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# Design Studies of Swept Wind Turbine Blades

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## Abstract

The growth of wind energy is sustained by innovation that lowers the cost of energy. One recent innovation is the swept blade, which deflects in operation and lowers loads. With sweep, a design rotor diameter can increase, capturing more power, with the loads remaining within limits. This concept has been demonstrated in a U.S. program and is in commercial production. This paper describes a parametric study of swept blade design parameters for a 750 kW machine. The amount of tip sweep had the largest effect on the energy production and blade loads; other parameters had less impact. The authors then conducted a design study to implement a swept design on 1.5 MW, 3 MW, and 5 MW turbines. An aeroelastic code, previously described, was developed to model the behavior and determine the loads of the swept blade. The design goal was to increase annual energy production 5% over the straight blade, without increasing blade loads. Successful designs were developed for the 1.5 MW and 3.0 MW turbines. The swept 5 MW turbine exhibited a twist instability at high wind speeds. Further study is required

to determine if sweep can be implemented for larger turbines, which are approaching flutter boundaries in unswept designs.

*Keywords:*

Wind energy, rotor blades, sweep, passive load control

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# 1. Background

## 1.1. Introduction

Given the static policy environment, lowering the cost of energy (COE) is the primary means for continued growth of the wind energy industry. One method for lowering the COE is to increase the rotor diameter to capture more power; however, the loads on the blades and turbine increase. Turbine components must be strengthened to withstand the increased loads, raising costs. There are several methods to lower the loads on blades, and they fall into two categories: active and passive load control.

Active load controls implies that energy (actuation) be provided to control load. Active methods include individual pitch control [1], and active aerodynamic control [2][3]. The disadvantages with active control are added complexity, potential reliability problems, and added power requirements.

Passive load control implies that the system acts in a manner which reduces loads when disturbed. Two examples are bend-twist coupling [4] and blade sweep. With all methods, the rotor diameter can be increased given the same load envelope as a baseline design.

A swept blade is more complex to manufacture and increases cost; however, the cost of energy overall is lowered because more power is produced. The loads are reduced because in turbulent winds the blade tip twists and lowers the aerodynamic forces (passive load control). Figure 1 illustrates the concept, with the tip of the loaded blade (dashed line) twisting counter-clockwise, lowering its angle of attack which lowers the aerodynamic forces.

Liebst [5] and Zuteck [6] proposed using swept blades on wind turbines for passive load control. Liebst analyzed a model of a 10 kW turbine with swept

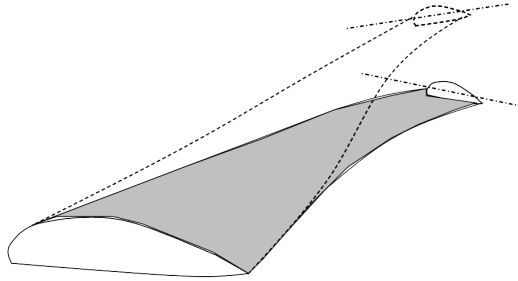


Figure 1: Swept blade concept: solid line represents unloaded, dashed line represents loaded with tip twisting

26 blades. His objective was to lower the loads for a given rotor diameter. The  
27 analysis showed that lowering the torsional rigidity (flexibility in twist) of  
28 the blade would be necessary for effective load relief. Zuteck proposed sweep  
29 as an alternative to bend-twist coupling, and conducted design studies with  
30 sweep on a 1 MW wind turbine. He also found that lowering the torsional  
31 stiffness would be necessary to obtain sufficient twisting; on the order of  $5^\circ$ .  
32 He also proposed increasing the rotor diameter to lower the cost of energy.

33 As a follow-on to Zuteck's work, a team led by Knight & Carver produced  
34 the STAR (swept-twist adaptive rotor) [7] for a U.S. Department of Energy  
35 program. The STAR program included the design and manufacture of a  
36 swept blade rotor with increased diameter for a 750 kW turbine. Two blades  
37 were constructed for laboratory tests, and a complete rotor set was installed  
38 on a Zond Z-48 turbine in Tehachapi, California, as shown in Fig. 2. The  
39 STAR turbine showed a 12% increase in energy capture over similar turbines  
40 in the wind plant. The measured loads on the STAR turbine were below the  
41 design loads for the Z-48 turbines, and were similar to loads measured on  
42 Z-48 turbines at other wind plants.



Figure 2: STAR swept blade rotor in Tehachapi, CA 2008 (photo by H. Shiu)

43 Verelst and Larsen [8] described parametric modeling of swept blades on  
44 a 5 MW turbine with 120 variations in the sweep parameters. Their study  
45 included forward sweep of the blades. They found load benefits in backward  
46 swept blades but instabilities in forward swept blades. Siemens started large  
47 scale production on 53 m swept blades (with the name Aeroelastic Tailored  
48 Blade) for a 3 MW turbine in 2012.

49 The current work is an extension of the lead author's dissertation [9]. For  
50 this work, the authors performed a parametric study of swept blade design  
51 parameters for the STAR blade. The results show that amount of tip sweep  
52 is the most sensitive parameter for load reduction. The authors used this  
53 information to design swept blades for 1.5 MW, 3.0 MW and 5.0 MW wind  
54 turbines. The design goal was to increase annual energy production (AEP)  
55 by 5% over a baseline straight blade and lower the lifetime flapwise bending  
56 loads (Fig. 1 shows the blade in flapwise bending). The 1.5 MW and 3 MW  
57 designs show successful increase in AEP and lowering of flap bending loads.

58 The swept 5 MW turbine exhibited a twist instability at high wind speeds.  
59 Further study is required to determine if sweep can be implemented for larger  
60 turbines, which are approaching flutter boundaries in unswept designs.

61 **2. Methods**

62 Figure 3 shows the blade sweep parameters for this analysis. The sweep  
 63 curve starts a specified distance along a blade, at about 40% of the radius  
 64 for the STAR blade [7]. The authors expected that sweeping the entire blade  
 65 increases manufacturing complexity with no benefit. The tip sweep is the  
 66 distance from the pitch axis of the blade (about which the entire blade rotates  
 67 while being pitched) to the sweep curve. The sweep curve as established by  
 68 Zuteck in the STAR program was:

$$y = d_{tip} \left( \frac{x - x_{start}}{L_{blade} - x_{start}} \right)^\gamma \quad (1)$$

69 where  $y$  is the local distance from the pitch axis to the sweep curve,  $d_{tip}$  is the  
 70 distance from the pitch axis to the sweep curve at the blade tip,  $x$  is the local  
 71 distance along the blade measured from the blade root,  $x_{start}$  is the position  
 72 of the beginning of the blade sweep,  $L_{blade}$  is the length of the blade, and  $\gamma$   
 73 is the sweep exponent. Another design parameter is the torsional stiffness,  
 74 which is a measure of the twisting flexibility of the blade about the elastic  
 75 axis.

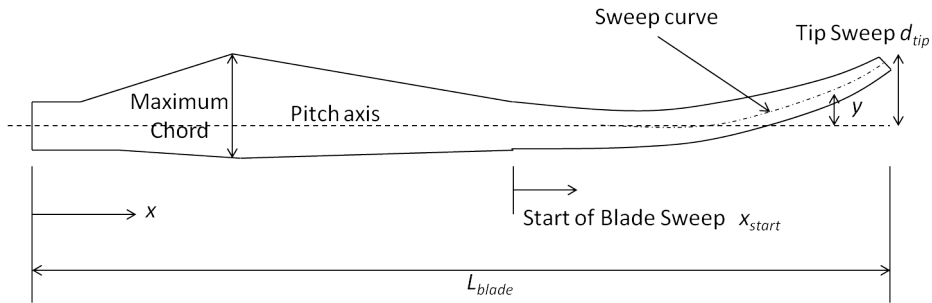


Figure 3: Swept blade parameters



76 For the swept blade analysis, the authors used CurveFAST, which is an  
77 extension of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s (NREL) FAST [10]  
78 wind turbine analysis code. CurveFAST models the swept blade motions and  
79 aerodynamics (aeroelastic modeling) under turbulent wind conditions.

80 The blade model allows for four mode shapes, which are the blade  
81 shapes when vibrating at the particular mode’s natural frequency. Figure 1 is  
82 an example of the first mode shape, which is mostly flap bending in addition  
83 to twisting. The three other mode shapes are called first edge bending, second  
84 flap bending, and first torsion. Edge bending is mostly in-plane motion,  
85 tranverse to that shown in Fig. 1. The mode shapes are determined by a  
86 finite element code called CurveFEM, which models the blade under rotation.  
87 These mode shapes are then input to CurveFAST.

88 Larwood and van Dam [11] report on verification and validation of Curve-  
89 FAST. ‘Verification’ is defined as comparison with results from other software  
90 programs/solutions (are the equations solved correctly), and ‘validation’ is  
91 defined as comparison to test data (are the correct equations being used).  
92 The verification used the multi-body code Adams<sup>TM</sup> and showed agreement  
93 to within 5% on power, flap bending, and edge bending loads. Validation  
94 with field test results were inconclusive due to uncertainties in the wind speed  
95 measurements and the turbine controller.

96 The current design study includes modeling that is similar to the normal  
97 turbulence model (NTM) for the IEC (International Electrotechnical Com-  
98 mission) 61400-1 Design Requirements for Wind Turbines [12]. Each model  
99 run was a 10-minute turbulent simulation, which had a nominal 10 minute  
100 average wind speed varying from 3 m/s to 25 m/s in 2 m/s steps. The NREL

101 program TurbSim [13] generated the wind files with the Kaimal spectrum for  
 102 the IECA normal turbulence model. Each wind speed step consisted of five  
 103 ten-minute simulations with the random seed equal to the computer system  
 104 clock. The random seed insures that each wind file will have a different  
 105 times series but same average wind speed and turbulence intensity (wind  
 106 speed standard deviation over average). Each model therefore had 60 runs  
 107 (12 steps with 5 runs each).

108 The annual energy production was then compared amongst models. The  
 109 average power produced at each wind speed step (e.g. 7 m/s) is multiplied  
 110 by the number of hours per year at the particular wind speed. The hours  
 111 per year are determined from the Rayleigh probability distribution:

$$F(V) = 1 - \exp\left(-\frac{\pi}{4} \left(\frac{V}{V_{ave}}\right)^2\right), \quad (2)$$

112 where  $F(V)$  is the frequency that the velocity  $V$  or lower will occur, and  
 113  $V_{ave}$  is the average wind speed of the distribution. An annual average wind  
 114 speed of 8.5 m/s was used, which corresponds to IEC class II. From the lead  
 115 author's experience in the industry, most of the wind turbine sales in the  
 116 U.S. are for this class. The number of hours per year at wind speed  $V_i$  is  
 117 from:

$$\text{Hours at wind speed } V_i = 8760(F(V_i) - F(V_{i-1})), \quad (3)$$

118 with the calculation initiated at:

$$V_{i-1} = V_i - 1 \text{ m/s} \quad (4)$$

119 The total sum of these kilowatt-hours is the annual energy production.  
 120 Figure 4 shows the Rayleigh distribution for and 8.5 m/s average wind speed  
 121 along with the power curve for 1.5 MW wind turbine.

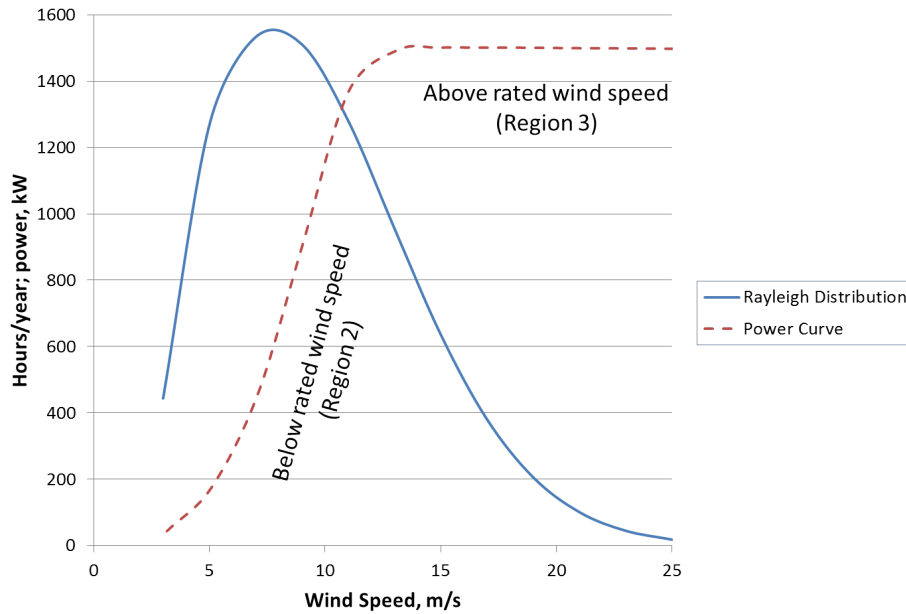


Figure 4: Rayleigh wind speed distribution along with power curve for 1.5 MW wind turbine, showing below rated wind speed (Region 2) and above rated wind speed (Region 3)

122 The loads were also compared amongst models. More specifically, the  
 123 comparison is between the damage equivalent loads (DEL). The damage  
 124 equivalent load is a single number that represent a lifetime of turbine loads.  
 125 A turbine withstands about 100 million load cycles of various amplitudes  
 126 during its lifetime. Figure 5 shows an example 10-minute time series of the  
 127 blade root bending moment in the flap direction. The figure shows several  
 128 load levels at various frequencies.

129 The DEL represents a lifetime of these loads levels and frequencies as a  
 130 single number for a particular number of cycles; one-million for the current  
 131 study. Freebury and Musial [14] and Sutherland [15] discuss this method.

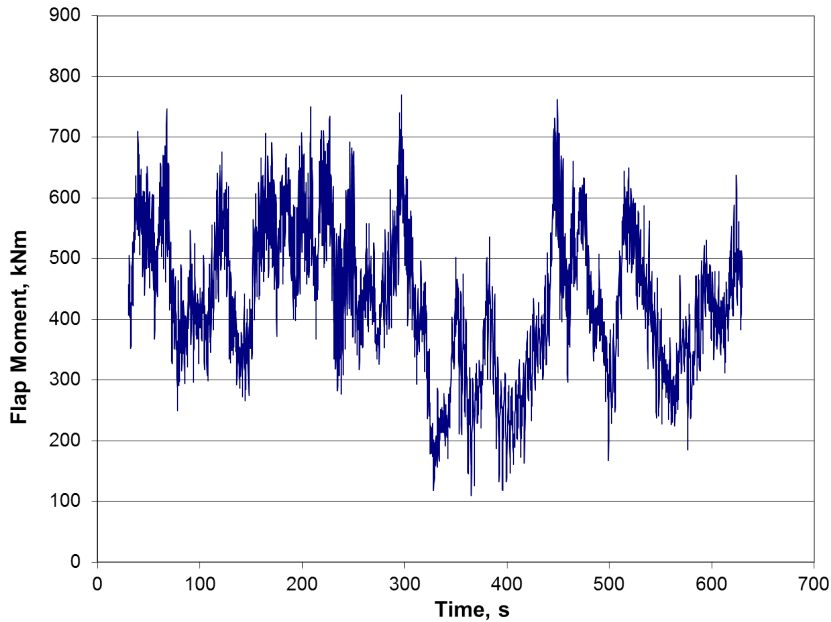


Figure 5: Blade root flap bending for a 750 kW wind turbine

132 Details of the calculation are included in the Appendix Section Appendix A.

133 *2.1. Parametric study*

134 The purpose of the parametric study was to determine the impact of  
 135 the sweep parameters on the energy production and loads. This study later  
 136 informed the decisions made in the scaling study (Sec. 2.2). The study  
 137 was performed using the STAR7d model, which was the final design of the  
 138 STAR program [7], and was used to verify CurveFAST [11]. Section torsional  
 139 stiffness, the sweep exponent, and the tip sweep were varied. Higher sweep  
 140 exponents place more curvature outboard, as shown in Fig. 6. Manufacturing  
 141 is affected by the shape of the sweep curve because the construction materials,  
 142 primarily woven fiberglass sheets, have limits to their curvature. Tip sweep

143 is affected by transportation requirements, and for the STAR program the  
144 tip sweep was limited to the envelope of maximum chord.

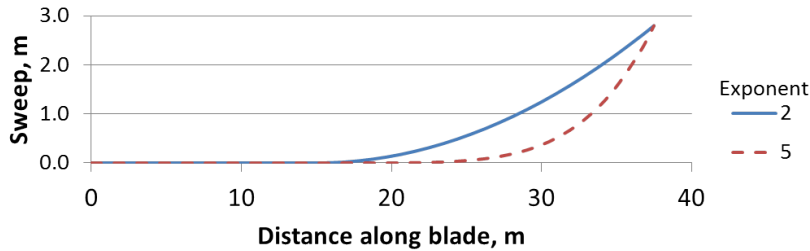


Figure 6: Sweep for a 1.5 MW turbine with two different exponents (note  $y$ -axis scale does not match  $x$ -axis scale)

145 The STAR program team conducted a cursory design study by changing  
146 the sweep parameters individually for an individual load case at rated wind  
147 speed. For the current study, a more thorough investigation was performed  
148 to study the impact on the sweep parameters. The impact on both the  
149 loads and annual energy production was determined. Table 1 shows the  
150 parameters that were varied and by what amount. Each parameter change  
151 was a complete model of 60 runs as mentioned above.

152 In addition to determining the annual energy production and damage  
153 equivalent load, the peak blade tip deflection was determined from the model  
154 runs.

155 To determine the statistical distribution of the runs, the baseline model  
156 was run for five sets of sixty runs. Between the five runs, the standard de-  
157 viations of the outputs were: annual energy production 0.24%, flap-bending  
158 damage equivalent load 2.1%, edge-bending damage equivalent load 0.17%,  
159 and maximum tip deflection 1.69%.

Table 1: Parametric Study

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Percentage from Baseline</b>
Torsional Stiffness	+20%
Torsional Stiffness	-20%
Sweep Exponent	+20%
Sweep Exponent	-20%
Tip Sweep	+15%
Tip Sweep	-15%

160 *2.2. Scaling study*

161 For the scaling study, baseline models of 1.5 MW, 3.0 MW and 5.0 MW  
 162 rating were used. The 1.5 MW and 3.0 MW models originated from the  
 163 WindPACT study [16]. The 1.5 MW is included in the FAST code distribu-  
 164 tion [10]. Craig Hansen, who was involved in the WindPACT study, provided  
 165 the 3.0 MW model data. The 5.0 MW model is described in an NREL report  
 166 [17]. Other researchers use this model, such as Verelst [8]; however Verelst  
 167 did not expand the rotor diameter.

168 The baseline models were run in the same manner as the parametric study  
 169 to obtain annual energy production and damage equivalent loads. Table 2  
 170 shows various model parameters.

171 Blade properties for the 1.5 MW and 3 MW models are included in Ap-  
 172 pendix B. These properties were interpolated from six to twenty blade analy-  
 173 sis stations. Blade properties for the 5 MW model are included in the NREL  
 174 report [17].

Table 2: Scaling Study Model wind parameters

<b>Model</b>	<b>WP1500</b>	<b>WP3000</b>	<b>NREL 5 MW</b>
<b>Rated power, kW</b>	1500	3000	5000
<b>Radius, m</b>	35.5	49.5	63
<b>Maximum chord, m</b>	2.80	3.96	4.65
<b>Rated generator speed, rpm</b>	1800	1800	1174
<b>Rated rotor speed, rpm</b>	20.463	14.469	12.100
<b>Hub radius, m</b>	1.65	2.325	1.50
<b>Hub height, m</b>	84	119	90
<b>Gearbox efficiency, %</b>	100	100	100
<b>Generator efficiency, %</b>	95	95	94.4
<b>Gearbox ratio</b>	87.965	124.4	97.0

175 The baseline turbines were scaled for swept blades by increasing the rotor  
 176 swept area by 25% percent. This was the method employed in the STAR  
 177 program to obtain an approximate 5% increase in annual energy production  
 178 of the the baseline straight-blade turbine. The new model's maximum chord  
 179 was the same as the baseline, which was at the 25% radial position. To  
 180 optimize the new blade planform, the Betz method (outlined in Gasch and  
 181 Tvele [18]) was used. For this method, the baseline optimal tip speed ratio  
 182 was scaled by the ratio of the new swept rotor radius to the baseline rotor  
 183 radius. The tip speed ratio  $\lambda$  is determined by:

$$\lambda = \frac{V_{tip}}{U_{\infty}} \quad (5)$$

184 where  $V_{tip}$  is the velocity of the blade tip and  $U_{\infty}$  is the wind speed. Below  
 185 the rated wind speed of the turbine (variable speed region), there exists  
 186 an optimal blade pitch setting and tip speed ratio that provides maximum  
 187 aerodynamic efficiency (maximum power coefficient). The optimal tip speed  
 188 ratio was 7.0 for the WP1500 and WP3000 models; and 7.55 for NREL 5  
 189 MW.

190 The swept blade used the maximum chord of the baseline blade at 25%  
 191 radial station, and the Betz-optimized chord at the 75% radial station. The  
 192 chord distribution was linearly tapered from these two positions, with the  
 193 tip chord not falling below 300 mm as a manufacturing constraint. The Betz  
 194 method provides a non-linear chord distribution, but designers use linear  
 195 distribution to ease manufacturing with minimal loss in performance. The  
 196 twist distribution was from the Betz-optimized twist distribution based on  
 197 the maximum lift over drag value (L/D) and corresponding angle of attack  
 198 for the 75% radial position section shape. The maximum twist was 11.1



199 degrees, which was the WindPACT value. This maximum occurs around the  
200 maximum chord; inboard the airfoils transition to a round root section.

201 The swept blade's stiffness properties were the same as the baseline at the  
202 same blade station normalized by the blade length. This was approximately  
203 the same situation with the STAR7d and its baseline straight blade. The only  
204 exception was the torsional stiffness, which was varied in the design process.  
205 The blade lineal density (kg/m) was adjusted by a common factor so that  
206 the static moment (moment of the blade about the root due to gravity) was  
207 the same for the baseline and the extended blade. The STAR designers were  
208 able to accomplish this matching of the blade static moments.

209 Simulations of the new rotors were run with the WT\_Perf performance  
210 code [19] to determine control settings for the variable speed region. The  
211 settings are pitch setting and tip speed ratio that result in the maximum  
212 aerodynamic efficiency (maximum power coefficient). For the pitch control  
213 above rated, the WindPACT pitch control model was used to run simulations  
214 with stepped wind speeds above rated. The controller was tuned by adjusting  
215 the proportional gain to ensure stable behavior to stepped wind inputs.

216 Normal turbulence model simulations were run as for the baseline ma-  
217 chines, with annual energy production and damage equivalent loads com-  
218 puted in post-processing. The results were compared to the baseline case.  
219 The sweep parameters were then adjusted to obtain a 5% AEP increase with-  
220 out increasing the flap bending damage equivalent loads above the baseline.

221 **3. Results**

222 *3.1. Parametric study*

223 Figures 7, 8 and 9 show the variation in loads, energy production, and  
224 maximum blade deflection respectively for the STAR7d parametric study  
225 (Table 1). The flap-bending damage equivalent load results (Fig. 7) show  
226 tip sweep having the largest effect on the load, with higher tip sweep lowering  
227 the load. The sweep exponent and torsional stiffness have less effect on the  
228 load.

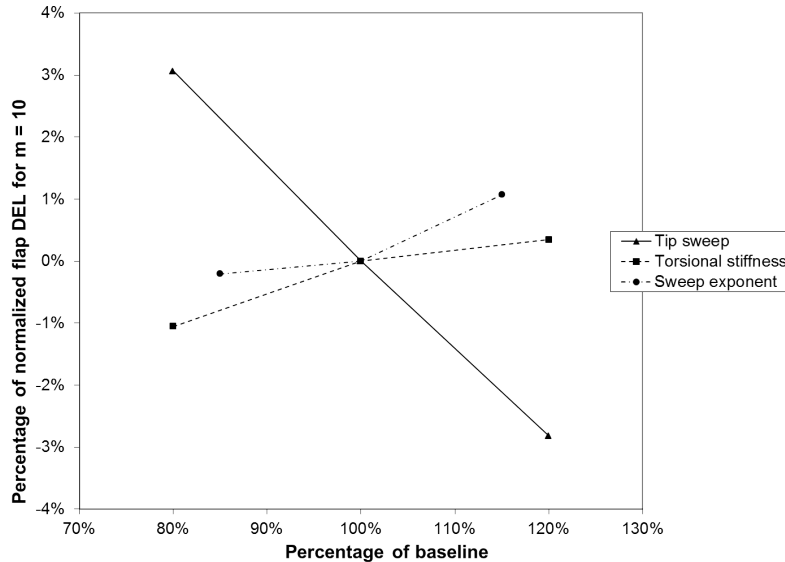


Figure 7: Effect of changing tip sweep, torsional stiffness, and sweep exponent on STAR7d flap bending damage equivalent load ( $m = 10$ )

229 The annual energy production results (Fig. 8) show minimal variation  
230 in energy production for the range of the parameters studied; however the  
231 energy does increase with lower tip sweep and sweep exponent (blade becomes  
232 straight).

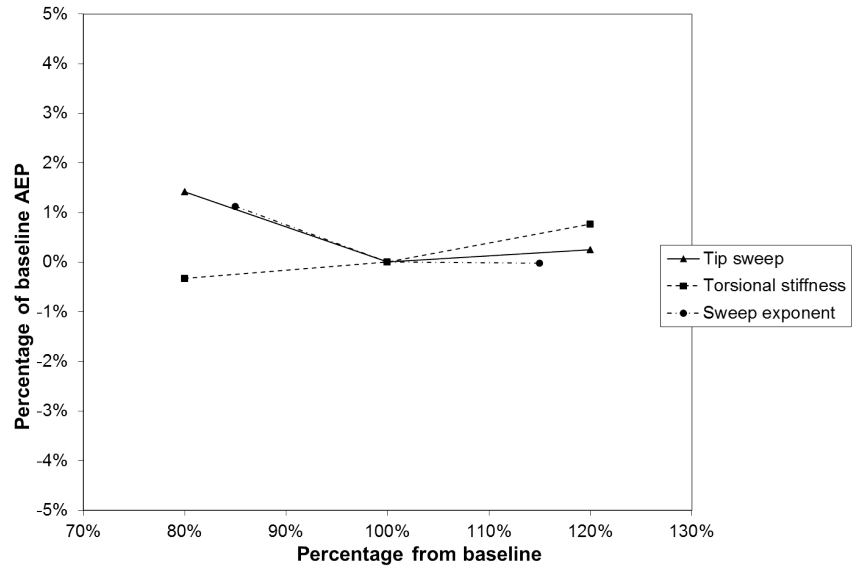


Figure 8: Effect of changing tip sweep, torsional stiffness, and sweep exponent on STAR7d annual energy production

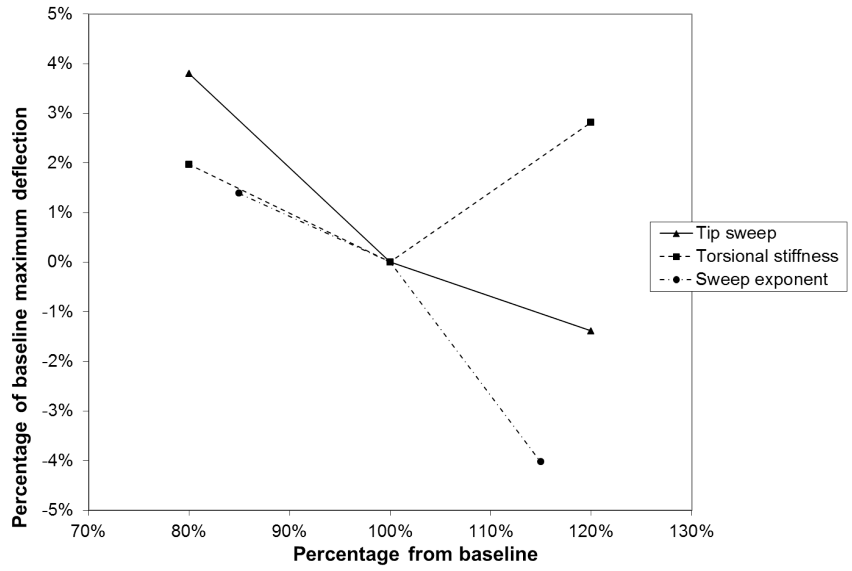


Figure 9: Effect of changing tip sweep, torsional stiffness, and sweep exponent on STAR7d maximum blade tip deflection

233 The tip deflection results (Fig. 9) show a decrease in maximum blade  
234 deflection with increasing tip sweep and sweep exponent. The results for  
235 torsional stiffness are not conclusive.

### 236 3.2. *Scaling study*

237 Table 3 lists the resulting designs, performance, and loads for the three  
238 scaled rotor models, Curve1500, Curve3000, and Curve5000. The scaled  
239 Curve5000 displayed a twist instability while above rated wind speed, with  
240 even a minimal amount of tip sweep (1/4 of maximum chord). An example  
241 of the instability is shown in Fig. 10. A straight version of the Curve5000  
242 did not display the instability. The table shows that the energy production  
243 has increased 5% or higher for Curve1500 and Curve3000, with a decrease  
244 in the flap-bending damage equivalent load. Compared to the Curve1500,  
245 the larger Curve3000 required less tip sweep and no reduction in torsional  
246 stiffness to achieve the design goal. The Curve1500 and Curve3000 show an  
247 increase in edge-bending damage equivalent load.

248 Figure 11 below shows the flap damage equivalent load versus 10-minute  
249 average wind speed for the 1.5 MW baseline and swept designs. The damage  
250 equivalent load is normalized at an arbitrary value slightly above the max-  
251 imum value. The results show that the loads are similar below rated wind  
252 speed (region 2) with the loads for the swept rotor below the straight baseline  
253 rotor above rated wind speed (region 3). The 3 MW model showed similar  
254 results.

Table 3: Scaled model results. Twist in Curve5000 with sweep was unstable above rated wind speed.

<b>Model</b>	<b>Curve1500</b>	<b>Curve3000</b>	<b>Curve5000</b>
<b>Baseline radius, m</b>	35.5	49.5	63.0
<b>Stretched radius, m</b>	39.15	55.35	70.44
<b>Maximum chord, m</b>	2.8	3.96	4.652
<b>Tip sweep, m</b>	2.8	2.376	–
<b>GJ modification</b>	74% lower	same as baseline	–
<b>Percent AEP over baseline</b>	6.0%	5.5%	–
<b>Percent Flap DEL under baseline (m = 10)</b>	15.0%	5.8%	–
<b>Percent Edge DEL over baseline (m = 10)</b>	1.0%	1.8%	–

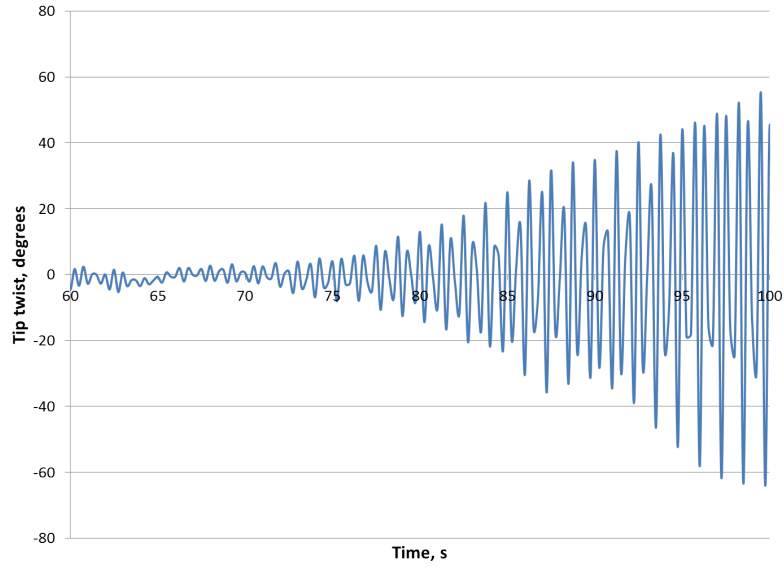


Figure 10: Blade twist instability in swept 5 MW model. The input wind is turbulent 25 m/s average.

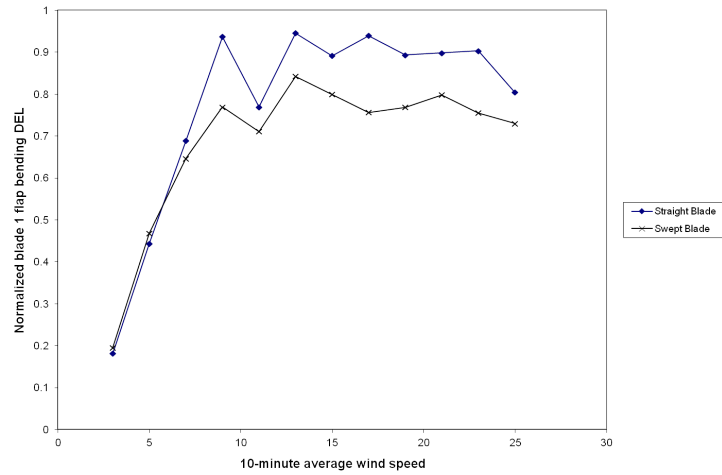


Figure 11: Flap bending damage equivalent load (normalized) versus 10-minute average wind speed for 1.5 MW models

## 255 4. Discussion

### 256 4.1. Parametric Study

257 The parametric study showed that the loads and energy production were  
258 most sensitive to the amount of tip sweep. The sweep curve exponent and  
259 torsional stiffness showed less impact on the loads and energy production.  
260 Both Liebst [5] and Zuteck [6] discuss the importance of lowering the torsional  
261 stiffness to achieve load relief; however, the present study shows that torsional  
262 stiffness has less impact.

263 Higher tip sweep reduces both fatigue loads (Fig. 7) and tip deflection  
264 (Fig. 9). For future study, the IEC extreme load cases in addition to the  
265 turbulent operating cases should be analyzed to study changes in maximum  
266 blade deflection with tip sweep.

267 Modifying the sweep curve exponent has less impact on loads. Note that  
268 the sweep remains in the outboard blade portion, which Zuteck [6] notes as  
269 important. He shows that a circular curve extending inward to the root is  
270 less effective than more outboard curvature.

271 For all of parameters, the change in annual energy production is less  
272 than 1% (Fig. 8). This value is less than the expected accuracy for power  
273 performance tests. Therefore, changing the parameters within the range of  
274 this study would probably have no noticeable effect on the annual energy  
275 production.

### 276 4.2. Scaling Study

277 Conceptual designs of swept rotors for 1.5 MW and 3 MW wind turbines  
278 were developed. The designs increase energy capture by at least 5% with an

279 increased diameter. With the passive load relief of sweep the flap-bending  
280 fatigue loads are decreased over the baseline straight rotor. Edge bending  
281 fatigue is increased slightly. The 1.5 MW design required a tip sweep the  
282 same as the maximum chord and a 75% reduction of torsional stiffness. The  
283 3 MW design required less tip sweep relative to the maximum chord and  
284 with no change in torsional stiffness required.

285 The rotor design for the swept 5 MW rotor showed a twist instability at  
286 high wind speeds for even minimal tip sweep. This behavior indicates that the  
287 straight blade is near the flutter boundary. Flutter stability is governed by  
288 the torsional stiffness and the location of the mass center relative to the elastic  
289 axis. Sweep places the mass center aft, which increases the susceptibility to  
290 flutter. Torsional stiffness could be increased to decrease the susceptibility to  
291 flutter, but this might mitigate the benefits of sweep. Further investigation  
292 is required to determine if sweep can be implemented in larger turbines.  
293 Both Hansen [20] and Lobitz [21] discuss the problem with flutter and larger  
294 turbines.

#### 295 *4.3. Recommendations for Future Work*

296 Given the successful operation of the STAR test turbine, and the commer-  
297 cialization of a 3 MW swept rotor, the authors recommend that this concept  
298 should be explored further. The following actions are recommended:

- 299 1. Determine flutter boundary for 5+ MW unswept and swept turbine  
300 rotors. Determine if the boundary can be increased and still maintain  
301 benefits of sweep,
- 302 2. Detailed design studies to expand on the conceptual design with de-  
303 tailed section properties and the full IEC [12] load cases,



- 304 3. Control scheme for region 2 (variable speed) to maximize energy cap-  
305 ture that takes into account the active twisting of the blade,
- 306 4. Further validation of the swept concept with field tests.

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311 **Appendix A. Damage Equivalent Load Calculation**

312 The calculation of the damage equivalent load involves the use of Miner's  
 313 rule, which is:

$$\frac{n_1}{N_1} + \frac{n_2}{N_2} + \cdots + \frac{n_n}{N_n} = \text{Damage Fraction} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

314 where  $n_i$  is the number of cycles for a particular stress level ( $\omega_i$ ), and  $N_i$  is  
 315 the number of allowable cycles for that stress level. The damage fraction  
 316 for failure is normally unity (1.0). For the equivalent damage of one million  
 317 cycles, Eq. A.1 becomes:

$$\frac{n_1}{N_1} + \frac{n_2}{N_2} + \cdots + \frac{n_n}{N_n} = \frac{1 \times 10^6}{N_{eq}} \quad (\text{A.2})$$

318 The number of allowable cycles,  $N$ , is:

$$N = \left( \frac{\sigma_a}{\sigma_u} \right)^{-m} \quad (\text{A.3})$$

319 where  $\sigma_a$  is the applied stress,  $\sigma_u$  is the ultimate stress, and  $m$  is the inverse  
 320 of the Wöhler (or  $S-N$ ) curve. The DEL analysis assumes a linear rela-  
 321 tion between stress and load (or moment in this case). Equation A.4 then  
 322 becomes:

$$N = \left( \frac{M_a}{M_u} \right)^{-m} \quad (\text{A.4})$$

323 where  $M_a$  is the applied moment and  $M_u$  is the ultimate moment. Equation  
 324 A.4 is substituted into Eq. A.2 to obtain:

$$\frac{n_1}{\left( \frac{M_{a1}}{M_u} \right)^{-m}} + \frac{n_2}{\left( \frac{M_{a2}}{M_u} \right)^{-m}} + \cdots + \frac{n_n}{\left( \frac{M_{an}}{M_u} \right)^{-m}} = \frac{1 \times 10^6}{\left( \frac{M_{eq}}{M_u} \right)^{-m}} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

325 where  $M_{eq}$  is the damage equivalent moment for one million cycles. Solving  
 326 for  $M_{eq}$ :

$$M_{eq} = \left( \frac{\sum (M_{ai})^m n_i}{1 \times 10^6} \right)^{1/m} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

327 The rainflow cycle counting algorithm in NREL's Crunch program [22] was  
 328 used to determined the number of cycles per simulation run for 30 moment  
 329 levels. A separate Excel program was written to compute the DEL from the  
 330 rainflow counts. The program adds up the cycles for the five 10-minute runs  
 331 at each average wind speed step. It then multiplies these counts by 6/5 and  
 332 by the annual number of hours for the wind speed to get the total number  
 333 of annual cycles in each moment level.

334 **Appendix B. 1.5 MW and 3 MW Blade Properties**

Table B.4: WP1500 blade properties

<b>Station</b>	<b>Blade Fraction</b>	<b>Twist (deg)</b>	<b>Chord (m)</b>	<b>Pitch Axis Ratio</b>	<b>Aero Center</b>	<b>Mass (kg/m)</b>
1	0.0000	11.1	1.925	0.500	0.50	1447.61
2	0.0211	11.1	1.890	0.500	0.50	173.89
3	0.2105	11.1	2.800	0.340	0.25	204.04
4	0.4737	3.1	2.147	0.310	0.25	157.61
5	0.7368	0.6	1.494	0.280	0.25	72.66
6	1.0000	0	0.906	0.250	0.25	11.35

<b>Station</b>	<b>Flatwise Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Edgewise Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Torsional Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>AE Product (N)</b>	<b>Airfoil Filename</b>
1	7.6815E+09	7.6815E+09	2.6552E+09	1.7153E+10	cylinder
2	1.1281E+09	1.1281E+09	3.9418E+08	2.5464E+09	cylinder
3	3.0477E+08	6.4782E+08	1.9215E+07	2.7043E+09	s818_2703.dat
4	8.5919E+07	2.7108E+08	8.4613E+06	2.0742E+09	s818_2703.dat
5	1.3668E+07	7.0329E+07	1.6868E+06	9.2581E+08	s825_2103.dat
6	2.3129E+05	7.8741E+06	1.7943E+05	1.1847E+08	s826_1603.dat

Table B.5: WP3000 blade properties

<b>Station</b>	<b>Blade Fraction</b>	<b>Twist (deg)</b>	<b>Chord (m)</b>	<b>Pitch Axis Ratio</b>	<b>Aero Center</b>	<b>Mass (kg/m)</b>
1	0.0000	11.1	2.673	0.500	0.50	2514.27
2	0.0211	11.1	2.673	0.500	0.50	342.34
3	0.2105	11.1	3.960	0.340	0.25	373.58
4	0.4737	3.1	3.036	0.310	0.25	302.91
5	0.7368	0.6	2.113	0.280	0.25	136.39
6	1.0000	0	1.281	0.250	0.25	16.68

<b>Station</b>	<b>Flatwise Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Edgewise Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>Torsional Stiffness (N · m<sup>2</sup>)</b>	<b>AE Product (N)</b>	<b>Airfoil Filename</b>
1	2.5916E+10	2.5916E+10	8.9665E+09	2.8944E+10	cylinder
2	4.5189E+09	4.5189E+09	1.5791E+09	5.0974E+09	cylinder
3	1.3320E+09	3.4791E+09	6.2408E+07	4.9586E+09	s818_2703.dat
4	3.4479E+08	9.6503E+08	2.5625E+07	4.0027E+09	s818_2703.dat
5	5.4736E+07	2.4072E+08	5.1116E+06	1.7456E+09	s825_2103.dat
6	6.9195E+05	2.3690E+07	5.4377E+05	1.7586E+08	s826_1603.dat

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