

# **CATIA V5-6R2018 Advanced Assembly Design** and Management

Learning Guide 1<sup>st</sup> Edition

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#### ASCENT - Center for Technical Knowledge<sup>®</sup> CATIA V5-6R2018: Advanced Assembly Design and Management

1<sup>st</sup> Edition

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The CATIA V5-6R2018: Advanced Assembly Design and Management learning guide builds on the assembly functionality introduced in the CATIA: Introduction to Modeling course. Students gain a full understanding of how to design and manage a complex assembly in the CATIA software while concentrating on techniques that maximize the capabilities of the Assembly workbench. This extensive hands-on course contains numerous labs focused on process-based practices to give you practical experience and improve design productivity.

#### **Topics Covered**

- Assembly operations (reconnecting constraints, specification tree customization, save operations, Desk Command, etc.)
- Skeleton Modeling
- Contextual Design
- Publications
- Link Management
- Collaborative Design
- Component Degrees of Freedom
- Assembly Duplication (multi-instantiation, component symmetry, reuse patterns, etc.)
- Assembly analysis (measurements, clash, sectioning a model, etc.)

#### Prerequisites

- Access to CATIA V5-6R2018 software. The practices and files included with this guide might not be compatible with prior versions.
- Completion of the *CATIA V5-6 R2018: Introduction to Modeling* course and an additional 80 hours of CATIA experience are recommended.

#### Note on Software Setup

This guide assumes a standard installation of the software using the default preferences during installation. Lectures and practices use the standard software templates and default options for the Content Libraries.

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The following images highlight some of the features that can be found in this guide.







# **Assembly Operations**

The Assembly Design workbench enables you to explore various design configurations and locate missing files. Operations, such as assembly constraints and constraint creation modes, help you to create a flexible assembly. This chapter introduces operations in the Assembly Design workbench, and compares top-down design techniques to bottom-up design techniques when creating assemblies.

#### Learning Objectives in this Chapter

- · Review the Assembly Design Workbench and assembly related terms and definitions.
- Understand the Assembly Specification Tree.
- · Learn how to work with assembly annotations.
- · Learn how to work with assembly constraints.
- Understand the Save operations and the Desk command.

# 1.1 Assembly Design Workbench

When designing parts in the Part Design workbench, features are created and positioned parametrically with respect to each other and to other reference features. Parts that belong to an assembly can be assembled and positioned parametrically in a CATProduct file using the Assembly Design workbench.

By default, CATIA opens in the Assembly Design workbench. You can also activate the Assembly Design workbench by selecting **Start>Mechanical Design>Assembly Design** or **File>New>Product**.

When the Assembly Design workbench is activated, various assembly-specific toolbars open. The Product Structure toolbar shown in Figure 1–1 enables you to assemble components, create part and product files in context, replace components, manage an assembly, and multi-instantiate components.



Figure 1–1

### Accessing the Assembly Design Workbench

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# **1.2 Terms and Definitions**

**Skeleton** A skeleton is a CATIA part model that is used to aid the construction of a complex assembly model. The part is used as a storage location for any critical design information, such as industrial design surfaces (e.g., A-side or masterline surfaces), and location and sizing information. The skeleton information is shared with the other components in the assembly to drive the design. The skeleton model is always the first component in an assembly and should only contain wireframe and surface geometry so that assembly mass properties are not affected.

Contextual design involves the creation of part-level geometry in the context of an assembly. By visualizing all of the components of an assembly while building a part, it is possible to share critical design information between components and ensure that components do not interfere with each other.

The contextual design approach is driven by the creation of external references between assembly components. These links add an extra level of complexity to the assembly and must be maintained throughout the design process to obtain maximum benefits. Building an assembly contextually requires good communication in the design team and a clear reference structure in the assembly.

In a traditional bottom-up design approach, part geometry is created independent of the assembly or any other component. Any design criteria established before the part is modeled are not shared between models. Once all of the part models are completed, they are brought together for the first time in the assembly. At this point in the design, problems often result with the assembly because engineering information is not correctly shared or communicated. Problems can include interference between components, misalignment between components, or incomplete design. In addition, any modifications to components must be manually propagated throughout the assembly.

Contextual Design

### Bottom-Up Design

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Top-Down Design	The top-down design approach places critical information in a top-level assembly and then communicates that information to lower levels of the product structure. The first step in creating a top-down design model is to create an initial assembly structure. Design information is placed in this assembly through the use of skeleton models and parameters that are controlled by design tables. Any changes made to the top-level information are automatically propagated to all affected components.
	Top-down design techniques simulate a design team and facilitate concurrent engineering. The top-down design approach forces you to consider all areas of a final model before creating any geometry. Consider the following questions when using this technique:
	What does the assembly do?
	<ul> <li>How does a specific model interface with other components in the assembly?</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>What are the inputs and outputs of the assembly?</li> </ul>
	Planning the assembly using the top-down design approach helps to create clean, reusable geometry that interfaces correctly with the rest of the assembly.
Collaborative Design	Collaborative design involves two or more people simultaneously developing geometry for an assembly. For example, when designing a car, several departments contribute to the finished product.
aple copyin	A major concern in a collaborative environment is the loss of data or duplication of efforts. If two people open a part model at the same time, the last person to save defines the latest revision, while the first person's modifications are lost. Communication is one defence against these types of setbacks. Another solution is to install a Product Data Management (PDM) application.
Sarph	

Product Data Management	Product Data Management (PDM) is a type of software that organizes and manages files in a database. Files in a PDM system are related to the development of a product. These files are stored on a server commonly referred to as the vault. From here, you can open files and save them back to the server. The PDM system keeps track of and controls all file operations. Only one person can work on a file at a time. All other users can only display the file, but not make changes to it.
	Common capabilities of a PDM system include:
	Tracking revisions of a document.
	Advanced tools to search documents in the database.
	Viewing file information.
	Managing change orders.
	Managing bill of materials.
	Permissions control over files.
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## **1.3 Assembly Specification Tree**

This section discusses the following methods of customizing the specification tree for a CATIA Product:

- Node Customization
- Graph Tree Reordering

### Node Customization

When working in the Assembly Design workbench, the specification tree displays component part numbers and instance numbers by default.

Select **Tools>Options** to open the Options dialog box. Expand **Infrastructure** and select **Product Structure** in the tree. Select the *Nodes Customization* tab. The nodes of the specification tree can be customized to report information, such as **Description**, **Revision**, and **Source** (vendor information).

Figure 1–2 shows the *Nodes Customization* tab.



### Graph Tree Reordering

You can reorder the children of the top level product or any of its subassemblies.

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The Graph tree reordering element is useful for reordering components of a product.

### How To: Reorder Parts in a Product

 In Product Structure Tools toolbar, click (Graph tree reordering) and select the product whose children are to be reordered. The Graph tree reordering dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 1–3.



Figure 1–3

- 2. Use the following options to reorder components:
  - Click to move the selected components up one step in the product specification tree.
  - Click to move the selected component down one step in the product specification tree.
  - Click and another component to switch its position in the specification tree.
- 3. Click **Apply** to apply changes.
- 4. Click **OK** to complete the Graph tree reordering feature.

# **1.4 Assembly Annotations**

Annotations can be added to an assembly to identify various parts and components. The Annotations toolbar is shown in Figure 1–4. The following types of annotations can be created:

in n

- Weld Feature
- Text with Leader
- Flag Note with Leader
- Front View/Annotation Plane
- 3D-Annotation-Query Switch On/Switch Off



ABC Click (Text with Leader) to create a text note and then select an element to attach the leader. The Text Editor dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 1-5 in which you can enter text.



To add another line of text to a note, press <Shift>+<Enter>.



# **1.5 Assembly Constraints**

When creating features for part models, parent/child relationships result from geometrical, dimensional, and depth option references between features. When working with parts in a Product file, parent/child relationships are established through assembly constraints.

Assembly constraints are created using the Constraints toolbar shown in Figure 1–7.



Figure 1–7

The constraints are described as follows:

	lcon	Description
	Ø	<b>Coincidence:</b> Aligns axes, planar surfaces, planes, and points.
		<b>Contact:</b> Mates two planar surfaces and can force curved surfaces to touch.
	<u></u>	<b>Offset:</b> Specifies an offset distance between two planar elements.
joe	21	<b>Angle:</b> Permits a keyed-in value between planar selections. Parallel and perpendicular can also be specified.
	1.	<b>Fix:</b> Constrains a component in 3D space. This option constrains all six degrees of freedom.
00 00%	- O	<b>Fix Together:</b> Prompts you for a name and applies a Fix constraint between two or more components.
Saural		<b>Quick Constraint:</b> Enables the system to automatically select the constraint to use, based on your selection. This constraint can be changed later.

To change the type of existing constraint, click (Change Constraint) and select the new constraint type in the Possible Constraints dialog box, as shown in Figure 1–8. Possible Constraints Offset Angle Parallelism Perpendicularity Apply Cancel OK Figure 1–8 Constraint Three different constraint creation modes can be activated. The system stays in the selected mode until a different mode has Creation been selected. The Constraint Creation toolbar is shown in Figure 1–9. Constraint Cr... Figure 1–9 The three constraint creation modes are described as follows: ample provi Description Mode Default mode: Selects references selected between two \*## components. Chain mode: Selects references from multiple components to 4 be incrementally offset. Stack mode: Selects a common reference for multiple <u>1</u>2 components.

# **1.6 Reconnecting Constraints**

If an incorrect constraint reference is selected or if the design requires a change to the references of an existing constraint, the constraint must be reconnected. Two components with constraints that need to be reconnected are shown in Figure 1–10.



### **General Steps**

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Use the following general steps to reconnect a constraint:

- 1. Edit the constraint.
- 2. Select new reference(s).
- 3. Update the assembly.

### Step 1 - Edit the constraint.

Double-click on the constraint in the specification tree. Click **More** in the Constraint Definition dialog box, as shown in Figure 1–11.



Figure 1–11

Double-click on the *Connected in the Status* column of the reference to be changed. The Plane reference of Fuselage part is being redefined, as shown in Figure 1-12.



Figure 1–12

### Step 2 - Select new reference(s).

Select a new element to be referenced in the specification tree or on the display. Click **OK** to complete the constraint definition.

### Step 3 - Update the assembly.

Click (Update All) to update the assembly constraints. The updated assembly displays, as shown in Figure 1–13.



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By default, the file is saved as a .CATProduct file. You can change the type of file by selecting the file format in the **Save as type** drop-down list.

Save As						
← → • ↑	« CA	TIA Advanced Assembly Design Class Files	> BoreDevice 🗸 진	Search BoreDevic	e	٩
Organize 🔻 🛛	lew folde	er				6
This PC	^	Name	Date modified	Туре	Size	
Desktop		CouplingAssembly.CATProduct	9/8/2010 2:46 PM	CATIA Product	394 K	В
Downloads						
Pictures						
Windows (C	::)					
HP_TOOLS	(E:)					
💣 Network	=					
File name	: Coup	lingAssembly.CATProduct				
Save as type	CATP	roduct (*.CATProduct)				
∧ Hide Folders			Save as new document	Save	Cancel	
		Figure	1–14			

### Save All

The **Save All** option performs the **Save** command on all open modified documents. This option enables you to save several open documents simultaneously. To perform the operation, select **File>Save All**. If the **Save** operation can be performed on the documents without any user input, a prompt box opens, as shown in Figure 1–15. Click **Yes** to save all of the modified open documents.

If any of the files to be saved requires additional user input, the prompt box shown in Figure 1–16 opens. Click **OK** to continue.



#### Figure 1–15

Figure 1–16

If documents cannot be automatically saved, the Save All dialog box opens. It lists all of the open modified files that require additional input to be saved. For example, in Figure 1–17 two files require additional input before they can be saved. The first file is a new file, indicating that it has never been saved to the hard drive. The second file is a read-only file and cannot be saved to the same location with the same name. In both cases, select the file and click **Save As** to perform a Save As operation on the selected file. Once all of the files listed in the window have had a **Save As** performed on them, click **OK** to complete the **Save All**.

ł	Save All						? ×
	State	Name	Location	Action	Access		Save As
	New	Product2.CATProduct			Read Write		
	Modified Read Only	CouplingAssembly.CATF	Prod C:\DMU Navig	•	Read Only		Reset
0							
	Pattern Name: *	Apply Patt	tern				
	1 New File(s) Left		Enable indepen	dent saves			
						1 Read Only File(s) Left	
							OK Cancel
_					Figu	re 1–17	

SaveThe Save Management option enables you to control where all<br/>open files are saved. This option is useful when you need to<br/>rename multiple files.

### How To: Rename the Part Files of a Product

- 1. Select File>Save Management.
- 2. Select the part file in the Save Management dialog box, as shown in Figure 1–18.

Sa	ve Man	agement		10	?×
	State	Name	Location	Action	Save
П	Opened	AirEntry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		Save As
	Opened	Air_Entry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		ropagate directory
	Opened	Air_Entry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		ropagace all eccory
	Opened	Air_Entry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		Reset
	Opened	Air_Entry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		<u> 1999 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997 - 1997</u>
	Opened	Air_Entry	C:\Work\Training Files\A		
	<b>▲</b>				
Ρ	attern N	lame: *	Apply Pattern	· · ·	
0	Unsave	d File(s) Left	Enable independent saves	1	
	100			<u> </u>	OK 🥥 Cancel

#### Figure 1–18

3. Click **Save As** and enter new name for the part file. **Save Management** is also useful for exploring an alternative product development path. **Propagate directory** enables you to create a copy of a complete assembly in a different directory. The part and product files from the new directory can then be modified and re-configured without affecting the original product and part files.

#### How To: Propagate a Directory

- 1. Select a product file in the Save Management dialog box.
- 2. Click **Save As**. Specify a different directory to save the product file.
- 3. Click **Propagate directory**. The system saves a copy of all of the part and product files associated with the selected product file to the new directory.

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You are prompted to use Save Management when attempting to save a file with links to other modified documents. For example, when a product is saved and contains a part that has been altered, the prompt box shown in Figure 1–19 opens. Save × Product3 Activates other document save operations. Use 'Save Management' to avoid this problem. Do you want to proceed ? OK Cancel Figure 1–19 If you proceed with the **Save** option, only the selected document is saved and not the other modified documents. Instead, try clicking Cancel to abort the Save option and then using the Save Management or Save All option to avoid problems. Send To The **Send To** option copies a product and all of its linked files to a specified directory or attaches them to an e-mail. This option ensures that all of the files required to open a product file are included in an e-mail or moved with the product file. How To: Perform a Send To Operation Select File>Send To>Mail or File>Send To>Directory. The Send to dialog box opens. The top window lists the selected product file and all of the files linked to it, as shown in Figure 1–20. In this example, Send Send To Directory ? × To Directory was -Can be Copied selected. The Send To File Name File Type Found Location C:\Documents and Set... CouplingAssembly CATProduct Found Mail dialog box is the CouplingBase CATPart C:\Documents and Set... Found same but does not have Skeleton CATPart C:\Documents and Set... Found YPipe CATPart C:\Documents and Set... Found the Copy to field at the bottom of the dialog Keep Directory Structure box. -Will be Copied File Name File Type Location Problem Target Name 0 Byte Size: Copy to: -Browse .... 🍯 OK 🥥 Cancel Figure 1–20

- Cap ha Cariad				
File Name	File Type	Location	Found	
				7
				5
Keep Directory S	Structure			
			) . (	
File Name	File Type	Location	Problem	Target Name
CouplingAssembly	CATProduct	C:\Documents and Set		CouplingAsse.
CouplingBase Skeleton	CATPart CATPart	C:\Documents and Set		CouplingBase
YPipe	CATPart	C:\Documents and Set	$\mathbf{O}^{*}$	YPipe
Size: 710 KB				Rename Tar
Copy to: C:				Browse
0000000000000000			-	
			9	OK 🥥 Car

- change the directory, click **Browse** and locate the correct directory. The *Copy To* field updates to reflect the change.
- 4. Click **OK** to complete the copy.
- If you have selected to Send To Mail, an e-mail opens with the copied files attached. If you have selected Send To Directory, a message window opens, notifying you that the copy was successful, as shown in Figure 1–22.





Sample copying

### 1.8 Desk Command

When a CATIA product model is created, file paths to component files (e.g., \*.CATPart and \*.CATProduct) are written to the Product file. If the system cannot locate these files during retrieval, a message window opens, similar to the one shown in Figure 1–23.



Figure 1–23

If **Close** is clicked, the system does not include the missing component in the assembly.

If **Desk** is clicked, a Desk window opens, displaying the assembly and its components in a tree. Any missing components are highlighted in red. To locate the missing component, right-click on it in the tree and select **Find**, as shown in Figure 1–24.



Figure 1–24

6. The system then opens a File Selection dialog box for you to browse for the missing component. Once the component has been located, the Desk window can be closed.

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# Practice 1a

# **Assembly Creation**

#### Practice Objectives

- Create a Product file.
- Assemble components.

In this practice, you will create an assembly using a variety of assembly constraints. The completed model displays, as shown in Figure 1–25.



#### Task 1 - Create a Product file.

- 1. Select File>New and create a new Product file.
- 2. In the specification tree, right-click on **Product1** and select **Properties**.
- 3. For the part number for the product, enter **71499** and click **OK**.
- 4. Select **Tools>Options** to open the Options dialog box. Expand **General** and select **Parameters and Measure**.
- 5. Select the *Units* tab.
- 6. Set *units for length* to **Millimeters(mm)**.
- 7. Save the product in the Turbine directory with the name **CompressorRotor**.

sample provin





	<ol> <li>Click Configure. The Configure customized display dialog box opens, as shown in Figure 1–29.</li> </ol>
	Configure customized display       ? ×         #PN# (#IN#)       Product         Part Number (#PN#)       Nomenclature (#NO#)         Revision (#RE#)       Source (#SO#)         Definition (#DF#)       Description (#DR#)         Link to Reference       Short Reference Path (#SRP#)         Component       Instance Name (#IN#)       Description (#DI#)         Shape       Short Description (#SD#)       Source (#SC#)         Close       Close       Environment (#EN#)         Short Description (#SD#)       Source (#SC#)       Close         Figure 1–29       6. Clear the contents in the upper field, as shown in Figure 1–30.
. 0	Configure customized display ? 🗙
; 0 <sup>k</sup>	Figure 1–30
	7. Select the <b>Part Number (#PN#)</b> 8. Add a left side bracket and select <b>Short Description (#SD#</b> )
Sample copyin	8. Add a left side bracket and select Short Description (#SD#)

	9. Add a rig in Figure	ght side bracket. The <i>Displa</i> e 1–31.	ay field displays	, as shown
The Short Description is the filename of the part. Products do not have short descriptions.		Configure customized display	? X	
		#PN# (#SD#)		H
		Part Number (#PN#) Nomencl	lature (#NO#) (#SO#)	
		Definition (#DF#) Descript	ion (#DR#)	<i>. .</i>
		Link to Reference	1, 1	
		Component Instance Name (#IN#) Descri	ption (#DI#)	
		Shape	iropment (#EN#)	
		Short Description (#SD#) Sou	rce (#SC#)	
			Close	
	Figure 1–31			
	10. Click <b>Close</b> to close the Configure customized display dialog box.			
	<ol> <li>Click <b>OK</b> to close the Options dialog box. The specification tree displays, as shown in Figure 1–32.</li> </ol>			
		· 71499		
	0	<b>†−‰</b> 1337 (Impeller.) <b>≑−∏</b> 1 Constraints	CATPart)	
	う	Fix. 1 (1337.	.1)	
		Figure 1–32		
	Task 4 - Assemble 6thStage.CATPart.			
	<ol> <li>In the specification tree, right-click on 71499 and select</li> <li>Components&gt;Existing Component</li> </ol>			
	<ol> <li>Open 6thStage.CATPart. The model displays in its default location on top of the impeller.</li> </ol>			













- Insert the remaining components of the assembly. When selecting the components to open, use <Ctrl> to select 4thStage, 2nd3rdStage, and 1stStage.
- 2. Use the compass to drag each component out to new locations, as shown in Figure 1–43.



#### Task 7 - Change the constraint creation mode.

- 1. In the Constraint Creation toolbar, click 🔛 (Stack Mode).
- 2. Double-click on 🤎 (Coincidence Constraint).

Sample provide











	3. Click <b>Yes</b> to restore the options in the <i>General</i> tab.
	<ol> <li>Select Infrastructure&gt;Product Structure&gt;Nodes Customization tab and repeat Steps 2 and 3 to restore the settings.</li> </ol>
	5. Click <b>OK</b> to close the Options dialog box.
	6. Show all of the components,
	7. Drag the compass away from the parts.
	8. Select View>Reset Compass.
	<ol> <li>Right-click on the compass and clear the Snap Automatically to Selected Object option.</li> </ol>
	10. Save the model and close the file.
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