

Consider two wings with the same span  $b = 2 \text{ m}$ , and average chord  $c_{\text{avg}} = 0.25 \text{ m}$ , but different taper ratios:

Constant chord ( $c_r = 0.250 \text{ m}$ ,  $c_t = 0.250 \text{ m}$ ,  $r = 1.0$ )

Straight taper ( $c_r = 0.333 \text{ m}$ ,  $c_t = 0.167 \text{ m}$ ,  $r = 0.5$ )

Constant airfoil thickness/chord ratio  $\tau = 0.08$  everywhere.

Assume local loading  $q(y)$  is proportional to chord  $c(y)$ .

Total load on half-wing is  $F = 10 \text{ N}$  (15 oz gross weight at 5 g's).

For each wing ...

- Determine  $q(y)$ ,  $S(y)$ ,  $M(y)$
- Assuming load is carried by top and bottom spars with separation equal to local  $h(y) = \tau c(y)$ , determine sparcap load  $\pm P(y)$ .
- Assuming max permissible sparcap stress (1 ksi = 7 MPa for balsa), calculate minimum cap area  $A(y)$ . Assuming balsa density of  $\rho = 0.125 \text{ g/cm}^3$ , estimate sparcap mass.
- Compute beam curvature at wing center  $\kappa = M(0)/EI(0)$ , and estimate tip deflection  $\delta = w(b/2)$  assuming  $w''(y) = \kappa$  is constant along span. Balsa modulus:  $E = 200 \text{ ksi} = 1.36 \text{ GPa}$ .
- Discuss structural and aerodynamic merits of straight vs tapered wing. Plotting of the various distributions is suggested to help with interpretation.

