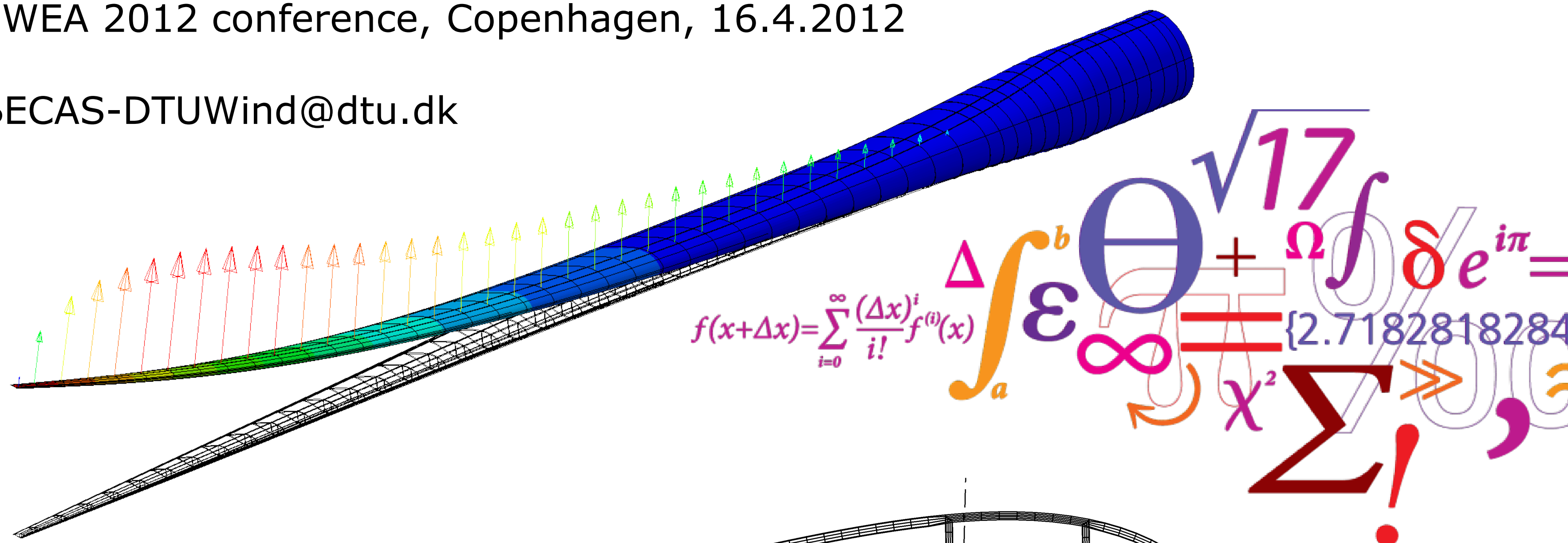
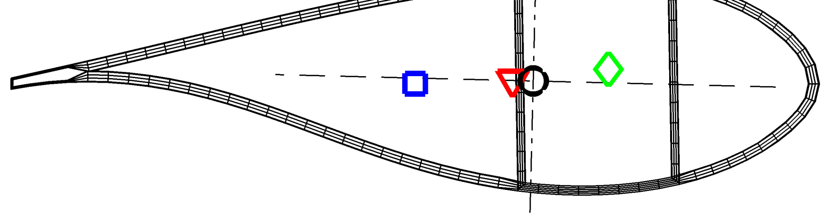
BECAS -
an Open-Source Cross Section Analysis Tool

José P. Blasques and Robert D. Bitsche

Presented at DTU Wind Energy stand at the
EWEA 2012 conference, Copenhagen, 16.4.2012

BECAS-DTUWind@dtu.dk

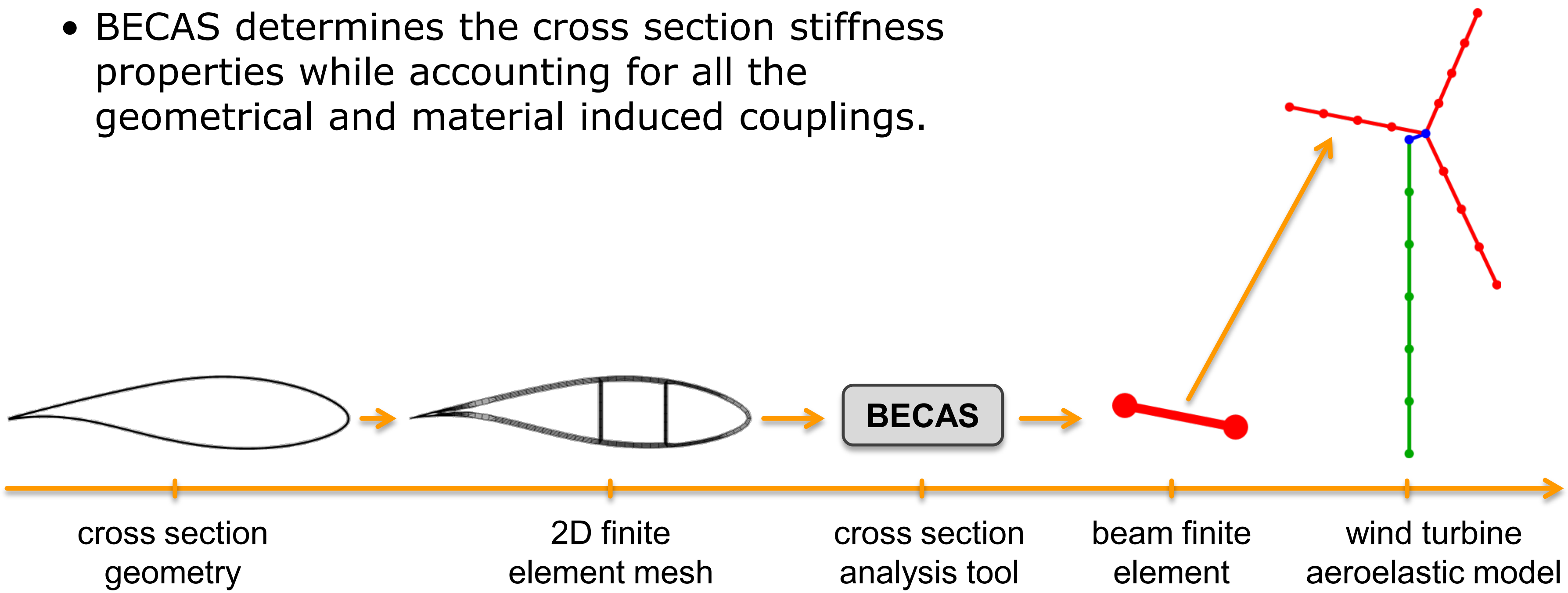




DTU Wind Energy
Department of Wind Energy

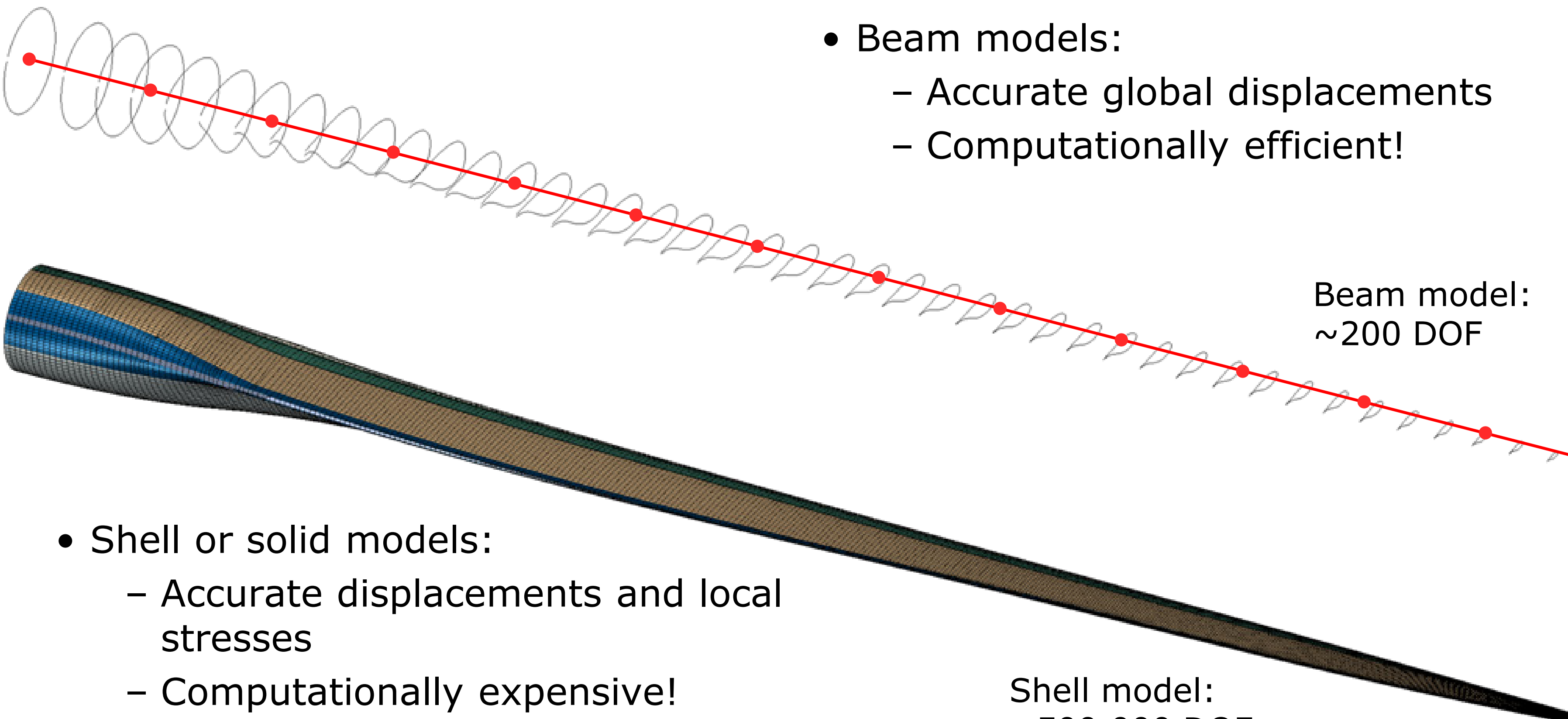
Motivation & Overview

- Wind turbine aeroelastic codes are commonly based on beam theory.
- The development of beam models which accurately describe the behavior of the blades is challenging, as modern wind turbine blades feature complex geometry and a mix of different anisotropic materials.
- BECAS is a general purpose cross section analysis tool specifically developed for these types of applications.
- BECAS determines the cross section stiffness properties while accounting for all the geometrical and material induced couplings.



Why Beam Models?

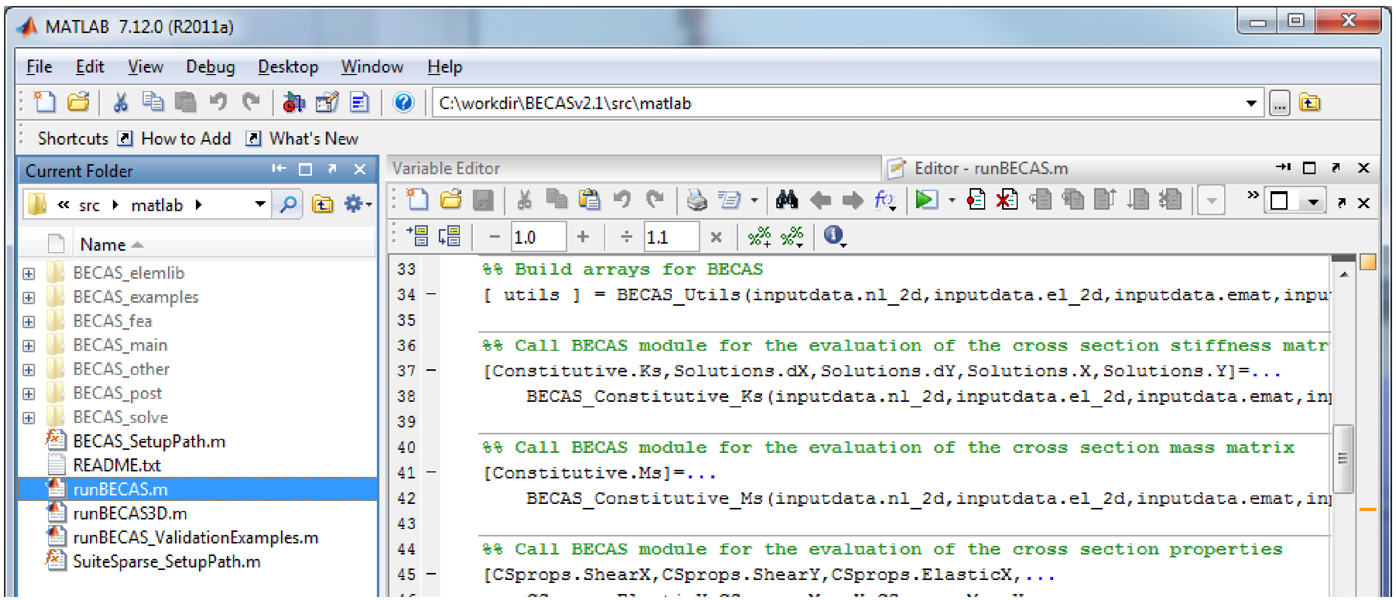
- Beam models:
  - Accurate global displacements
  - Computationally efficient!



- Shell or solid models:
  - Accurate displacements and local stresses
  - Computationally expensive!

Theory

- BECAS is based on the theory originally presented by Giavotto et al.[(1)]
- It was implemented as a set of Matlab® functions by José P. Blasques[(2)].



(1) Giavotto V., Borri M., Mantegazza P., Ghiringhelli G., Carmaschi V., Maffiolu G.C., Mussi F., *Anisotropic beam theory and applications*, Composite Structures, (16)1-4, 403-413, 1983

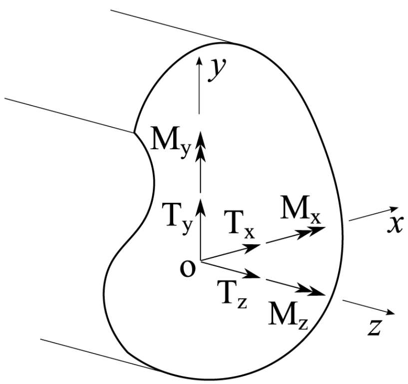
(2) Blasques J. P., User's Manual for BECAS v2.0 - A cross section analysis tool for anisotropic and inhomogeneous beam sections of arbitrary geometry, DTU-RISØ, Technical Report RISØ-R 1785, 2011

Theory

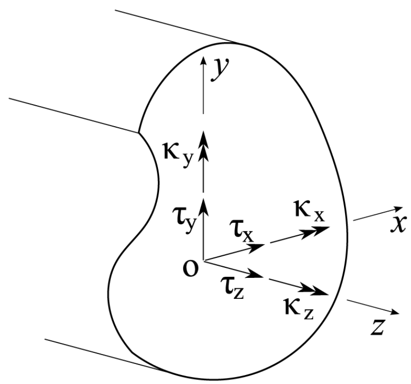
For a linear elastic beam there exists a linear relation between the vector of cross section forces and moments $\boldsymbol{\theta}$, and the resulting strains and curvatures $\boldsymbol{\psi}$:

$$\boldsymbol{\theta} = \mathbf{K}\boldsymbol{\psi}$$

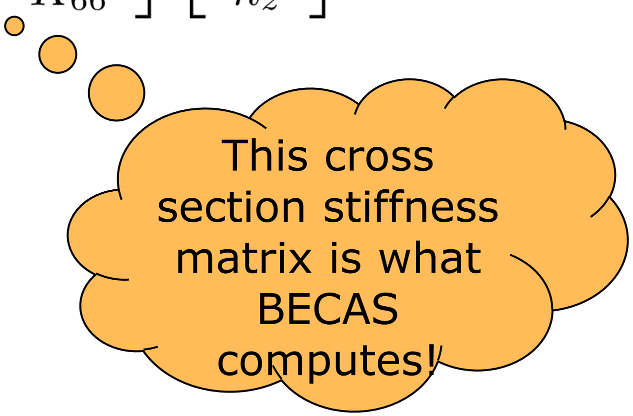
$$\begin{bmatrix} T_x \\ T_y \\ T_z \\ M_x \\ M_y \\ M_z \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} K_{11} & K_{12} & K_{13} & K_{14} & K_{15} & K_{16} \\ K_{21} & K_{22} & K_{23} & K_{24} & K_{25} & K_{26} \\ K_{31} & K_{32} & K_{33} & K_{34} & K_{35} & K_{36} \\ K_{41} & K_{42} & K_{43} & K_{44} & K_{45} & K_{46} \\ K_{51} & K_{52} & K_{53} & K_{54} & K_{55} & K_{56} \\ K_{61} & K_{62} & K_{63} & K_{64} & K_{65} & K_{66} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \tau_x \\ \tau_y \\ \tau_z \\ \kappa_x \\ \kappa_y \\ \kappa_z \end{bmatrix}$$



(a) Forces and moments

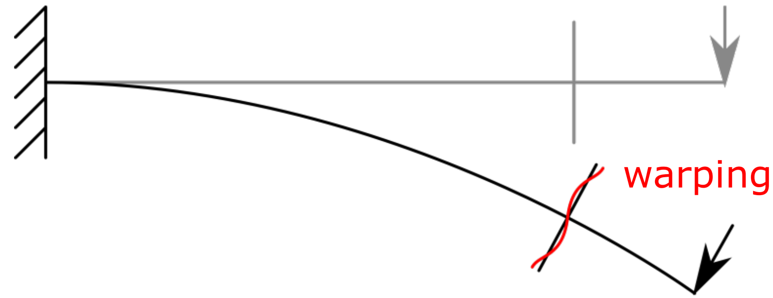


(b) Strains and curvatures

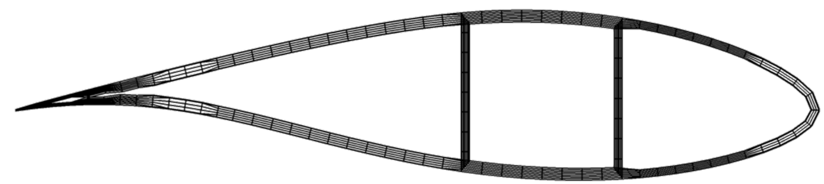


Theory

- It is assumed that the cross section deformation is defined by a superimposition of the rigid body motions and warping deformations.
- The cross section is discretized using two dimensional finite elements to interpolate the 3D warping deformations.
- Application of the principle of virtual work yields the finite element form of the cross section equilibrium equations.
- These equations allow to determine the resulting vector of strains and curvatures for a given vector of cross section forces and moments.
- If 6 vectors of strains and curvatures are determined for 6 ”unit loads”, the 6x6 cross section stiffness matrix K can be determined.



2D finite element mesh



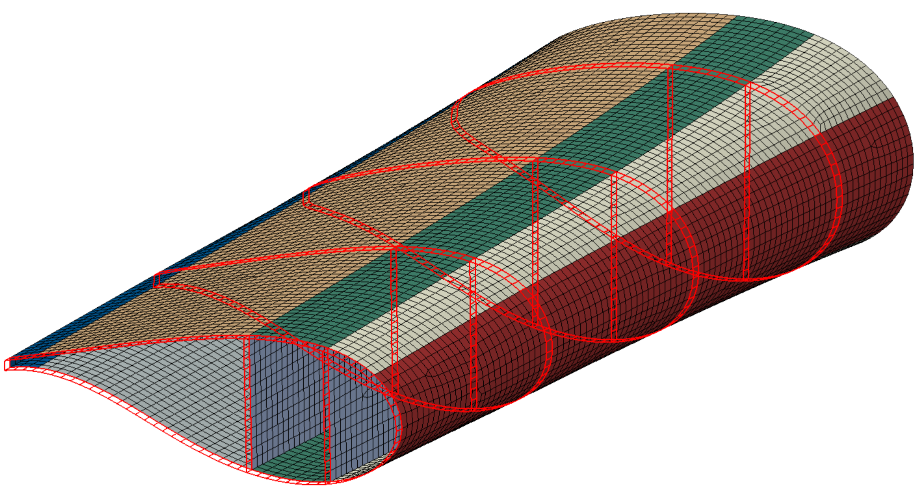
cross section equilibrium equations

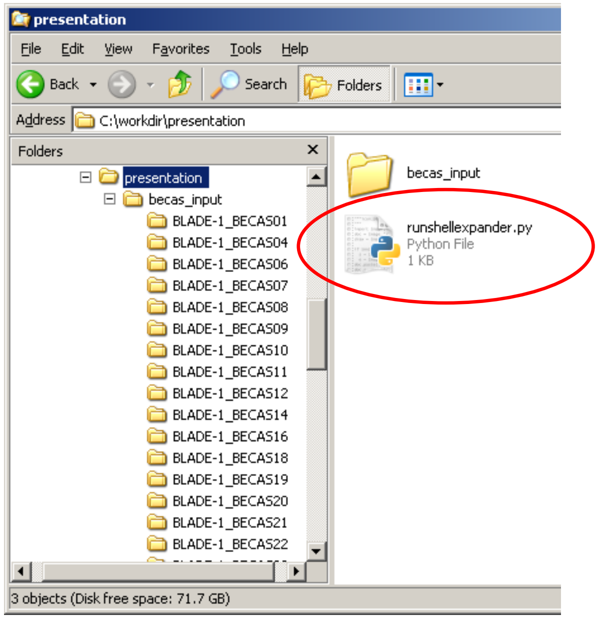
$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{E}\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} + \mathbf{R}\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\psi}}{\partial z} = 0 \\ \mathbf{R}^T\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} + \mathbf{A}\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\psi}}{\partial z} = \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\theta}}{\partial z} \end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{E}\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{R}\boldsymbol{\psi} = \left(\mathbf{C} - \mathbf{C}^T\right)\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} + \mathbf{L}\frac{\partial \boldsymbol{\psi}}{\partial z} \\ \mathbf{R}^T\mathbf{u} + \mathbf{A}\boldsymbol{\psi} = -\mathbf{L}^T\frac{\partial \mathbf{u}}{\partial z} + \boldsymbol{\theta} \end{cases}$$

Example: Analysis of a Wind Turbine Blade

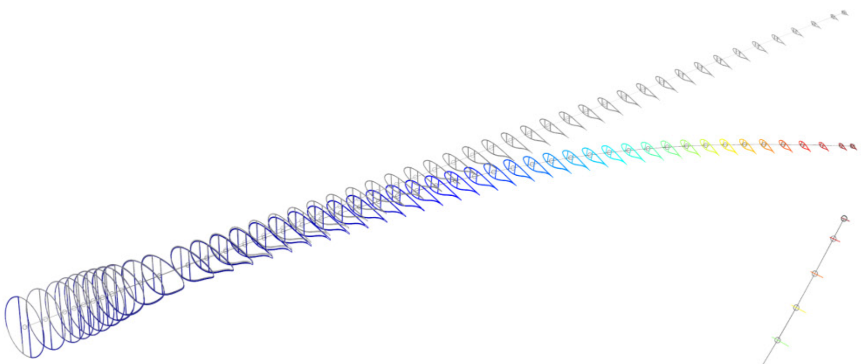
finite element shell model → shellexpander (python program) → BECAS input files → **BECAS** → cross section stiffness matrices → finite element beam model



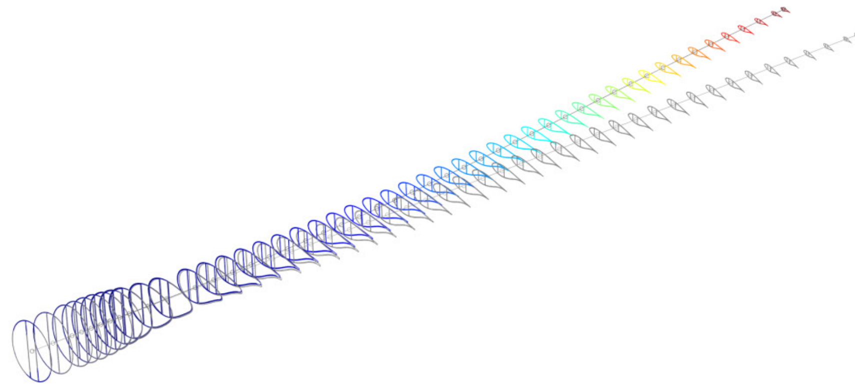


Example: Analysis of a Wind Turbine Blade

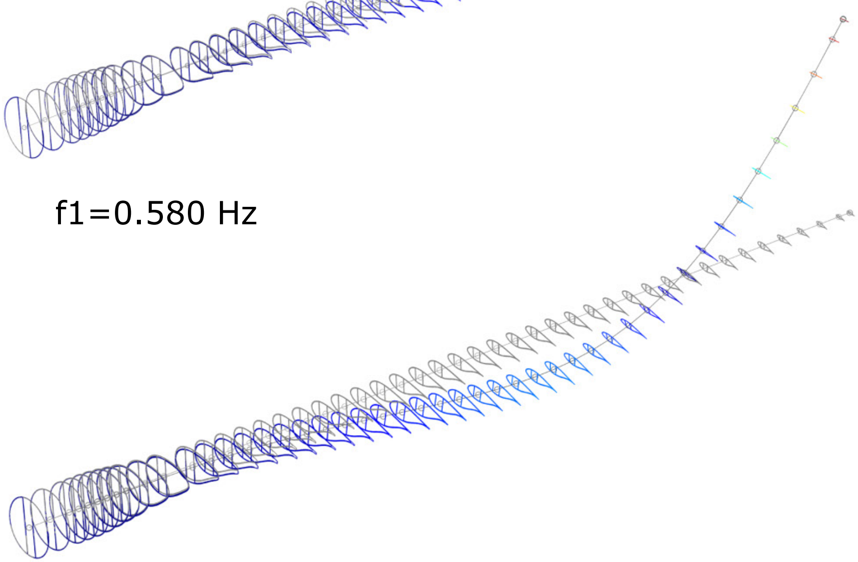
- Eigenfrequencies obtained from the BECAS-based beam model match the results from the original finite element shell model.



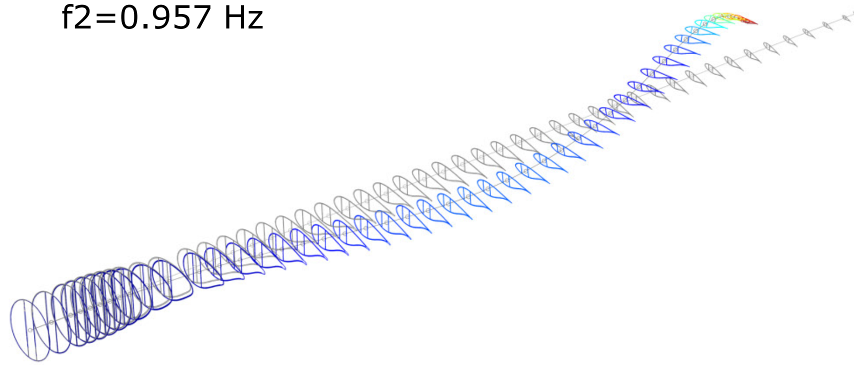
f1=0.580 Hz



f2=0.957 Hz



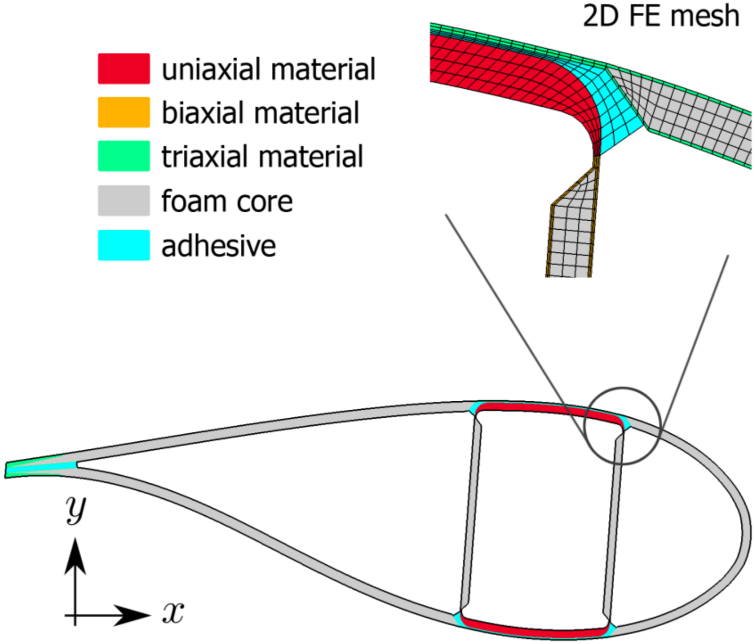
f3=1.640 Hz

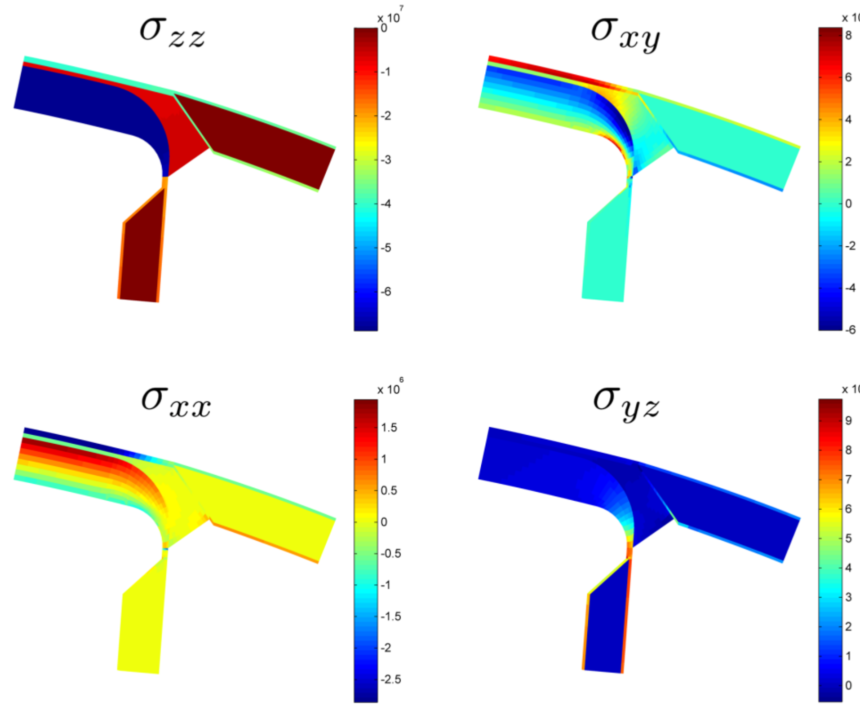


f4=3.080 Hz

Outlook: Stress Recovery

- The cross section forces and moments coming from a beam model can be used to compute the local 3D stresses for each cross section.

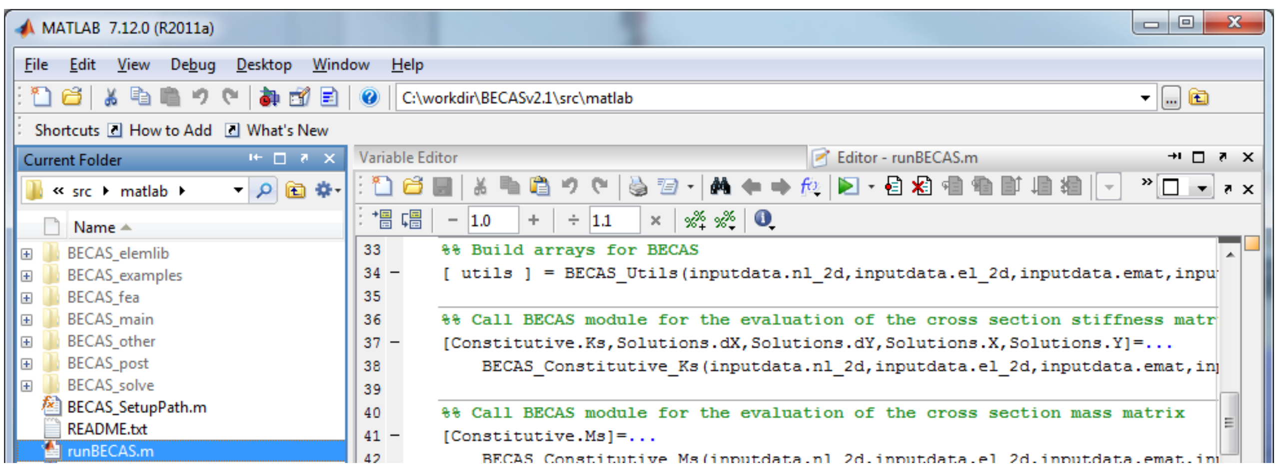




- In the process of being validated.
- Will be part of a future release of BECAS.

Why choose BECAS?

- Many other cross section analysis tools are available – why choose BECAS?
  - BECAS is distributed as Matlab® source code.
  - Alternatively it is available as a compiled version, which does not require a Matlab license.
  - The license is free of charge for academic use.
  - BECAS has been validated extensively and comes with a comprehensive user's manual.
  - BECAS is fast, when used with the free SuiteSparse package.
  - Integrated with HAWC2



Thank you.

Further information?
Mail: BECAS-DTUWind@dtu.dk