

# DESIGN AND ANALYSIS OF COMPOSITE PROPELLER BLADE FOR AIRCRAFT

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## ABSTRACT

This project focuses on designing and analyzing aircraft propeller blade strength, utilizing software like CATIA V5 for complex 3D modeling. It highlights the benefits of using composite propellers over metallic ones and conducts finite element analysis (FEA) using ANSYS workbench software. The study compares the strength of aluminum and composite propeller blades through static and modal analysis for materials such as Aluminum alloy 7075, E-glass, and Carbon fiber and also by using Machine learning as a prediction tool and comparing the results of the project we will be able to conclude the effectiveness of each material in design of propeller blades and the use of the blades in aerospace engineering.

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 INTRODUCTION TO AIRCRAFT

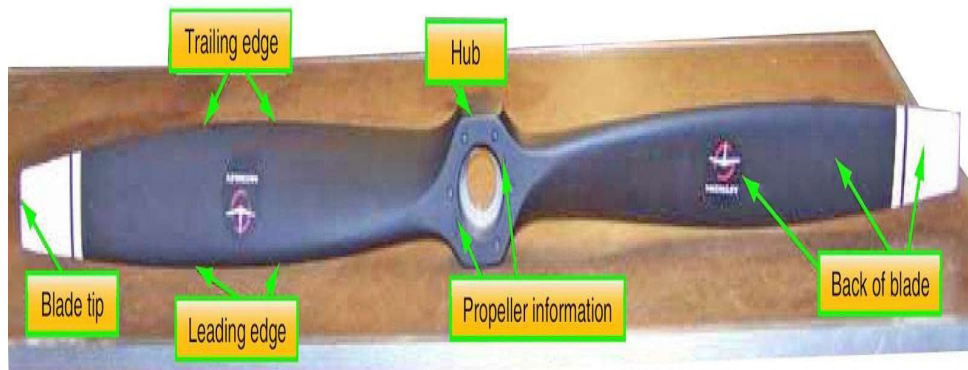
Aircraft, since their inception, have been emblematic of human innovation and progress, reshaping global transportation and military capabilities. They are vehicles designed for atmospheric flight, serving purposes such as transportation, reconnaissance, and combat. Aircraft come in various types, including fixed-wing airplanes, rotary-wing helicopters, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). These machines consist of components like airframes, propulsion systems, avionics, and control surfaces, working in harmony to ensure safe and efficient operation. Advancements in technology have led to faster, more efficient, and safer aircraft, driving the evolution of air travel and defining capabilities. However, challenges such as environmental sustainability, safety concerns, and technological integration persist. Looking ahead, developments in electric propulsion, autonomous systems, and sustainable aviation fuels hold promise for shaping the future of aviation. Overall, aircraft symbolize humanity's relentless pursuit of exploration, connectivity, and progress.

### 1.2 PROPELLER

Aircraft propellers serve as essential components in aviation, converting engine power into thrust to propel aircraft through the air. They come in various types, including fixed-pitch, variable-pitch, and constant-speed propellers, each offering unique advantages in terms of efficiency and control. Propellers consist of blades, hubs, and spinners, working together to create airflow acceleration and generate forward thrust. The operation of propellers relies on engine power to rotate the blades, which then create pressure differences to produce thrust. Propeller efficiency and performance depend on factors such as blade design, pitch angle, airspeed, altitude, and engine power. These components find applications across general aviation, commercial airliners, military aircraft, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). In essence, aircraft propellers play a critical role in aviation by providing reliable propulsion and contributing to the overall performance and efficiency of aircraft operations.



FigureNo.1.1 Aircraft Propeller Blades



FigureNo.1.2 Parts of Aircraft Propeller

## 2.1 LITERATURE REVIEW

1. **Dr. Y. Seetharama Rao et al**, This work proposes a methodology to Design a propeller with a metal and composite material to analyse its strength and deformation using Ansys software. In order to evaluate the effectiveness of composite over metals, stress analysis is performed on both composite and metal propeller using Ansys. Proposed methodology showed substantial improvements in metal propellers. The mean deflection, normal stress and shear stress were found for both metallic and composite propeller by using Ansys. From the results, stress analysis composite propeller is safe resonance phenomenon. In this work effort is made to reduce stress levels so that advantage of weight reduction along with stresses can be obtained. The comparison analysis of metallic and composite propeller was made for the maximum deformation and normal stresses.
2. **Palle Prasad et al. (2017) and Lanka Bosu Babu**, The work carries out the structural analysis of a CFRP (carbon fibre reinforced plastic) propeller blade which proposed to replace the Aluminium propeller blade. Propeller is subjected to an external hydrostatic pressure on either side of the blades depending on the operating depth and flow around the propeller also result in differential hydrodynamic pressure between face and back surfaces of blades. The propeller blade is modelled and designed such that it can withstand the static load distribution and finding the stresses and deflections for both aluminium and carbon fibre reinforced plastic materials. This work basically deals with the modelling and Design analysis of the propeller blade of a torpedo for its strength. A propeller is complex 3D model geometry. This requires high end modelling CATIA software is used for generating the blade model. This report consists of brief details about fibre Reinforced Plastic materials and the advantages of using composite propeller over the conventional metallic propeller. By

using ANSYS software static structural analysis were carried out for two different materials.

3. **M. Suneetha et al. (2013)** The paper aims at achieving high propulsive efficiency at low level of vibration and noise, usually with minimum cavitation. Achieving this aim is difficult with conventional propellers, as ships have become larger and faster propeller diameters have remained limited by draught and other factors. Surface piercing propeller offers an attractive alternative to high-speed crafts, which operate under limited draught. The performance of the vehicle depends upon the efficiency of the propeller. The geometric shape and its surface finish will decide the efficiency of the propeller. The material used is carbon UD and aluminium. The research basically deals with the modelling and Analysis of the propeller using composite material of a marine vehicle having low draft. A propeller is complex 3D model geometry. CATIA modelling software is used for generating the blade model and tool path on the computer. Sectional data, pitch angle of the propeller are the inputs for the development of propeller model. Finite element analysis was carried out using ABAQUS. The propeller model developed in CATIA is converted in to IGES file and then imported to HYPERMESH for developing fine mesh of the model. As a part of the analysis static structural testing was conducted by varying material properties in pre-processing stage.
4. **D. Gopaiah et al. (2014) and N. Amara Nageshwara Rao**, The thesis deals with modelling and analysing the propeller blade of underwater vehicle for its strength. A propeller is a complex geometry which requires high end modelling software. The solid model of propeller is developed using CATIA V5 R17. Tetrahedral mesh is generated for the model using HYPER MESH. Static, Eigen and frequency responses analysis of both aluminium and composite propeller are carried out in ANSYS. Inter laminar shear stresses are calculated for composite propeller by varying the number of layers. The stresses obtained are well within the limit of elastic property of the materials. The dynamic analysis of aluminium, composite propeller which is a combination of GFRP (Glass Fibre Reinforced Plastics) and CFRP (Carbon Fiber Reinforced Plastics) materials.
5. **Guanmo Xie et al. (2011)** In this study a multi-objective optimization approach is proposed for propeller preliminary Design. A Non-dominated Sorting Genetic Algorithm II (NSGA II) is employed to approximate the set of Pareto solution through an evolutionary optimization process. Then a decision-making approach is adopted to select “best” solution. A B-propeller Design example is conducted to illustrate the analysis process.

## METHODOLOGY

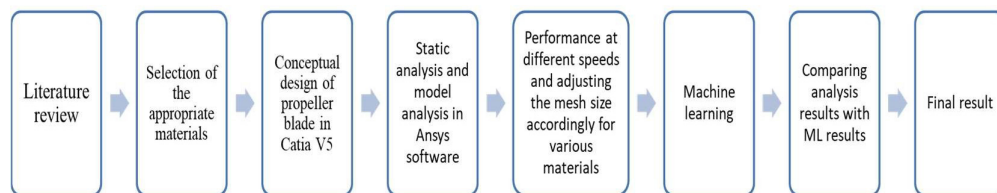


Figure No.3.1 Methodology flowchart

### 3.1 Selection of the appropriate materials

Selecting the appropriate material for composite propeller blades involves considering factors like strength, weight, fatigue resistance, and aerodynamic performance. Materials like carbon fiber are commonly used due to their high strength-to-weight ratio and fatigue resistance. However, other factors such as cost, manufacturing process, and environmental impact also play a role in the selection process. Conducting thorough analysis and testing is crucial to ensure the chosen material meets the specific requirements of the aircraft application.

1. **Strength and Stiffness:** The material must be strong and stiff enough to withstand the loads experienced during operation, including centrifugal forces, aerodynamic loads, and engine torque.
2. **Fatigue Resistance:** Composite materials should have good fatigue properties to withstand the cyclic loading experienced during the propeller's lifespan without developing cracks or failures.
3. **Density and Weight:** Low-density materials help reduce the overall weight of the propeller, which can improve fuel efficiency and performance of the aircraft.
4. **Corrosion Resistance:** Materials should be resistant to corrosion, especially if the propeller will be used in harsh environments or exposed to moisture.
5. **Manufacturability:** Considerations such as ease of manufacturing, compatibility with manufacturing processes (such as filament winding or resin transfer molding), and availability of materials are important factors.
6. **Environmental Impact:** Environmental considerations, such as recyclability and sustainability of materials, are becoming increasingly important in material selection.
7. **Cost:** Material cost, as well as the cost of manufacturing processes and maintenance, should be evaluated to ensure that the chosen material is cost-effective over the lifetime of the propeller.
8. **Aerodynamic Performance:** The material's properties should not adversely affect the aerodynamic performance of the propeller, including factors such as surface smoothness and dimensional stability.

### 3.2 Conceptual design of propeller blades in catia V5

Creating a 3D model of an aircraft propeller blade involves several steps. Designers start by conceptualizing the blade's geometry and aerodynamic profile based on performance requirements. Using CAD software, they create a detailed 3D model of the blade, integrating it with the hub and spinner to ensure proper fit and alignment. Details like blade root fillets and leading-edge protection are added for structural strength and aerodynamic performance. Surface refinement techniques are applied to ensure smoothness and continuity, crucial for minimizing drag and improving efficiency. The model undergoes mesh generation for analysis, including structural and aerodynamic simulations. Analysis results inform optimization iterations to improve performance. Validated designs are documented for manufacturing, providing precise instructions for fabrication. Throughout the lifecycle, designs are iteratively improved based on field performance data and regulatory requirements.

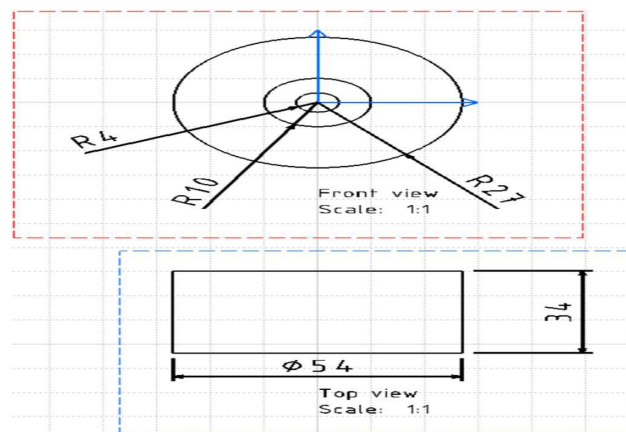


Figure No. 3.2 Design of Hub



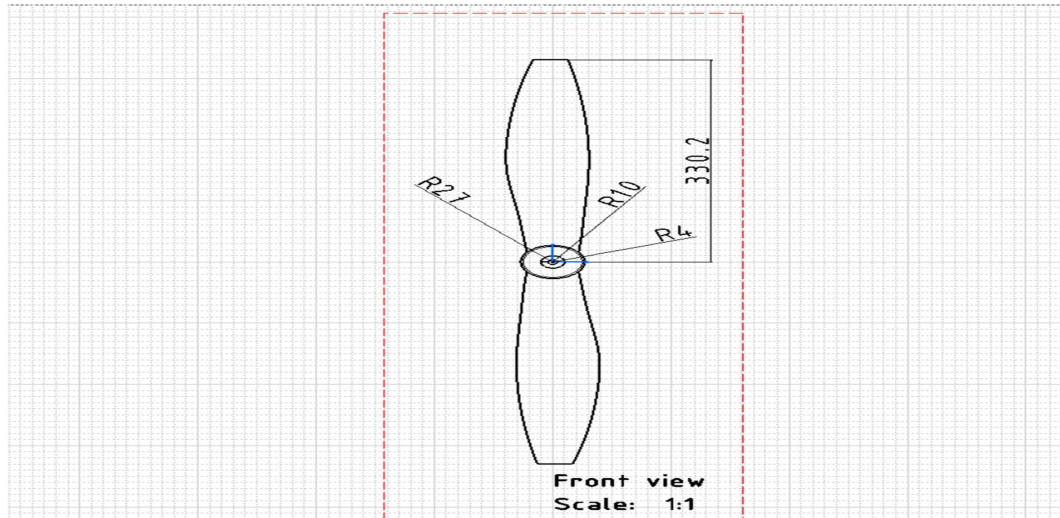


Figure No.3.3 Design of component

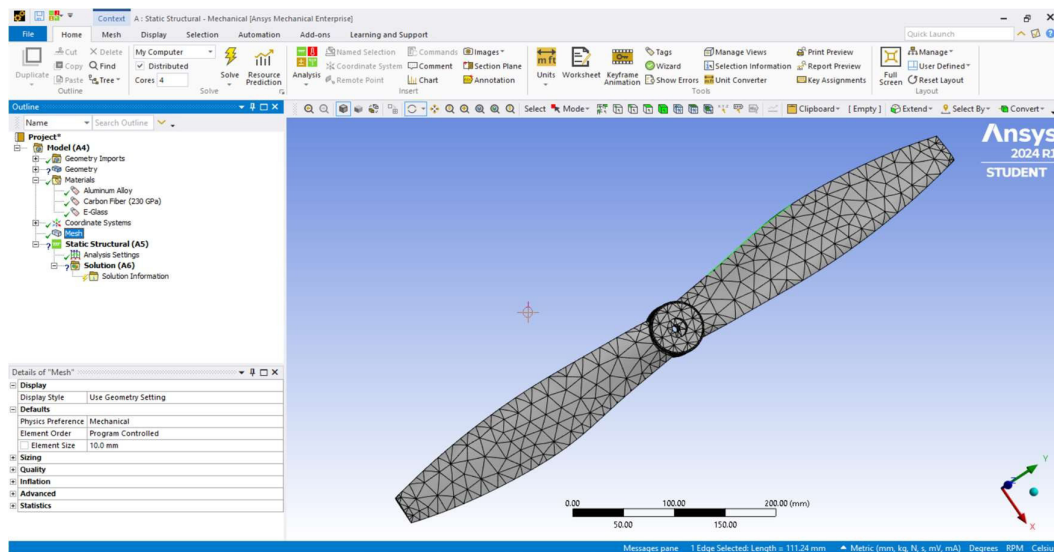
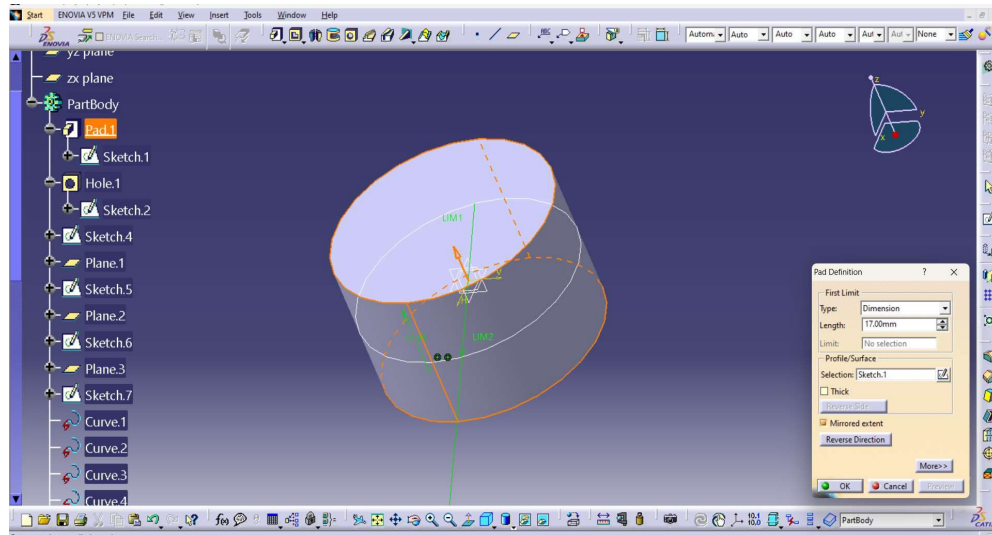


Figure No.3.4 Mesh of propeller blade

## 4.1 DESIGN OF PROPELLER BLADES

### 1. GENERATIVE SHAPE DESIGN:

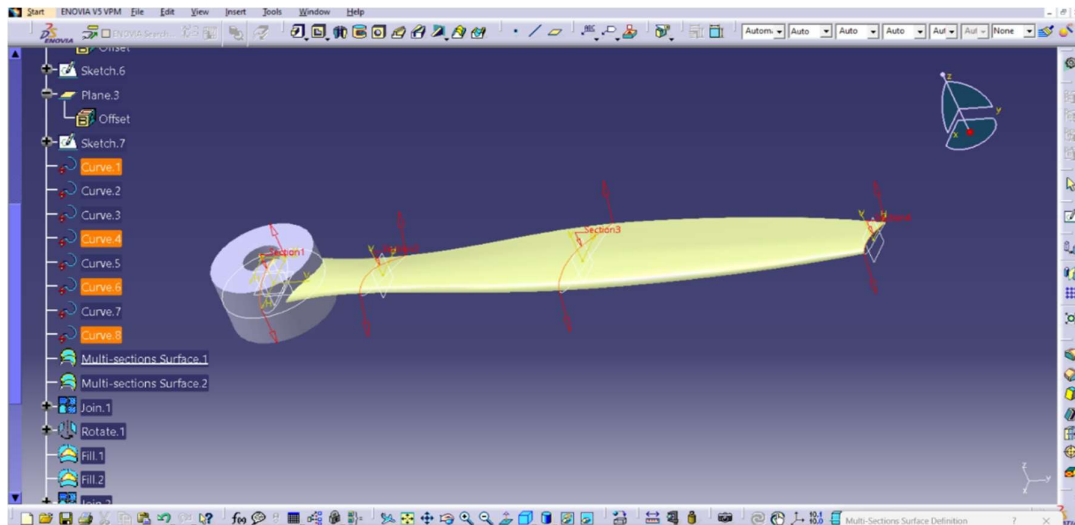
The profile which is generated from the sketcher, is extruded along x-direction for forming a 3D surface for the hub.



FigureNo.4.2Extrusionofhub

## 2. DESIGN OF A PROPELLER BLADE:

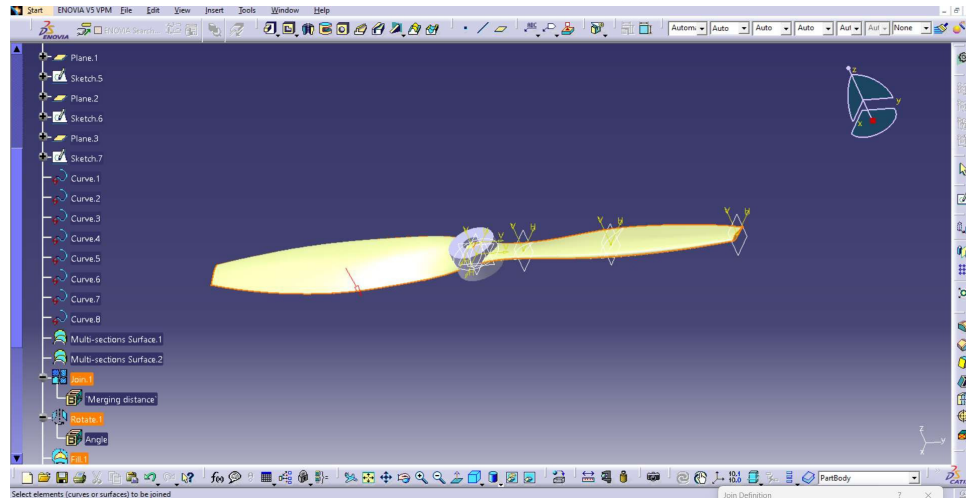
The profile of the propeller blade is generated from the Design data. The surface of the blade is generated by using “FILL” command.



FigureNo.4.3BladeDesign

## 3. REPLICATION OF THE BLADES:

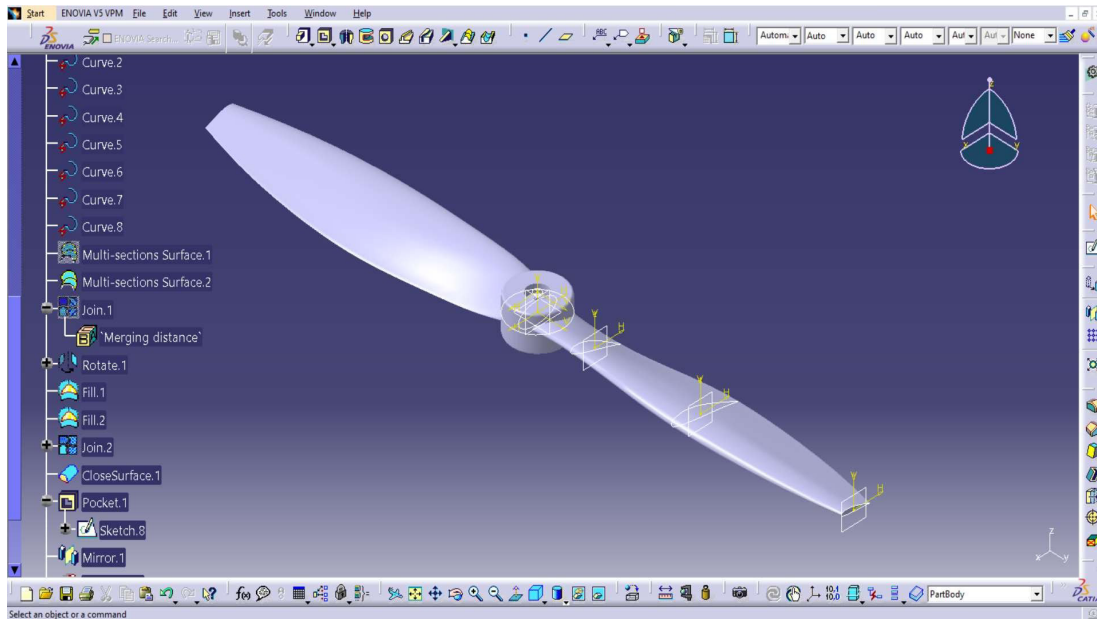
The blade which is generated is replicated along the hub of the propeller by using “CIRCULAR PATTERN” command in Replication toolbar.



FigureNo.4.4Repetitionofblades

#### 4. DRESS-UPFEATURES:

Aftergeneratingsolidsurface,filletisaddedattherootofthepropellerbladesandhub.



FigureNo.4.5Dressupfeatures

**4.1.1 STEPS INVOLVED IN ANALYSIS OF PROPELLER BLADES**

Before beginning the Analysis procedure let us consider the parameters we required for overall project.

MATERIALS	SPEED(rpm)	MESH SIZE(MM)
ALUMINUM ALLOY 7075	7000-9000	10-100
CARBON FIBER	7000-9000	10-100
E-GLASS FIBER	7000-9000	10-100

TABLE 4.2 Required Data

Let us consider speed as 7000 rpm and mesh size as 10 mm parameter to perform the steps of analysis.

**4.1.1.1 EVALUATION OF STATIC ANALYSIS RESULTS**

Material	mesh size(mm)	speed(rpm)	Total deformation (mm)	stress (Mpa)
Aluminium Alloy	10	7000	0.81508	147.83
Aluminium Alloy	15	7100	0.81675	144.94
Aluminium Alloy	20	7200	1.1924	154.02
Aluminium Alloy	25	7300	0.94588	152.54
Aluminium Alloy	30	7400	0.97402	162.47
Aluminium Alloy	35	7500	0.98473	166.27
Aluminium Alloy	40	7600	1.0152	181.08
Aluminium Alloy	45	7700	1.0311	185.11
Aluminium Alloy	50	7800	1.0575	177.83
Aluminium Alloy	55	7900	1.0371	183.6
Aluminium Alloy	60	8000	0.92688	182.42
Aluminium Alloy	65	8100	1.0878	203.46
Aluminium Alloy	70	8200	1.1149	208.51
Aluminium Alloy	75	8300	1.1422	213.63
Aluminium Alloy	80	8400	1.1684	221.41
Aluminium Alloy	85	8500	1.156	226.17
Aluminium Alloy	90	8600	1.1834	231.53
Aluminium Alloy	95	8700	1.211	236.94
Aluminium Alloy	100	8800	0.01239	242.42



AluminiumAlloy	105	8900	1.2674	247.96
AluminiumAlloy	110	9000	1.1204	229.58

Table4.1AluminiumAlloyresults

MATERIAL	SPEED (rpm)	MESH SIZE (mm)	STRESS (Mpa)	TOTAL DEFORMATION (mm)
CARBONFIBER	7000	10	100.13	1.6507
CARBONFIBER	7100	15	97.92	1.69
CARBONFIBER	7200	20	102.23	2.5709
CARBONFIBER	7300	25	100.87	2.0215
CARBONFIBER	7400	30	109.34	2.0405
CARBONFIBER	7500	35	111.2	2.0675
CARBONFIBER	7600	40	121.82	2.1181
CARBONFIBER	7700	45	124.07	2.1498
CARBONFIBER	7800	50	119.54	2.1767
CARBONFIBER	7900	55	122.28	2.1307
CARBONFIBER	8000	60	121.27	1.9046
CARBONFIBER	8100	65	137.13	2.2843
CARBONFIBER	8200	70	140.54	2.3411
CARBONFIBER	8300	75	147.48	2.4567
CARBONFIBER	8400	80	147.42	2.426
CARBONFIBER	8500	85	150.64	2.3968
CARBONFIBER	8600	90	154.2	2.4535
CARBONFIBER	8700	95	157.81	2.5109
CARBONFIBER	8800	100	161.46	2.5689
CARBONFIBER	8900	105	165.15	2.6277
CARBONFIBER	9000	110	152.84	2.3141

Table4.2Carbonfiberresults

MATERIAL	SPEED (rpm)	MESH SIZE (mm)	STRESS(Mpa)	TOTAL DEFORMATION (mm)
EGLASSFIBER	7000	10	140.55	0.74801
EGLASSFIBER	7100	15	138.33	0.77087
EGLASSFIBER	7200	20	146.38	1.1783
EGLASSFIBER	7300	25	145.2	0.90668
EGLASSFIBER	7400	30	154.39	0.90617
EGLASSFIBER	7500	35	157.85	0.918
EGLASSFIBER	7600	40	171.66	0.94749
EGLASSFIBER	7700	45	175.59	0.95959
EGLASSFIBER	7800	50	169.02	0.96636

EGLASSFIBER	7900	55	174.23	0.93466
EGLASSFIBER	8000	60	165.42	0.80908
EGLASSFIBER	8100	65	193.07	0.9990
EGLASSFIBER	8200	70	197.86	1.0239
EGLASSFIBER	8300	75	202.72	1.049
EGLASSFIBER	8400	80	209.34	1.0763
EGLASSFIBER	8500	85	213.87	1.066
EGLASSFIBER	8600	90	218.93	1.0913
EGLASSFIBER	8700	95	224.05	1.1168
EGLASSFIBER	8800	100	229.23	1.1426
EGLASSFIBER	8900	105	234.47	1.1687
EGLASSFIBER	9000	110	219.03	1.0381

Table4.3E-glassfiberresults

#### 4.1.1.2 EVALUATION OF MODAL ANALYSIS RESULTS

FREQUENCIES AND MODE	Aluminium alloy 7075	Carbon Fiber	E-glass Fiber
Freq(HZ)	0	0	0
Mode1	2330	91.403	89.99
Freq(HZ)	89.761	61.986	65.517
Mode2	2845.6	333.34	109.66
Freq(HZ)	95.75	69.89	69.89
Mode3	2865.8	112.14	110.44
Freq(HZ)	373.77	264.6	278.47
Mode4	2755.6	264.6	278.47
Freq(HZ)	626.27	433.5	106.54
Mode5	4037.6	433.5	457.59
Freq(HZ)	641.32	443.88	468.38
Mode6	4102	161.29	158.43

Table4.4Frequenciesresults

## MACHINE LEARNING

### 5.1.1 The process which we follow in ML:

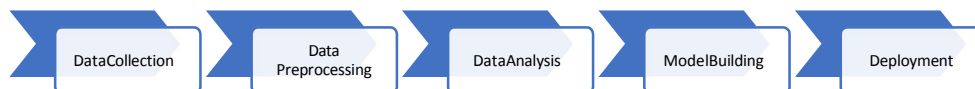


Figure No.5.1 Process of machine learning

## 5.1.2 Implementation of Machine Learning

### 5.1.2.1 Data Collection

The below given parameters we have considered and collected data from ANSYS Software Parameters Present in Data Set

1. **Speed:** It is given to the hub to make propeller blades rotate.
2. **Mesh Size:** Meshing is the process of transforming a morphous shape into "elements".
3. **Stress:** stress is the force acting on the unit area of a material.

SPEED(rpm)	MESH SIZE(mm)	STRESS(Mpa)
7000	10	140.55
7100	15	138.33
7200	20	146.38
7300	25	145.2
7400	30	154.39
7500	35	157.85
7600	40	171.66
7700	45	175.59
7800	50	169.02
7900	55	174.23
8000	60	165.42
8100	65	193.07
8200	70	197.86
8300	75	202.72
8400	80	209.34
8500	85	213.87
8600	90	218.93
8700	95	224.05
8800	100	229.23
8900	105	234.47
9000	110	219.03

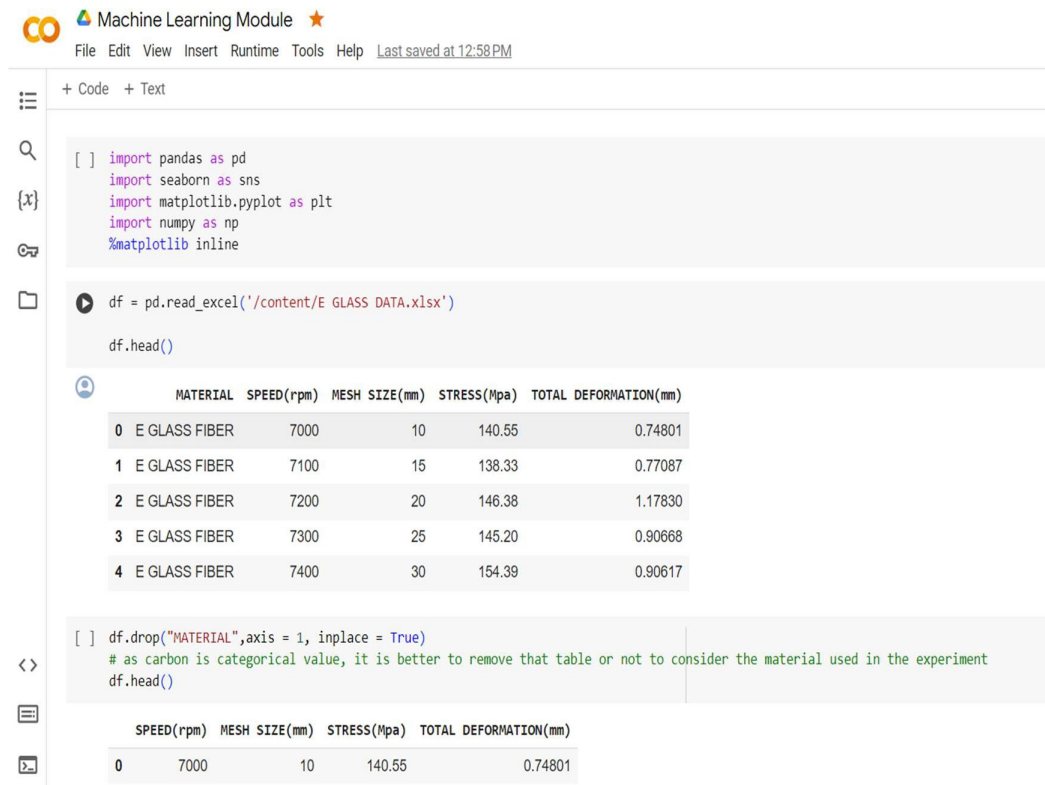
TABLE 5.1 Collection of data

In this, we have to call the function before going to the Prediction

1. **NumPy**-NumPy is a Python Library used for working with arrays.
2. **Pandas**-Python library for data manipulation and analysis.

3. Seaborn-PythonLibraryforVisualization.

4. Matplotlib-ForadvancedVisualization.

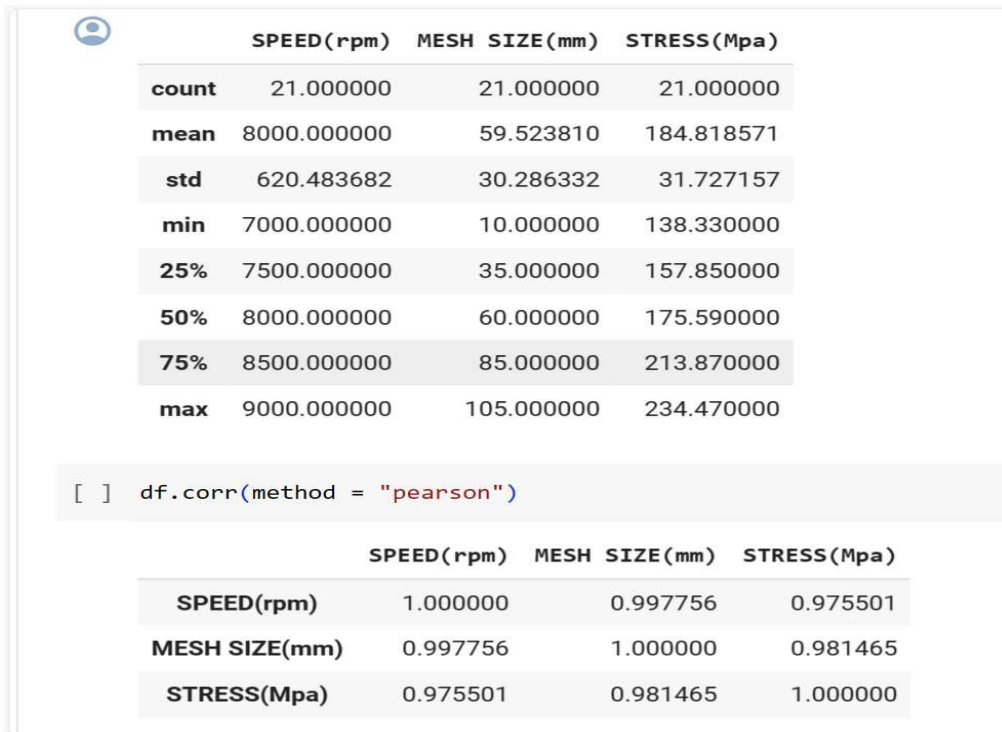


FigureNo.5.2Importingoflibraries.

### 5.1.2.2 DataPreprocessing

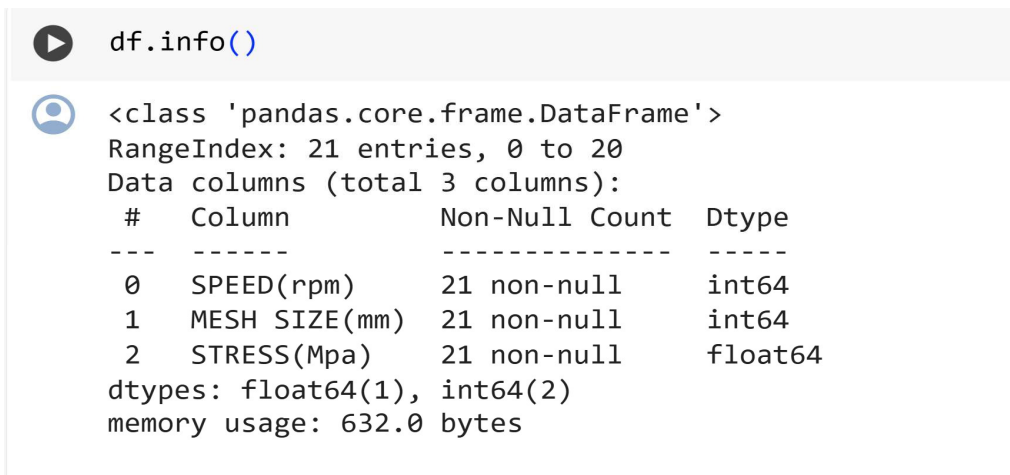
Data preprocessing in machine learning refers to the technique of preparing raw data and making it suitable for building and training machine learning models. It is a crucial step that ensures the data is clean, transformed, and organized in a format suitable for building ML models.

Data Exploration:



FigureNo.5.3 Describing of data

**Insight:** In this code, describes about the count, mean, standard deviation, minimum, 25 percentile, 50 percentile, 75 percentile, maximum value in the variables.



FigureNo.5.4 Checking for Null values

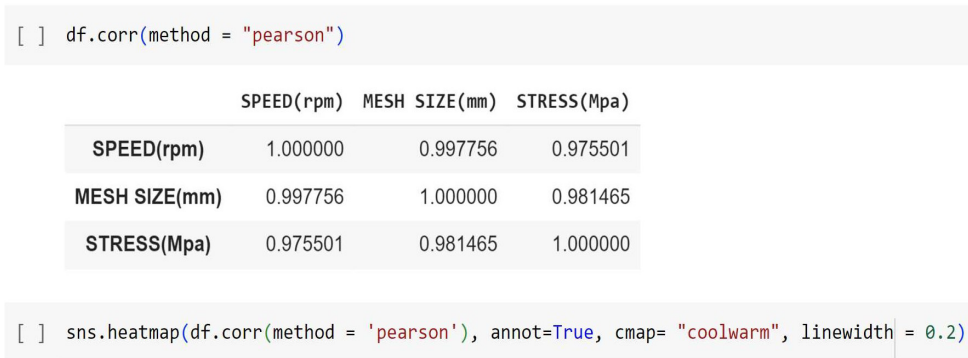
**Insight:** Hence, there are no null values in the dataset, data cleaning is not required.



**CorrelationMatrix:**

Correlation is a statistical measure that describes the relationship between two variables. It indicates how closely the variables are related to each other and the direction of their relationship. Correlation is often expressed as a correlation coefficient, which ranges from -1 to +1. A correlation coefficient of +1 indicates a perfect positive correlation, meaning that as one variable increases, the other variable also increases in a linear fashion. Conversely, a correlation coefficient of -1 represents a perfect negative correlation, where as one variable increases, the other variable decreases in a linear fashion. A correlation coefficient of 0 indicates no correlation between the variables, suggesting that there is no linear relationship between them. It's important to note that correlation does not imply causation. Just because two variables are correlated, it does not necessarily mean that one variable causes the other to change. Correlation only measures the strength and direction of the relationship between the variables.

Correlation can be calculated using various methods, such as the Pearson correlation coefficient, Spearman's rank correlation coefficient, or Kendall's tau coefficient, depending on the nature of the data and the assumptions made. These coefficients provide a numerical value that represents the degree of correlation between the variables.



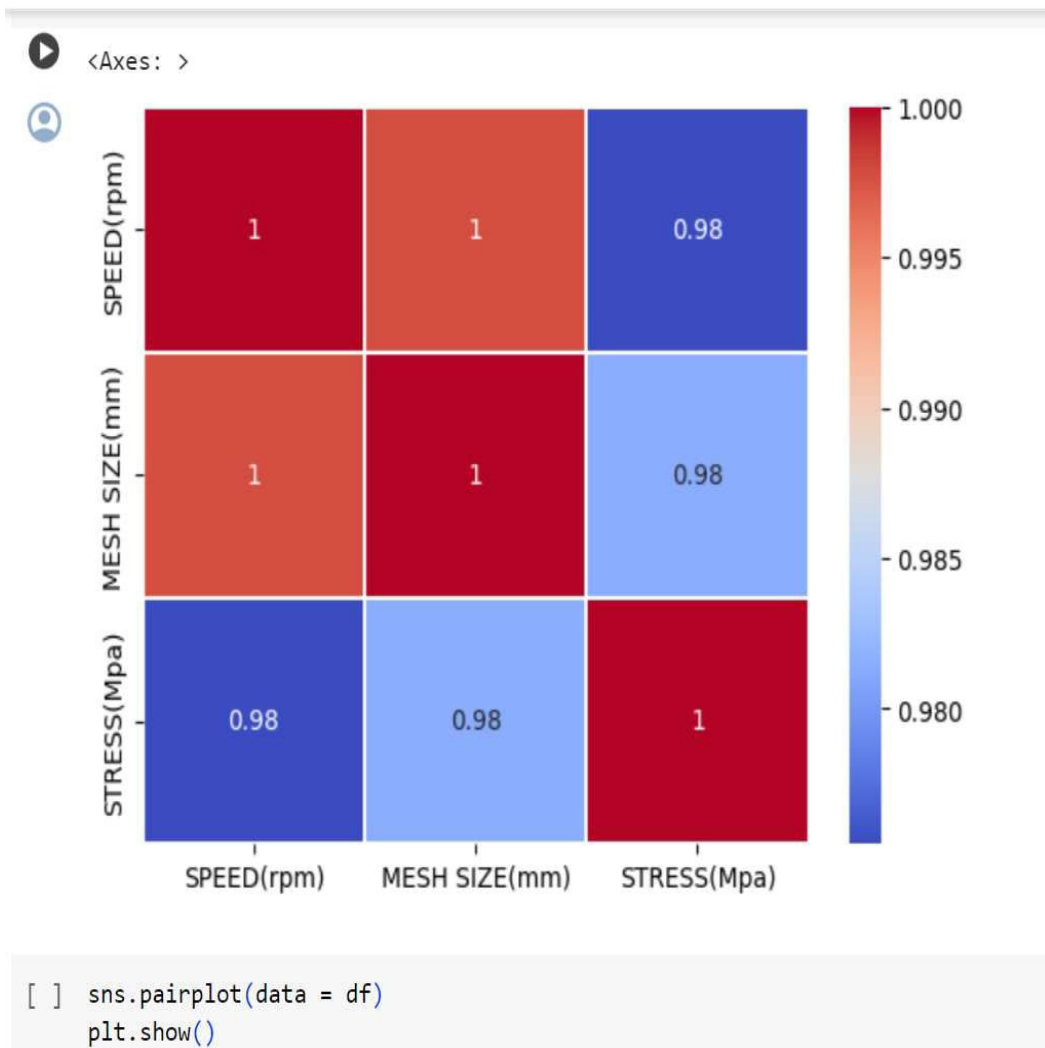
FigureNo.5.5CorelationMatrix

**Insight:** There is strong negative correlation between the Total Deformation and Diameter i.e., -0.86

## HEATMAP

A heatmap is a graphical representation of data where the values of a matrix are represented as colours. It is a useful visualization tool for understanding patterns and relationships within a dataset, especially when dealing with large amounts of data.

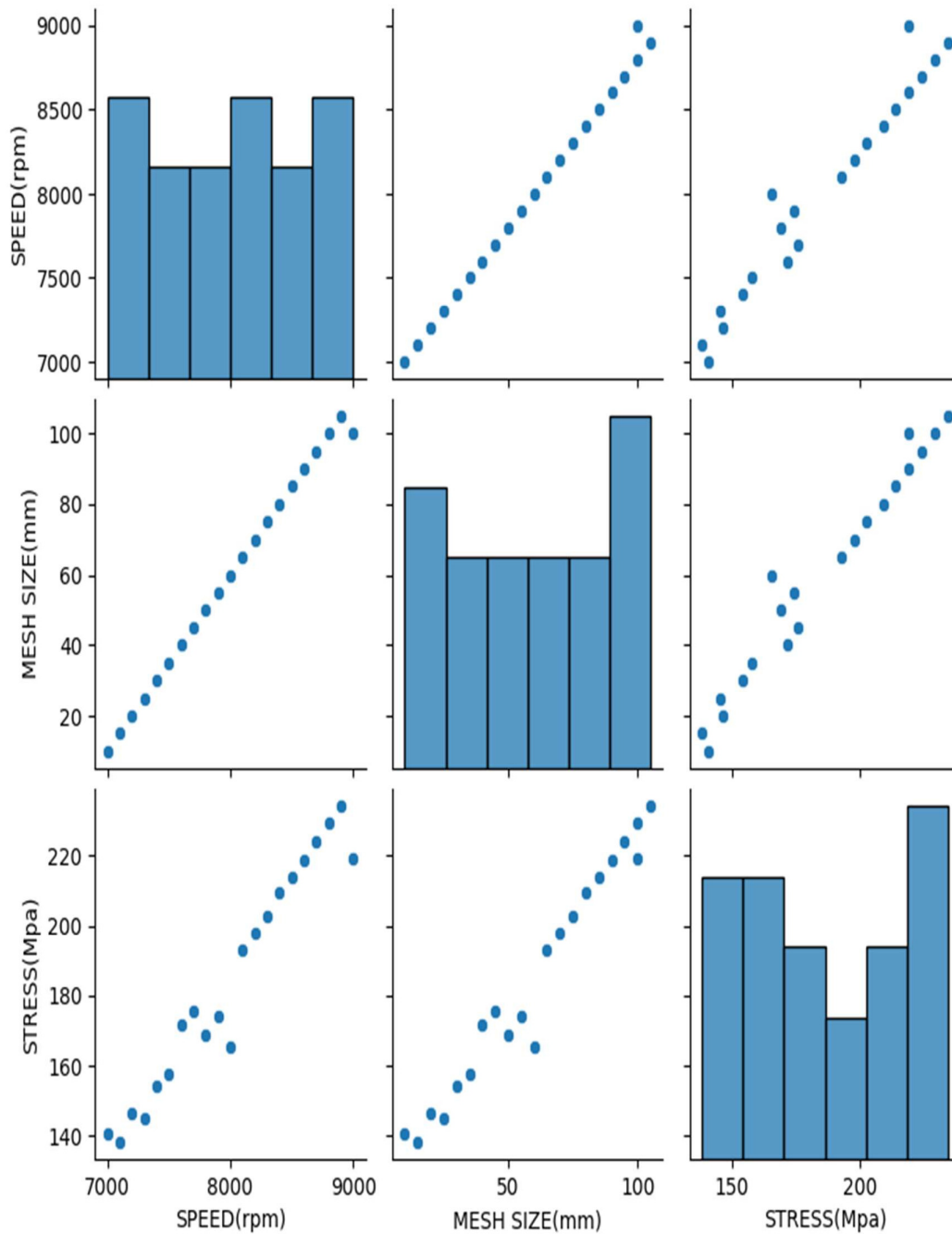
In a heatmap, each cell of the matrix is assigned a colour based on its value. Typically, a colour gradient is used to indicate the magnitude of the values, with lighter colours representing higher values and darker colours representing lower values. This colour mapping allows patterns and trends to be easily identified.



FigureNo.5.6CorrelationHeatMap

**Insight:** There is strong negative correlation between the Total Deformation and Diameter i.e., - 0.86

**Pairplot:**



FigureNo.5.7PairPlot

## RESULTS:

- The decision tree exhibits the lowest mean absolute error at 0.0098.
- The decision tree has the smallest mean square error at 0.0001.

## CONCLUSION

The proposed study aims to explore the mechanical properties and structural behaviour of a Propeller blade design using three distinct materials: carbon fiber, E-glass and aluminium alloy 7075. Through the use of CATIA V5 for design and Ansys R21 for analysis, the research will provide a comprehensive evaluation of static structural analysis and modal analysis, focusing on the impact of fixed loads and natural frequencies across the various materials.

In conducting this analysis, we expect to uncover key insights into the mechanical characteristics of each material when applied to the aircraft propeller blade. Specifically, we will assess their capacity to withstand different loads and their natural frequency response, which will help us determine which materials offer optimal performance for specific applications.

This study has broader implications for the use of in real-world engineering contexts. By comparing, we aim to establish a comprehensive understanding of each material's effectiveness in creating robust and adaptable Design propeller blade, paving the way for future developments in aerospace engineering and design.

It was concluded that Decision Tree algorithm is the best machine learning algorithm which is predicting the total Stress with minimum error.

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