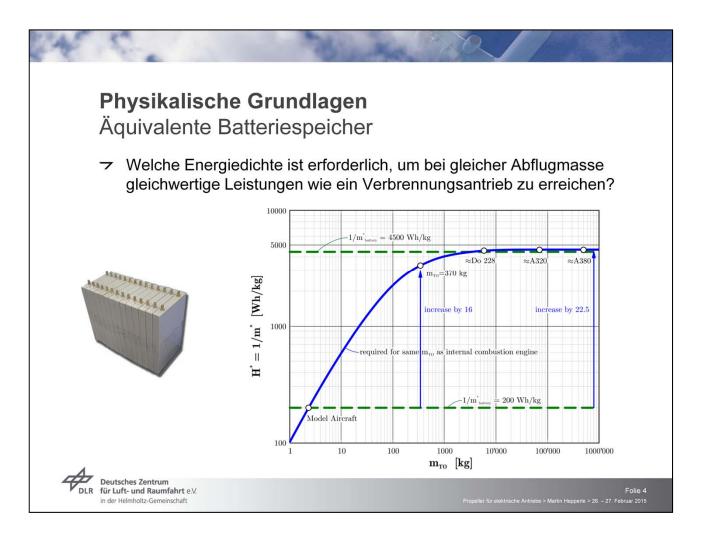


Not everything is easily scalable. The graph shows the required power per mass over wing loading. Small and slow aircraft have much lower wing loadings than heavy and fast aircraft. This is a result of the so called square-cube scaling law.

The result is that the required power per mass of transport aircraft is about one order of magnitude higher that P/m required for model aircraft.

Compared to general aviation aircraft the factor is about 5.

Thus large aircraft have very demanding power over mass requirements which must be Provider by propulsion and energy storage systems.



We ask for exactly the same performance (flight time or range) of battery electric powered and kerosene powered aircraft.

If we then assume that we can change the battery technology at will (and keeping everything else untouched) we can draw the blue curve of required battery energy density versus takeoff mass.

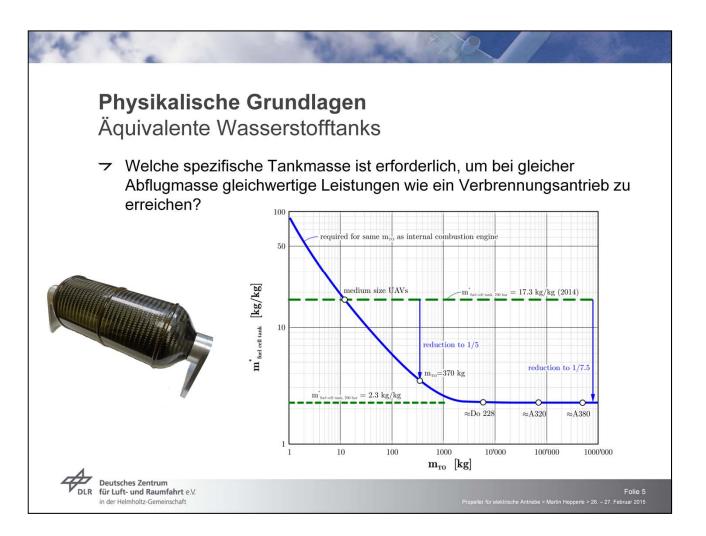
As shown before the larger aircraft have much higher power and hence energy demands.

If we look at the green dashed line, which represents current high tech battery systems, we see that we obtain the same performance at a takeoff mass of about 1 kg.

Below 1 kg mass the battery electric propulsion system is better than the combustion engine.

If we want to achieve the same result for a small aircraft of 370 kg mass we must increase the energy density of the battery by a factor of 16 – for large aircraft the curve levels off and we see that batteries would have to provide a energy density about 22.5 times as high as 200 W/kg.

Note that this is a pessimistic view as we only change the battery technology. But it gives us a feeling for the requirements of larger aircraft and why battery systems work so well on small vehicles (model aircraft and UAVs).

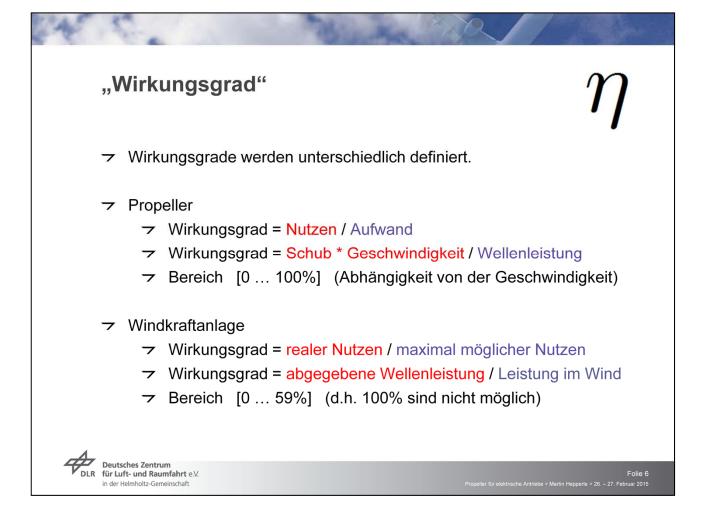


If we play the same game with a H2 powered fuel cell system we can look at the pressurized hydrogen tank. These tanks are very heavy and technology is working towards lower mass.

We see that here the point of equilibrium using current technology (green line) is at a takeoff mass of about 10 kg. This means that today fuel cell systems may be good, useable systems for small UAVs.

If we want to power larger aircraft we need a lower tank mass. For a small aircraft of 370 kg we would have to reduce the mass by a factor of about 1/5. For large transport aircraft the technology target would be a mass reduction by 1/7.5.

Again, the large aircraft show very demanding requirements which are difficult to satisfy.



Efficiency is not always the same and can be confusing at times.

Propeller efficiency is defined as the ratio of thrust power over shaft power.

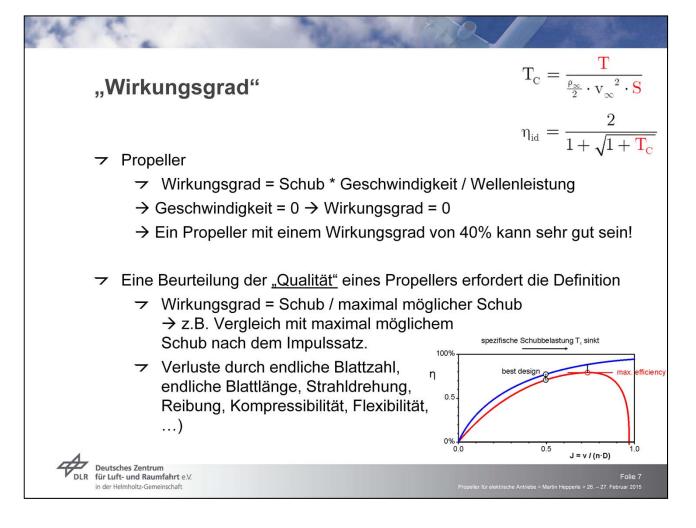
This definition includes the flight speed so that the efficiency goes to zero when the flight speed goes to zero.

This means that the possible efficiency at low speeds (small aircraft) can be much lower than 100%. Indeed an efficiency of only 50% can be very good for a very slow vehicle (e.g. a parafoil).

Note also that the definition for wind turbines has a similar limitation – these efficiencies can never exceed 59%.

An alternative criterion would be the ratio of the achieved thrust over the maximum possible thrust (according to momentum theory), which could always reach an upper limit of 100%

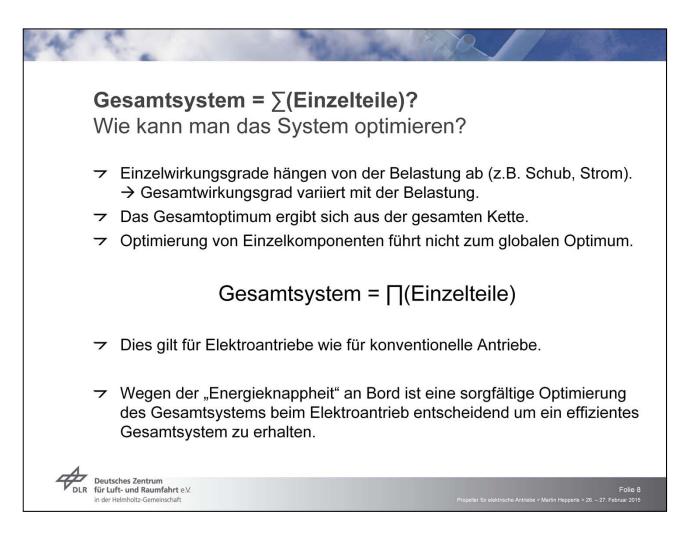
The efficiencies for electric machines are usually defined so that they can always reach 100%.



The graph shows the maximum possible efficiency (blue) according to momentum theory and the efficiency of a real propeller versus advance ratio (roughly == flight speed).

The point of maximum efficiency of the propeller is not as close to the blue curve as the point labeled "best design". One would usually want to operate a propeller to the left of its maximum efficiency not at its maximum efficiency.

This also leads sometimes to confusion.



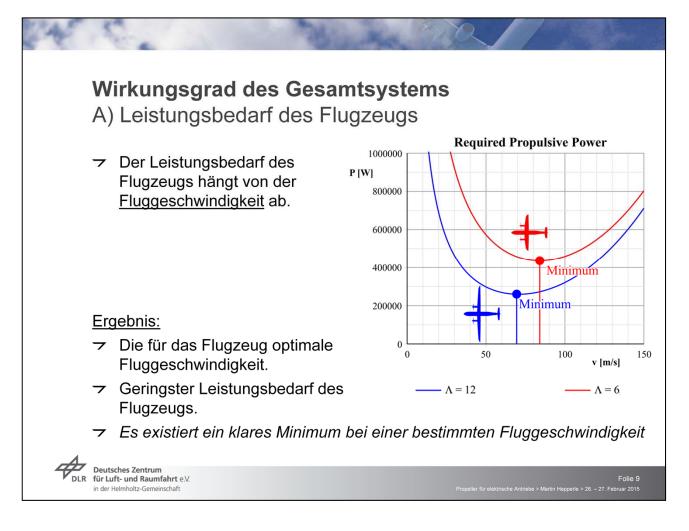
... of course the complete system is linked by the efficiencies of all its components.

Thus the multiplication of all efficiencies leads to the overall efficiency.

In parallel systems a scaling with the actual power throughput is needed.

In the end the overall energy consumption must be obtained by integration over the mission time.

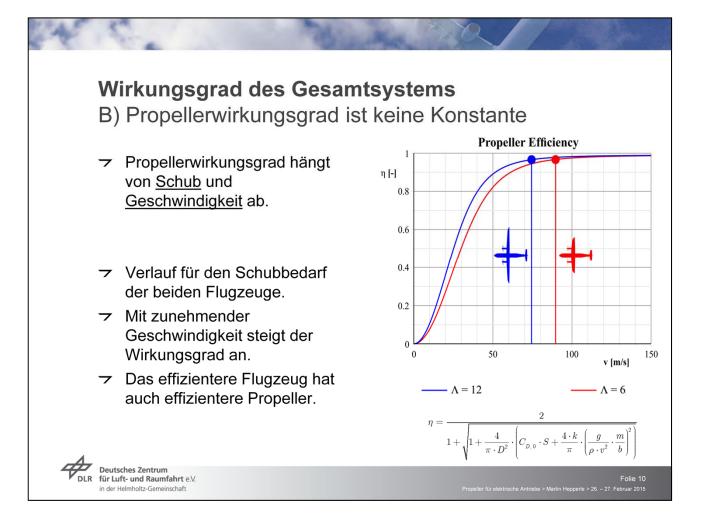
All this is important because of the limited energy storage systems used in todays electric powered aircraft.



Any aircraft has propulsive power requirements. These depend on aircraft shape, mass and flight speed.

There is a distinct power minimum at a certain flight speed.

The blue aircraft has a higher wing span and is therefore aerodynamically more efficient. Its minimum power speed is lower than that of the aircraft with a smaller wing span.

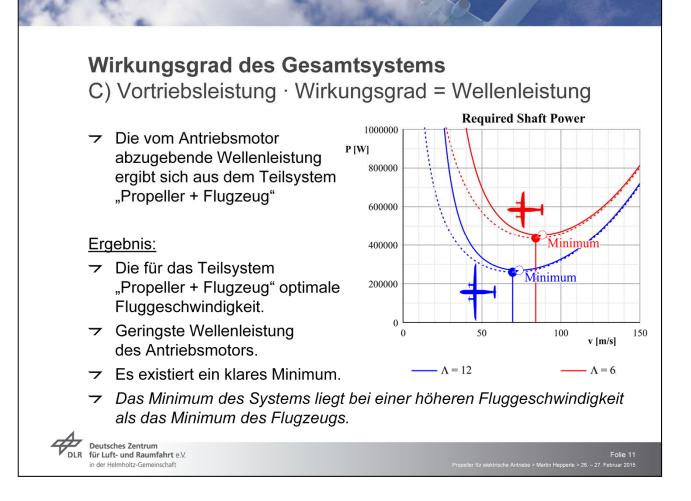


Based on the propulsive power (thrust times flight speed) requirement of each aircraft we can determine the propeller efficiency.

The efficiency increases with flight speed (as the definition of the efficiency includes the flight speed).

The blue aircraft with its lower drag leads to lower thrust and therefore automagically has a propeller of higher efficiency.

This can be confusing sometimes.



In order to obtain the required shaft power we must multiply the required propulsive power by the propeller efficiency.

Both depend on flight speed and aircraft shape.

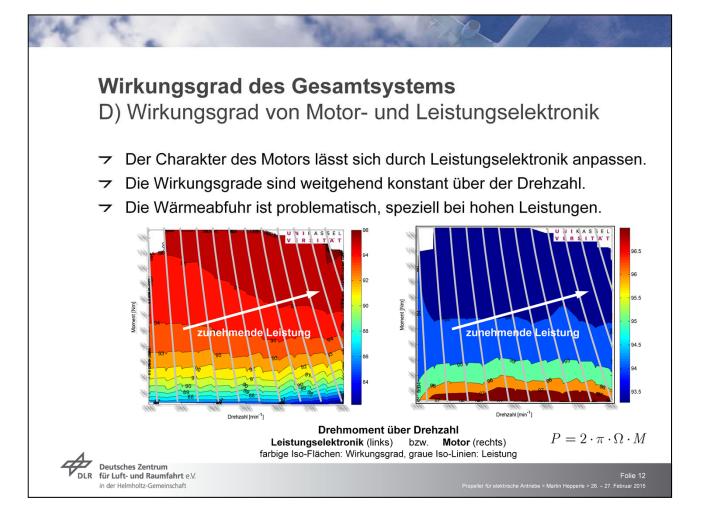
The minimum of the required shaft power is located at a slightly higher flight speed than the minimum of the required propulsive power of the aircraft.

In the next step we must multiply with the efficiency of the motor, which may depend on the shaft power.

In the end we obtain a complete system chain with its total efficiency and the optimum flight speed.

the complete system must be optimized to obtain the best result.

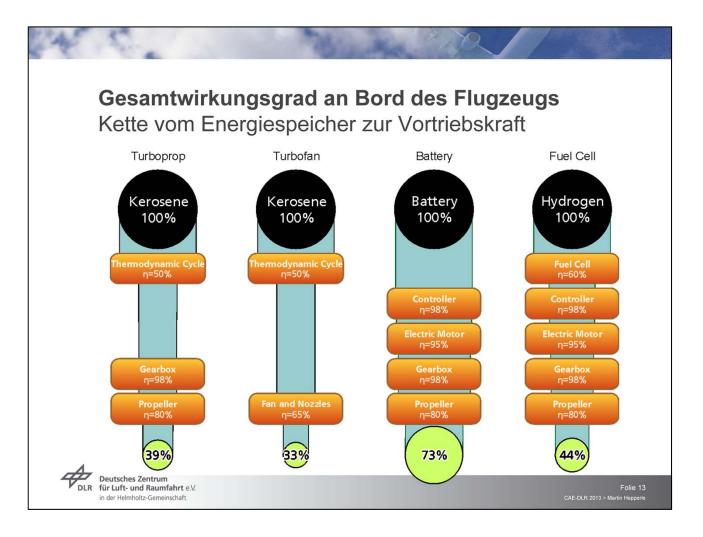
The best overall system is not the sum of individually optimized subsystems. but the optimized overall system, including the aircraft.



As an example of the characteristics of electric components we see here the efficiency charts of an electric aircraft motor and its power controller.

Compared to combustion engines these devices have a rather broad operating range with high efficiency.

This gives the system designer possibly more flexibility.



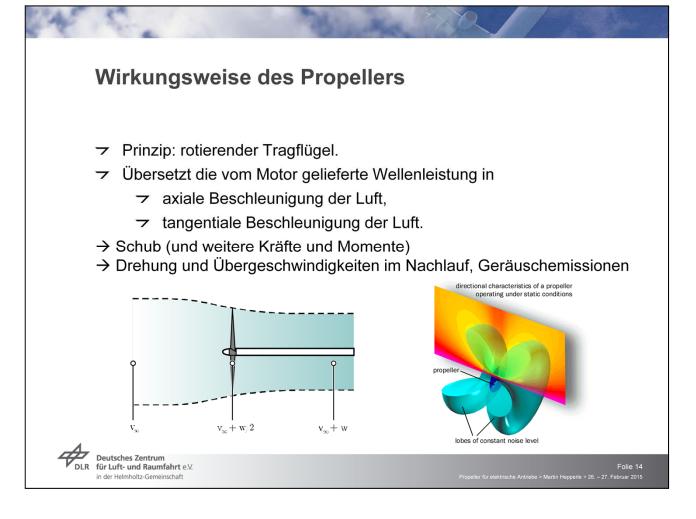
Die Multiplikation der Einzelwirkungsgrade ergibt den Gesamtwirkungsgrad des Systems. Hier sind ausgehend vom an Bord gespeicherten Energieträger verschiedene Systeme skizziert.

Teilweise ist es schwierig "vernünftige" Werte zu erhalten, da viele Systeme speziell für Luftfahrtanwendungen, kaum existieren.

Beispielsweise werden Wirkungsgrade von Brennstoffzellen oft ungenau angegeben und beinhalten oft elektrische UND thermische Nutzleistung wenn sie z.B. in Kraft-Wärme-Koppelung auch zur Heizung verwendet werden. bei einem rein elektrischen Luftfahrtantrieb ist die thermische Wirkung aber nicht ohne weiteres nutzbar (hier ist noch Entwicklungspozential).

Die neuesten (2011) Strahltriebwerke mit Getriebefan erreichen laut Hersteller thermische Wirkungsgrade von bis zu 59% (in Boeing 787, Airbus 320 NEO), hier sind nur 50% als realistischer Wert angenommen.

Der elektrische Antrieb weist ein deutlich höheren Gesamtwirkungsgrad auf, vor allem bei Batteriebetrieb, da dort die geringsten Umwandlungsverluste auftreten. Das Laden der Batterien kostet je nach Chemie ca. 10-15% an Energie, diese Verluste treten aber nicht an Bord auf, sind somit für den Flug nicht direkt relevant, aber für Gesamtsystembetrachtungen (well-to-wheel).



Basically a propeller is a rotating wing.

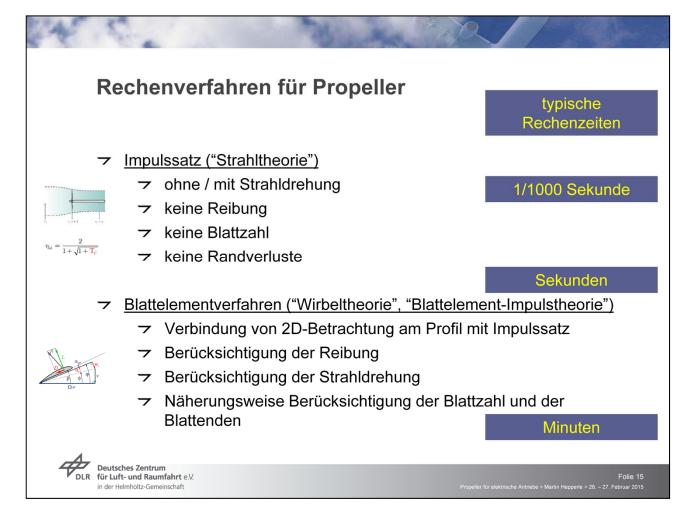
Using the input shaft power it generates thrust.

Besides thrust it also produces byproducts like swirl in its wake (lost power) and sound.

Depending on flight conditions (angle of attack, sideslip) it also generates additional forces and moments as well as vibrations.

Note that noise of propeller driven regional aircraft is mostly propeller noise and less turbomachinery noise.

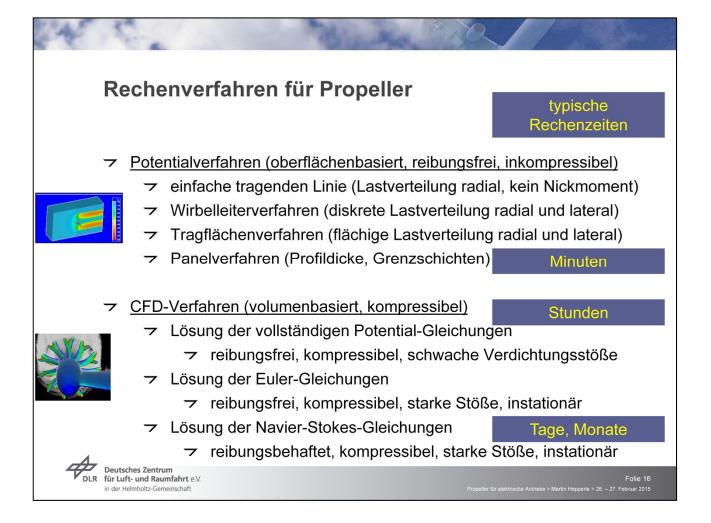
Propeller noise will not be affected much by electric propulsion, only by introducing alternative technologies (fans, distributing thrust over larger disc area).



Many tools exist for the calculation of propellers.

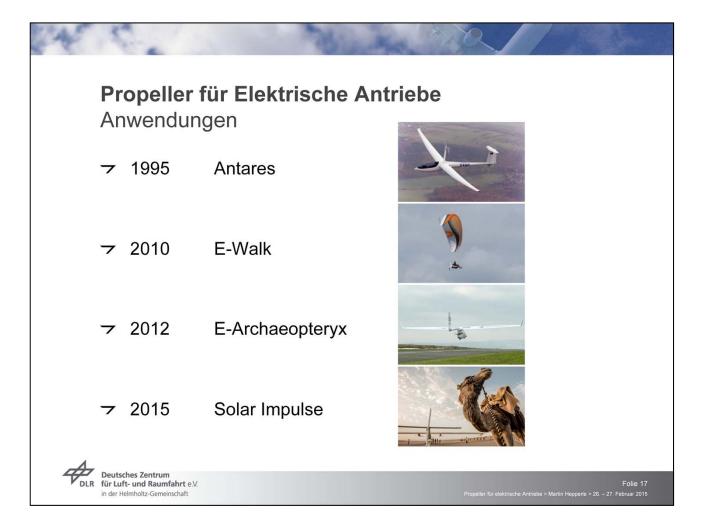
From simple and fast to detailed and slow.

At the preliminary design and system optimization stage turnaround time is important so that mostly classical simple methods like blade-element methods are used.



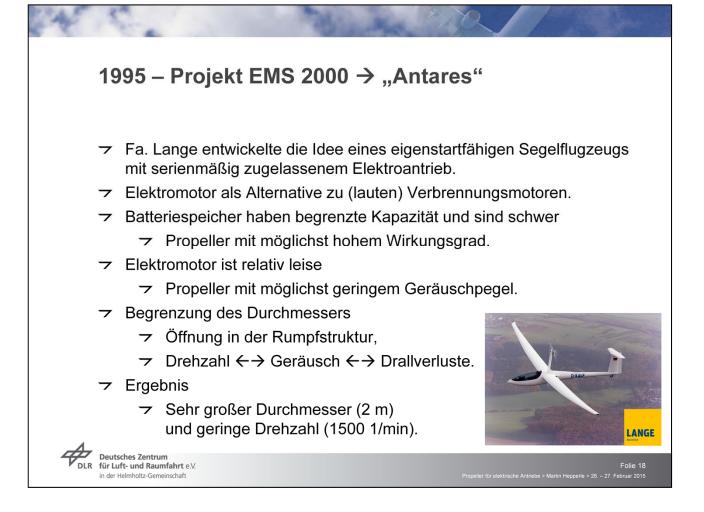
When the flow becomes very complex or physics effects like compressibility or flow separation become important more sophisticated methods have to be used.

These produce a deep insight into the physics at the cost of turnaround time.



After these basic background explanation we will have a look at some real world applications and their specific needs.

Not all details can be shown, but some basic effects will be highlighted.

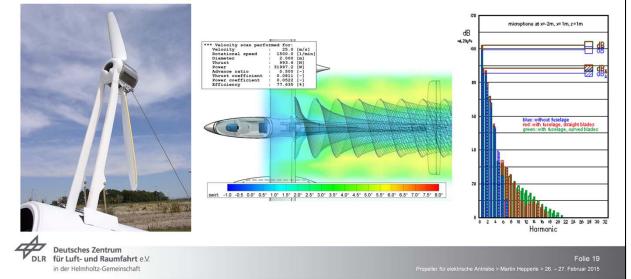


Personally my first large electric propulsion project was the "EMS 2000", nowadays known as the "Antares".

In 1995 this was a rather visionary idea by A. Lange to create a commercially successful fully certified electric powered sailplane.

## **1995 – Projekt EMS 2000 → "Antares"** Spezielle Untersuchungen

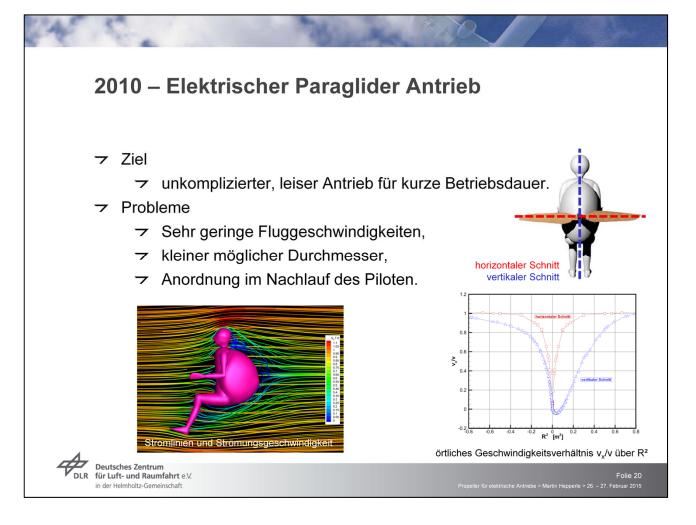
- → Propeller im Nachlauf der Haltearme.
- ✓ Widerstand des Leitwerks im Propellerstrahl.
- → Einfluss der Einbauposition auf die Akustik.



Many aspects were considered for the "Antares" propeller.

One main idea was to maximize the efficiency and to minimize noise.

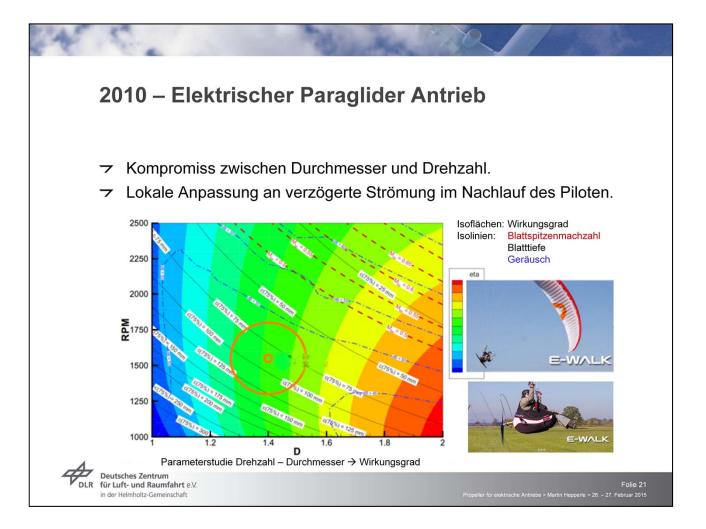
Some work was also spent in finding a good arrangement of the support structure and the interference with the tailplanes.



Another "aerodynamicists nightmare" case was this propeller design for a paraglider backpack propulsion system.

The pilot leaves a considerable wake behind in which the propeller must operate.

In order to produce an efficient and quiet system the inflow to the propeller was analyzed and considered in the design.



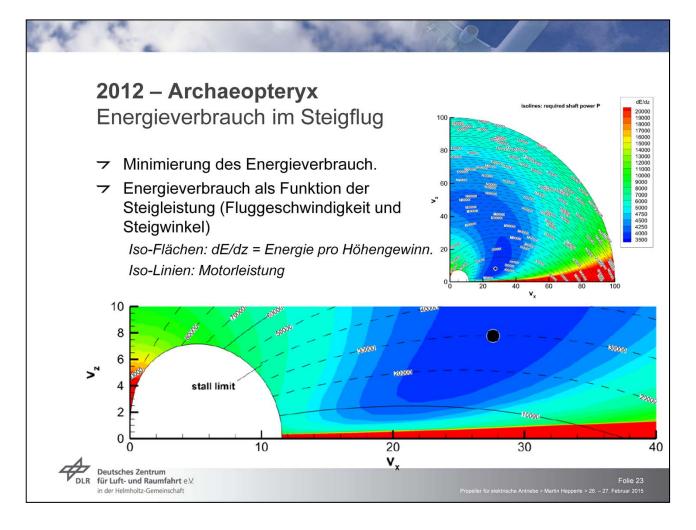
The usual parametric studies were performed to find a suitable propeller size and speed.

Careful local design was and manufacturing constraints (cost) had to be taken into account.



Another interesting project was the add-on propulsion system for the light sailplane "Archaeopteryx".

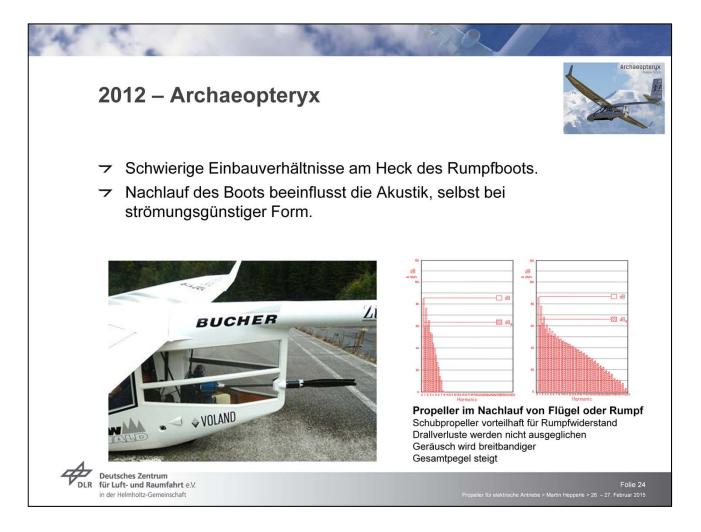
Here the propeller diameter is rather constrained and the propeller has to operate in the wake of the relatively smooth cockpit.



Energy is a premium so that considerable effort was spent in optimizing the system for minimum energy consumption during climb.

The graph shows the specific energy consumption dE/dz versus horizontal and vertical flight speed.

This includes the aircraft characteristics so that a clear optimum climb angle and speed can be identified.



The installation behind the quite smooth shaped fuselage also affects propeller noise

A typical characteristics is the introduction of additional high frequency tones.

Such noise patterns can be characteristic and are well known e.g. for aircraft like the "Speed Canard" or "Piaggio Avanti".



## <u>Ziele</u>

- → Energieversorgung ausschließlich durch Solarenergie.
- → 24h-Fähigkeit f
  ür unbegrenzte Flugdauer.

## Herausforderungen

- → Maximale System-Effizienz.
- → Extremer Leichtbau.
- Bemanntes Flugzeug mit Flughöhen bis 10 km.
- Belastbarkeit des menschlichen Organismus setzt Grenzen.
- ✓ Flugzeug mit Zulassung.

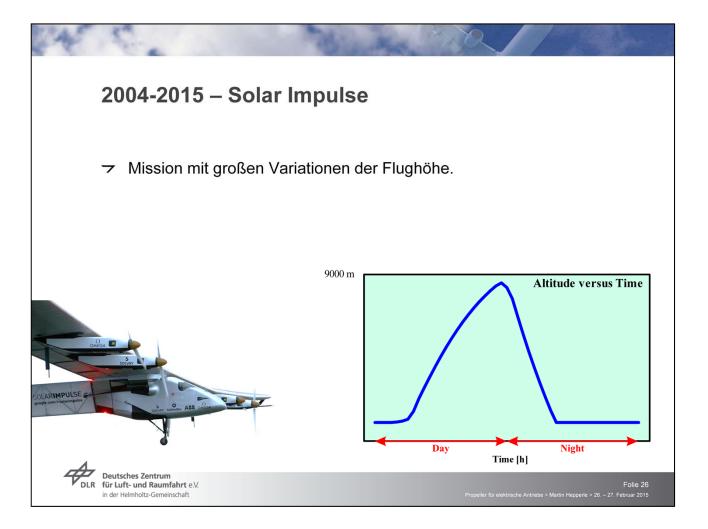
Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V. in der Helmholtz-Gemeinschaft



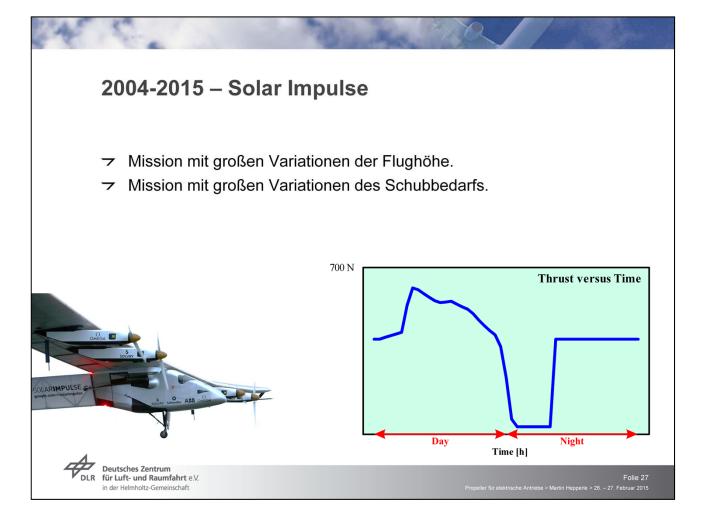
Finally the project with the longest endurance in development and performance that I have been contributing to is the "Solar Impulse".

The development stared in 2004 and after 10 years and one prototype aircraft the mission aircraft is scheduled to circle the globe in 2015.

The challenging project also required efficient propulsion systems.

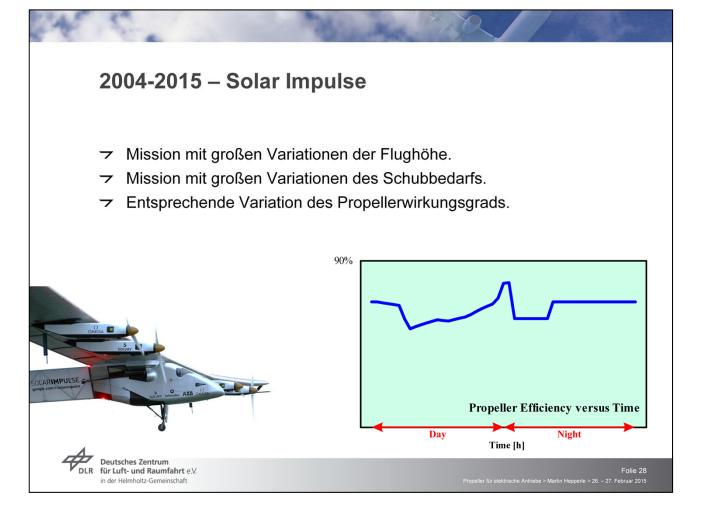


This results in a large altitude variation.



This results in a large altitude variation.

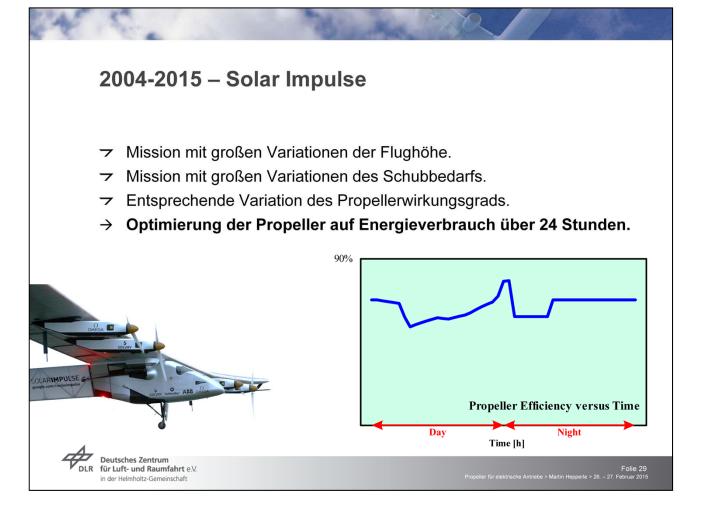
This results in a large thrust variation.



This results in a large altitude variation.

This results in a large thrust variation.

This results in a large variation of the propeller efficiency.

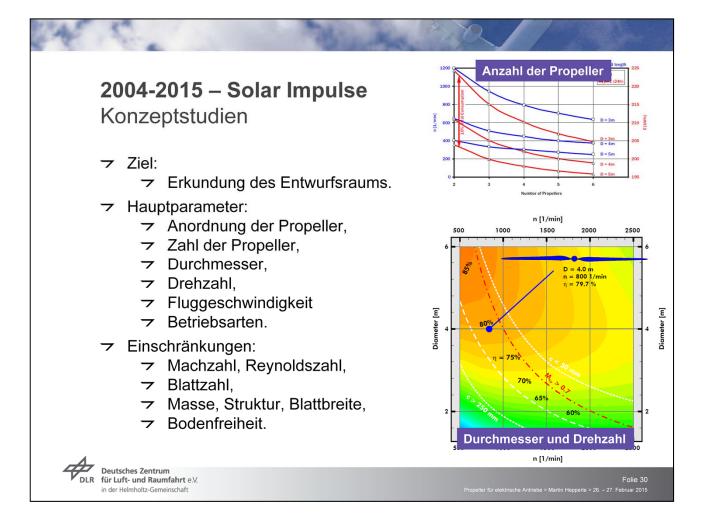


This results in a large altitude variation.

This results in a large thrust variation.

This results in a large variation of the propeller efficiency.

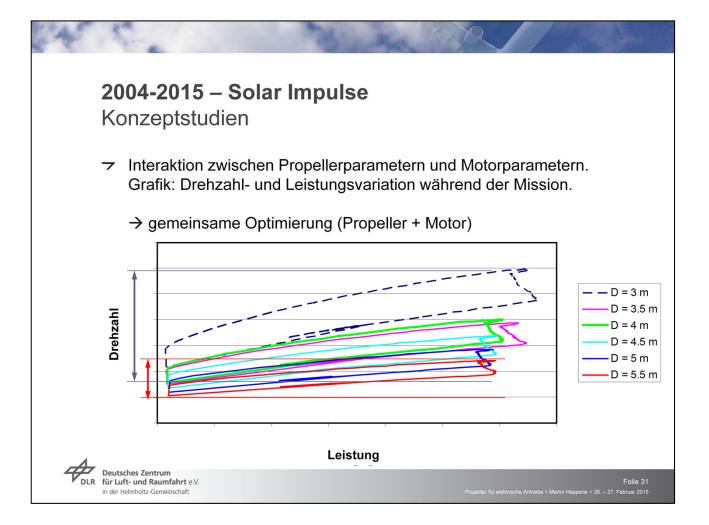
Therefore one of the goals of the propeller design was to minimize the overall energy consumption durcing the complete mission.



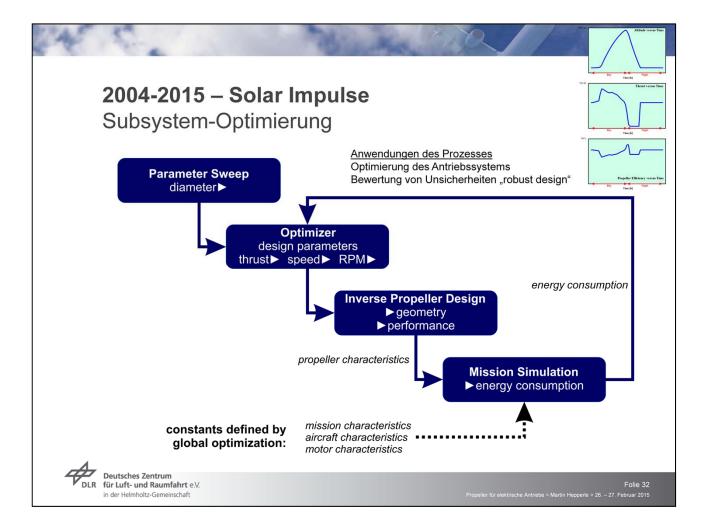
Im Rahmen von Konzeptuntersuchungen wurde ein großer Parameterbereich betrachtet.

Dabei wurden erste Werte für die Propellerauslegung sowie Wirkungsgrade gewonnen.

Verschiedene Ausrüstungsvarianten (wie die Verwendung unterschiedlicher Motoren) wurde ebenso in Betracht gezogen wie die Anwendung unterschiedlicher Betriebsarten (wie die Stilllegung von Propellern in bestimmten Flugphasen).



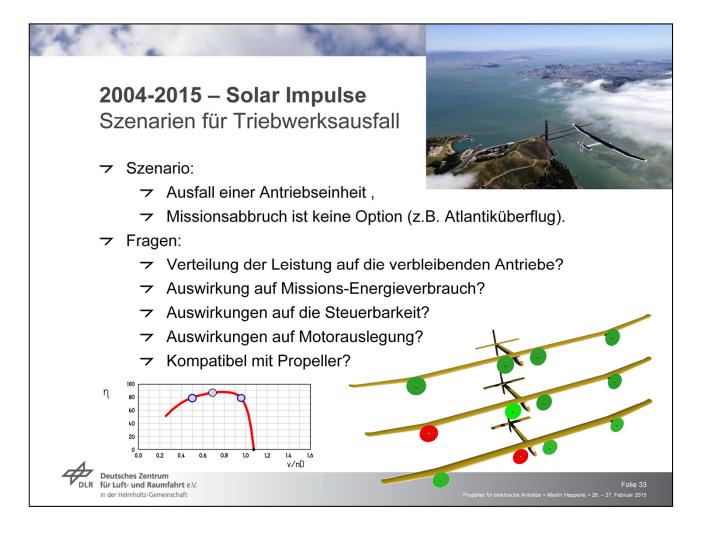
Ein Propeller mit großem Durchmesser (rot) weist eine geringere Drehzahlvariation über der Mission auf als ein Propeller mit kleinem Durchmesser (blau).



Nachdem die wesentlichen Konfigurationsdaten festgelegt waren, wurde eine Optimierung der verbleibenden Parameter mit Hilfe von numerischer Optimierung durchgeführt.

Dazu wurden Propeller entworfen und dann mit Hilfe einer Missions-Simulation im Bezug auf Energieverbrauch bewertet.

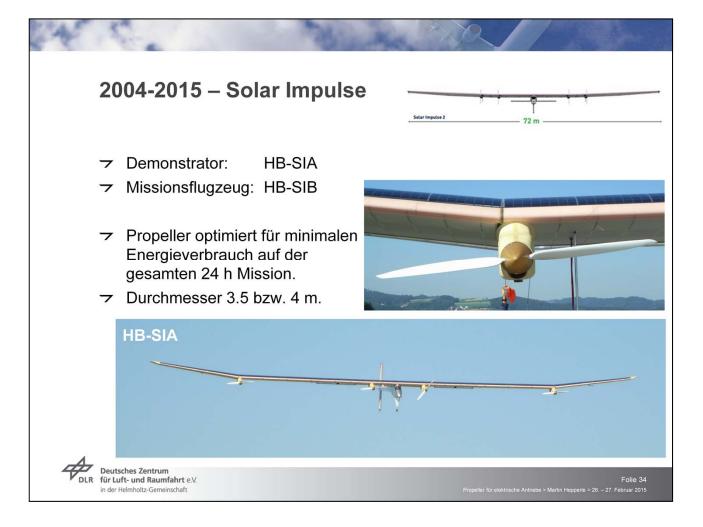
Außerdem wurden auch robuste Entwurfsmethoden eingesetzt um die Auswirkung von Unsicherheiten auf den Entwurf abzuschätzen.



Many specific aspects had to be considered also.

For example: how to handle the case of one engine inoperative. How to distribute the power to the remaining engines while maintaining control and high efficiency?

And yes, reality has shown that even electric motors can fail ... and the aircraft can cope well with this situation.



The propellers for this aircraft are very large and slender. Therefore they are also very flexible and show considerable (known) deformation in flight.



Due to time constraints this presentation did not include radically new propulsion system architectures.

Electric propulsion systems allow for easier distribution of power over multiple propulsion units.

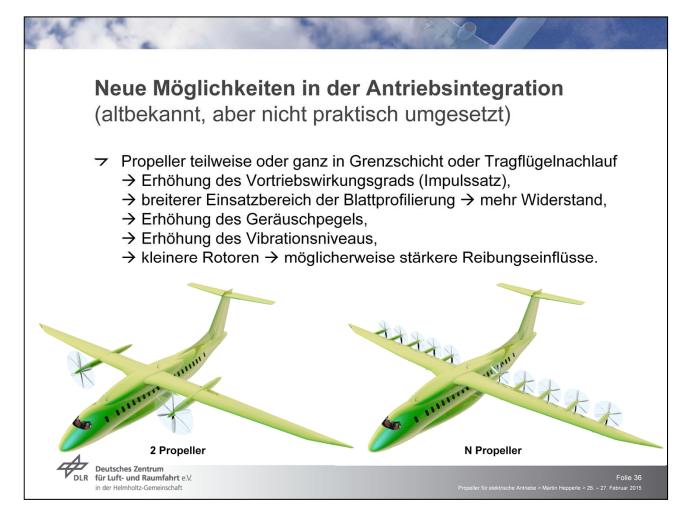
This can be used to increase the overall disc area of the propellers to increase efficiency.

An additional benefit of having many propellers in front of a wing is the recovery of swirl losses, especially for slow turning propellers in high speed applications ("open rotors").

In certain flight phases (low speed) the wake of the propellers can have a high dynamic pressure, thus increasing the lift capability of a wing.

This makes it possible to reduce the wing area to reduce drag. However there is also the problem of performance and control in case of power loss which must be carefully studied.

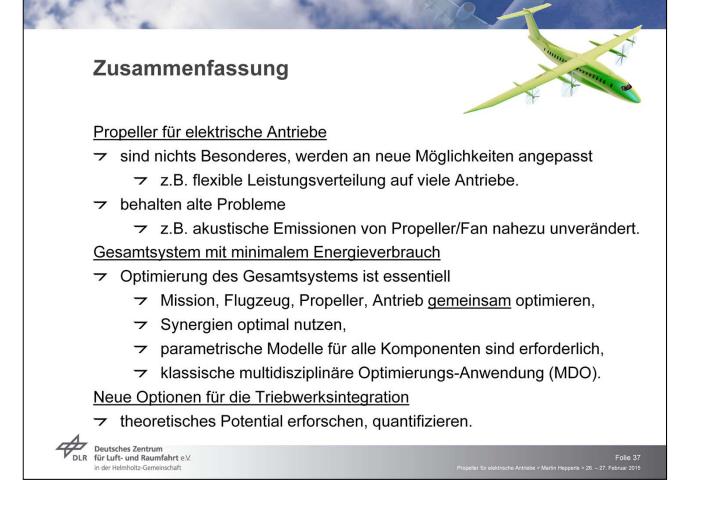
Such systems need to be explored in more detail to deliver numeric results of sufficient accuracy.



Another option which can be enabled by electric propulsion systems is the introduction of boundary layer ingesting systems.

These can have a higher propulsive efficiency but also negative effects e.g. in sound generation.

Such systems need to be explored in more detail to deliver numeric results of sufficient accuracy.



## Propeller für Elektrische Antriebe "Stehen wir nicht Alle ein bisschen unter Strom?"

