

# Modeling and Analysis of a Shaft Blade for its Strength

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**Abstract:** *Fiber reinforced composites are being used by naval applications in now-a-days Propeller is the element which drives the ships and under water vehicles. They required thrust to drive the ships at its operational speed is generally provided by propeller. Propeller blades are manufactured from AL-alloy castings because of its lesser weight which offers increasing payload, performance speed and operating range at deeper depths. Increment times to lower the weight of the propeller lead to the use of fiber reinforced multi-layer composite propeller. This work is carried on structural analysis of CFRP propeller blades which in future replaces the aluminium propeller blade. Hydrostatic pressure is applied on both sides of the propeller blade which depends upon working depth and flow on sides of the propeller. This result in varying hydrodynamic pressure on both sides of the propeller blade. The resultant of this hydrodynamic pressure acts at its part of the blade. The propeller blade is designed in such a way that it should be able to with stand static and dynamic loads. This thesis work basically deals with the modeling and design analysis of the propeller blade of a ship for its strength. A propeller is complex 3D model geometry. Which requires high end modeling CAD software is used for generating the blade model in CATIA V5 R18. This report consists of brief details about Fiber Reinforced Plastic materials and the advantages of using composite propeller over the conventional metallic propeller. This project concentrates on the metal and composite strength analysis of the propeller blade carried out by using the finite element method. By using ANSYS14.0 software static, modal were carried out for both isotropic and orthotropic material. In this work two different types of ship propeller i.e. Aluminum, Composite, were studied using FEM techniques.*

**Keywords:** Strength of Propeller Blades, Materials, Modeling of Propeller, Modal analysis

## 1. Introduction

Ships and under water vehicles like submarines, torpedoes and submersibles etc., uses propeller as propulsion. The blade geometry and its design is more complex involving many controlling parameters. The strength analysis of such complex 3D blades with conventional formulas will give less accurate values. In such cases numerical analysis (Finite Element Analysis) gives comparable results with experimental values. In the present project the propeller blade material is converted from aluminum metal to fiber reinforced composite material for underwater vehicle propeller. Such complex analysis can be easily solved by finite element method techniques.

The experiments that are normally carried out with ship models and model propellers are:

- Resistance experiments
- Open water experiments
- Self propulsion experiments
- Wake measurements
- Cavitation experiments

### 1.1 Principle of Propeller

- Propeller are based on Bernoulli's principle and Newton's third law.
- Propeller works by throwing mass in the opposite direction you want to go, which by new tons law produces equal and opposite reaction of you moving.
- It based on push and pull concept

### 1.2 Strength of Propeller Blades

A first approach to strength problem was made by Taylor [1] who considered a propeller blade as a cantilever rigidly fixed at the boss.

J E Connolly [2] addresses the problem of wide blades, tried to combine both theoretical and experimental investigations. The author carried out the measurements of deflection and stresses on model blades subjected to simulated loads with an aim to develop a theoretical model calibrated against the laboratory experiments.

Terje sont vedt [3] studied the application of finite element methods for frequency response and improve to the frozen type of hydrodynamic loading.

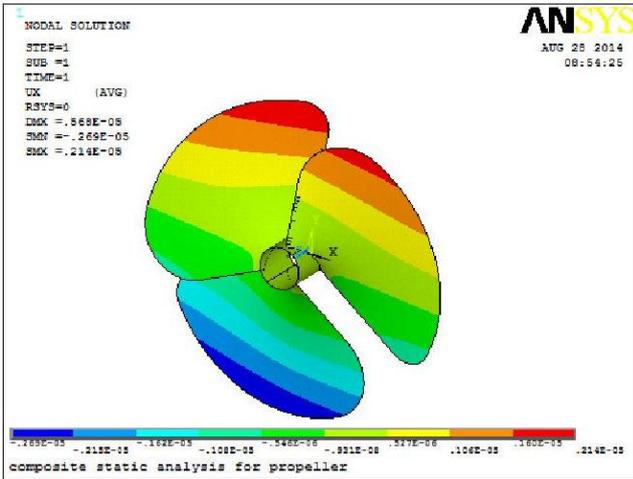
### 1.3. Material Selection

The stress-strain curve of the composite. The stress strain curve for a composite lies in between the stress strain curves of the fibers and matrix. The actual location of the composite stress strain curve will depend upon the relative volume fraction of the constituents. If the fiber volume fraction is high the composite stress strain curve will be close to the fiber stress-strain curve. On the other hand the composite stress-strain curve may be closer to the matrix stress-strain curve for a higher matrix volume fraction.

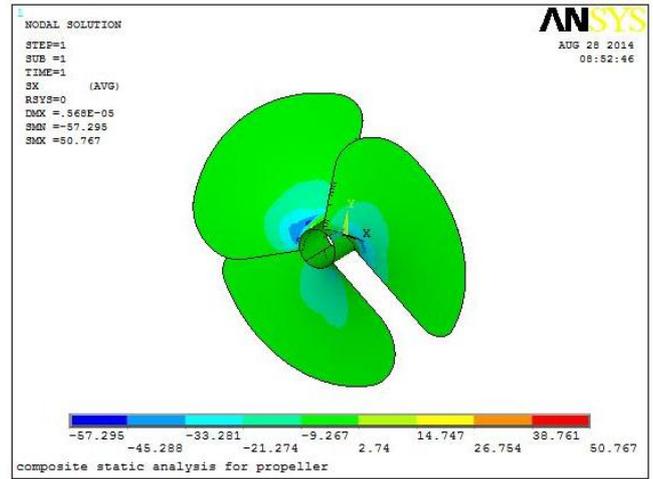
## 2. Modeling of Propeller

Modeling of the propeller is done using CATIA V5 R 19. In order to model the blade, it is necessary to have sections of the propeller at various radii. These sections are drawn and

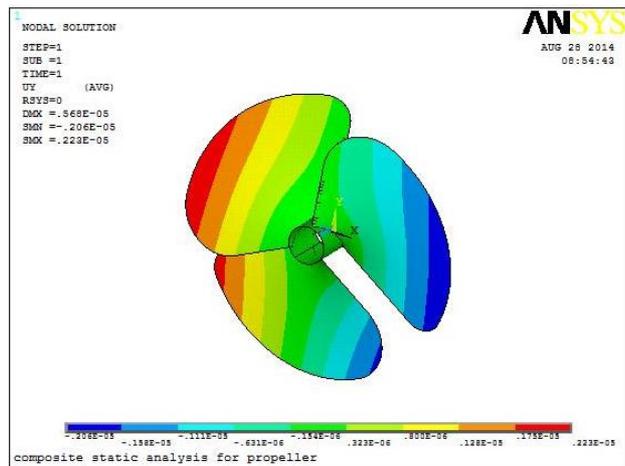




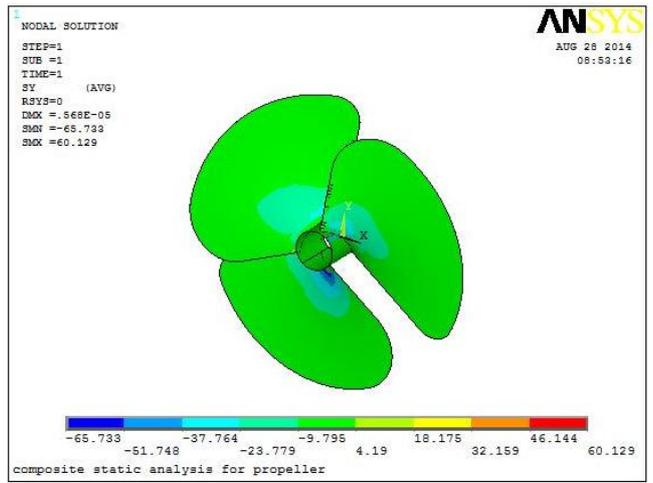
**Deflection of a composite propeller with 8 layers in X direction**



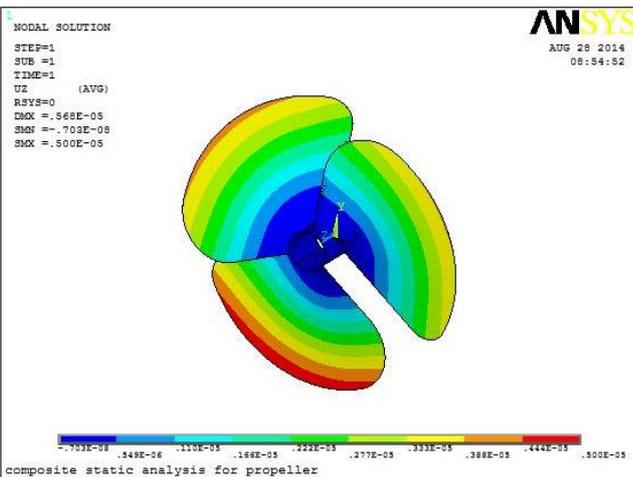
**Normal stress in composite propeller in X direction**



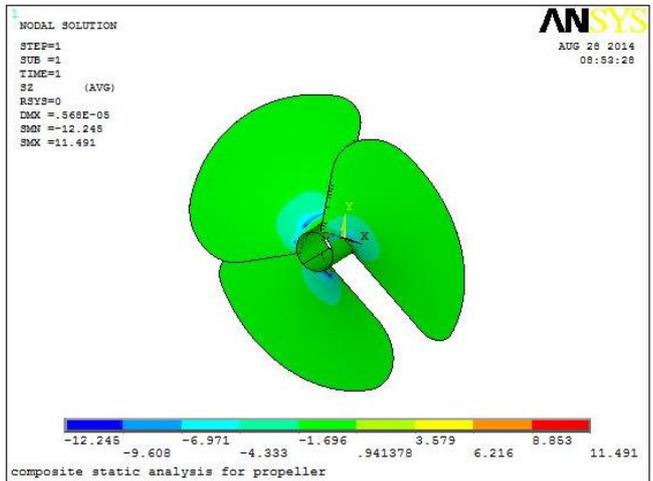
**Deflection of a composite propeller with 8 layers in Y direction**



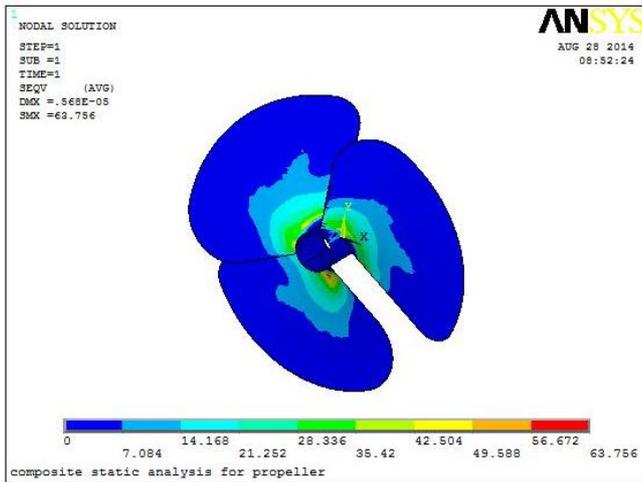
**Normal stress in composite propeller in Y direction**



**Deflection of a composite propeller with 8 layers in Z direction**



**Normal stress in composite propeller in Z direction**



Von mises stress of a composite propeller

#### 4. Conclusions

- 1) The deflection for composite propeller blade was found to be around 0.142mm for all layers which is much less than that of aluminum propeller i.e. 0.181mm, which shows composite materials is much stiffer than aluminum propeller.
- 2) Modal analysis results showed that the natural frequencies of composite propeller were 150% more than aluminum propeller, which indicates that the operation range of frequency is higher for composite propeller.
- 3) Static analysis results showed that the max normal stresses of aluminum propeller are 87% higher than the composite propeller and von mises stresses are 50% higher in aluminum propeller than that of the composite propeller.
- 4) Aluminum propeller can rotate at maximum speed of 2190 rpm without failing while composite propeller can rotate at a maximum speed of 5280 rpm. The weight of the propeller can also be significantly reduced by using composite materials without sacrificing the mechanical Properties.

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