

schiuma polimerica per effetto delle limitate proprietà elastiche e della maggiore comprimibilità della schiuma rispetto alle strutture in honeycomb.

### Analisi di resistenza, progettazione ed ottimizzazione

Una volta noto lo stato tensionale derivante dalle condizioni di vincolo e di carico applicate alla struttura, individuati i possibili modi di cedimento e le relative condizioni limite è possibile passare alla fase di progettazione vera e propria.

teristiche della struttura o di parti di essa.

Questa filosofia è recepita da una procedura di calcolo attualmente in fase di implementazione presso il Dipartimento di Tecnica e Gestione dei sistemi industriali dell'Università di Padova (10). La metodologia sviluppata è finalizzata al calcolo, al dimensionamento e all'ottimizzazione di strutture sandwich in materiale composito e opera secondo il diagramma di flusso riportato in [Fig. 7].

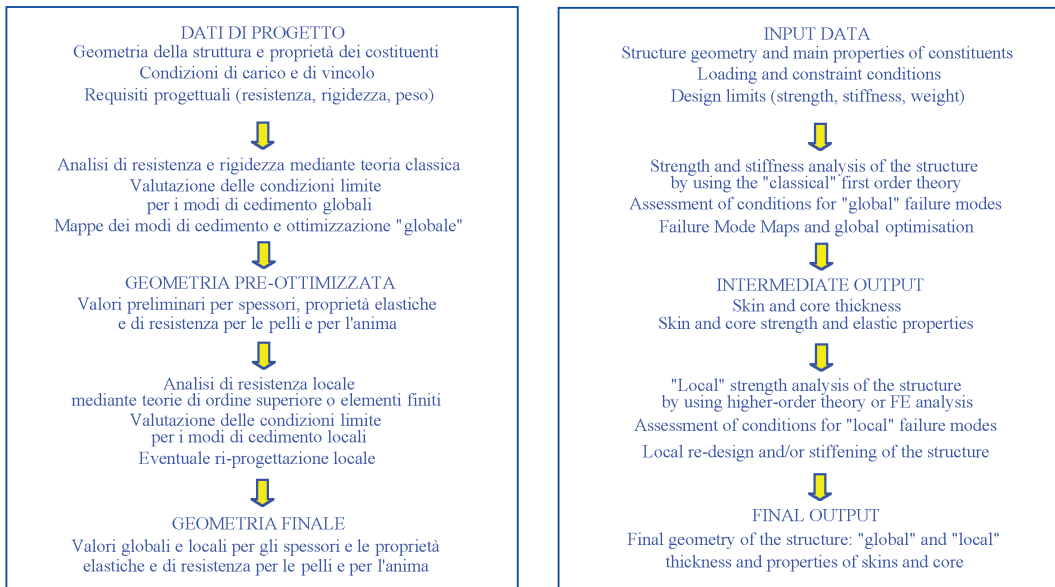
Durante la prima fase di analisi, per evitare sovradimensionamenti della struttura è

concentrated loads modifying, if necessary, the geometry and the properties of the structure at local or global level. This approach is on the basis of a procedure for the design and optimisation of sandwich panels, which is under development at the Department of Management and Engineering - University of Padova. The flow chart of the procedure, implemented in the MATLAB® code, is presented in [Fig. 7]. During the preliminary design phase it is important to consider, simultaneously, all the possible failure modes, evaluating thickness and properties of the constituents such as to

conditions is possible for few cases only and therefore an optimisation procedure is usually required, in parallel, to comply with the strength and stiffness requirements by keeping the minimum weight for the structure. It is also worth noting that the stiffness requirements are frequently more demanding than those referred to the strength.

[Fig. 9] shows an example of optimisation. Once fixed the properties for skins and core, the critical conditions for each failure mode as well as the stiffness constraint are expressed as a function of the core thickness and this allows to evaluate the minimum skin thickness suitable to comply with the more critical condition imposed (Point A in figure 9, core thickness 68.4 mm, skin thickness = 0.3 mm). Although the combination of the thickness thus obtained satisfies the strength/stiffness requirements, it is not necessarily that providing the minimum weight for the panel. A further step is therefore required to identify a new combination of thickness which simultaneously satisfies the strength/stiffness and minimum weight requirements (Point B in [Fig. 9], core thickness 35.2 mm, skin thickness = 1.18 mm). At this point can start the second, more sophisticated phase of the procedure, usually more demanding in

[Fig. 7] - Diagramma di flusso del programma per l'analisi di strutture sandwich in materiale composito (10)  
Flow chart of the design and optimisation procedure of composite sandwich structures (10)



L'approccio più razionale ed efficace alla progettazione di una struttura sandwich prevede fondamentalmente due momenti: una prima fase preliminare in cui viene effettuata l'analisi globale della struttura con l'utilizzo di teorie semplificate, fornendo una prima indicazione sulle dimensioni degli spessori di pelli e anima e sulle loro proprietà elastiche e di resistenza. Una fase successiva, di rifinitura, in cui vengono valutati gli effetti di condizioni locali, quali ad esempio problemi all'interfaccia pelle-anima, inserti metallici o carichi concentrati. Al termine di questa fase vengono ridefinite, se necessario, le carat-

opportuno considerare simultaneamente le condizioni limite relative ai diversi modi di cedimento, determinando le caratteristiche dei costituenti in maniera tale da rendere il più possibile equivalenti i gradi di criticità di ciascun modo di rottura. Uno strumento utile a questo scopo è rappresentato dalle Failure Mode Maps (FMM) o mappe dei modi di cedimento (11, 12), che vengono costruite esprimendo il carico critico relativo a ciascun modo di rottura in funzione degli spessori e delle proprietà elastiche e di resistenza dei materiali utilizzati per le pelli e per l'anima. La formulazione esplicita delle

make all the failure modes equally likely to occur, therefore avoiding overdesign of the structure. A possible tool for this aim is represented by the Failure Mode Maps (11, 12). The FMM are built by expressing the critical load for each failure mode as a function of thickness and properties of skins and core. An example of FMM is shown in [Fig. 8], where the changes in the failure mode as a function of core density and skin thickness can be identified. The common point of the three zones represents the iso-critical condition for the three modes of failure.

However, the explicit formulation of the different limit con-

ditions is possible for few cases only and therefore an optimisation procedure is usually required, in parallel, to comply with the strength and stiffness requirements by keeping the minimum weight for the structure. It is also worth noting that the stiffness requirements are frequently more demanding than those referred to the strength. [Fig. 9] shows an example of optimisation. Once fixed the properties for skins and core, the critical conditions for each failure mode as well as the stiffness constraint are expressed as a function of the core thickness and this allows to evaluate the minimum skin thickness suitable to comply with the more critical condition imposed (Point A in figure 9, core thickness 68.4 mm, skin thickness = 0.3 mm). Although the combination of the thickness thus obtained satisfies the strength/stiffness requirements, it is not necessarily that providing the minimum weight for the panel. A further step is therefore required to identify a new combination of thickness which simultaneously satisfies the strength/stiffness and minimum weight requirements (Point B in [Fig. 9], core thickness 35.2 mm, skin thickness = 1.18 mm). At this point can start the second, more sophisticated phase of the procedure, usually more demanding in terms of time, due to the need of a careful evaluation of the structure strength after considering the local effects (localised loads and constraints, skin/core interface, inserts, abrupt changes in geometry). An exhaustive presentation of this design phase is, again, beyond the scope of this paper. It is only worthwhile to remember the need of an accurate evaluation of the local stress fields by using suitable analytical or numerical methodologies, as discussed above and also well presented in the many papers published by Thomsen on this topic (13-14).

For further information please contact the editorial office.