



FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS OF A LIGHTWEIGHT BOX STRUCTURE

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“I declared that this thesis is the result of my own work except the ideas and summaries which I have clarified their sources. This thesis has not been accepted for any degree and not concurrently submitted in candidature of any degree.”

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ABSTRACT

A lightweight box with dimension of $1200\text{mm} \times 400\text{mm} \times 120\text{mm}$ consisting of 4 ribs, 8 stringers and 2 spar webs was designed and fabricated. The structural behaviors were studied in terms of stress and deflection by theoretical and Finite Element Analysis (FEA). FEA analysis was carried out based on 116 Elements consisting of 60 Shell41 type (for skin and ribs), 8 shell28 (for spar webs), and 48 link8 type (for stringer and spar flank). The structural integrity was tested by measuring the strain of 4 strain and rosette gauges at 5 different locations. The stress values from the theoretical and FEA are in good agreement. Experimental results showed good agreement with the predicted values at locations 1, 3 and 5. However the experimental stresses at location 2 and 4 are deviated by 43 and 84% respectively from the predicted values. Such high deviations indicate a local effect, since location 2 is closed to the rivet and 4 are on the stringer. Meanwhile, location 1 and 3 are on the skin and 5 was the rosette at the web. The experimental deflection values at all loads are significantly deviated from the predicted values. Therefore the theoretical approach has got to be modified by taking several factors such as the effect of the rivet on the geometry and fabrication imperfection into consideration. The experimental values are higher than the predicted values.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS

PAGE TITLE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ABSTRACT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF TABLES

LIST OF FIGURES

CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	PAGE
	1.1 Structural design	1
	1.2 Objective of project	2
	1.3 Methodology	
	1.3.1 Analysis of box structure from mechanics of material	3
	1.3.2 Finite Element Analysis	3
	1.3.3 Determination of deflection and stress of the fabricated lightweight box	3
	1.3.4 Comparison of results	3

CHAPTER II THEORITICAL ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

2.1 Structural design and specification	4
2.2 Theoretical analysis of a lightweight box	5
2.3 Stress equation	6
2.4 Determination of second moment of area	6
2.5 Calculation of stress	12
2.6 Calculation of deflection	14

CHAPTER III FINITE ELEMENT ANALYSIS (FEA) AND RESULTS

3.1 Finite Element Analysis and ANSYS	16
3.2 Basic steps in the finite element method	19
3.3 Finite element modeling	19
3.3.1 Define element type and material properties options	20
3.3.2 Creating the model geometry	22
3.3.3 Apply loads and the solution	24
3.3.4 Postprocessor phase option	25
3.4 Results	26
3.4.1 Stress analysis	26
3.4.2 Deflection analysis	27

CHAPTER IV EXPERIMENTAL TESTING AND RESULTS

4.1 Introduction	29
4.2 Experiment Apparatus set-up	30
4.3 Strain experiment	32
4.4 Determination of stress	33
4.5 Deflection experiment	35