max}$ )

Calculations... done. | LEFM | US | 10:43:54

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

File Options View Tools Help

Geometry Material Load Blocks Build Schedule Output Options Computations

Do parameter analyses by varying initial geometry and loading?

Run Stop

Select details to show:

- Input: Geometry
- Input: Material
- Input: Spectrum
- Sched/blk/step #
- Cycles
- Flights or flt hrs
- Crack size
- Max K
- Beta factor, F
- Net stress fctr, G

Show output summary

Select details to plot:

- Crack size
- Max K
- Beta factor, F
- Net stress fctr, G
- Residual strength
- da/dN
- DKth
- DKth/DK
- U [=DKeff/DK]
- DKeff

Plot v. N v. a v. flts

ANALYSIS RESULTS

[CRACK TRANSITION INFORMATION]

```
# Transition to IC23:
# a = 0.5549E-01 t = 0.5600E-01
# at the very beginning
# of Load Step No. 2862
# of Block No. 100
# of Schedule No. 1
# Crack Size: c1 = 0.357574E-01, c/c1 = 1.0000
# Total Cycles = 2327053
# Total Flights = 11048.973
```

[WARNING.sic16]: geometry outside limits of pin-loading correction factors with a/t > 0.95!

FINAL RESULTS:

```
Crack size reached user-specified crack size limit:
# Crack size = 0.6250, user-specified limit = 0.6250

# at the very beginning
# of Load Step No. 2382
# of Block No. 238
# of Schedule No. 1
# Crack Sizes: c = 0.624969, c1 = 0.624969, c/c1 = 1.0000
# Total Cycles = 5551320
# Total Flights = 26357.966
```

Initial crack model: CC16. Final crack model: TC23

Execution time (hh:mm:ss): 00:00:58.2  
Note: this is elapsed wall-clock time, not CPU time!

This version of NASGRO® is limited to official NASA, ESA, and FAA business only.

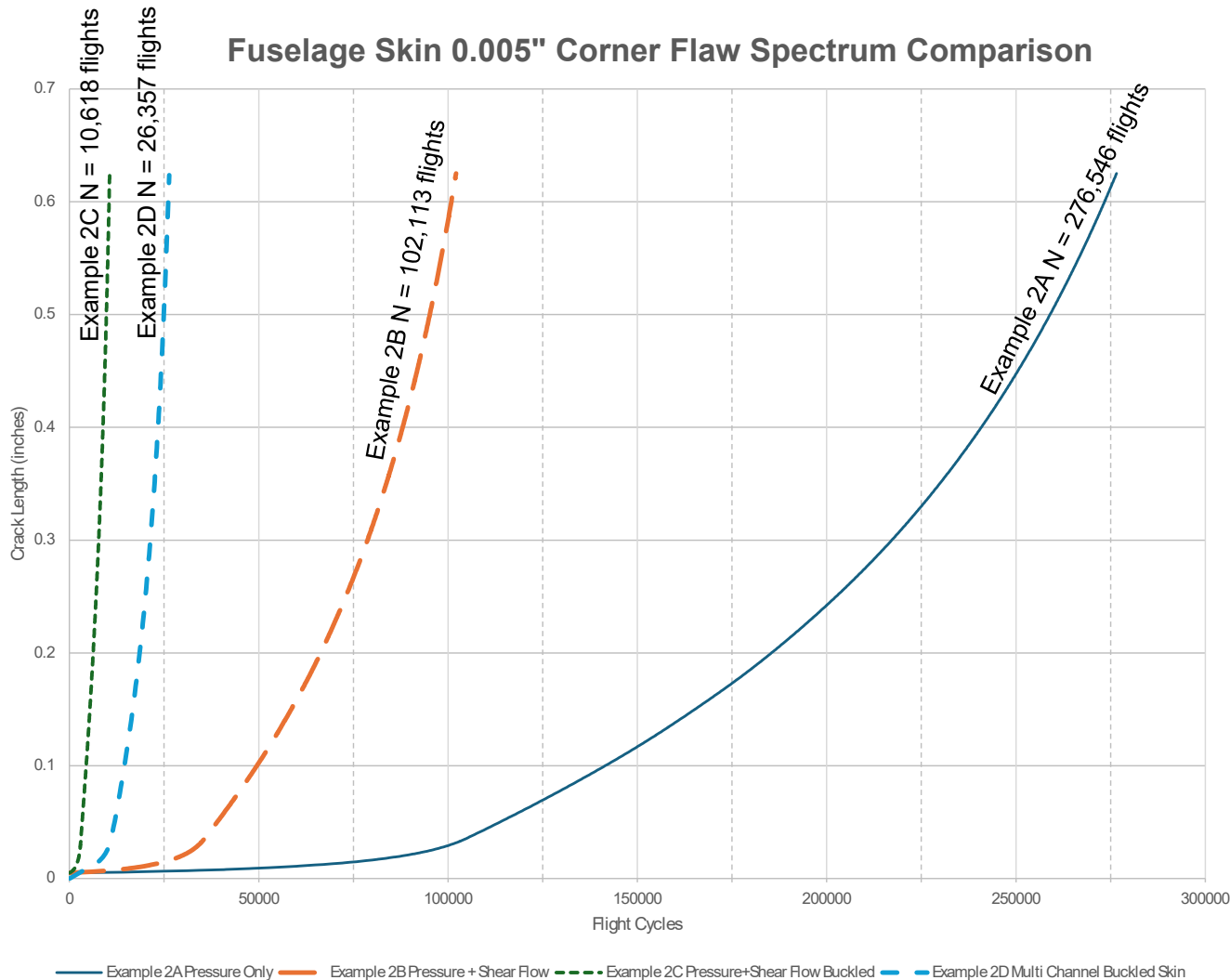
ALL calc'd data to csv file(s) Print window Close window Save window contents to doc file

Calculations... done. LEFM US 10:49:45

Life limited to half of pitch to adj fastener:

$N = 26,357$  flight cycles / 237,459 flight hours

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint



Impacts of load source and buckling on lap joint life:

>60% Reduction in life by including effect of shear flow in panels

Potential Impacts to Investigate:

1. Are panel shear and hoop in phase or not?
2. At what  $\Delta N_z$  does the panel buckle for each flight condition?
3. What is actual spectrum loading in terms of when panel buckles
4. Are hoop loads and shear flows out of phase? Is a multi channel spectrum needed?
5. Constant amplitude spectra does not capture effects of load histories.
6. Multi channel spectrum provides life in terms of both flight cycles and flight hours.

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

---

## SUMMARY CONCLUSION:

1. Fully understand loading of joint --- Free Body Diagram
2. Does complex loading apply? Is a Multi-Channel Spectrum Apply?
3. Accurately represent fastener loads from all sources
4. Determine if structure is impacted by buckling during spectra
5. At what percent of applied fatigue loads does structure buckle?
6. If conservative assumptions for buckling are too severe than account for buckling in the spectra development and residual strength
7. Buckling can also have a direct impact on the stress intensity (see next slide)

# Example 2 – Fuselage Lap Joint

From Starnes and Young (Ref. 1) referring to GöKGöl of MBB (see Ref. 2) on the Airbus A300:

Ref. 1: *“In addition, results of a fatigue test of an A300B fuselage indicated that compressive stress directioned parallel to a crack may increase the stress intensity factor by 40%.”*

Ref. 2: *“In the latter case the crack propagation determined by test could only then be simulated by calculation if the stress intensity factor in the calculation was increased by 40%. The negligence of the compressive stress directioned parallel to the crack in connection to the tensile stress acting vertically to the crack would cause a substantial under-rating of crack propagation.”*

Ref. 1: *Skin, Stringer and Fastener Loads in Buckled Fuselage Panels by Young, Rose and Starnes, NASA Langley, AIAA-2001-1326*

Ref. 2: *Crack free and cracked life of the pressurized cabin of the A300B— calculation, tests and design measurements to improve damage tolerance by O. GöKGöl, Messerschmitt-Bolkow-Blohm, Aeronautical Journal, 1979*

## 2025 Training Schedule

MAY 19-23, 2025 - Jacksonville, FL  
OCTOBER 20-24 2025 - Wichita, KS

IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL



# ADVANCED SPECTRUM & DTA APPLICATIONS COURSE



### JAMES BURD

FAA DER Structures & Damage Tolerance  
President, Aeronautica LLC



### DR. SCOTT FAWAZ

FAA RS-DER Structures & Damage Tolerance

REGISTRATION AND MORE INFORMATION:

[aeronauticausa.com/training/](https://aeronauticausa.com/training/)

*Class includes detailed review of 15 problems and trial access to Aeronautica's ASPEC Spectrum Program*

*This is a 40 hour course for the practicing stress and damage tolerance analyst. With a focus on civil and military certification, all aspects of damage tolerance analysis process are presented in detail. Everything from fatigue loads and spectrum to crack growth analysis and setting inspection intervals are covered. In depth discussion of problem idealization and solving provide a culmination of all course topics.*

← Analysis Details

SAVE RUN ANALYSIS

Project Details

Project Name: test course Aircraft: AIRBUS A320  
 Run Date: Status: DRAFT

Predefined Data

Mission Mix: A321 - 21% S, 47%...  
 GAG Cycle: MIN MAX

- Include Damage Co...
- Keep Negative-Negative Pairs

Output Files

- AFGROW  NASGR...
- CRK2K  FLIPSPEC

Analysis Input

- Enable DMF Factor
- Override maneuver segments

IMPORT DATA (.XSLX) + ADD SEGMENT

Mission Flight Segment Definition

