

**Advances**  
**in**  
**Aircraft Structures**

**Editor**

**Jaffar Syed Mohamed Ali**

**Erwin Sulaema**



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## CONTENTS

<b>Preface</b>	i
<b>Contents</b>	ii
<b>Contributing Author</b>	iv
<b>Aircraft Structural Design and Testing</b>	
1 Design of IIUM Aircraft Fuselage Using Composite Material (5168/20218)	1
2 Fabrication and Testing of IIUM Aircraft Fuselage Structure Made of Composite Laminate Material (5168/20223)	8
3 Design and Fabrication of Fuselage Model for Laboratory Purpose (5168/20225)	16
4 Simulation of Fuselage Model for Laboratory Purpose (5168/20228)	24
5 Propeller Blade Stress Analysis using CATIA (4625/20230)	30
6 Lateral Crushing of Composite Fuselages (4625/20232)	37
7 Corrosion Detection in Aircraft Structures by Ultrasonic Method (4980/20233)	45
8 Fatigue Damage Characterization of Aluminum Alloy Plates (4980/20235)	55
<b>Composite Structures</b>	
9 Determination of Mechanical Properties of Corrugated Hybrid Composite (5168/20237)	63
10 Composite Failure Mechanism of Corrugated Hybrid Composite Subjected to Bending Loading (5168/20239)	70
11 Study of Energy Absorption of Foam-Filled Honeycomb Structure (5168/20241)	79
12 Experimental Study of Indentation on Composite Structure (5168/20245)	86
13 Simulation Study of Composite Structure Subjected to 3 Points Bending Load (5168/20246)	93
14 Experimental Study of the Strength of Sandwich Structure with Honeycomb Core (5168/20248)	101
15 Buckling of Composite Columns (4625/20249)	107
16 Buckling of Composite Perforated Plates (4625/20253)	117
17 Structural Analysis of an Active Beam (4625/20254)	125
18 Characterization of Composite Materials using Full Field Data (6377/20256)	131

19	Application of Virtual Fields Method to Composite Plate Bending Problem	(6377/20262)	137
20	Mode I Delamination Simulation using LS-DYNA	(3563/20263)	143

### Structural Instability

21	Buckling of Long Column	(4625/20264)	150
22	Buckling of Thin Walled Sections	(4625/20265)	158
23	Effect of Boundary Conditions on the Buckling Behavior of Perforated Plates	(4625/20266)	167
24	Effect of Cutout Shape on the Critical Buckling Load of Perforated Plates.	(4625/20267)	174
25	Experimental Determination of Critical Buckling Load for a Perforated Plate	(4625/20268)	182
26	Accurate Geometric Stiffness Matrix Formulation of Beam Finite Element	(6327/20269)	190

### Structure Analytical Methods

27	The Constitutive Equation Gap Method	(6377/20270)	198
28	The Equilibrium Gap Method	(6377/20271)	202
29	The Reciprocity Gap Method	(6377/20272)	206
30	The Virtual Fields Method	(6377/20273)	210
31	Numerical Construction of Piecewise Virtual Fields	(6377/20274)	215
32	Numerical Model of Noise Effect in Full Field Data	(6377/20274)	221
33	Optimized Virtual Fields with Noise Minimization	(6377/20276)	227
34	Axial Stiffness Matrix of Non-Uniform Bernoulli-Euler Bar Elements		233
35	Finite Element Model Updating	(6427/20279)	240

## Chapter 6

# Lateral Crushing of Composite Fuselages

J.S. Mohamed Ali, Zul Hasymi bin Shahidaan, E. Mahdi

### Abstract

*Lateral Crushing experiment on a model of a composite based-fuselage of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) has been carried out. The middle cylindrical part of the fuselage was selected as the area of interest. The model was fabricated using Carbon fiber/epoxy by means of hand lay-up method and was put under quasi-static compression loading in order to simulate the impact forces during a crash event. The energy absorption per unit volume of the composite material was obtained from the force vs. displacement graph obtained.*

*Keywords: Lateral crushing, experiment, fuselage, composite, cylinder*

### 1. Introduction

In 1997, a three- year research program was initiated at NASA Langley Research Center to develop an innovative and cost-effective crashworthy fuselage concept for light aircraft and rotorcraft. The fuselage concept consists of an energy absorbing subfloor which is designed to limit impact forces during crash event. Therefore, the main objective of the subfloor configuration is to dissipate Kinetic Energy through stable crushing and to maintain good post-crash structural integrity.

It is proven that brittle composite materials show linear stress-strain curve without experiencing any plasticity phase. High-energy absorption is possible if progressive