Development of Avionics Flight Test Data Analysis Tool using MATLAB

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Overview of MATLAB based tool developed for analysis of Avionics Systems Flight Test Data.

- Background & Context of the Problem
- Problem Statement
- Approach used to solve the problem
- Description of the tool & results achieved
- MATLAB features used
- GUI Screen-Shots
- Questions & Interactions



Background



About ARDC, HAL, Bangalore.

- One of the nine R&D Centers of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.
- ISO 9001 2000, AS9100B certified Company
- Design, Develop, Prototype and Test Fixed Wing Aircraft from Concept to Certification.







Avionics Systems in Aircraft.

Radio Navigation Instruments -VHF Omni Range Instrument Landing System Distance Measuring Equipment GPS Receiver Radio Altimeter . . . Sensor Systems -Air Data Computer Angle of Attack Inertial Sensors Fuel Sensors . . .

Mission & Weapon Systems





Background



Flight Test Data.

Data is recorded on multiple recording devices:

- On-board FTI Recorder & FTI Ground Station (instrumented aircrafts).
- Black Box (Standard equipment on all aircraft)

Analysis is directed towards performance analysis of avionics systems/ LRUs.

Test data is analysed by the designer and presented to Flight Operations group before the next flight of the aircraft.







Background



Analyses of Flight Test Data.







Optimizing the Data Analysis process







Using MATLAB for Data Analysis







Using MATLAB for Data Analysis







- guide, uigetfile,
- disp('<a href="matlab:test_file;"Click here');
- tic, toc
- for loop, if else, switch case
- ceil,
- slsread, xlswrite
- figure, axes, plot, [AX,H1,H2] = plotyy(...)
- * xticklabel_rotate,
- slim, ylim, zlim
- datacursormode, UpdateFcn
- handles, get, set
- find, findpeaks, mean,
- annotation, imagesc,
- saveppt2





Saving Time & Effort.

From 3 hours per flight . . .

 Using MS Excel templates for plots and Turbo C routines for algorithmic calculations – taking up to 3 hours of designers time

Eliminate manual 'copy-paste-scale' actions

• Eliminate manual 'copy-paste-scale' actions of each plot to create a presentation. A single command exports all relevant plots to MS PowerPoint file.

... to 15 mins !

 Using this tool has reduced the preparation time of the analysis and presentation to approx. 15 min.





Ease of Use.



User of the tool DOES NOT require prior knowledge of MATLAB programming: User-friendly and simple GUI.



Tool automatically creates co-incident grids for multiple axes plots, links common axes, provides time labels, Titles & Legends, fonts etc.



Tool caters for dynamic scaling of limits & axes, assignment of colours, threshold limits etc.



Tool allows adding custom data cursors & comments, interactive Zoom & Pan of the plots as required.





Scalability & Adaptability.

The tool is designed to cater for multiple platforms with varied instrumentation schemes.

The program can be adapted & scaled for use on any platform

- Easy inclusion of additional data analyses.
- Addition of different sensors data.
- Intelligent filtering & algorithmic interpretation.
- Rapid generation of plots/graphs of other systems data.

It is also used to analyse Black Box data.



Data File Screen Shot



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Screen Shots







Screen Shots



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Screen Shots





THANK YOU !