

# CAD Based Analysis for Feasibility of Design of an Amphibious Vehicle for Recreation



## Debashis Majumder, Anirban Chowdhury

Abstract: An amphibious vehicle is the vehicle that allows occupants to travel on both land and water. Since an amphibious vehicle must inherently possess both land and water capabilities, design of the vehicle should not compromise the requirements for a good boat as well as a good land vehicle. Although, amphibious vehicles were used for different purposes, still there is no mention of application of amphibious vehicle in recreational purposes such as beach riding, surfing on water and travel within Science Parks. Further, with depletion of fossil fuel and for all the negative effect on marine life. Hence, an attempt is made to design an electric amphibious vehicle for recreational purpose and utilize for travel within Science & Technology Park. A conceptual design was worked out and it is matched with visual aspects of amphibian animal like duck. A CAD model was prepared with structural details. Structural strength was analyzed using ANSYS software. CFD analysis was conducted for calculating drag and surface shear stress and buoyancy was calculated. Thus it gives a practical approach to construction of an amphibious vehicle for recreational purpose. The results of the CAD analysis shows that the stress on the Frame was within acceptable limit and the buoyancy conditions are fulfilled. It also suggest for a maximum speed of 40kmph on water. As look and feel of the vehicle inspired from duck beak, it gives expression of amphibian characteristics along with sporty look. Thus, the conceptual vehicle is suitable for use on land and on water inside Science & Technology park.

Keywords: Amphibious Vehicle, CAD Model, CFD Analysis, Design, Electric Vehicle,

#### I. INTRODUCTION

There were occasional examples of use of amphibious nature of vehicle. Sometime it was bicycle some time it was car etc. These were very few in number and in a specific area. Vehicles such as Amphicar which was built by Quandt group in the 60s was a remarkable feat in amphibious vehicle production and an early inspiration. Although this rear wheeled wonder was soon out of production due to cost issues and several parts made of steel which was prone to rust and required high maintenance, it had various design aspects like high ground clearance for better maneuverability and

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screen [4].

traction control on land. Also a large bulge around the engine provided better hydrodynamic as well as ground effect [1].

Many films like Pontiac Moon and a 60s Pepsi Commercial featuring Amphibian vehicles at high speed on water also motivated us to build a similar recreational multi utility vehicle. Gibbs Aquada is also a prototype design which incorporates a thrust jet propulsion technology made high speed mobility on water, an achievable feat. Its design aspect can be an employed in our amphibian vehicle for high thrust and speed allowances in water [2].

#### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### A. Amphibious human powered cycles

These are some independently made human powered cycles having capability to move both on land and water. A very primitive design of a human powered bicycle made by Md. Saidullah, an innovator from Bihar incorporates four air filled floats for achieving buoyancy and propulsion is done using fins attached to the spokes of the wheels. It was also documented by Discovery Channel.

#### B. Amphibious trucks and artillery vehicles

During the World War II, the US military used DUKW trucks which had a 6X6 wheel drive. Germany's Schwimmwagen and Russia's GAZ 46 were also some similar primitive amphibious truck design used in the war [4].

The Vietnam war which spanned from 1955 to 1975 also saw many unique amphibian military-based carrier designs. The British developed a 6X6 cargo carrier named Alvis Stalwart in the 60s capable of achieving 6 knots with the help of water-jet propulsion technology. Germans developed the M3 Amphibious rig capable of carrying multiple army personnel along with heavy vehicles and cargos.

A very unique design was seen in the British design made in the wake of World War II named Sherman (after the Civil war general William Sherman) which was also dubbed as "Duplex Drive" due to the fact that it consisted of rubberized screen which was opened by the soldiers before entering the water to provide additional buoyancy. It had a propeller based propulsion system. The design was flawed as it was useless when afloat due to the covering of the guns by the

## C. Hovercraft based vehicles

These are air cushion-based vehicles which are also reimagined on the big screen in the flicks such as the 2002 James Bond flick Die Another Day.



It is based on the principle of levitation based on an air cushion of low pressure air between vehicle base and the ground. They have an advantage of transition from land to water or vice versa at speed and even go as high as 150 mph on water! It sure has a few drawbacks which include demand for a levelled terrain and high fuel consumption [5].

#### D. Commercial Amphibious vehicles

Many designs of AVs are based on World War II based amphibian vehicle that are now used for recreation and tourist sight- seeing purposes. They are used in places like water bodies of Venice etc. Many concepts and prototypes like the Rinspeed Squaba and Gibbs Aquada have been produced for a limited consumer market [3].

Many people have tried to modify and customize their personal wagons into recreational family type amphibian vehicle. Bert Sandlin from New Orleans made a home-made AV at his garage which is cheap and can hit the war at 40 mph. It has fiberglass and Styrofoam reinforcements for extra buoyancy [6].

#### III. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

- **A.** To develop a concept an amphibious vehicle AV (for travel within Science & Technology Park) by taking inspiration from amphibious animal
- **B.** To ensure the feasibility of the developed concept using CAD software (through static stress analysis and drag analysis)

#### IV. METHODOLOGY

Need based conceptual design of few AVs were worked out and matched with visual aspects of vehicle for recreational purpose. A CAD model was prepared with structural details. Structural strength was analyzed with ANSYS software. The CFD analysis was conducted for calculating drag and surface shear stress. The buoyancy of the CAD model of AV was calculated. Thus it gives a practical approach to construction of an amphibious vehicle for recreational sports [10] [11].

## A. Steps of Design Process

- Ideation
- User Survey (Secondary Research)
- Inspiration / Mood Board creation
- Conceptual Design
- CAD Model Preparation in CATIA V5
- Validation of body Design
- · Component selection
- · Weight finalization
- · Dimension Finalization
- Buoyancy Calculation
- · Chassis design by FE Analysis
- · CFD Analysis of Body for body design

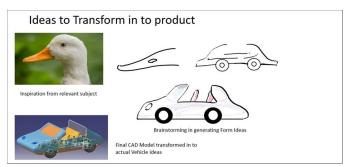


Fig. 1 Concept generation from Mood Board considering Bio inspiration (Duck).

## **B.** Development of CAD Model.

Based on Bio- inspired concept, a CAD model was developed and detail prototyping was done. Please find the CAD model of the AV for recreation (at Science & Technology Park) in Fig. 2.

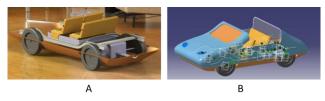


Fig. 2. CAD models for the designed vehicle (A: Interior parts of the AV, B: Exterior of the AV).

The dimensions of the vehicle are decided by taking inspiration from the dimensions of existing electric land vehicles such as- Nissan Leaf and Chevrolet Bolt. The ladder type chassis is modelled as the first step and the followed by mechanical components such as the suspension, differential, motors, seats and finally the body (See Table 1).

Table 1. Dimensions for AV CAD prototype

Table 1. Dimensions for AV CAD prototype		
Part Name	Dimension (mm)	
Wheelbase	2700	
Total height of the car	1900	
Ground Clearance	200	
Body length	5200	
Body width	2200	
Wheel diameter	550	
Hull beam	2240	
Hull LOA	5350	
-	<u>-</u>	

## V. DESIGN OF AN AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLE FOR RECREATION

The AV for recreational use is getting popular. In many countries, several forms of AVs are found to be used. Studies have been made to design a new AV design for recreational purposes. Here attempt has been made to evaluate and optimize material and optimise feasibility by using CAD software.

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For modeling Catia and Fusion 360 is used and for FE analysis, software like Ansys is used to evaluate stress on chassis and fluid flow pressure on body by using Ansys. This will optimize the design. Similar approach may be taken for design of other AVs for recreational use.

Components for electric AV was planned. These are battery, motor for wheels, hull, frame, body, tires and water jet propulsion system. As AVs will roll on land and dive in water, rigid expanded Polyurethane was chosen for vehicle body design and 5052 is an Aluminum alloy, primarily alloyed with magnesium and chromium for the body [12].

Followings are the major elements of the Amphibious Vehicle:

#### A. The Hull

The hull of a wheeled amphibian is the enclosure which contains the crew compartment, cargo compartment, engine compartment, and numerous other vehicle components. The amphibian hull differs fundamentally from the body of other military automotive assemblies in that it must satisfy certain marine design criteria. Specifically, it must exhibit the required stability and buoyancy characteristics as well as have a configuration that will result in an acceptable speed-power relationship for waterborne operations. In summary, the purpose of the amphibian hull is twofold—it serves as a boat hull and as a truck body [7].

An Inboard flange can be used for the assembly of the body and the hull and the sealing is done by applying epoxy resin on the hull.

## **B.** The Propulsion System

There are two categories in which amphibious vehicles are divided on the basis of how they are propelled in water- how they are propelled on land. Here much of the system remains common for both. It contains system that can travel on a wide number of terrains including on water. These are different mechanism used in this type of vehicles and use of tracks, screw mechanisms, water jet propulsion and even regular propellers [8].

In this study, the propulsion system adopted was based on existing propulsion system for small electric vehicle in other applications. The propulsion system for water will be jet based propulsion. However, the design is subjected to future alterations with jet and other rotor based hybrid propulsion or normal rotor based propulsion system as per the cost allowances [13].

#### C. Power Train (EV)

Apart from being environment friendly and having a rapidly growing infrastructure - electric technology provides a wider range of torque, quite operation, cheaper running costs and minimal maintenance as compared to IC engines. Maneuvering the vehicle and getting it on and out of water is also a big challenge according to most hobbyists. It also provides green technology to support environment. As they move in water, the fossil fuel effect aquatic life also [9] [10].

#### VI. ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS OF AV

Electrical components were decided by considering existing electric vehicle called GM `Bolt'. Please refer Table 2 for details and specifications of the electrical components.

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Table 2: Components and specifications of electric AV

Component selected	Specification	Remarks
Battery	LG 40 Battery module pack, 60KWh	Same as GM Bolt
Motor for wheels	100 KW synchronous motor by Siemens (model SIVETEC MRS)	Also used in Volvo S60 Hybrid
Hull	Flat bottomed glass fiber reinforced plastic hull	
Frame	Ladder type frame made by Carbon steel	
Body	Body made out of 5052 Aluminum alloy	5052 is an Aluminum alloy, primarily alloyed with magnesium and chromium.
Tires	20in Michelin tires	
Water jet propulsion system	Berkeley Jet Drive Model 12JC	Made out of high strength aluminum alloy
Rigid expanded polyurethane	CORAFOAM®	comes as two liquids to be mixed and poured in

The powertrain of the vehicle was decided based on the land based electric vehicle like Nissan Leaf or Chevrolet Bolt. The project is solely an electric vehicle (EV) with a proper assembly of motors driven by a central battery pack and other necessary modules fixed on board.

#### VII. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

#### A. Static Stress Calculation on Frame

The results of stress analysis of the Frame using new boundary conditions are found to be safe and within limit. Here in static analysis, a typical ladder frame chassis is considered. The different load considerations are taken for analysis (land and water). The chassis is designed analytically by varying materials in rectangular cross section of beam [14].

There are various steps that are to be followed in analyzing a component structurally. Here the Gross weight of body is considered to be 862.5 kg. Here the factor safety is taken as 4 and von misses stress is within limit so the design is acceptable.

The main steps are:-

- 1. Geometric model design
- 2. Mesh generation
- 3. Fixed supports
- 4. Application of loads
- 5. Evaluating result



The stress plots are shown in Fig. 3

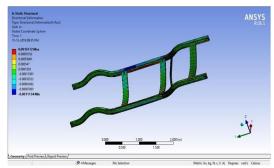


Fig. 3. Stress Analysis of Frame Deformation 0.8 m. m. (distribution of load in water).

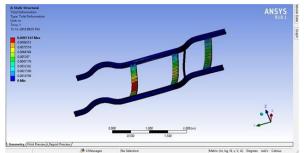


Fig.4. Total Deformation 8.6 millimeter (distribution of load in land).

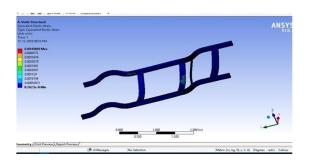


Fig. 5 Equivalent Elastic strain of the frame is 0.00050973

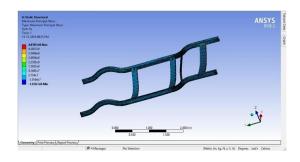


Fig.6. Maximum Principal Stress 485.87 MPa.

**Table. 3 Properties of Material** 

<u>-</u>		
Property	HSLA Steel	
Mass density (Kg/m3)	7850	
Yield strength (Mpa)	552	
Ultimate tensile strength (Mpa)	630	
Poisons ratio	0.3	
Shear Modulus (Gpa)	76.9	
Young's Modulus (Gpa)	200	

# This Table is adapted from [18]

HSLA steels have yield strengths greater than 550 MPa

Acicular ferrite (low-carbon bainite) steels, which are low-carbon (less than 0.05% C) steels with an excellent combination of high yield strengths, (as high as 690 MPa, or 100 ksi) weldability, formability, and good toughness[15][16] [17].

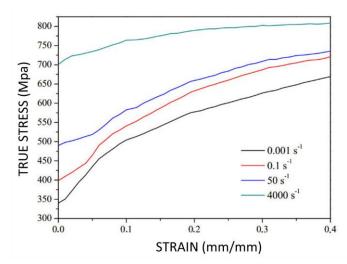


Table 4. Stress Strain Curve of HSLA Steel (this graph is adopted from [26]).

#### B. The CFD Analysis of the Hull

• Calculation of viscous drag:

For calculating viscous drag due to hull we are using the following formulas:

 $Rv(viscous drag) = 0.5x(density of water)x(speed of vehicle)^2x(surface area of the hull)x(coefficient of friction) \\ Cf(coefficient of friction) = 0.075/{(log Rnum)-2}^2 \\ Rnum (Reynold's No.) = [(speed of the vehicle) x (waterline length)] / (kinematic viscosity of water)$ 

Data: Speed of the vehicle= 40kmph Waterline length= 5141mm

Surface area of the hull= 1.38e+7mm^2 v (kinematic viscosity)= 8.9e-7m^2s Density of water= 1000kgm-3

 $R_{num}$ = 6.47e+7.  $C_f$ = 0.00222  $R_v$ = 1921.5N or 1.92kN.

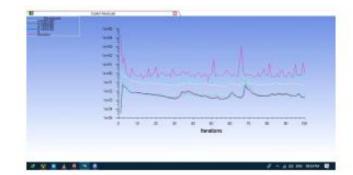


Fig. 7. CFD Analysis on the model done in Ansys 18.1



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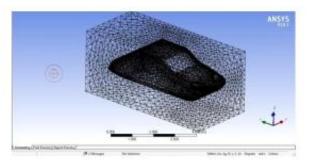


Fig. 8. Mesh model done in Ansys 18.1

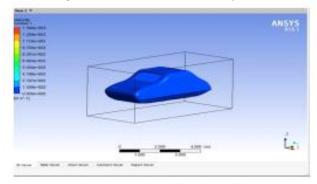


Fig. 9. Velocity Contour

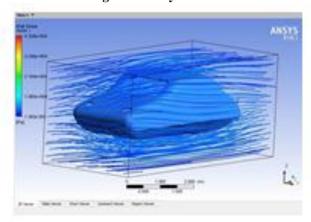


Fig. 10. Wall Shear Vector

Wall Shear vector is within acceptable range.

#### C. The submerged hull volume

Volume is calculated using Fusion 360 software.

The buoyancy of the amphibious hybrid vehicle is depending on the parameter of the bottom hull body to keep it afloat every time. Based on the Archimedes principle, the weight of the floating object is equal to the volume of water displaced [18][19][20].

To calculate the appropriate water line length of our hull, we used the following approach:

Slicing the hull an arbitrary LWL and calculating the lower part's volume. The obtained value is inserted in the formula:

 $F_b = p_w g V$  (Buoyancy Formula)

 $F_b = 997 \text{ kg/m}^3 * 9.81 \text{ kg m/s}2 * 0.205 \text{ m}3$  (using Fusion 360 software)

 $F_{b}=19.2 \text{ KN}$ 

\* pw value at 25° C was considered



Fig. 8. Floating Hull design done using Fusion 360.

The submerged hull volume is calculated using Fusion 360 software. The obtained values should be close to the values of mog as, pwVg = mog. Necessary changes to the hull dimensions are made if the values differ for Floating condition.

Waterline length = 5141mm Hull draft = 250mm

#### D. Range calculation

For calculating the range till which the battery can work is calculated by using the following approach [21] [22] [23]

No. of modules= 40

Voltage of each module= 3V, Total battery voltage=120 V Current drawn= 60 Amp at 40kmph,

Formula used here is: I\*V/Speed= Range

Range at 40kmph= 360 Wh/m.

Also, Range= Total battery capacity/ (Wh per mile usage) therefore, at 20mph Range=155.67 miles = 270Km Similarly, at 50mph range=255 Km

It has to be noted that the actual value maybe upto 55% to 79% of ideal value in the case of a Lithium ion battery.

#### VIII. CONCLUSION

The conceptual development of amphibious vehicle for recreational sports in present day context was explored. The various aspects of user interface and technical feasibility was studied and the design concept was done considering psychological aspect of user mind. The amphibian creature like duck was taken in to consideration as an inspiration to design AV. The form feature of beak of duck was used to come out with interesting form of vehicle. The unique visual design aspect creates invitation and interest for using the amphibious vehicle for recreational purpose. This can popularize amphibious vehicle again in market and it unique advantages can be used for benefit of mankind.

In this study, the feasibility of making amphibious vehicle is tried out from the above mentioned concept and it's actual manufacturing constraints are considered. Apart from aesthetic and innovative approach to design, the engineering aspect of structural strength, fluid dynamics and buoyancy are also calculated. The strength of body structure is appropriate to move on land and on water.



## CAD Based Analysis for Feasibility of Design of an Amphibious Vehicle for Recreation

The designed vehicle is suitable for recreation on water side and it can be implemented for recreational purpose in pre-planned 'Science Park' where it can run on water as well as on land. It also does not pollute environment. So in many places like jungle and nature parks, it will be very appropriate.

#### IX. FUTURE SCOPE OF THE VEHICLE

Amphibious vehicle can be used for many innovative application in present day society. The actual use is limitless. However, the current vehicle might need further aesthetic improvement and appropriate positioning in market. The actual vehicle development and testing will reinforce the feasibility of mass production and cost control. Detail manufacturing and material selection can be done in future to make it easier for mass production [24] [25].

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