

1 Dear Julie Teuwen,

2 We have the pleasure of submitting our revised paper “Comparison of different cross-  
3 sectional approaches for the structural design and optimization of composite wind turbine  
4 blades based on beam models” (wes-2023-147) for consideration in the journal Wind Energy  
5 Science. We are very grateful for the constructive feedback with lots of valuable suggestions  
6 from the editorial team and the reviewers which helped to improve our paper. Based on the  
7 comments from the reviewers, we carried out an extended mesh convergence study and -re-  
8 checked the code for the analytical approaches. We noticed that the enclosed areas were  
9 not determined exactly within the torsional distribution calculation. The changes we made  
10 could significantly improve the results in terms of accuracy. We want to highlight the major  
11 changes and extensions:

- 12 • We added an additional beam approach to the overview table 1.
- 13 • We clarified the derivation of the shear stiffness terms in Jung’s approach (Section  
14 2.6.4)
- 15 • We carried out an extended convergence study for all use cases and approaches  
16 based on a geometrical improved mesh for BECAS and an adapted the cross-section  
17 calculation for the analytical approaches as described above, which significantly  
18 improved the results in terms of accuracy (Section 3.2 and 3.3).
- 19 • We added a new figure (figure 8) that shows the stress distribution across the  
20 laminate thickness.
- 21 • We updated and extended the performance study with new results (table 8); an  
22 additional line in table 8 shows the performance advantage of the four-element-  
23 model.
- 24 • We added a discussion in the conclusion on how geometrical nonlinearity in a blade  
25 beam influences the cross-sectional coupling stiffness terms.
- 26 • We gave a clear definition of the terms “elastic center” and “shear center”.

27 Furthermore, we have made all necessary changes and have addressed all comments of the  
28 referees (printed in black) in the detailed response below.

29 **Our response to the referees are written in green.**

30 **Reformulated or added phrases for the revised manuscript are referred to in blue.**

31 Line, figure and table numbers in our answers are according to the revised manuscript. Line,  
32 figure and table numbers in the referees’ comments are according to the initial manuscript.  
33 New figures and tables are appended to this response. However, the updated figures and  
34 tables were omitted, as this would have been almost all figures and tables. The updated  
35 versions can be seen in the revised manuscript.

36 We feel that based on the reviewers comments our paper has been sharpened and  
37 improved, especially in terms of clarity, readability, overall language quality, and – in the  
38 authors’ opinion – should meet the required standards to be published. If any responses are  
39 unclear, or if you would like to have additional changes implemented, please let us know.

40 Sincerely,

41 Edgar Werthen

42 - On behalf of all authors –

43 **Referee 1**

44 Thank you for the constructive and positive feedback. Please find our answers below.

45 When obtaining the shear stiffness terms, a calculation model is considered with the blade tip  
46 loaded. Do you mean that a blade is assumed with the same cross-sections from the root to the tip?  
47 Moreover, is the tip load realistic to consider? In fact, a distributed line load is often used when  
48 designing the blade.

49 You are right, a blade certainly consists of several different cross-sections along the blade, and a  
50 blade is certainly not loaded by just a single force at the blade tip. The focus of this paper is the  
51 calculation of the cross-sectional properties (stiffness and mass matrices) of a beam model, not  
52 about a beam model itself. Like in most analytical cross-sectional theories (see e. g. Jung and Nagaraj  
53 (2002) equation 23), the approach to integrate the shear stiffness terms in the displacement-based  
54 or mixed formulation of the cross-sectional stiffness matrix, respectively, is to assume a prismatic  
55 beam with a unit load at the free end, following the first-order shear deformation theory. Once the  
56 cross-sectional properties of all cross-sections are calculated, a beam model consisting of several  
57 cross-sections certainly needs to be constructed and can subsequently be used to carry out loads  
58 simulations, obtaining the real load distribution along the blade. We added the following sentence to  
59 section 2.6.4 Cross-Sectional Stiffness Relations:

60 In order to obtain the shear stiffness terms, a cantilevered beam is considered that is loaded at the  
61 tip by shear forces in the x-direction,  $V_x$ , and the y-direction,  $V_y$ , following the first-order shear  
62 deformation theory. It has to be noted that this case does not represent the wind turbine blade use-  
63 case. Once the stiffness and mass properties of all cross-sections are calculated, a beam model  
64 consisting of several different cross-sections representing the blade certainly needs to be  
65 constructed and can subsequently be used to carry out loads simulations, obtaining the real load  
66 distribution along the blade.

67 Secondly, do you assume that the blade will experience relatively small deformations and behave as  
68 a linear beam globally? Will the geometrical nonlinearity as a blade beam influence the cross-  
69 sectional coupling stiffness terms?

70 For the calculation of the cross-sectional properties, we indeed apply a linear theory. It is state of the  
71 art that the cross-sectional properties are calculated in a pre-processing step applying whatever  
72 method, and to assign constant stiffness matrices to the different cross-sections for subsequent  
73 turbine simulations. This strategy is not touched in this paper. When the linear cross-sectional  
74 properties are used to set up a beam model, the beam model itself must include geometrical non-  
75 linearity in the sense of large deflections, as blades undergo very large deflections in operation. Large  
76 deflections in turn result in additional coupling effects. For example, when considering equilibrium in  
77 the deformed state (which is the definition of geometrical non-linearity), large flap-wise deflections  
78 trigger edge-wise bend-twist coupling, which is not accounted for in a linear beam theory. As  
79 mentioned above, this paper is about the calculation of cross-sectional properties. However, if  
80 geometric nonlinearity would be included in the beam kinematics, the cross-sectional displacements  
81 would become non-linear as well. However, this interaction would have to be included in a beam  
82 formulation and could not be addressed in a pure pre-processing step. In this case, the cross-  
83 sectional properties would need to be updated in each iteration of the beam solution. This is far  
84 beyond the scope of this paper, but would definitely be interesting to look at. Maybe this could be  
85 done in future work. We added the following sentences as discussion in the outlook section of the  
86 paper:

87 In general, the beam model itself must include geometrical non-linearity in the sense of large  
88 deflections, as blades undergo very large deflections in operation. Large deflections in turn result in  
89 additional coupling effects. For example, when considering equilibrium in the deformed state (which  
90 is the definition of geometrical non-linearity), large flap-wise deflections trigger edge-wise bend-

91 twist coupling. If geometric non-linearity would be involved in the beam theory applied for the  
92 calculation of the cross-sectional properties, the structural parameters of the cross-sections would  
93 need to be updated in each iteration step of the non-linear beam solution, i. e., in each iteration of  
94 each time step in the turbine simulation. This could potentially affect the turbine dynamics, which  
95 would be interesting to look at. However, this goes far beyond the scope of this paper and may be  
96 subject of future work. In any case, such extension would make the turbine simulation very costly, as  
97 the number of iterations would increase dramatically.

98 Only one blade cross-section is considered. It might be interesting to consider at least two cross-  
99 sections with different aerodynamic profiles.

100 We have two different profiles. One rectangle, allowing a visual verification of expectable stress  
101 distributions for simple load cases and a NACA 2412 with two shear webs representing a rotor blade.  
102 Adding the material combinations included in the paper, 6 different variants were created in total,  
103 which - in the opinion of the authors - is enough to conclude that the method generally works and  
104 that the comparison is fair and reasonable. This said, we would like to emphasize that we are  
105 principally open to add another application example, but it is not clear what type of cross-section  
106 would really add value and insight instead of just extending the length of the manuscript. We would  
107 therefore prefer to stay with the treated cross-sections and hope for your agreement.

## 108 Referee 2

109 We thank the referee for the constructive feedback. Please find our answers below.

110 The paper is dotted with typos, grammatical and formatting imprecisions. I would strongly  
111 recommend another round of careful proofreading.

112 Thank you for the hint. We did another round of careful proofreading and hopefully removed all  
113 grammatical and formatting imprecisions.

114 It would be good to add some comments into the manuscript on whether or not the predictions of  
115 the stiffness coefficients are mesh insensitive or, in other words, to have more details in the paper  
116 about the meshes adopted. It would also be good to have figures showing the meshes, especially  
117 around geometric details. This is because there is evidence in the literature that BECAS and VABS  
118 predictions are mesh sensitive, with fine meshes and accurate geometric representation of the cross-  
119 section being required for accurate results. See, e.g., <https://wes.copernicus.org/preprints/wes-2023-85/>. So, are the BECAS reference solutions converged?

121 We geometrically improved the mesh and performed a mesh convergence study for BECAS and the  
122 analytical approaches for all use cases. Furthermore, we re-checked the code for the analytical  
123 approaches and noticed that the enclosed areas were not determined exactly within the torsional  
124 distribution calculation. The changes we made, could significantly improve the results. Since the  
125 BECAS results are now presented based on the converged mesh, they can be interpreted as accurate.  
126 For the analytical approaches the same mesh discretization in contour direction is used to be able to  
127 compare the stress distributions. The stiffness deviations could be reduced from 15% to 5%. Stress  
128 deviations of single outliers could be reduced from 25% to 12%. In most cases, the deviation is far  
129 below the aforementioned numbers. The numbers of elements for both meshes are given in table 3.  
130 We extended figure 4 to show cutouts of critical points for the discretization of the BECAS mesh like  
131 the edge of the rectangular cross-section and the web-shell interaction point of the NACA profile. We  
132 added the following sentences to section 3.1 Test cases and extended figure 4 given in appendix:

133 To obtain accurate results for BECAS, a fine mesh and an accurate geometric representation of the  
134 cross-section is required (Maes et al., 2024). The contour is discretized in contour direction similarly  
135 for all cross-section calculations based on a mesh-convergence study. The rectangular cross-section  
136 (0-3) is discretized in contour direction with 300 equidistant elements of 10 mm length. It should be

137 mentioned that for the rectangular cross-section the analytical approaches are independent of the  
138 discretization and already obtain accurate results with a discretization of four elements in contour  
139 direction. A further discretization refinement does not affect the calculation results. Nevertheless, in  
140 order to be able to compare element-wise stresses, the same discretization in contour direction was  
141 chosen for the analytical approaches and for BECAS. The airfoil with webs (test cases 10 and 11) is  
142 discretized in contour direction with 225 elements of 10 mm length. The analytical approaches do  
143 not need a discretization in contour-thickness-direction, BECAS requires a discretization for each  
144 layer of the laminate in contour-thickness-direction. As the laminates consist of 24 layers, 24  
145 elements are used in thickness direction. The resulting number of elements for the different test  
146 cases and the different models are listed in table 3.

147 A similar comment applies to the accuracy of the stresses. The authors do comment on the link  
148 between mesh and stress predictions, but it would be useful if that discussion could be expanded.

149 As mentioned above, the results of BECAS are now presented based on an improved and converged  
150 mesh, therefore they are treated as accurate. Furthermore, the cross-section calculation for the  
151 analytical approaches could be improved. As already mentioned above, stiffness and stress  
152 deviations could be significantly reduced. The analytical approaches also need an accurate geometric  
153 representation of the cross-section using several linear elements, but the stress distribution is exact  
154 within one element. We extended the discussion on the link between mesh and stress prediction in  
155 section 3.3 "Stress distributions":

156 The qualitative stress distributions of Jung and Wiedemann show a good agreement with the results  
157 from BECAS. Differences in the absolute values can be observed for test case 10 and will be discussed  
158 later in the qualitative comparison...

159 .... As already mentioned, for an accurate stress distribution of a rectangular cross-section (as shown  
160 in fig. 5), the analytical approaches require only 4 elements (one element per segment line) and can  
161 return the stress function or the minimum and maximum values along one segment. Due to the FE  
162 discretization of BECAS, more finite elements are needed to get a correct stress distribution (see fig.  
163 5). For cross-sections with segments that are not straight, the analytical approaches also need an  
164 accurate geometric representation of the cross-section using several linear elements, but the stress  
165 distribution is exact within one element.

166 Similarly, it would be good to see how the different models perform with the stress recovery of all  
167 stress components, not just a few. That's particularly important for the composite models, where  
168 through-the-thickness ply-by-ply stresses are notoriously difficult to resolve.

169 We created two additional figures to show the stress distribution over the laminate thickness for test  
170 case 1 (rectangular box). The first figure shows the normal stress, evaluated at the upper part of the  
171 box, under a unit bending moment around the x-axis. The second figure shows the maximum shear  
172 stress, evaluated at the web, under a unit transverse force in y-direction. We added the following  
173 sentences to the manuscript in section 3.3 stress distributions. Please find figure 8 in the appendix.

174 Fig. 8 shows the comparison of stress distribution along the contour thickness between BECAS (top)  
175 and Jung (bottom) of test case 1 (rectangular cross section with the layup of  
176  $(0_2/45/0_2/-45/0_2/45/90/-45/90)_s$ ). Figure 8a shows the maximum normal stress in longitudinal  
177 direction,  $\sigma_{zz}$ , under a unit bending around the x-axis, evaluated at the center of the upper edge of  
178 the rectangular cross-section. It can be observed that the  $0^\circ$  plies carry the major portion of the  
179 longitudinal load, which is what the  $0^\circ$  plies are included for. Figure 8 (b) shows the maximum shear  
180 stress  $\sigma_{zs}$  under a unit transverse force in y-direction, evaluated at the center of the left web of the  
181 rectangular cross-section. In this case the  $45^\circ$  plies carry the major portion of the shear loads, which  
182 is the purpose of the  $45^\circ$  plies. Both figures show very good agreement between the BECAS and the  
183 Jung solutions.

184 I would strongly recommend considering an additional beam model that seems to have been omitted  
 185 from the paper. Models from the book 'Mechanics of Composite Structures' by Kollár and Springer  
 186 have proven useful in various projects, providing accuracy and efficiency.

187 Thank you for the hint and the reference. We added the very comprehensive approach for to table 1  
 188 of the manuscript. However, the approach does not consider the coupling terms, e. g., for extension-  
 189 twist or bend-twist coupling. The considered stiffness terms of the approach are listed in the table  
 190 below. The bend-twist coupling term is one of the requirements stated in the paper for an analytical  
 191 cross-sectional calculation module for wind turbine blades. This requirement is not fulfilled in this  
 192 approach. Hence, the model from Kollár and Springer was not included in the calculation  
 193 comparisons.

194 Table 1: Beam models given in 'Mechanics of Composite Structures' by Kollár and Springer

Table 7.2. Stiffnesses of orthotropic beams with shear deformation		
Tensile stiffness	$\widehat{EA}$	Sections 6.2–6.4
Bending stiffnesses	$\widehat{EI}_{zz}, \widehat{EI}_{yy}, \widehat{EI}_{yz}$	Sections 6.2–6.4
Torsional stiffness	$\widehat{GI}_t$	Sections 6.5.1–6.6.2
Warping stiffness	$\widehat{EI}_\omega$	Section 6.6.4
Shear stiffnesses	$\widehat{S}_{yy}, \widehat{S}_{zz}, \widehat{S}_{\omega\omega}, \widehat{S}_{yz}, \widehat{S}_{y\omega}, \widehat{S}_{z\omega}$	Sections 7.2.1–7.2.3

195  
 196 I am generally diffident of code-to-code performance comparison. Computer scientists have methods  
 197 to do it accurately, but, in an engineering context, so many caveats need to be added that the results  
 198 very quickly lose meaning. For instance, for a fair comparison, an accurate baseline needs to be  
 199 established. I'd expect the comparison to be done between models that all deliver the same  
 200 accuracy, otherwise one may compare, e.g., models that are quick and inaccurate with models that  
 201 are slow and accurate. Also, can the authors discern if the speed of each model is related to the  
 202 mathematic formulation thereof or to the specific software implementation of that model? More  
 203 basically, a computer's OS manages the machine's resources continuously. Comparing run time not  
 204 knowing what else the computer was doing during the analysis can be very misleading.

205 A performance study including several runs to get the standard deviation was performed. Of course  
 206 we paid attention, that for all cases, the PC was only focused on the related task and only system  
 207 relevant processes were running in parallel. As engineers, these are the options we have. The  
 208 expected error should be very small compared to the large difference in the computational time we  
 209 see in table 8. We repeated the performance study and updated the computational times and  
 210 standard deviations of table 8. The performance study was performed using the same mesh for  
 211 BECAS and the analytical approaches. We added an additional line to table 8 (see appendix) showing  
 212 the potential of saving computational time when using the analytical approach with a coarser mesh  
 213 discretization (that nevertheless shows the same accuracy for the stiffnesses and stress  
 214 distributions). We modified the sentences of section 3.4 as follows:

215 Table 8 shows the computation time for the calculation of the cross-sectional properties for BECAS  
 216 and the three implemented cross-section processors in PreDoCS according to the approaches of  
 217 Jung, Song and Wiedemann. Furthermore the computational time for one load case is displayed. All  
 218 computations include the time for meshing of the cross-sections. For all approaches the same mesh  
 219 discretization in contour direction is used (according to table 3) to be able to compare the stress  
 220 distributions given in fig. 5 and fig. 6. The calculations are executed on the same PC (Win 11 64-bit,  
 221 AMD Ryzen 7 5800H (8 x 3.2 - 4.4 GHz), 16 GB RAM). The analytical approaches achieve a high  
 222 accuracy for the rectangular cross-sections already with 4 elements in contour direction. Further  
 223 mesh refinement does not affect the stiffness calculation and stress distribution. In contrast to that,  
 224 a fine FE mesh is required in BECAS in order to obtain a converged solution. The resulting benefit by  
 225 means of computation time savings is shown in the last row of table 8.

226 **Referee 3**

227 ***General Comments***

228 The submitted manuscript reviews different methods to determine the cross-sectional stiffness  
229 properties of a wind turbine rotor blade on an analytical basis in comparison with BECAS. Since  
230 BECAS is a well known tool for this task it perfectly serves as a reference. The advantage of the  
231 analytical basis is adequately identified in terms of the calculation speed. This not only serves quick  
232 design space investigation but as well high iteration speed in preliminary design. Therefore, the  
233 manuscript is of high relevance.

234 Anyhow, the results show differing deviations from BECAS for bending and torsional stiffness  
235 properties depending on complexity of the chosen cross-section. Here the deviation is reduced with  
236 increasing complexity. This seems counterintuitive. Thus, more insight into the actual calculation  
237 procedure would be helpful. Two of three chosen approaches are only mentioned and not  
238 elaborated on, which is why it will be difficult to repeat parts of the work.

239 All in all, the manuscript is worth of being published with minor revisions. Additional comments can  
240 be found in the pdf document attached.

241 We thank the reviewer for the comprehensive, yet positive and encouraging feedback. In fact, it is  
242 correct that the results seemed a bit counterintuitive. Hence, a convergence study has been  
243 executed to find a converged BECAS mesh. The mesh could geometrically further improved,  
244 especially at the corners. A quite fine FE mesh was required to obtain the BECAS reference solution  
245 that deserves the term "reference". Furthermore, we re-checked the code for the analytical  
246 approaches and noticed that the enclosed areas were not determined exactly within the torsional  
247 distribution calculation. With the changes it was found that the solution of BECAS approached the  
248 solutions of the analytical approaches. The solutions are much closer now, increasing confidence in  
249 the analytical methods. Moreover, the differences are now not dependent on the test case  
250 complexity in the sense it was before, meaning the solutions and their deviations are much more  
251 intuitive now.

252 We would like to emphasize that the extended convergence study and the improvements of the  
253 cross-sectional calculations of the analytical approaches were triggered by the comments of the  
254 referee. We are very thankful for the comments, as the re-calculations improved the quality of the  
255 paper a lot and should thus improve its impact on the wind energy research community as well.

256 ***Specific comments***

257 We integrated smaller changes like wordings, grammatical and formatting imprecisions directly in  
258 the manuscript. Your major comments are listed below with our answers:

259 Which theory? Mass and cost rather scale to the power of 2.3 with radius.

260 Correct, we changed this and added a reference in the manuscript:

261 For larger blades, mass and costs increase to the power of around 2.4 with the blade radius  
262 (Rosemeier and Krimmer, 2022), whereas the annual energy production (AEP) increases proportional  
263 to the square of the blade radius (Gasch and Twele, 2012).

264 Why Jung only?

265 Only the approach of Jung is presented, representative also for the other two approaches. The other  
266 approaches are documented in literature and are thus available to readers who would like to

267 reproduce our findings. Presenting all three approaches would be far beyond the scope of the paper.  
268 We added the following sentence at the end of section 2.5:

269 In the following section the theory of the Jung approach is discussed, representative for the other  
270 two approaches as well. The derivation of the other analytical approaches can be found in the  
271 original literature.

272 May it make sense to set the coordinate system in the order  $z, s, n$  to make the composite build up  
273 from outer to inner surface? This would relate to the manufacturing of the blade and easen all  
274 according steps in design.

275 We took over the coordinate system formulation from other literature, since many publications use  
276 it like that. Treating the cut out shown in figure 2 as cut out from the lower shell the coordinate  $n$   
277 would point inwards. Changing the coordinate system at this stage poses a high risk of errors in the  
278 subsequent parts of the manuscript. Hence, we would like to stick to the coordinate system as it is  
279 and kindly ask for your agreement.

280 Depending on publication elastic and shear center may be one and the same. Therefore it may make  
281 sense to define both regarding their characteristics.

282 Correct. Thank you for the comment. We added the following sentences in section 3:

283 The elastic center is the point where an axial force does not induce bending. The shear center is the  
284 point where applied transverse forces do not induce torsional twist. The presented analytical  
285 approaches use the origin of the cross-section as application point for axial forces and bending  
286 moments. The transverse forces and torsional moments are applied at the shear center.

287 Manuscript, line 250: "*carbon fibre UD prepreg based on Hexcel T800/M21*"

288 Referee 3: "This may not be too representative of a wind rotor blade structure"

289 That is correct. However, we believe that the absolute numbers of the material involved does not  
290 affect the overall outcome and conclusions of the paper, as the study is entirely numerical. Changing  
291 the material will require re-calculation of everything, which would result in a lot of unnecessary  
292 work. Hence, we prefer to stay with this material.

293 Especially the stiffness terms in longitudinal, bending and torsion show surprisingly high deviations  
294 vs. BECAS. This cannot be explained by missing discretization in thickness direction, only. It rather  
295 hinds towards more general modelling issues like choice of integration path. Since longitudinal  
296 bending is affected as well, this is not just because of the known issue that Ansys depending on the  
297 chosen element has issues to account for the excentricity of the elements.

298 As already mentioned above, we updated the results based on a geometrical improved mesh and an  
299 extended mesh convergence study for BECAS. Furthermore, we updated the cross-sectional  
300 calculation of the analytical approaches, as described above. The maximum stiffness and stress  
301 deviations could be significantly reduced. The maximum deviation for the stiffness terms of the Jung  
302 approach in longitudinal, bending and torsional direction is now below 1 %. For the used analytical  
303 theory, the integration path should not influence the results. Checks (assert statements) are  
304 integrated in the code along a path to exclude this. We added the following paragraph to section 3.2  
305 Stiffness terms:

306  
307 The shear stiffness terms of Song show high deviations compared to BECAS. In all test cases  
308 deviations around 20 % for  $K_{11}$  and between approximately 100 % and 260 % for  $K_{22}$  can be observed,  
309 due to the FSDT used by this approach. The Jung approach shows deviations below 5 % which  
310 indicates a significant improvement for these stiffness terms. The Wiedemann approach does not  
311 cover the shear stiffness terms due to its shear-stiff formulation. The deviations of the main stiffness



312 terms for extension ( $K_{33}$ ), bending ( $K_{44}$  and  $K_{55}$ ) and torsion are below 1 % in the Jung approach. The  
313 same applies to the Song and Wiedemann approaches except for test case 3 (CUS layup), where  
314 deviations up to 10 % occur, which have to be further investigated. The coupling stiffness terms show  
315 a good accordance with the BECAS results. The stiffness term  $K_{36}$  for extension-torsion coupling of  
316 test case 2 (CUS) is calculated almost exactly. The same applies to the stiffness terms  $K_{46}$  and  $K_{56}$  for  
317 bend-twist coupling of test case 3 (CAS). Similar to the shear stiffness, the coupling terms are not  
318 present in the Wiedemann approach.

319

320 The fact that the deviations comparing to BECAS are reducing when choosing more complex  
321 geometries and layups makes it even worse.

322 The updated results do not show this trend anymore. We updated the manuscript like mentioned  
323 above.

324 Manuscript, line 284: *“Due to the overlapping elements the cross-sectional area is overestimated (i.e.,  
325 excessive material is included in the model) which results in the aforementioned overestimated mass  
326 and stiffness terms.”*

327 Referee 3: “Why is this not covered?”

328 The updated results do not show a general overestimation of masses and stiffness terms anymore  
329 due to the more accurate BECAS mesh. We removed the sentences from above. Apart from that, it is  
330 intended to use the presented analytical approach for preliminary design of thin-walled structures.  
331 The overall discretization process is comparable to shell models where similar problems occur. To  
332 avoid this, further adaptations could be included for sharp corners, e. g., at the leading and trailing  
333 edge. These are not implemented yet and are beyond the scope of this paper.

334 Manuscript, line 291: *“The stiffness terms for extension ( $K_{33}$ ) show a deviation to BECAS below 5 %.”*

335 Referee 3: “This is a lot”

336 The deviations for  $K_{33}$  with the new results is now below 3% and with the preferred approach of  
337 Jung about 1%. Since the intention is to use the Jung approach for preliminary design, deviations  
338 below 1% are acceptable. We added the sentences given above to the manuscript in section 3.2  
339 Stiffness terms and modified the following sentence in the conclusion:

340 In terms of accuracy of stiffness terms (also for coupling and shear) and stress distributions, the  
341 approach of Jung shows the best results with deviations to BECAS below 5 % (below 1% in most  
342 cases) and is therefore taken as cross-section processor in PreDoCS.

343 Manuscript, line 291: *“The bending stiffness terms ( $K_{44}$  and  $K_{55}$ ) have a deviation up to 14 % but only  
344 for the rectangular case. This is caused by the overlapping material in the corners. The part of Steiner  
345 of the doubled areas leads to non-proportional deviations caused by the square of the distance. The  
346 deviations for the elastic and shear center given in table 7 are below 1 %.”*

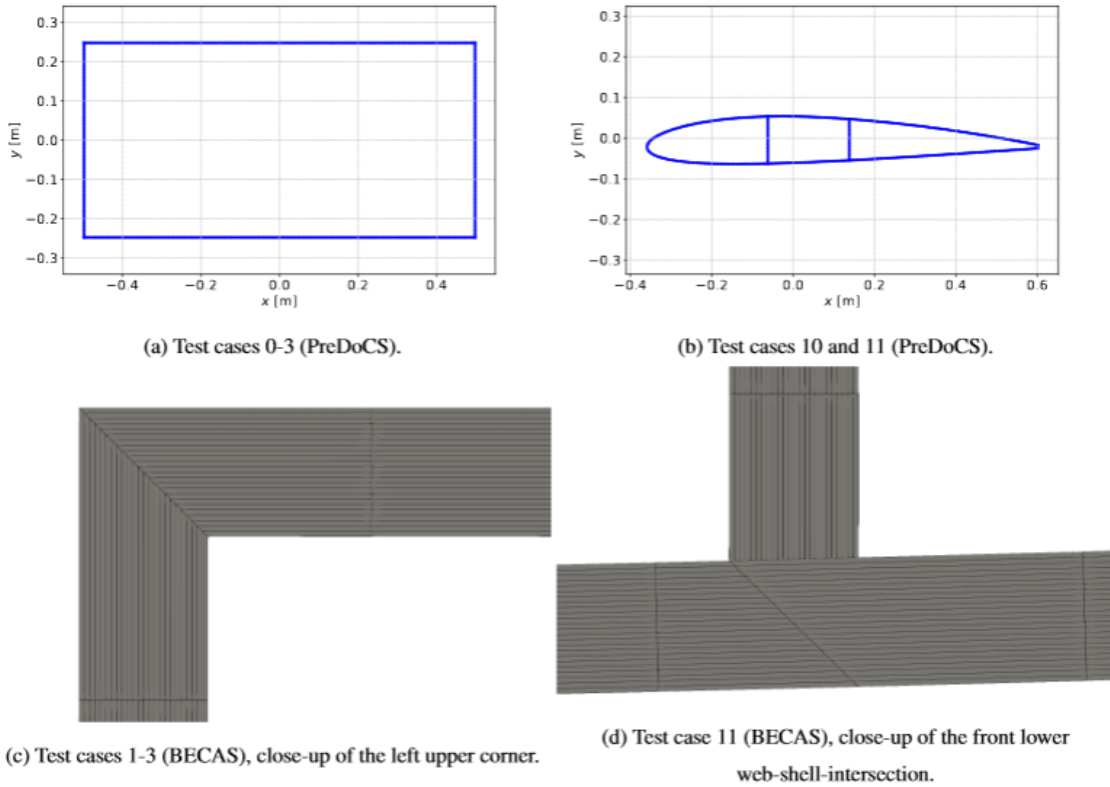
347 Referee 3: “The effect occurs as well in non-rectangular cross sections. It is not as prominent but it is  
348 there. Especially when there is high curvature or a corner as in leading edge and trailing edge are,  
349 respectively.”

350 We agree, that the effect is always there, but may be negligible in cases where corners are not sharp.  
351 The updated results, however, after re-calculation subsequently to the aforementioned  
352 improvements, show stiffness deviations for extension, bending and torsion below 1 % for the use-  
353 cases we presented and therefore the mentioned effect of overlapping seems to be negligible. We

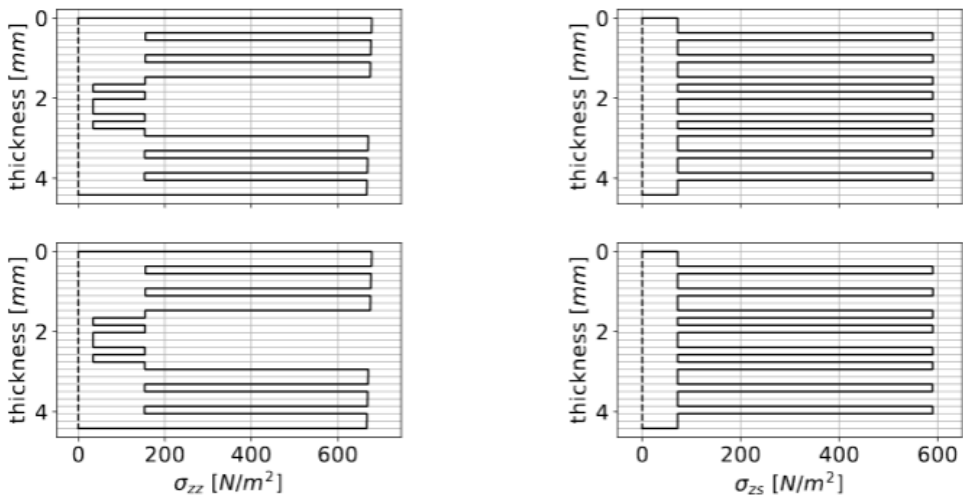
354 removed the sentences from above. In general, we agree, that special attention has to be paid for  
355 areas of overlapping like intersections or strong curvatures like in the leading or trailing edge of the  
356 profile.

357 Manuscript, line 372: "*many design candidates*". Referee 3: "This applies also to design iteration"

358 Absolutely, we integrated this in the manuscript. Thank you for your comments.



360 **Figure 4.** Cross-section geometries (top) and BECAS mesh around geometric details (below).



361 **Figure 8.** Comparison of the stress distribution along the contour thickness between BECAS (top) and Jung (bottom) for test case 1.

**Table 8.** Comparison of the computation time for the calculation of the cross-sectional properties and one load case, compared to BECAS. The second part compares the calculation of the rectangular cross section with a four-element-mesh for PreDoCS.

Approach	Cross-section			Load Case		
	Mean [ms]	Std. dev. [ms]	Diff. [%]	Mean [ms]	Std. dev. [ms]	Diff. [%]
BECAS	6338.2	847.5		428.4	282.1	
Jung	807.1	30.3	-87.3	5.06	0.95	-98.8
Song	592.4	37.4	-90.7	4.76	0.74	-98.9
Wiedemann	321.2	13.5	-94.9	3.62	0.64	-99.2
Jung (four- element-mesh)	8.48	0.38	-99.87	0.11	0.32	-99.97