

UDC 629.7.015

DOI: 10.26467/2079-0619-2019-22-4-91-99

RECKONING TECHNIQUE OF PASSENGER AIRPLANE APPROACH PROCEDURE IN CASE OF ALL MAIN ENGINES FAILURE

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Cases of failure (shutdown) of all the main engines of a multi-engine powerplant in flight, unfortunately, occur both in Russia and abroad. The causes of such situations may be, for example, a flying in volcanic ash cloud, as in the case of the incident with Boeing 747 over the island of Java in 1982, or the cessation of fuel supply, as in the cases of an emergency landing of Boeing 767-233 in 1983 on an unused military airfield Gimli and Tupolev-204 in Omsk in 2002. At the same time, in the management documentation, the crew's actions for this case are either not prescribed at all, or spelt out so concisely that they do not imply a specific list of actions, or, in other words, they require the crew to search for the necessary aircraft control actions within the circumstances of time shortage and increased stress levels. The proposed article reveals the content of the methodology that provides for the withdrawal of an aircraft with an inoperative power plant in a safe landing environment at every airfield with an outer marker. A distinctive feature of the considered approach is the absence of the need to bind the parameters of aircraft movement to explicitly stated landmarks. In addition, this approach is simple to implement and at the present stage of development of automatic control systems may well be implemented on board an aircraft in an automatic or director mode. The minimum information required for the calculation of the landing approach is limited to three parameters: the minimum drag airspeed in the landing configuration, the height of the flight over an outer marker before the landing and the height loss on turn spiral on the pre-landing manoeuvre. The content of the method in the article is illustrated by the results of the calculation of landing in case of failure of both engines of the power plant for the prospective domestic short-medium-range aircraft MS-21.

Key words: flight dynamics, aircraft engines failure, modeling, piloting, special case in flight.

INTRODUCTION

The powerplant of most passenger aircraft comprises two main engines, as a rule they are bypass turbojets or turboprops. The actions of the flight deck crew in case of one engine failure at different stages of flight and within different operating conditions are prescribed by the actual circulars and governing documents¹ and have been subjected to a detailed research in a great number of papers [1–6]. The multiple engine failure is considered to be of minimum likelihood. However, the history of aviation spells the intimidating degree of even the least likely incidents occurrence. What are the crew members supposed to do in such a situation? The AFM (Aircraft Flight Manual) instructions for multiple engine failure state:

1) Adjust speed to provide the maximum gliding distance in accordance with the aircraft aerodynamic configuration

2) Proceed using the algorithm of altitude adjustment depending on the distance to the aerodrome chosen for the landing (the method of fixes/checkpoints)

However, the AFM does not mention the ways of this particular algorithm implementation, and the success of the flight in this case depends on the captain's intuition, skills and, to a great extent, on his bare luck.

¹ Aviatsionnyye pravila. Ch. 25. Normy letnoy godnosti grazhdanskikh samoletov transportnoy kategorii [Aviation Rules. Part 25. Civil airworthiness requirements for transport category airplanes]. (2013). Mezhhgosudarstvennyy aviatsionnyy komitet [Interstate Aviation Committee]. Moscow: Aviaizdat, 266 p. (in Russian)

RESEARCH METHODS AND METODOLOGY

In military aviation, where a considerable number of combat aircraft are equipped with a single-engine powerplant, the problem of engine failure landing was solved in the eighties of the twentieth century. The team of researchers from the Flight Dynamics Laboratory of Zhukovski Aviation Academy led by Professor Radchenko M. I. developed the reference height method for single engine combat aircraft. The method is listed in the AFMs of a number of military single engine aircraft.

The main feature of the method (reference height method) is that it does not require the knowledge of landmarks or ground fixes and allows to land the airplane at the nearest airport available considering it has the locator outer marker. In other words, the reference height method allows to reckon approach and land the aircraft with the multiple engine failure having no visible landmarks in sight.

The essence of the method is as follows (Figure 1).

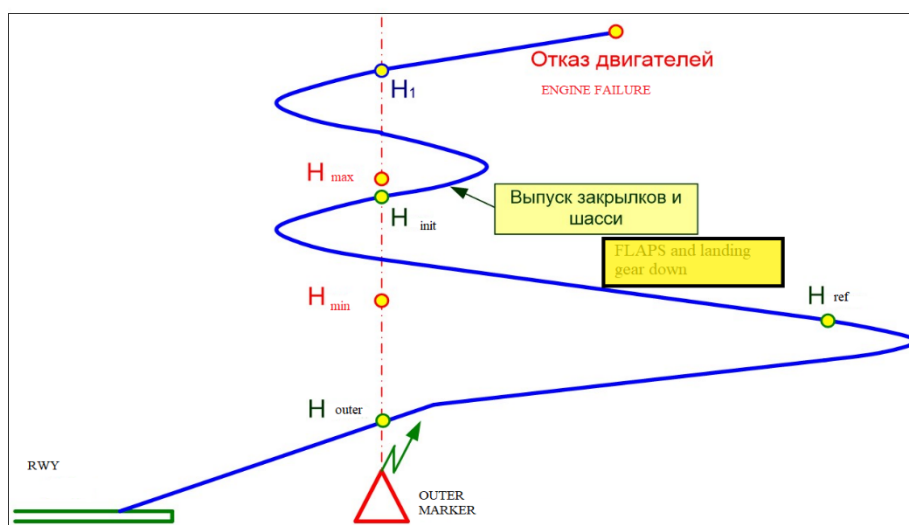


Fig. 1. Approach procedure according to the reference height method

In case of the powerplant failure the pilot adjusts the aircraft speed as the most favourable for this particular type, turns and banks the aircraft at 30° towards the outer marker in order to pass it with the course closer to the runway heading – Ψ_{land} .

When passing the outer marker, the pilot makes a fix of the initial height (H_{init}) and makes a 180° turn from the landing course and then makes a straight-in descent to reach the reference height (H_{ref}).

Upon reaching the reference height the aircraft turns final and makes a runway alignment to reach the best height over the outer marker (H_{outer}).

The minimum safe height for this approach procedure is determined by the height loss on turn spiral within the landing configuration. The initial height over the outer marker must not be below H_{min} , which is calculated as

$$H_{min} = H_{outer} + H_{sp}$$

Where H_{outer} is the height the aircraft must have over the outer marker on final to touchdown at the given point of the runway, H_{sp} is the height loss on turn spiral with the 30° bank angle at given speed.

The reference height approach method is possible from any height $H > H_{min}$. However, the more H_{init} is, the farther is the distance of the point of H_{ref} from the airdrome. At the same time, the longer is the approach trajectory, the more is the difference in the radius and the height loss at turning downwind and

crosswind, the reckoning fault level increases, the wind influence becomes more significant, and, accordingly, the approach precision decreases. Thus, there is an optimum range of heights, the initial landing maneuver height must fit into – H_{init} . The top of this range is limited by H_{max} , which is calculated as

$$H_{max} = H_{min} + H_{sp}.$$

If the height during the first entry onto the outer marker is substantially above that of H_{max} , then immediately after passing the outer marker the pilot should turn spiral with the bank angle of 30° at the given speed. After the spiral turn the height over the marker must be reviewed, and in case if fits the range of H_{min} and H_{max} , the landing maneuver may be executed. The landing configuration must be obtained before entering the outer marker.

Thus, to make a multiple engine failure landing, the pilot must follow the procedure sequence

- 1) At the moment of passing the outer marker remember the H_{init} and enter the 180° turn from the RWY heading with $\gamma = 30^\circ$ at the given speed;
- 2) While performing a 180° turn calculate the reference height using the formula $H_{ref} = 0.5 (H_{init} + H_{outer})$;
- 3) Having finished the 180° turn, glide with the course opposite to the RWY heading to reach H_{ref} ;
- 4) Having reached H_{ref} , turn base and final for RWY alignment.

The diagram of multiple engine failure approach is shown in Figure 2.

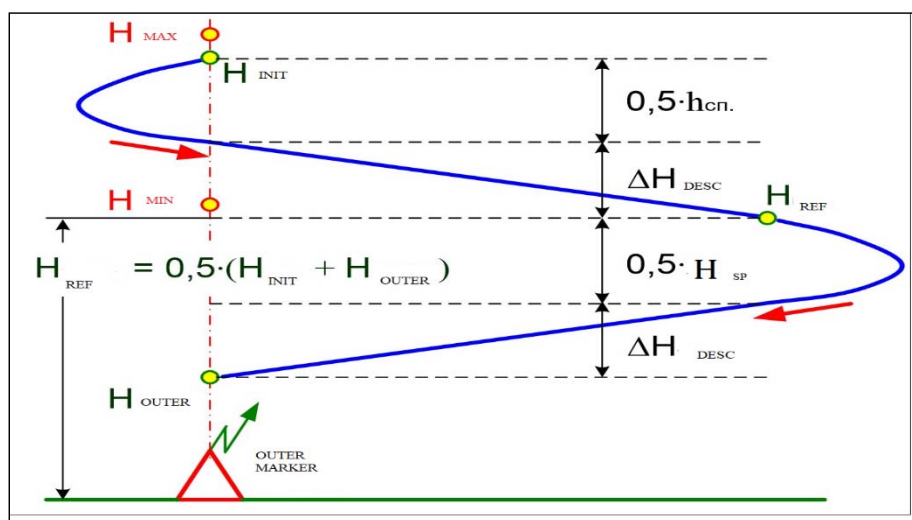


Fig. 2. Approach manoeuvre

The maneuver comprises four legs:

- Turn $\Psi_{land} + 180^\circ$ with height loss equal to $0.5 H_{sp}$
- Straight-in descent to the height ΔH_{desc} till reaching H_{ref}
- Turn Ψ_{land} with height loss equal to $0.5 H_{sp}$
- Straight-in descent to the height ΔH_{desc} till reaching H_{outer}

When approaching from the minimum height the straight-in descent leg is absent ($\Delta H_{desc} = 0$).

RESEARCH RESULTS

Let us illustrate the application of the method using, for instance, the multiple engine failure landing approach procedure of the prospect Russian short/medium range airplane MS-21.

It is obvious, that to calculate $H_{\min}$ it is reasonable to choose the aircraft landing configuration with minimum flap angle ($\delta_f = 10^\circ$, landing gear down (GD)) as it will provide the best aerodynamic performance for HLD extended, and, as follows, the longer gliding distance. The optimum speed for the spiral in this case will be $V_{\text{ind}} = 260 \dots 265 \text{ km/h}$, the climb angle will be $\theta_{\text{desc}} = -6.5 \dots -7^\circ$ and the sink rate $V_{y \text{ desc}} = -8 \dots -9 \text{ m/sec}$. The height loss on turn spiral will be $H_{\text{sp}} = 700 \text{ m}$ and the bank angle during 180° turn will be 2000 m . Accordingly, the minimum height for multiple engine failure landing of MS-21 will be $H_{\min} \approx 1200 \text{ m}$. Having made a spiral turn from $H_{\min}$, the aircraft will be over the outer marker at approximately 500 m , which is good enough for a successful landing. The projection of the spiral path on the vertical and horizontal planes is shown in Figures 3 and 4.

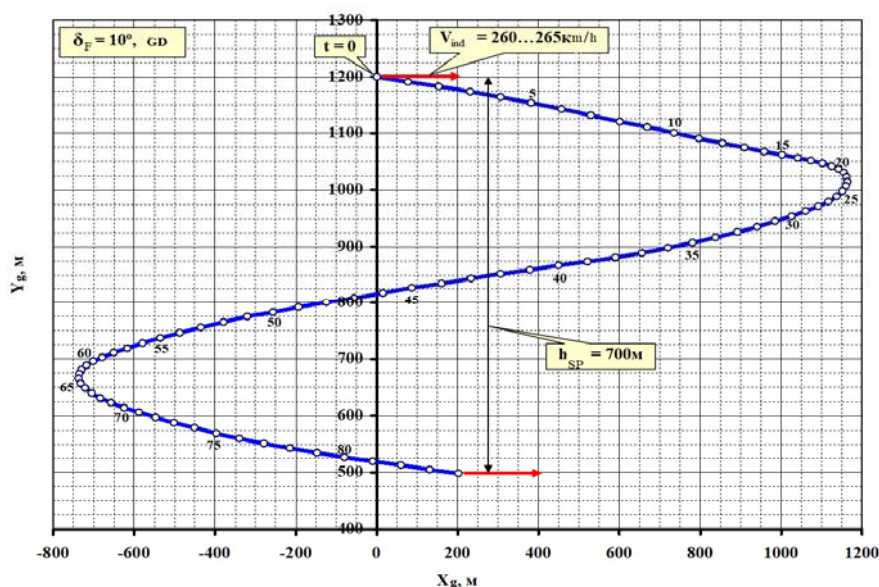


Fig. 3. The projection of the spiral path on the vertical plane $Y_g O X_g$

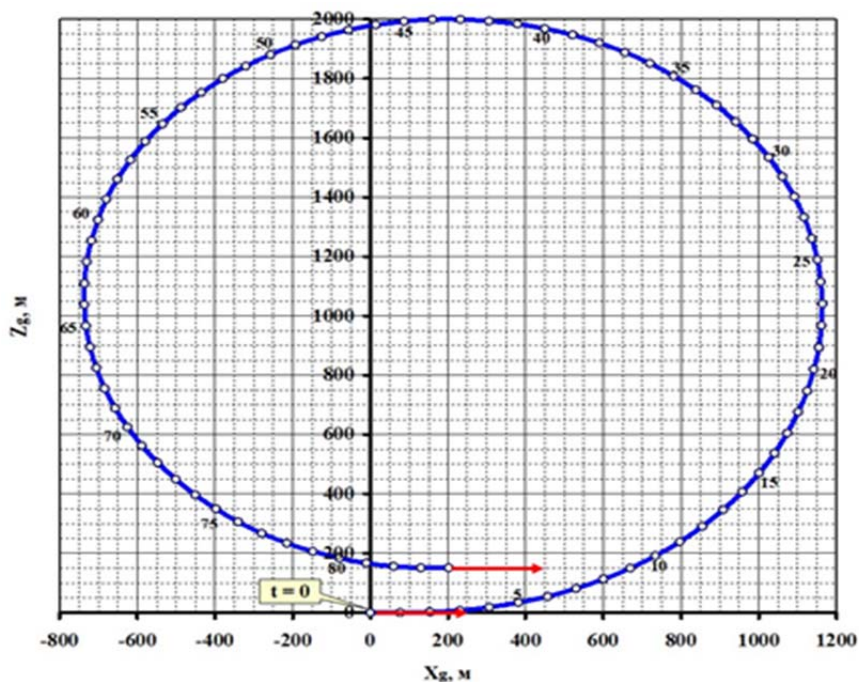


Fig. 4. The projection of the spiral trajectory on the horizontal plane $Z_g O X_g$

Thus, the parameters to be controlled during the multiple engine failure landing for MS-21 within the landing configuration ($\delta_f = 10^\circ$, GD) are as follows:

- Optimum spiral turn speed $V_{ind} = 260 \dots 265$ km/h;
- Height loss during 180° turn $0.5 \cdot H_{sp} \approx 350$ m
- Minimum height $H_{min} = H_{outer} + 700$ m;
- Maximum height $H_{max} = H_{min} + 700$ m.

It is necessary to notice, that in order to compensate the possible errors and the head wind component the minimum height may be increased by $100 \dots 200$ m.

For the tail wind component or in case the height is exceeded, the trajectory may be amended by means of increasing the flap angle.

The Figures 5, 6 and 7 below show the aircraft travel parameters during the final stage of flight from passing the outer marker to touchdown at three HLD (flap) angle configurations $\delta_f = 10^\circ$; $\delta_f = 18^\circ$; $\delta_f = 27^\circ$.

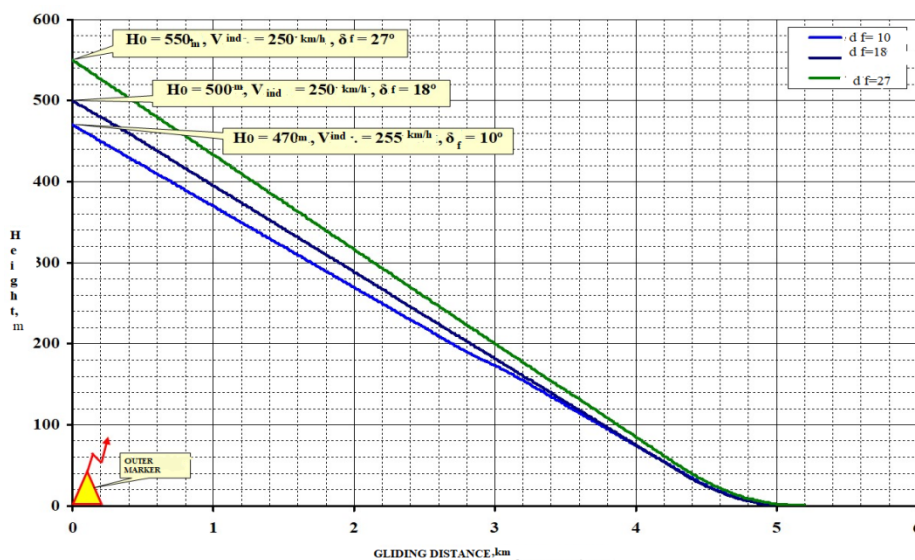


Fig. 5. The change in the height of the pre-landing reduction in distance from the outer marker

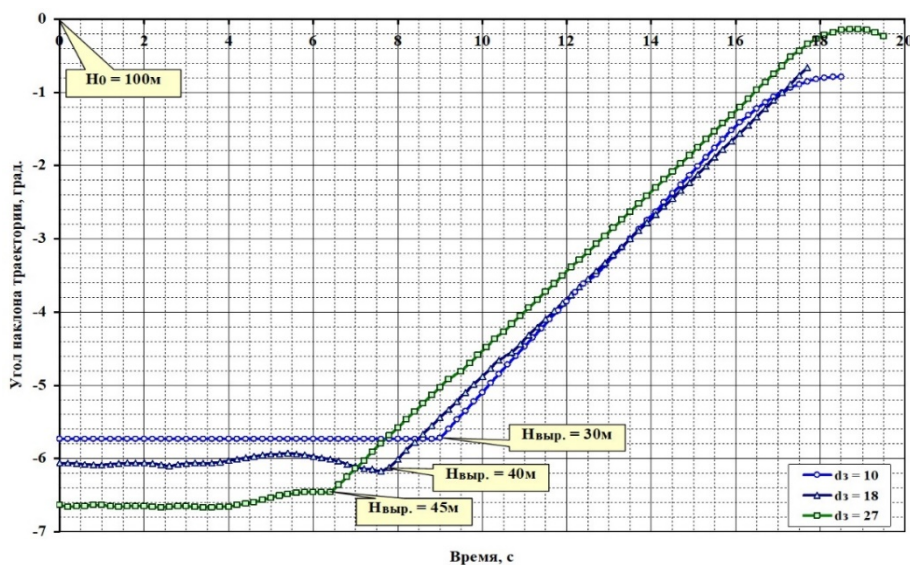


Fig. 6. Climbing angle at the pre-landing descent stage

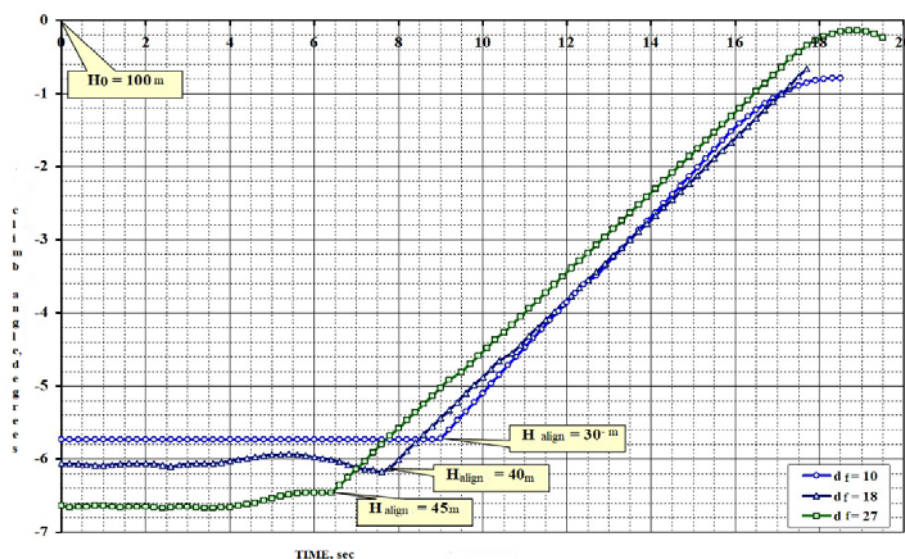


Fig. 7. Descent rate at the pre-landing descent stage

As the results show, the aircraft must have the following parameters of height and equivalent speed to make a safe landing:

- at $\delta_f = 10^\circ$ – $H_0 = 470$ m, $V_0 = 255$ km/h;
- at $\delta_f = 18^\circ$ – $H_0 = 500$ m, $V_0 = 250$ km/h;
- at $\delta_f = 27^\circ$ – $H_0 = 550$ m, $V_0 = 250$ km/h.

The given parameters allow to make a final of 5 km and to start alignment at the height $H_{align} = 30...45$ m which later result in the following touchdown parameters:

- at $\delta_f = 10^\circ$ – $\alpha_{touch.} = 11,0^\circ$, $V_{touch.} = 239$ km/h;
- at $\delta_f = 18^\circ$ – $\alpha_{touch.} = 10,8^\circ$, $V_{touch.} = 233$ km/h;
- at $\delta_f = 27^\circ$ – $\alpha_{touch.} = 10,0^\circ$, $V_{touch.} = 218$ km/h.

Normal acceleration is maintained during the alignment procedure $n_{y align} = 1,06...1,08$.

The estimate of MS-21 parameters at engines inoperative was executed using mathematical modeling of aircraft flight dynamics [9].

To check the mathematical model adequacy, the results of spiral turns modeling were compared to the actual flight data. Table 1 shows the comparison results of spiral turns within the cruising configuration at initial altitude of 10 km.

Modes 1 and 2 show the steady-state spirals at "engines at idle" mode. Mode 3 imitates the flight with the engines shut down. Wind milling (autorotation) regime imitation is obtained by means of "engines at idle" mode together with $\frac{1}{4}$ spoiler extension at travel. Flight mode 3 is compared with spiral turns modeling at engines inoperative. The results of modeling provide a slightly bigger height loss. At the same time, the error rate is within 6%.

Table 1

Parameters of steady-state spirals

№ mode	γ , degrees.	G, thrust specific fuel consumption	$H_{init.}$, ft	$V_{np.}$, kt	$H_{sp flight}$, ft	$H_{sp model}$, ft	$\Delta h_{sp.}$, ft	$\Delta h_{sp.}$, m	$\Delta h_{sp.}$, %
1	20	56123	33043	212	9543	9843	+300	+91	3,1
2	30	53893	33022	199	6082	6430	+348	+106	5,7
3	30	53543	32894	205	7193	7536	+343	+104	4,8

Here $h_{sp \text{ flight}}$ – spiral turn height obtained in flight;
 $h_{sp \text{ model}}$ – spiral turn height obtained from modeling;
 $\Delta h_{sp} = h_{sp \text{ model}} - h_{sp \text{ flight}}$.

The modelling results prove the high degree of wind milling imitation precision by means of combining the "engines at idle" mode together with $\frac{1}{4}$ spoiler extension at travel. The spiral turn height increase at spoiler extension was 1111 ft (the comparison of flight modes 2 and 3), the increase in spiral turn height at shut down engines was 1106 ft according to the modelling results.

The table shows that the decrease of the bank angle from 30 to 20° increases the radius and the spiral turn height more than 1.5 times. Accordingly, it is recommended to have a bank angle of $\gamma = 30^\circ$ when reckoning a multiple engine failure landing procedure.

THE RESULTS EVALUATION AND CONCLUSION

As the obtained results show, the technique evaluated in the paper allows a simple algorithm of the flight deck crew actions in case of a multiple engine failure that leads to a safe landing at any airfield equipped with an outer marker localizer with no need in explicitly stated visible landmarks. The minimum information required for the calculation of the landing approach is limited to three parameters: the minimum drag airspeed in the landing configuration, the height of the flight over an outer marker before the landing and the height loss on turn spiral on the pre-landing maneuver.

The present-day level of control systems automation [10, 11] allows to delegate the task of reference height method calculation within the automatic or directory flight control modes.

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МЕТОДИКА РАСЧЕТА ЗАХОДА НА ПОСАДКУ ПАССАЖИРСКОГО САМОЛЕТА ПРИ ОТКАЗЕ ВСЕХ МАРШЕВЫХ ДВИГАТЕЛЕЙ

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Случаи отказа (выключения) всех маршевых двигателей многодвигательной силовой установки в полете, к сожалению, происходят как в России, так и за ее пределами. Причиной таких ситуаций может быть, например, попадание в облако вулканического пепла, как в случае с инцидентом с Boeing 747 над островом Ява в 1982 году, или прекращение подачи топлива, как в случаях аварийной посадки Boeing 767-233 в 1983 году на неиспользуемый военный аэродром Гимлии и аварийной посадки Ту-204 на аэродром в Омске в 2002 году. В то же время в руководящей документации действия экипажа для этого случая или не прописаны вовсе, или прописаны настолько сжато, что не предполагают конкретного перечня действий, или, другими словами, требуют от экипажа в условиях дефицита времени и повышенной психофизиологической нагрузки самостоятельного поиска необходимых действий в части управления воздушным судном (ВС). В предлагаемой статье раскрывается содержание методики, обеспечивающей вывод самолета с неработающей силовой установкой в безопасные условия посадки на любой аэродром с дальним приводным радиомаяком (ДПРМ). Отличительная особенность рассматриваемого подхода заключается в отсутствии необходимости привязки параметров движения ВС к заранее заданным наземным ориентирам. Кроме того, указанный подход прост в реализации и на современном этапе развития систем автоматического управления вполне может быть реализован на борту ВС в автоматическом или директорном режимах. Минимальная информация, необходимая для осуществления расчета захода на посадку, ограничивается тремя параметрами: наивыгоднейшей скоростью полета в посадочной конфигурации, высотой пролета ДПРМ перед посадкой и шагом спирали на высоте предпосадочного маневрирования.

Содержание метода в статье иллюстрируется результатами расчета захода на посадку перспективного отечественного ближне-среднемагистрального ВС МС-21 при отказе обоих двигателей.

Ключевые слова: динамика полета, отказ двигателя самолета, моделирование, пилотирование, особый случай в полете.

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Поступила в редакцию
Принята в печать

26.04.2019
23.07.2019

Received
Accepted for publication

26.04.2019
23.07.2019