Special Issue

Active Flutter Suppression and Gust Load Alleviation

Message from the Guest Editors

Lighter and higher-aspect-ratio wings are currently being developed with the objective of fuel consumption reduction. This will result in less-stable aircraft configurations from the aeroelastic point of view. To counteract these effects, active flutter suppression (AFS) systems need to be implemented, and have shown to be an effective method to reduce or avoid flutter problems. When AFS is included from the beginning of the aircraft design process, more efficient airframes can result. These aircrafts are also more vulnerable to loads caused by maneuvers and gusts. Gust load alleviation (GLA) systems improve the overall efficiency of the aircraft by reducing wing weight and decreasing the wing loads during maneuvers and airflow turbulence, thus increasing the importance of the GLA design. Thereby, GLA can extend the safety margins of the flight envelope and provides better flying qualities.

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