

Tutorial UAV Design Example

Aeolus ASP 3.11 January 2019 www.aeolus-aero.com



Welcome

Summary

In this tutorial, a simple Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) will be designed for a given mission to familiarize with the basic steps of modelling, analysis and optimization in Aeolus ASP.

Prerequisites

- Aeolus ASP 3.11
- Quick Start tutorial recommended

Contents

- Product Requirements
- Initial Design
- Analysis of the Initial Design
- Wing Shape Optimization
- Static Stability



Product Requirements

In this example, the objective is to design an UAV for **aerial mapping** and **wildlife protection** with high aerodynamic efficiency for low energy consumption and long range. The design shall be based on the following top level requirements:

Mass and Dimensions

- Take-off mass 6 kg
- Max span 1.5 m

Mission

- Cruise speed 30 m/s
- Cruise altitude 1000 m MSL
- Longest range possible

Flight mechanics

• Static longitudinal stability margin 2% - 4%



Product Requirements



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Main requirements of a horizontal tail plane (HTP)

- Provide aerodynamic forces to ensure static and dynamic longitudinal stability
- Pitch control for manoeuvres
- Trim for steady flight at different speeds

Positioning of the HTP:

- X: Typically, the HTP is located downstream of the main wing at a distance of 40-50% of the wing span. With a wing span of 1.5 m we can assume x= 0.7 m.
- Y: Use y= 0 for a symmetric aircraft
- Z: The HTP should be at a sufficiently high z-position to avoid turbulences from the propeller hitting the HTP and causing vibrations. Assume z= 0.2 m.

Surface and aspect ratio: As a rule of thumb, assume 10% of the main wing. That is $\approx 0.03 \text{ m}^2$. In view of the aircraft stall characteristics, the HTP must stall later than the main wing. Therefore, the aspect ratio should be smaller than the aspect ratio of the main wing.

Airfoil: The HTP must be able to provide positive and negative lift forces. Symmetric airfoils, such as the NACA0012 are preferred as they provide good stall characteristics for positive and negative angles of attack.













Which flight condition should be modeled?

There is a number of different flight conditions at which the aircraft should be analysed in view of performance and stability. For example

- Cruise
- Take-off and landing
- Maneuvers
- Loiter

In this tutorial, the defined mission is aerial mapping. We can expect that the aircraft will be operated in cruise flight most of the time, and that the aircraft performance largely depend on it's cruise flight characteristics.

So it is a good starting point to tailor the global wing dimensions to this primary condition in a first step.

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The total aircraft drag D_{tot} is comprised of induced drag D_{ind} and viscous drag D_{visc} :

$$D_{tot} = D_{ind} + D_{visc}$$

Induced drag is calculated automatically in Aeolus ASP, whereas viscous drag is very difficult to predict with numerical methods and is therefore mostly based on experimental data. These data typically have the form of coefficients for viscous drag $C_{d,visc}$ and allow the computation of the viscous drag force from

$$D_{visc} = q \; S_{wet} \; C_{d,visc,wet}$$

or

$$D_{visc} = q \; S_{proj} \; C_{d,visc,proj}$$

with

q	dynamic pressure
S _{wet}	wetted wing area
S _{proj}	projected wing area
$C_{d,visc,wet}$	viscous drag coefficient, refers to the wetted wing area
$C_{d,visc,proj}$	viscous drag coefficient, refers to the projected wing area

In Aeolus ASP, the coefficient $C_{d,visc,wet}$ must be provided as an input in the "Flight Condition" panel.

The default value is 0.005, which is a fairly good estimation for the most fixed-wing UAV cases.

Dynamic viscosity	1.792e-05	[Pas]
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Reynolds number min	1.038e+05	[-]
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Viscous drag coefficient	0.005	[-]
(refers to wetted area)		

However, let us see how more reliable data can be found. Note, that $C_{d,visc,wet}$ mainly depends on

- the Reynolds number (Re) and
- the airfoil

Airfoil data sheets are available from various online sources, such as <u>http://airfoiltools.com</u>. Search for NACA4415 and click on "Airfoil details" (<u>http://airfoiltools.com/airfoil/details?airfoil=naca4415-il</u>).

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We are now looking for curves with Re = 400,000 and $N_{krit} \ge 9$ assuming a clean wing surface.

The required coefficient $C_{d,visc,proj}$ can be approximated from the value of Cd at Cl=0 as shown below:

From the results

 $C_{d,visc,proj}^{Re=200,000} \approx 0.015$ $C_{d,visc,proj}^{Re=500,000} \approx 0.009$

we can approximate a value for Re = 400,000, which is:

 $C_{d,visc,proj}^{Re=400,000}\approx 0.011$

Note, that the index "proj" is added to differentiate the database values, which typically refer to the projected area, from the Aeolus ASP coefficient $C_{d,visc,wet}$, which must refer to the wetted area. The conversion from "projected" to "wetted" can easily be done:

$$C_{d,visc,wet} = C_{d,visc,proj}^{Re=400,000} \underbrace{\cdot \frac{S_{proj}}{S_{wet}}}_{\approx 0.5}$$

$$C_{d,visc,wet} = 0.0055$$

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• The strip distribution option "Outboard" increases the panel density at the wing tip and enables a better resolution of the surface pressures in this area.

- The strip distribution option "Outboard" increases the panel density at the wing tip and enables a better resolution of the surface pressures in this area.
- Note the improved resolution of the surface pressure

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	0 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 26 28 30 32 34 36 38 40 42 44 46 48 50 52 54 56 58 60 True speed [m/s]

Finally, you can optimize the wing shape using the built-in optimization feature. All of the geometry parameters are accessible for optimization. To keep this example simple, only the following **design variables** shall be optimized:

- Root chord length
- Tip chord length
- Tip twist

According to the mission requirements, the UAV must be efficient and should fly as far as possible. Therefore, a good objective is to **maximize the Lift/Drag-ratio** which is a measure of efficiency.

The last step is the definition of constraints. Depending on the optimization problem, constraints can be required to avoid any unfeasible results.

It is good practice to start a first optimization without any constraints. You can then inspect the result and decide which constraints are required. In our example, the optimization will result in a very small wing area and hence high local lift coefficients.

Note, that a typical airfoil stalls at approximately $c_{l,max} \approx 1.3$. Again, more specific data can be found from the drag polar, as shown in the example below:

To be conservative, we assume

$$c_{l,max} = 1.2$$

as the maximum lift coefficient, which the airfoil can provide before stall onset.

In view of the mission, the UAV should be able to perform a maneuver with a max load factor $n_{max} = 2$, for example a turn at 60° bank angle. That is, that the allowed lift coefficient in cruise is

$$c_{l,max,allowed}^{cruise} = \frac{c_{l,max}}{n_{max}} = 0.6$$

You can add this constraint to the optimization through the drop-down list item "Local CL_wet".

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The coefficient's index "wet" indicates a reference to the wetted wing area. Again, the conversion can simply be done knowing that $\frac{S_{proj}}{S_{wet}} \approx 0.5$.

Local Cl_wet^{max} =
$$C_{l,max,allowed}^{cruise} \cdot \frac{S_{proj}}{S_{wet}}$$

= 0.3

The penalty value is set automatically and typically does not need to be changed.

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Static Stability

In this section the static longitudinal stability of the aircraft will be tuned. A common measure for longitudinal stability is the static margin, which is defined as the distance between the center of gravity and the aerodynamic center (neutral point) of the aircraft, expressed as a percentage of the mean aerodynamic chord of the wing.

A typical value is 2%, which is also the target value for this UAV. It can be achieved by modifying the mounting angle of the HTP. The task for the designer is to find the right value for this mounting angle (sometimes also referred to as angle of incidence).

In this example, the use of the "Parameter Study"-feature will be demonstrated for this purpose. The objective is to plot the static margin for a certain range of HTP mounting angles.

Static Stability

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Quick Start File Import Export Run View Plot Utility Settings Help Plot Utilty Colors C File Run View X • +X | -X | +Y -Y +Z | Z ⊕ Q (□ 🔲 🗲 🧷 Ø 🖶 📐 Wing O - 🖉 Geometry 0.14 0.13 B & Discretization 👜 👞 нтр 0.12 Geometry Read the required mounting 0.11E-& Discretization 0.10- α Flight Condition Computation angle for a 2% static margin. 0.09 Optimization Parameter study 80.0 E Check Results 0.07 0.06 Last evaluation - 🗄 Aircraft Summary 0.05 CI(AOA) - Odi(AOA) 0.04 - • Cm(AOA) 0.03 Lift-to-Drag(v,h) Static margin --- + Cdi(Cl) 0.02 - • Cd(Cl) 0.01Iteration Design variable Static margin [0.0, 0.0] 1.337e-01 0.00 [0.3333333333333333, 0.333... 1.062e-01 0.66666666666666666, 0.666... 7.867e-02 -0.01[1.0, 1.0] 5.122e-02 [1.3333333333333333, 1.333... 2.382e-02 -0.02 [2.0, 2.0] -3.080e-02 -0.03 [2.333333333333333, 2.3333... -5.802e-02 -0.04 [3.0, 3.0] -1.123e-01 -0.05 -0.06 -0.07 -0.08 -0.09 -0.10 -0.11 -0.12 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0 2.1 2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8 2.9 3.0 3.1 $0.0 \quad 0.1 \quad 0.2 \quad 0.3 \quad 0.4 \quad 0.5 \quad 0.6 \quad 0.7 \quad 0.8 \quad 0.9 \quad 1.0$

Design value

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Thank you

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