

OPENING REMARKS

Col. George T. Buck*

Director, Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory

It is a great pleasure and honor to open the "Conference on Matrix Methods in Structural Mechanics". We are hoping to have a significant meeting here. The presence of this distinguished audience and substantial contributions from outstanding authors will certainly guarantee this goal.

Both the Air Force Institute of Technology and the Air Force Flight Dynamics Laboratory are sponsors of this conference. It is particularly gratifying that this conference is being sponsored jointly by two units from two different Air Force Commands: Air Force Systems Command and the Air University. Such cooperation between different Air Force units adds strength to technical resources of the United States Air Force and widens the area of mutual understanding. Thus, we meet as engineers, scientists and scholars to report and extend the latest state of the art in "Matrix Methods in Structural Mechanics". Progress in this area has been indeed rapid and sufficiently extraordinary from the viewpoint of payoff and application to warrant this special meeting and its distinguished representation. Matrix methods, new and improved structural representations and the computer are providing rapid, economic and accurate methods for early analysis and synthesis of complex designs from strength as well as structural and dynamics stability viewpoints. If we can predict problems accurately we can certainly prevent them and prevent them with minimum weight. This is one of the reasons for this meeting: - development of powerful and accurate methods for predicting and preventing problems. Stated in other words we are concerned with flight vehicle safety and reliability with maximum efficiency or minimum weight.

The Technical Committee is particularly pleased with the exceedingly high quality of papers to be presented. The papers will report progress in the current state of the art in the application of matrix algebra and computer technology to the structural analysis of complex structural systems. Also, it is hoped that time will permit a general discussion after the conclusion of each paper.

With this brief introduction on locale and background, it is my pleasure to introduce Major General Haugen, Commandant of the Air Force Institute of Technology.

*Conference Co-chairman

**PRECEDING
PAGE BLANK**