

Reynolds-Averaged Navier-Stokes Computations of the NASA Juncture Flow Model Using FUN3D and OVERFLOW

C. L. Rumsey*

NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23681

H. C. Lee[†]

Science and Technology Corp., Moffett Field, CA 94035

T. H. Pulliam[‡]

NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035

Two Reynolds-averaged Navier-Stokes codes, FUN3D and OVERFLOW, are used to assess the capability of Spalart-Allmaras-based turbulence models to predict the flow over the NASA Juncture Flow model. Both free-air and in-tunnel simulations are performed. While the tunnel walls have some influence, it is found to be relatively minor in the juncture region of interest. Results from the two codes are found to be consistent with each other in attached flow regions, but results in the area of separation still show grid and code sensitivity, even on grids as large as 400 million unknowns. Nonetheless, it is possible to draw conclusions regarding the model capabilities. Without a quadratic constitutive relation, the linear model predicts a separation size that is too large. The inclusion of a nonlinear quadratic constitutive relation improves results significantly, but separation still occurs too far upstream. Prediction of turbulent normal stress differences play a key role in this flow. Although the nonlinear model makes better predictions in this regard, they could still be improved, particularly in the streamwise normal component near the wall.

I. Introduction

CFD is considered to be unreliable in its prediction of separated flows in junction regions, such as those that can occur near the trailing edge of an aircraft wing near its intersection with the fuselage. This type of flow feature may influence or contribute to aircraft stall, so it is important to learn specifically how CFD methods are deficient, and to try to improve them if possible. The NASA Juncture Flow (JF) experiment was designed to study this type of flow phenomenon for the purpose of CFD validation. The experiment, conducted in the NASA Langley Research Center 14- by 22-Foot Subsonic Tunnel (14x22), provides flowfield data (velocity, Reynolds stresses, and velocity triple products) in and near the wing-body junction region, along with boundary condition and geometry information so that CFD validation can be confidently performed. Ultimately, the goal is to learn how well existing CFD methods predict the flowfield features in (and leading up to) the corner region, and to gain enough insight to be able to improve the methods as needed. The initial focus is on Reynolds-averaged Navier Stokes (RANS) turbulence models, but future efforts will focus on scale-resolving simulations as well.

The flow physics of wing-body juncture flows is quite complex [1, 2]. In addition to the typical presence of a horseshoe-type vortex wrapping around the wing leading edge, there also may be a smaller secondary corner vortex initiated by gradients of the Reynolds stresses [3]. These vortices influence the flowfield in the junction region. Experimentally, Simpson and coauthors have investigated juncture flows in great detail [4]. However, that body of work did not include much focus on trailing-edge corner separation. More recently, ONERA conducted a series of separated juncture flow investigations, involving both experiment and CFD. Gand et al. [1, 5, 6] described a simplified wing-body juncture experiment that used an NACA 0012 wing mounted to a flat plate. Although designed to achieve a corner separation, the flow in the wind tunnel experiment remained attached. Subsequently, the investigators re-designed the experiment with a twisted NACA 0015 wing on a plate [7], for which the corner flow separated.

*Senior Research Scientist, Computational AeroSciences Branch, Mail Stop 128, Fellow AIAA.

[†]Research Scientist, Computational Aerosciences Branch, Mail Stop 258-2, Member AIAA.

[‡]Senior Research Scientist, Computational Aerosciences Branch, Mail Stop 258-2, Associate Fellow AIAA.

The NASA JF project underwent a significant amount of preparatory work [8–17], and has concluded its first wind tunnel test. The results are available in Kegerise and Neuhart [18], as well as on the NASA Turbulence Modeling Resource website [19]. Additional testing is planned in the future, to expand the breadth of the experimental data. The main focus of the experiment already performed was its use of a Laser Doppler Velocimetry (LDV) system carried on board the model to measure the junction flowfield. This system was installed inside the fuselage, and its lasers were emitted through side windows on the model. This setup allowed the collection of highly accurate flowfield data to within a very small distance of the junction corner.

A photograph of the NASA Juncture Flow model is shown in Fig. 1, along with an inset showing a surface oil flow photo of the corner separation at angle of incidence of 5° . Generally, the success or failure of CFD for this problem centers around its ability to predict this separation size (length and width) accurately as a function of the model's angle of incidence. However, it is recognized that measuring separation extent with oil is inherently qualitative in nature; therefore, CFD results should be evaluated cautiously. On the other hand, the LDV data provide quantitative measures of flowfield details, so we expect to learn a great deal from comparisons between CFD and experiment. The model itself had a fuselage length of 4.839 m with a wingspan of 3.397 m (tip to tip). The wing had a leading edge sweep of 27.1° , and for all the investigations in this paper a leading edge fillet or horn was included on the wing to mitigate the formation of a strong horseshoe vortex. A coordinate system was chosen with $(x, y, z) = (0, 0, 0)$ at the model nose with the x -axis running downstream along the center axis of the fuselage, z up, and y out the starboard wing. The fuselage had flat sides, located at $y = \pm 236.098$ mm. The wing trailing edge at the root was at $x = 2961.929$ mm.

Two previous papers [16, 17] detailed initial RANS CFD comparisons with the experimental data, using the codes FUN3D [20] and OVERFLOW [21], respectively. These two CFD codes were also involved extensively throughout the project, helping to design the experiment. In this paper, the general capabilities of one class of turbulence model (based on Spalart-Allmaras [22]) for predicting juncture flow separation are summarized using the same two codes. The following section outlines the numerical methods, turbulence model specifics, and problem setup. Then, results are provided, which include free-air grid refinement studies, separation predictions, surface pressure predictions, and flowfield predictions. The influence of wind tunnel walls in CFD predictions are also discussed. Finally, conclusions are given.

II. Numerical Methods and Problem Setup

The CFD codes FUN3D and OVERFLOW are briefly described in this section, along with the turbulence models and grids employed. The flow conditions are also given.

A. FUN3D

The NASA FUN3D [23,24] solver is an unstructured three-dimensional, implicit, Navier-Stokes code that is nominally second-order spatially accurate. Roe's flux difference splitting [25] is used for the calculation of the inviscid terms for all the results in this paper (other flux construction methods are also available). The use of flux limiters are grid and flow dependent (none were used here). Other details regarding the code can be found in the extensive bibliography that is accessible at the FUN3D website [20].

For the free-air computations, a farfield Riemann invariant boundary condition was imposed on the outer boundary, no-slip solid wall boundary conditions were applied on the model, and symmetry conditions were used on the x - z symmetry plane. For in-tunnel runs, no-slip solid wall boundary conditions were applied on the model and inviscid slip wall boundary conditions were applied on the tunnel walls. Also, a proportional-integral-derivative (PID) controller was employed for automatically adjusting the tunnel back pressure at user-defined intervals in order to attain the desired flow conditions, as described for the 14x22 in Carlson [26]. The frequency of the update depends on the lag time of the particular simulation. The test cases in this paper used an update frequency of 1000 iterations. The tunnel inflow conditions were constant total pressure and total temperature across the inflow face upstream of the tunnel contraction.

Typical results on the fine grid level were computed on 2744 Intel Broadwell cores and utilized approximately 25 hours of walltime.

B. OVERFLOW

OVERFLOW is a NASA developed RANS solver. It uses structured overset grids to simulate fluid flow. All of the OVERFLOW cases were run with OVERFLOW 2.20. The 3^{rd} -order Roe upwind scheme [25] was used for the convective fluxes, and the implicit solve was done using the ARC3D Beam-Warming scalar pentadiagonal scheme

and low-Mach preconditioning [21]. Similar to FUN3D, free-air computations employed a farfield Riemann invariant boundary condition imposed on the outer boundaries, and no-slip solid wall boundary conditions were applied on the model. OVERFLOW simulations were performed for the full model, i.e., no symmetry plane assumption. For in-tunnel runs, no-slip solid wall boundary conditions were applied on the model and tunnel walls in the test section. A slip wall boundary condition was applied on the tunnel walls downstream of the test section in the diffuser region to improve the downstream boundary condition implementation [14]. Typical free-air results were computed using 280 Intel Broadwell cores, and utilized approximately 12 hours of walltime. The wind tunnel simulations used 800 Intel Skylake Cores, for anywhere between 60 to 120 hours of walltime. The wind tunnel simulations took longer to run due to the need to iterate the back pressure to get the tunnel conditions to match.

C. Turbulence Models Employed

For all the cases in this paper, the CFD codes were run “fully turbulent” (no laminar regions or transition were enforced). In the experiment, the fuselage and wing upper and lower surfaces had boundary layer trips applied.

1. SA-RC

The Spalart-Allmaras turbulence model with Rotation-Curvature correction [27] is the “base” model employed in this study. It is a linear one-equation RANS turbulence model given by:

$$\frac{\partial \hat{\nu}}{\partial t} + u_j \frac{\partial \hat{\nu}}{\partial x_j} = c_{b1}(f_{r1} - f_{t2})\hat{S}\hat{\nu} - \left[c_{w1}f_w - \frac{c_{b1}}{\kappa^2}f_{t2} \right] \left(\frac{\hat{\nu}}{d} \right)^2 + \frac{1}{\sigma} \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left((\nu + \hat{\nu}) \frac{\partial \hat{\nu}}{\partial x_j} \right) + c_{b2} \frac{\partial \hat{\nu}}{\partial x_i} \frac{\partial \hat{\nu}}{\partial x_i} \right] \quad (1)$$

where the turbulence eddy viscosity is computed from

$$\mu_t = \rho \hat{\nu} f_{v1} \quad (2)$$

and

$$f_{v1} = \frac{\chi^3}{\chi^3 + c_{v1}^3} \quad (3)$$

$$\chi = \frac{\hat{\nu}}{\nu} \quad (4)$$

$$\hat{S} = \Omega + \frac{\hat{\nu}}{\kappa^2 d^2} f_{v2} \quad (5)$$

$$f_{v2} = 1 - \frac{\chi}{1 + \chi f_{v1}} \quad (6)$$

$$f_w = g \left[\frac{1 + c_{w3}^6}{g^6 + c_{w3}^6} \right]^{1/6} \quad (7)$$

$$g = r + c_{w2}(r^6 - r) \quad (8)$$

$$r = \min \left[\frac{\hat{\nu}}{\hat{S} \kappa^2 d^2}, 10 \right] \quad (9)$$

$$f_{t2} = c_{t3} \exp(-c_{t4} \chi^2) \quad (10)$$

$$\Omega = \sqrt{2W_{ij}W_{ij}} \quad (11)$$

$$W_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (12)$$

and the coefficients are: $c_{b1} = 0.1355$, $\sigma = 2/3$, $c_{b2} = 0.622$, $\kappa = 0.41$, $c_{w1} = \frac{c_{b1}}{\kappa^2} + \frac{1+c_{b2}}{\sigma}$, $c_{w2} = 0.3$, $c_{w3} = 2$, $c_{v1} = 7.1$, $c_{t3} = 1.2$, and $c_{t4} = 0.5$. At viscous solid walls, the boundary condition is $\hat{\nu} = 0$, and in the freestream $\hat{\nu} = 3$.

The RC correction comes in solely through the f_{r1} term:

$$f_{r1} = (1 + c_{r1}) \frac{2r^*}{1 + r^*} [1 - c_{r3} \tan^{-1}(c_{r2} \hat{r})] - c_{r1} \quad (13)$$

where

$$r^* = S/\omega \quad (14)$$

$$\hat{r} = \frac{2\omega_{ik}S_{jk}}{D^4} \left(\frac{DS_{ij}}{Dt} + (\varepsilon_{imn}S_{jn} + \varepsilon_{jmn}S_{in})\Omega'_m \right) \quad (15)$$

$$S_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} + \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (16)$$

$$\omega_{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_j} - \frac{\partial u_j}{\partial x_i} \right) + 2\varepsilon_{mji}\Omega'_m \right] \quad (17)$$

$$S^2 = 2S_{ij}S_{ij} \quad (18)$$

$$\omega^2 = 2\omega_{ij}\omega_{ij} \quad (19)$$

$$D^2 = \frac{1}{2} (S^2 + \omega^2) \quad (20)$$

and Ω'_m is zero for all computations in this paper. The constants are $c_{r1} = 1.0$, $c_{r2} = 12$, and $c_{r3} = 1.0$. The Lagrangian (material) derivative is:

$$\frac{DS_{ij}}{Dt} \equiv \frac{\partial S_{ij}}{\partial t} + u_k \frac{\partial S_{ij}}{\partial x_k} \quad (21)$$

with the time term ignored for all of the computations in this paper, because they are solved as steady state.

As a linear eddy-viscosity model, SA-RC makes use of the Boussinesq assumption

$$\tau_{ij} = 2\mu_t \left(S_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_k} \delta_{ij} \right) - \frac{2}{3} \rho k \delta_{ij} \quad (22)$$

when determining the turbulent stress terms in the RANS equations, with the last term ignored for this model.

2. SA-RC-QCR2000

The quadratic constitutive relation (QCR) methodology developed by Spalart [28] is an improvement over the Boussinesq relation. The turbulent stresses from SA-RC are modified via

$$\tau_{ij,QCR} = \tau_{ij} - C_{cr1} [O_{ik}\tau_{jk} + O_{jk}\tau_{ik}] \quad (23)$$

where

$$O_{ik} = 2W_{ik} / \sqrt{\frac{\partial u_m}{\partial x_n} \frac{\partial u_m}{\partial x_n}} \quad (24)$$

$$W_{ik} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial u_i}{\partial x_k} - \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_i} \right) \quad (25)$$

and the constant is $C_{cr1} = 0.3$.

3. SA-RC-QCR2013 and SA-RC-QCR2013-V

In QCR2000, the $2\rho k\delta_{ij}/3$ term is still ignored in the implementation of τ_{ij} into the RANS equations. Mani et al. [29] developed a QCR2013 version that includes an approximation to this term, which is not expected to have any significant effects at low Mach numbers such as those considered in this paper. The modification is:

$$\tau_{ij,QCR2013} = \tau_{ij} - C_{cr1} [O_{ik}\tau_{jk} + O_{jk}\tau_{ik}] - C_{cr2}\mu_t \sqrt{2S_{mn}^*S_{mn}^*} \delta_{ij} \quad (26)$$

with

$$S_{ij}^* = S_{ij} - \frac{1}{3} \frac{\partial u_k}{\partial x_k} \delta_{ij} \quad (27)$$

and $C_{cr2} = 2.5$. However, some applications have noted numerical problems with the last term in Eq. (26), notably in wake regions where μ_t is not small. A recommended fix is to use vorticity instead of strain in this term. This form is referred to as QCR2013-V, as follows:

$$\tau_{ij,QCR2013-V} = \tau_{ij} - C_{cr1} [O_{ik}\tau_{jk} + O_{jk}\tau_{ik}] - C_{cr2}\mu_t \sqrt{2W_{mn}W_{mn}} \delta_{ij} \quad (28)$$

For the applications in this paper, FUN3D was unable to run SA-RC-QCR2013 at all (because numerical issues caused the code to blow up). OVERFLOW was able to run SA-RC-QCR2013 in general, but it sometimes had difficulties with convergence. Both codes were able to run SA-RC-QCR2013-V without any problems.

4. Minor turbulence model variants: noft2

A minor model variant for SA-RC, SA-RC-QCR2000, SA-RC-QCR2013, and SA-RC-QCR2013-V was employed by OVERFLOW. Termed “noft2”, this variant sets $f_{t2} = 0$ in the base SA model. Functionally, for fully-turbulent solutions at sufficiently high Reynolds numbers, there is no difference resulting from this change [19]. Throughout the paper, the “noft2” designation has been dropped.

5. Important consideration for normal turbulent stress output

Recall that when using a linear model such as SA-RC, or when including the QCR2000 modification, the $2\rho k\delta_{ij}/3$ term is typically ignored when forming τ_{ij} in the RANS equations. This practice is considered acceptable because the normal stress magnitudes usually have very little influence on the mean flow in shear-flow-driven aerodynamic problems of interest (the normal stress *differences* have more of an impact). However, ignoring the term can be problematic for outputting and plotting the turbulent normal stresses (when comparing to experiment, for example). Therefore, in both FUN3D and OVERFLOW, when outputting the turbulent normal stresses for SA-RC or SA-RC-QCR2000, the term is approximately included via

$$2\rho k\delta_{ij}/3 \approx 2/3\delta_{ij}\mu_t \sqrt{2S_{ij}S_{ij}}/a_1 \quad (29)$$

where a_1 is taken as 0.31. This approximate relation came from Spalart and Allmaras [30], and this value for the “structure parameter” a_1 is exactly the same used by Menter in his SST model [31]. This is similar to the approximation already included in QCR2013, except that the a_1 constant in QCR2013 is 0.26667.

D. Grids

The CFD grids are briefly described here.

1. Structured Overset

A series of overset grids were created for the Juncture Flow Model. There is a commonality between the grids used in all of the CFD simulations. The grids were built using Chimera Grid Tools [32]. The full span JF model configuration consisted of a fuselage and two wings. The fuselage was built from 4 zones, two of which span the length of the fuselage, and two cap grids covering the nose and rear of the fuselage. The wing grids for all the various configurations shared a common 6 zone topology. The wing grids consisted of two collar grids covering the wing-fuselage junction, two grids spanning the wing, and two wing tip cap grids. Each pair of grids had overlap along the chord, making effectively a front and rear zone. All the surface grids were projected back to the reference CAD

geometry using Pointwise® [33] to ensure a smooth surface geometry. For the free-air grids, a series of grids with increasing grid resolution were built. Four grid topologies, including a coarse, medium, fine, and extra-fine grid, were constructed. Figure 2 shows the grid density on the surface of the port wing and fuselage. The overall vehicle included 16 grid zones, and Table 1 details the various configurations investigated in this study, and the grid metrics for each configuration. The near body grid point counts include just the volume grids for the JF model, excluding the support hardware, and applicable wind tunnel or off-body Cartesian grids.

Table 1. Summary of overset structured grids.

Configuration	Near Body Grid Points	Total Grid Points	Max Stretching Ratio
Free-Air Coarse (C)	19,370,462	21,374,458	1.20
Free-Air Medium (M)	48,942,491	50,917,459	1.15
Free-Air Fine (F)	171,553,707	173,206,274	1.10
Free-Air Extra Fine (XF)	413,580,971	424,140,207	1.08
Wind Tunnel Medium (Tunnel M)	48,942,491	94,572,947	1.15
Wind Tunnel Fine (Tunnel F)	171,553,707	381,515,373	1.10

For the wind tunnel grids, wall grids were built from CAD based on the as-built laser scanned 14x22 as described in Nayani et al. [34]. Fifteen zones modeled the high-speed leg of the 14x22. The tunnel was split into five sections streamwise: plenum, test section, diffuser part 1, diffuser part 2, and extended diffuser. Each section was comprised of two viscous wall grids, and one core grid. The average grid spacing was varied to produce a medium (152.4 mm), and fine (76.2 mm) grid. Minimum spacing at the walls of the test section was less than 0.003048 mm on all grids. The straight section of the inlet, prior to the contraction, was run with inviscid walls. The diffuser grids gradually coarsened downstream. A diffuser extension of 30.48 m streamwise was incorporated, and the extended diffuser walls also used an inviscid boundary condition. Figure 3 shows the wind tunnel volume grid with the extended diffuser, and an overall view of the 14x22 with the JF model installed. Utilizing inviscid sections of the tunnel helped increase the code stability, and helped accelerate the convergence of the CFD code. The details and benefits of using this method can be found in Lee et al. [14]. Domain connectivity and hole cutting was performed using OVERFLOW’s object xrays [35].

The JF model installation location for both $\alpha = 5.0^\circ$ and $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$ cases was based on laser scans in the test section. Different geometries were necessary for the two angles of attack, as the mast on the support changed to place the model in the center of the tunnel. Figure 4 shows a zoomed region of the test section with the JF model installed at both angles of incidence. For the wind tunnel results shown below, the free-air medium and fine grids were embedded directly into the wind tunnel configuration for consistency between free-air and tunnel calculations.

The wind tunnel with the JF model installed (at their respective angles of attack) were translated and rotated to match the same coordinate system as the free-air grid system (body coordinate system), to simplify the postprocessing. In doing this, all the flow quantities, velocities, etc. from a post processing standpoint, were already in the body coordinate system as opposed to the tunnel coordinate system. This eliminated the need to transform the flowfield data to the body coordinate system when postprocessing the data.

2. Unstructured

In Rumsey et al. [16], a family of unstructured free-air half-span grids was utilized. The solutions were found to be highly grid-sensitive in and near the corner separation region. A second family of grids was subsequently created with a significantly higher degree of grid clustering in the corner region. Comparisons of predicted separation length and width for the particular case of $\alpha = 5^\circ$ are shown in Fig. 5. The old and new M grids are compared in Figs. 5(a) and (b), respectively. Then, plots of separation length and width as a function of $N^{-2/3}$, where N represents the number of unknowns, are shown in Figs. 5(c) and (d). For a code with second-order global spatial accuracy, the independent variable should vary linearly with $N^{-2/3}$ on sufficiently refined grids. Results on both sets of grids approached the same result as the grid was refined ($N^{-2/3} \rightarrow 0$). The new grids successfully produced less grid sensitivity and obtained more accurate results for a given grid size, compared with experiment (green square, including estimated uncertainty bars). However, as will be shown below, there was still a significant amount of grid sensitivity (changes in the solution with successively finer grids) in the separated region. This sensitivity underscores the fact that it is very difficult to attain so-called “grid convergence” for three-dimensional separated flows. The free-air half-span grids

from Rumsey et al. [16] had the following approximate number of unknowns: 10.7, 35.7, 120.4, and 258.4 million. The current unstructured grids, which were created using Pointwise[®] version 182.R2, are summarized in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of free-air half-span unstructured grids.

Grid	Number of unknowns (N)	Tets / Prisms / Pyramids (millions)	Minimum wall spacing (mm)	Stretching rate near wall
Coarse (C)	12,312,544	10 / 21 / 0.07	0.00135	1.25
Medium (M)	39,121,991	20 / 71 / 0.15	0.00090	1.16
Fine (F)	160,761,294	223 / 245 / 0.41	0.00060	1.10
Extra Fine (XF)	356,610,207	356 / 591 / 0.85	0.00040	1.07

A few FUN3D runs were also made of the model (full span) in the 14x22, including the mast and sting support system. In these cases, the M grid near the model was used as a starting point, then it was extended to model the high-speed leg of the wind tunnel. The wind tunnel’s contraction and diffuser sections were both included. To avoid problems with separated flow near the outflow, a constant-area extension was added downstream of the diffuser, similar to OVERFLOW’s tunnel grids. For the FUN3D cases, the wind tunnel walls were treated as inviscid surfaces. The total number of unknowns for the tunnel grids was around 80 million for both the cases of 5° and -2.5° angle of incidence. Like OVERFLOW, FUN3D translated and rotated the tunnel system to match the free-air system, for postprocessing convenience.

E. Flow Conditions

In the 14x22, the Reynolds number (based on the crank chord length) was held fixed at 2.4 million ($\pm 0.3\%$) throughout the testing. However, the atmospheric conditions varied, so that the Mach number ranged from about 0.175 to 0.205, temperature ranged from about 275 to 308 K, and dynamic pressure ranged from about 2107 to 2921 Pa. In this study, the median values from the test of $M = 0.189$ and $T = 288.84$ K were used. The median dynamic pressure was approximately 2476 Pa.

Two angles of incidence were selected in the experiment for detailed data collection: nominally 5° and -2.5° . These choices yielded two different separation sizes (larger and smaller, respectively). The actual ranges throughout the testing were approximately $4.97^\circ < \alpha < 5.04^\circ$ and $-2.54^\circ < \alpha < -2.48^\circ$. For this CFD study, the nominal uncorrected angles of $\alpha = 5^\circ$ and -2.5° were employed for the free-air computations. Because of wind tunnel wall influence, the angles of attack used for free-air computations should include some correction. However, there was no accurate estimate of the corrections required because no balance data were collected in this experiment. In this paper, results are also shown for computations that include the wind tunnel walls, for which no angle-of-attack correction is needed, and an assessment is made regarding the walls’ impact on the juncture flow region quantities of interest.

III. Results

The CFD results and comparisons with experiment are described in this section. For FUN3D, the mean flow and turbulence model residuals typically converged iteratively at least 6 orders of magnitude, yielding steady-state RANS results. However, on the XF grid, the FUN3D residuals hung up after converging only a few orders. Nonetheless, these XF solutions appeared to be consistent with what was expected based on the coarser grid solutions, so they are still included here. The 5° tunnel run converged well, but at -2.5° convergence was poor, likely due to localized shedding from the extended mast. For OVERFLOW, the mean flow residuals typically converged around 6 orders of magnitude, and the turbulence residuals converged around 4 orders of magnitude. The residuals for the wind tunnel cases were prevented from converging because the support hardware (particularly the mast) exhibited localized shedding.

A. Surface Flow Separation Predictions

Figure 6 shows surface-restricted streamlines from FUN3D free-air computations at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ on the finest three grids using the SA-RC-QCR2013-V turbulence model. The predicted separation size decreased with grid size, with more changes evident between M and F than between F and XF. Although not shown, surface-restricted streamlines from OVERFLOW indicated similar results.

Comparisons between CFD and experiment separation sizes are shown in Fig. 7. Qualitatively, the SA-RC model produced a separation that was too long by around 100 percent. FUN3D results were steady, but OVERFLOW results with SA-RC sometimes exhibited unsteadiness in the large separation regions with variations of as much as 20 mm in length or width for steady-state runs. Changing to time-accurate runs did not make much difference. Here, an attempt was made to plot OVERFLOW’s average values, which can therefore be considered only approximate. Because the SA-RC model produced a separation that was clearly much too large, it is not considered a viable choice for predicting this type of flow. Therefore, in the interest of space, detailed SA-RC results will not be shown in the remaining sections of this paper, with one exception.

The QCR corrections improved the predictions significantly. Results for SA-RC-QCR2000, SA-RC-QCR2013, and SA-RC-QCR2013-V were nearly the same, as expected for this low Mach number flow. In fact, in FUN3D, results between SA-RC-QCR2000 and SA-RC-QCR2013-V were nearly indistinguishable. Results from FUN3D and OVERFLOW were not identical, but were fairly close overall. As the grid was refined, the QCR-based models in both codes predicted about the correct separation width compared with experiment, but predicted a length that was still somewhat too high; i.e., the corner separation started too far upstream on the wing.

B. Surface Pressure Predictions

Surface pressure coefficient comparisons on the wing are shown in Figs. 8 and 9 for SA-RC-QCR2013-V. For brevity, only surface pressures at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ are shown; results at $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$ do not add any additional insights. (The interested reader can refer to earlier publications [16, 17] for other results.) In these figures, experimental data from multiple runs on both left and right wings are plotted; thus, the data scatter provide a feel for the uncertainty in the measurements.

At most wing sections, both FUN3D and OVERFLOW yielded approximately the same results, and there were insignificant differences between grids. However, at the station $y = -1663.7$ mm near the wing tip, there was a large influence of the grid, presumably because of a need to resolve the tip vortex. Here, the unstructured M grid was clearly too coarse. Differences were evident between the two codes on the F and XF grids at this station, but the two finest overset grids appeared to be sufficiently resolved in OVERFLOW. At the innermost span station of $y = -254$ mm, which cuts through the separation at this angle of attack, there were differences due to both grid and code near the wing trailing edge (see the inset in Fig. 8(b)). These differences highlight the difficulty inherent in attaining grid- and code-converged results in separation regions of three-dimensional configurations.

At $y = -254$ mm, there was significant disagreement at one data point near the leading edge suction peak between CFD and experiment. It is not clear at this time whether this discrepancy was due to CFD inadequacy or if there was a problem with that particular pressure port. This question will be addressed in a follow-up experiment.

C. Flowfield Predictions

Next we turn to comparisons of flowfield quantities: velocity and turbulent Reynolds stress profiles, measured experimentally using LDV and including estimated uncertainty (error bars). The main focus here is on the SA-RC-QCR2013-V turbulence model at $\alpha = 5^\circ$. As mentioned earlier, the other QCR variants yielded essentially the same mean flow results, so their results will not be shown here.

Figure 10 shows results far upstream on the side of the fuselage (see Fig. 10(a)). At this location, the flow was attached and well behaved, and most RANS models would be expected to predict the mean flow here well. Indeed, as shown in Fig. 10(b), the three velocity components agreed well with experiment, although the CFD u -profile appeared to show a somewhat thicker boundary layer than experiment. The turbulent normal stresses, shown in Fig. 10(c), indicated some disagreement between CFD and experiment, especially in the $u'u'$ component near the wall. The turbulent shear stresses $u'v'$ and $v'w'$ agreed fairly well with experiment, whereas $u'w'$ was slightly off (Fig. 10(d)). In all cases, there was very little difference between results on the M, F, or XF grids, and both FUN3D and OVERFLOW produced essentially identical results. This agreement indicates that the finer grids were fine enough to attain essentially “grid-converged” results in this region of the flowfield, and the respective implementations of the SA-RC-QCR2013-V model in FUN3D and OVERFLOW were consistent.

A similar set of results is shown on the wing, in the corner well upstream of separation, in Fig. 11. At this location ($x = 2747.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm), the influence of grid and CFD code was now visible, but was generally very small, indicating sufficient grid density for capturing the flow in this attached-flow region. At this location, both CFD codes yielded consistent results. Compared to experiment, the u -velocity component was overpredicted in magnitude, although the inflection in the profile was seen. The $w'w'$ component of Reynolds stress was predicted well, but $v'v'$ was somewhat overpredicted and $u'u'$ was significantly underpredicted. This latter underprediction occurred because this profile was located only 1 mm from the fuselage, well within the fuselage boundary layer, and as the earlier results

on the fuselage showed, this turbulence model underpredicts $u'u'$ near the wall. The $u'v'$ and $v'w'$ components were again predicted extremely well compared with experiment, whereas the $u'w'$ component was off.

Further downstream, near the start of the separation, profiles are shown outboard of the fuselage boundary layer (and outboard of the start of separation) in Fig. 12. Here, both codes produced consistent results, and there was little influence due to grid size. Computed velocity profiles agreed generally well with experiment, but Reynolds stresses showed some differences, particularly in $u'u'$ and $u'w'$.

Figure 13 shows results very near the fuselage, near the start of separation. Here, at $x = 2852.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm, the CFD results showed a significant amount of separation as well as noticeable grid sensitivity (the CFD separation point was well upstream). The experiment was believed to have separated just prior to this location; clearly the size of its separated flow region was smaller than that predicted by CFD. This location also shows larger differences between FUN3D and OVERFLOW. In particular, the FUN3D results on the M grid appeared to be significantly underresolved. At this location, as well as further downstream into the separation region (not shown), the CFD ceased to correlate with the experiment.

In Figs. 14 and 15, the progression of profiles moving along the x -direction is shown 3 mm from the fuselage, for the $\alpha = 5^\circ$ case. Figure 14(a) shows the four locations. In these figures, z_0 , the location of the wing surface, has been subtracted from z on the y -axis of the plots to make comparisons easier. In Figs. 14(b)-(d), the velocity components indicated too large a magnitude upstream in the CFD, then early separation compared with experiment. The two codes (only XF results from each is shown here) agreed well with each other upstream of separation, but then showed significant differences in and near separation. Reynolds stress profiles, shown in Figs. 15(a)-(f), showed that a large change took place in the experiment between stations $x = 2842.6$ mm and $x = 2872.6$ mm, whereas in the CFD the change took place upstream of this. Because of the misprediction of separation location in the CFD and because of the grid sensitivity of the CFD in and near separation, it is difficult to make comparisons and draw conclusions from downstream profiles.

Finally, a progression of profile results is shown at $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$ in Figs. 16 and 17. In this case, the SA-RC-QCR2013-V results agreed somewhat better with experiment upstream of separation than it did for $\alpha = 5^\circ$, but then separation was again predicted somewhat too far upstream. In terms of Reynolds stresses, the experiment generally showed very little differences at the four selected stations, whereas CFD indicated larger variations downstream, because of its earlier separation prediction. The two CFD codes on their respective XF grids agreed well upstream of separation, but then (again) deviated once separation had taken place.

It is believed that the differences between the turbulent normal stresses are a driver for near-wall secondary corner vortical flow, which, when present, acts to inhibit corner separation [2]. Linear models like SA-RC provide no differences between the normal stresses, and hence do not provide sufficient vorticity for suppressing the corner separation. An example is shown in Fig. 18. In Fig. 18(a), the turbulent normal stresses are shown at the location $x = 2747.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm from the SA-RC model. Figure 18(b) shows results using the SA-RC-QCR2013-V model (also shown earlier in Fig. 11(c)). It is clear that without the QCR correction, the SA-RC model produced turbulent normal stresses with virtually no difference between them, as expected. The QCR correction separated the normal stresses to some degree. (Although not shown, the QCR correction only had relatively small influence on the turbulent shear stresses.) Figures 18(c) and (d) show contours of v velocity in the plane $x = 2747.6$ mm, with in-plane streamtraces superimposed using $(v, w+0.11)$ (the addition of 0.11 is done to approximately remove the bulk downward velocity at this location as the flow follows the wing). These streamtraces demonstrate that the SA-RC-QCR2013-V model yielded some vortical behavior near the junction, whereas the SA-RC model did not. Figures 18(e) and (f) emphasize the difference by superimposing a three-dimensional isosurface of Q-criterion (second invariant of ∇u). This isosurface highlights the vortical flow present near the juncture corner when QCR is employed.

The QCR correction improved the comparison with experiment in terms of both the turbulent normal stresses and the resulting separation size, but greater differences between the normal stresses existed in the experiment. The fact that the current QCR correction underpredicted these levels may be the reason why the separation size was still somewhat too large compared with experiment.

D. Effect of Wind Tunnel Walls

A number of CFD runs have been made with the model in the 14x22, especially with OVERFLOW. See, for example, Lee and Pulliam [17] for details. Here, only a brief summary of the tunnel wall influence is provided. Generally speaking, including the tunnel walls does have some effect, but it is relatively insignificant in terms of the general character of the CFD predictions in the juncture flow region itself.

Figure 19 shows the separation size predicted by including wind tunnel walls in the computations. For FUN3D (only computed on one grid based on the free-air M size), which treated the tunnel walls inviscidly, including the

walls yielded a slightly larger separation. For OVERFLOW, which treated the tunnel walls (mostly) as viscous, solid boundaries, the separation size slightly decreased. The reason for the opposite trends with the two codes is not known. It seems unlikely that the different treatment of the wall boundary condition would have a significant influence. It may be only that the trends were different on the grid levels examined, but would become consistent on more refined grids. In any case, the effect of tunnel walls was relatively small. We turn next to the flowfield details.

Figures 20, 21, and 22 show the tunnel M grid results from FUN3D and OVERFLOW compared with corresponding free-air M grid results. Here, FUN3D used SA-RC-QCR2013-V and OVERFLOW used SA-RC-QCR2013. Outside of the separated flow region (Figs. 20 and 21), all CFD results were very close for the mean flow and turbulence quantities. Inside of the separation region (Fig. 22), there were significant differences between the computations, but no particular trends due to wind tunnel walls were evident. Differences between CFD and experiment tended to be more significant than differences between the CFD runs with and without wind tunnel walls.

IV. Conclusions

The two CFD codes FUN3D and OVERFLOW have played a significant role throughout the life of the NASA Juncture Flow project. They were used to help design the experiment in conjunction with risk-reduction testing. Now that the initial phase of the experiment has been completed, evaluation of turbulence model capabilities for predicting this particular type of separated flow has begun. In this paper, the abilities of the Spalart-Allmaras class of RANS turbulence model were summarized.

Generally, both FUN3D and OVERFLOW produced consistent predictions of separation size when using the same turbulence model. In terms of velocity and Reynolds stress details, the codes were consistent in attached flow regions. Predicted velocities in these regions agreed fairly well with experiment, but Reynolds stresses were sometimes in agreement and sometimes not, with the greatest errors tending to be in the normal components. The flow in the separated juncture flow region was found to be highly sensitive to the grid employed, and not in good agreement with experiment. Even on the finest grids in this study (on the order of 400 million unknowns), results in the separation area still exhibited grid sensitivity. This sensitivity highlights the known difficulty achieving grid convergence for three-dimensional separated flows. In spite of the grid sensitivity, some general conclusions regarding the capabilities of the RANS turbulence models for this separated flow could still be made.

The impact of including wind tunnel walls on the prediction of details in the juncture flow region was found to be relatively minor. In other words, conclusions regarding efficacy of the RANS turbulence models could be made for this case by using free-air computations. The confidence in these conclusions is particularly high because of the extensive grid studies included and the comparisons made between the two different CFD codes. The SA-RC model predicted separation size to be about two times too long compared to experiment. Different versions of a quadratic constitutive relation (QCR) were described, and all — when used in conjunction with SA-RC — yielded consistent results with significantly improved separation predictions compared to SA-RC alone. However, although the QCR variants yielded approximately the correct separation width on refined grids, the separation length was still somewhat too long. The reason why the QCR methodology reduced separation size was primarily attributed to its better prediction of the differences between the turbulent normal stresses, which induced secondary corner vortical flow that acted to delay separation onset. Although improved with QCR, these differences between the normal stresses were still less than in the experiment, particularly because of underprediction of the $u'u'$ component very near both walls. This leads to the hypothesis that further minor modifications to QCR that improve predictions of the turbulent normal stresses could lead to even more accurate predictions of the corner separation size.

Acknowledgments

The authors would like to acknowledge the other active members of the Juncture Flow Team. From NASA, this includes Mike Kegerise, Dan Neuhart, Judi Hannon, Luther Jenkins, Jan Carlson, Nashat Ahmad, Cathy McGinley, Scott Bartram, C.-S. Yao, Mujeeb Malik, P. Balakumar, Joe Morrison, and James Bell. The authors also acknowledge Philippe Spalart, Bill Oberkampf, Roger Simpson, and Gwibo Byun for their significant contributions. This work was supported by NASA's Transformational Tools and Technologies (TTT) project of the Transformative Aeronautics Concepts Program.

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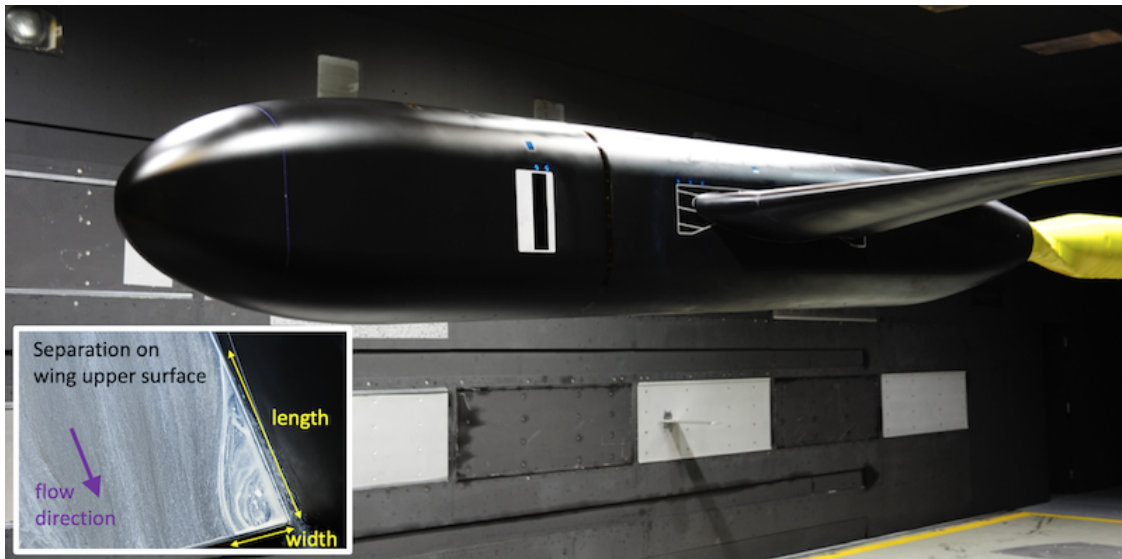
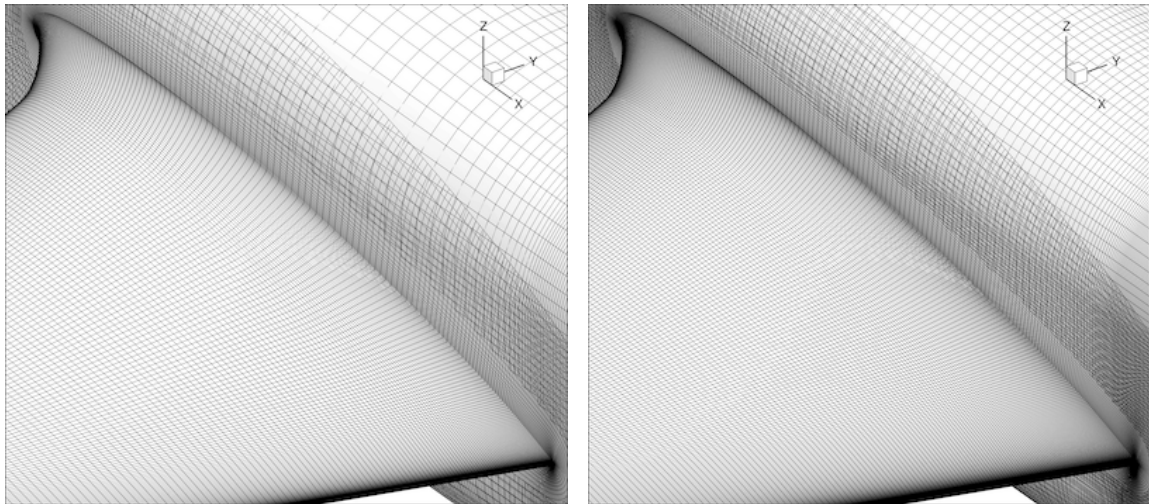
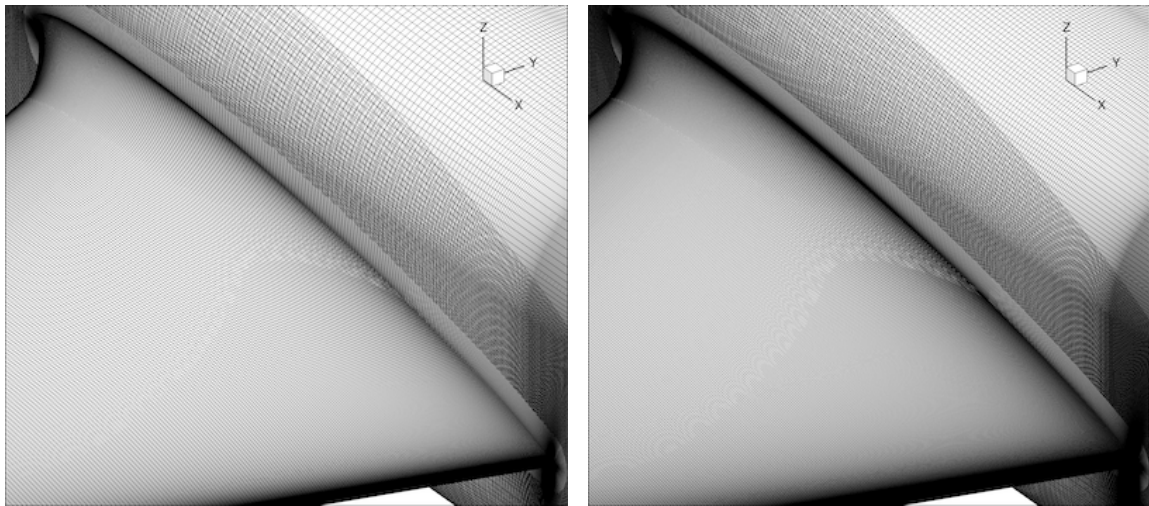


Figure 1. The NASA Juncture Flow model, with inset showing an oil flow photograph of the upper surface wing junction separation at 5° angle of incidence.



(a) Coarse

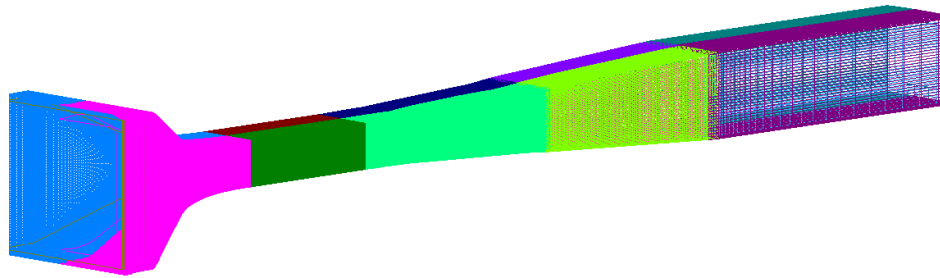
(b) Medium



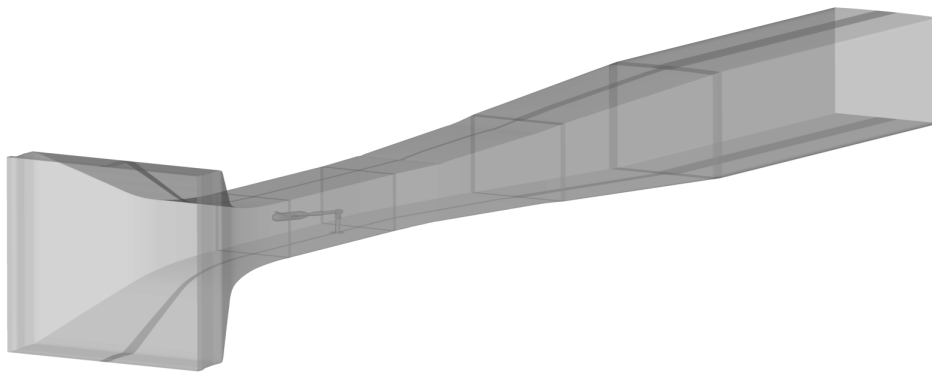
(c) Fine

(d) Extra Fine

Figure 2. Comparison of overset surface grid resolutions.

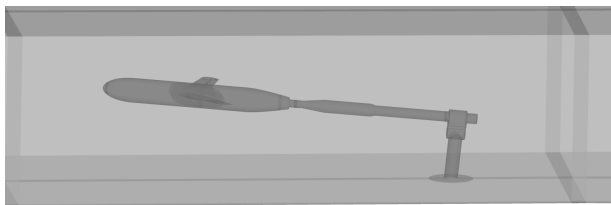


(a) Volume grid

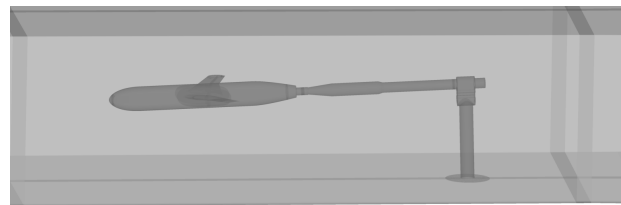


(b) Juncture Flow model grid installed

Figure 3. 14x22 wind tunnel, high-speed leg with extended diffuser.

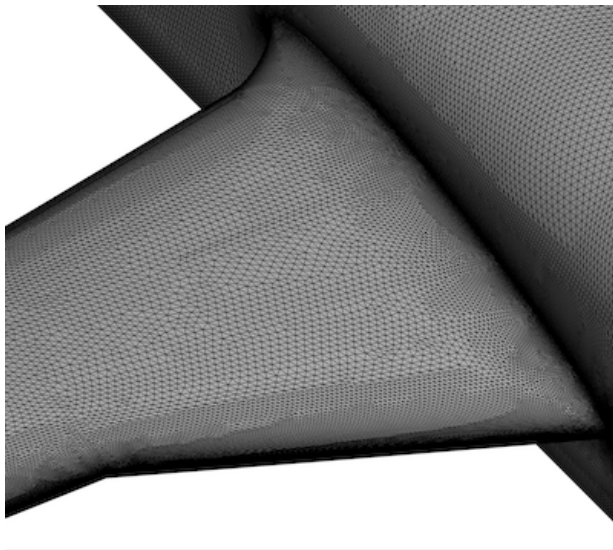


(a) $\alpha = 5.0^\circ$

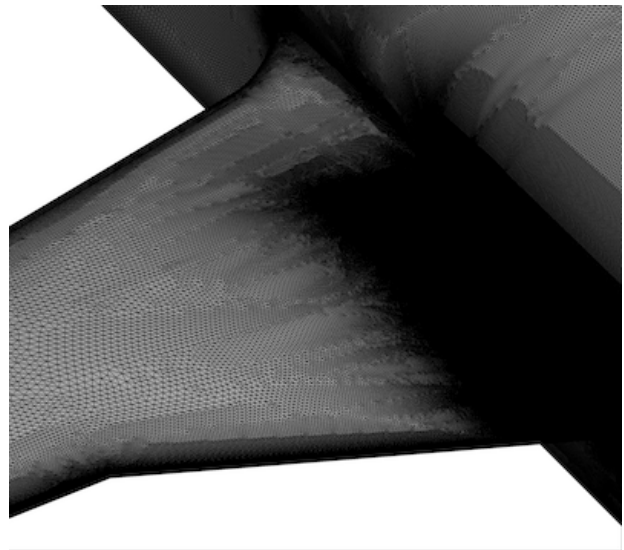


(b) $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$

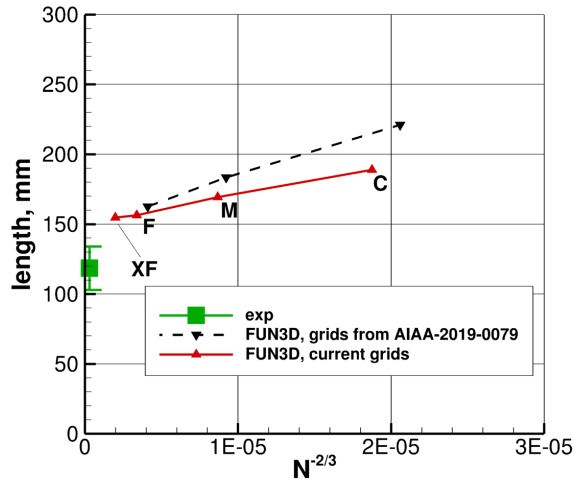
Figure 4. Juncture Flow model as installed in the 14x22 wind tunnel.



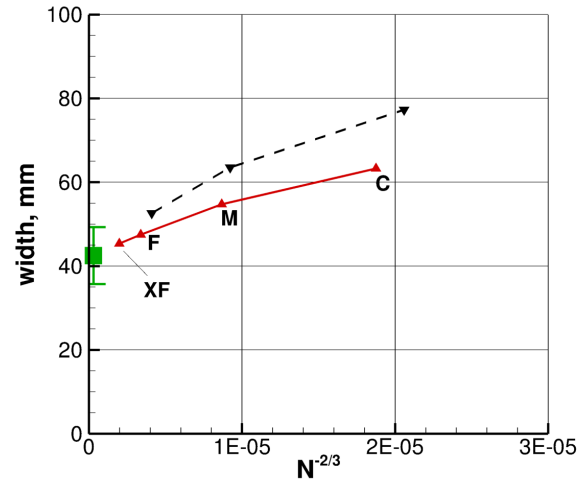
(a) Surface grid resolution of medium grid from AIAA-2019-0079



(b) Surface grid resolution of current medium grid



(c) Separation length predictions, $\alpha = 5^\circ$



(d) Separation width predictions, $\alpha = 5^\circ$

Figure 5. Comparison of results on different set of unstructured grids, SA-RC-QCR2013-V.

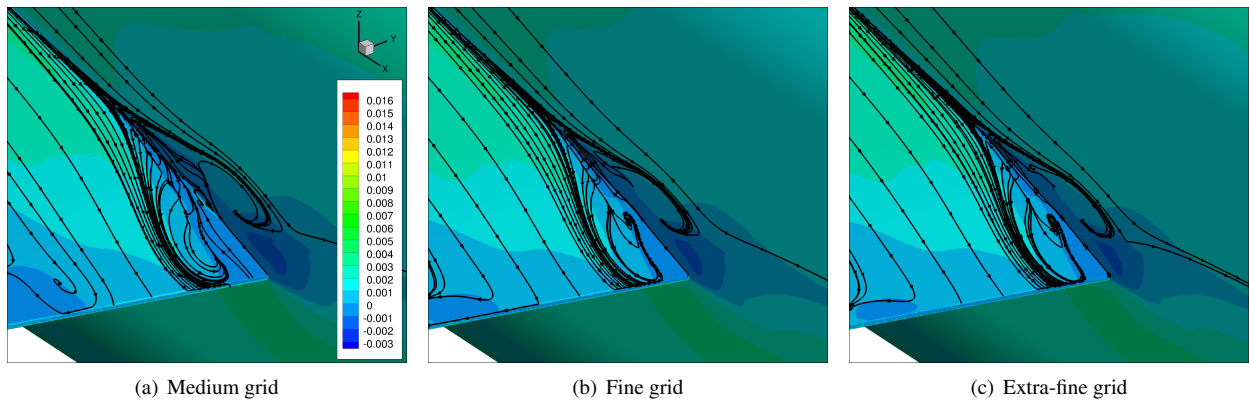


Figure 6. Computed surface streamlines from FUN3D, SA-RC-QCR2013-V, colored by $c_{f,x}$ ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).

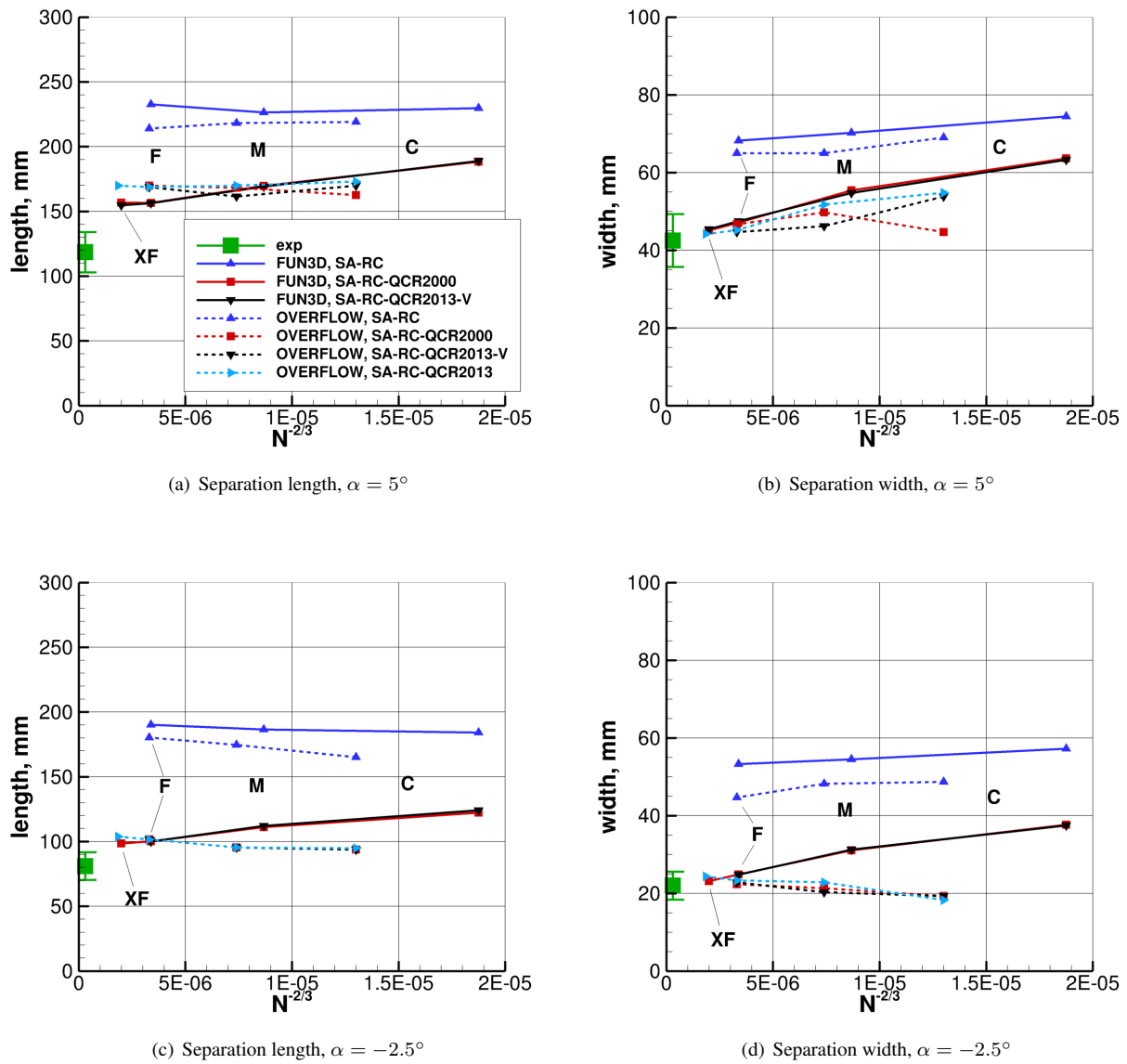
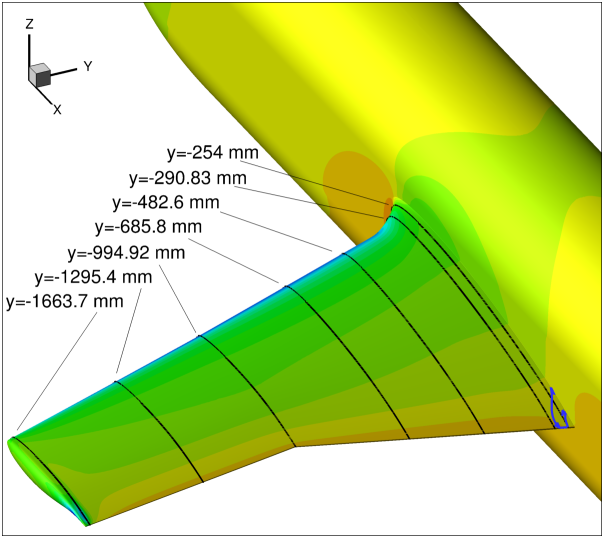
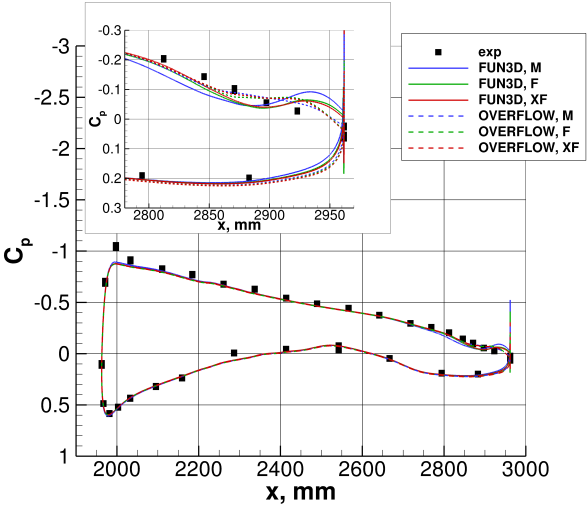


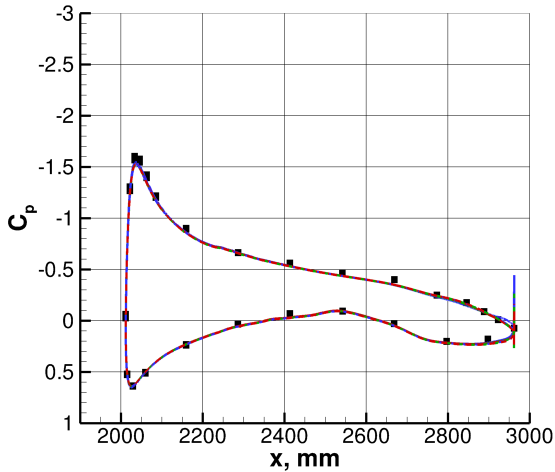
Figure 7. Effect of grid refinement on computed wing separation size (free-air computation).



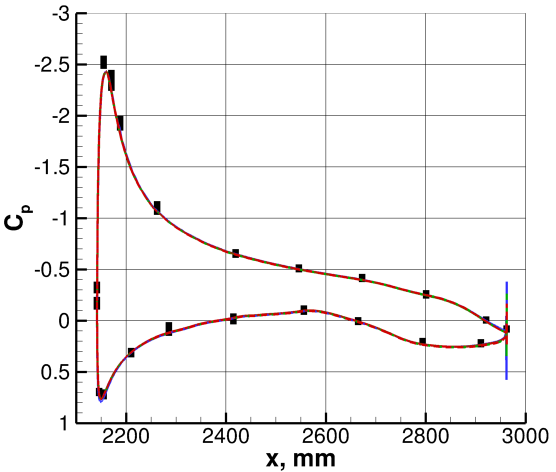
(a) Location of pressure taps (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) $y = -254$ mm

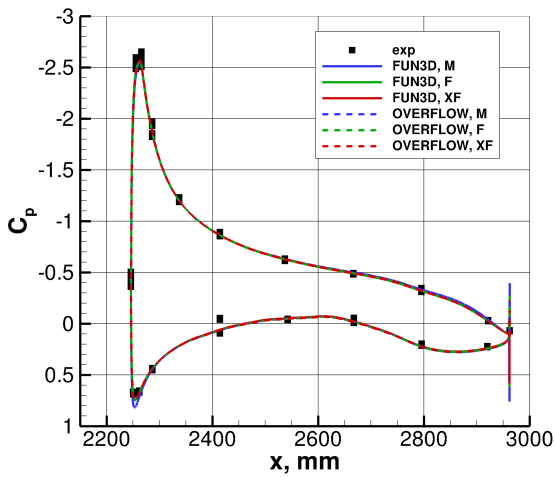


(c) $y = -290.83$ mm

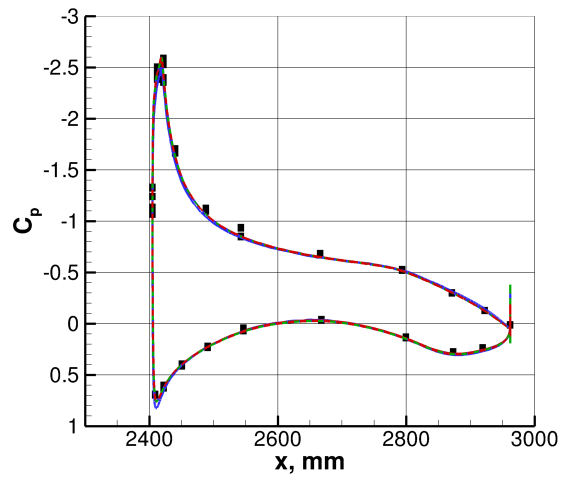


(d) $y = -482.6$ mm

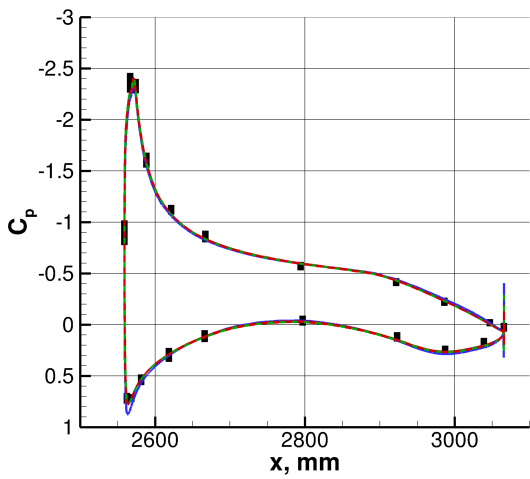
Figure 8. Surface pressure coefficients on inner part of wing, SA-RC-QCR2013-V ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



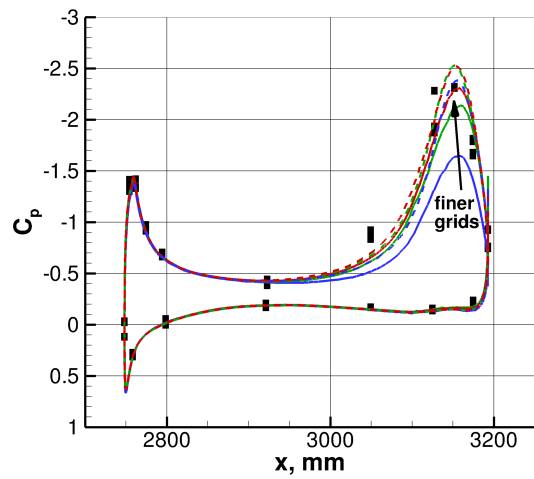
(a) $y = -685.8$ mm



(b) $y = -994.92$ mm

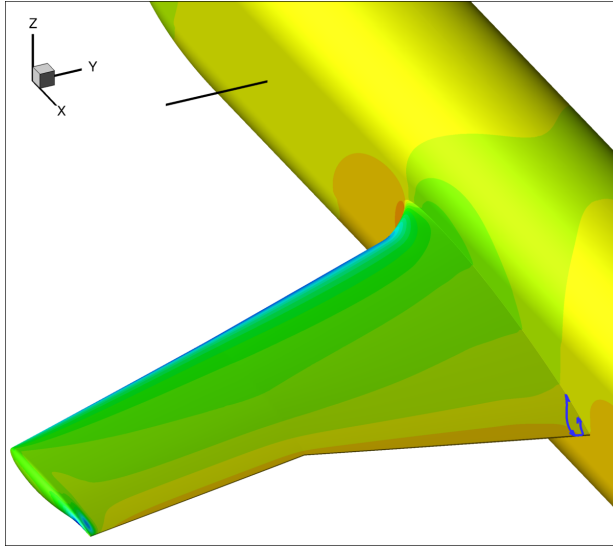


(c) $y = -1295.4$ mm

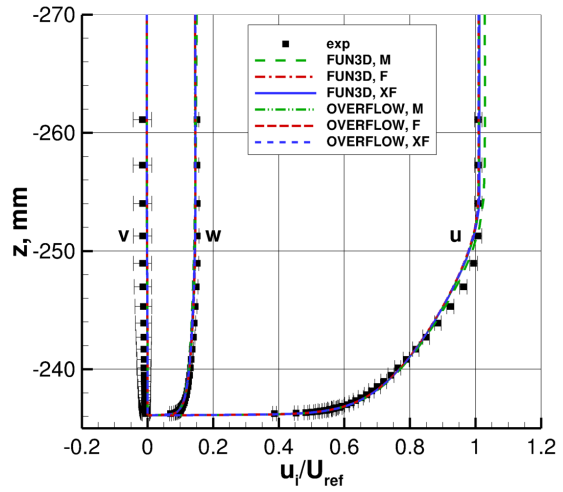


(d) $y = -1663.7$ mm

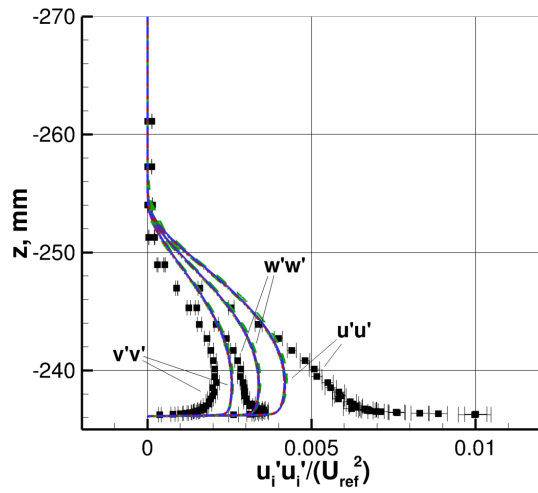
Figure 9. Surface pressure coefficients on outer part of wing, see Fig. 8.



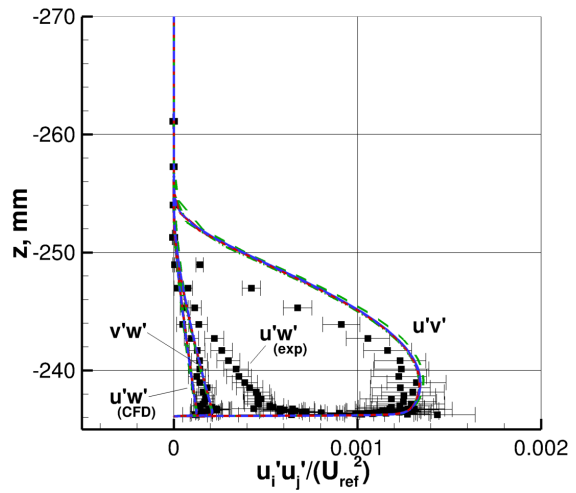
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

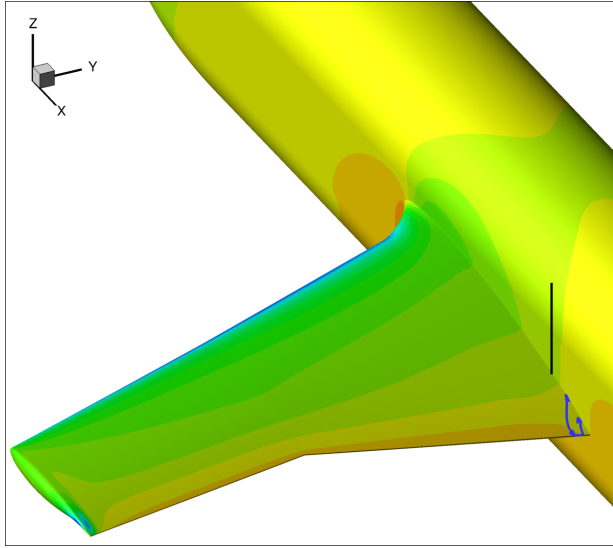


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

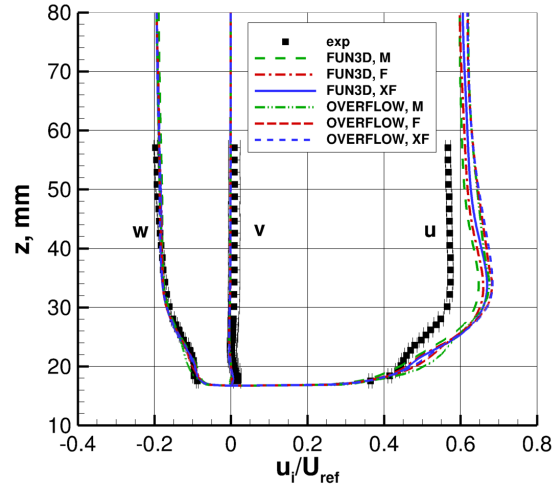


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

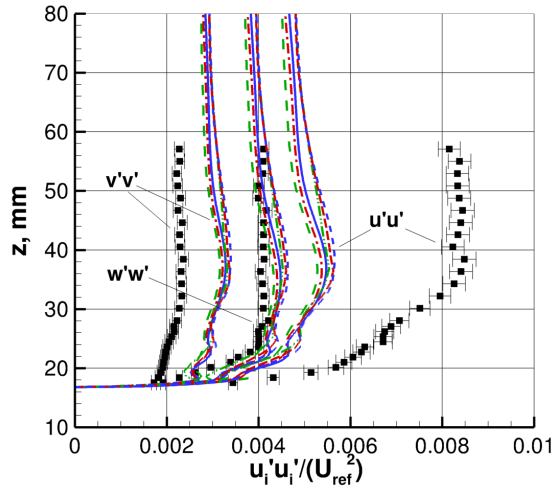
Figure 10. Profiles upstream on side of fuselage nose, $x = 1168.4$ mm, $z = 0$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



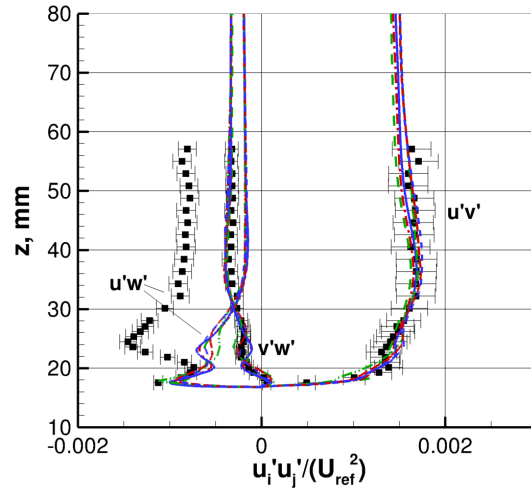
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

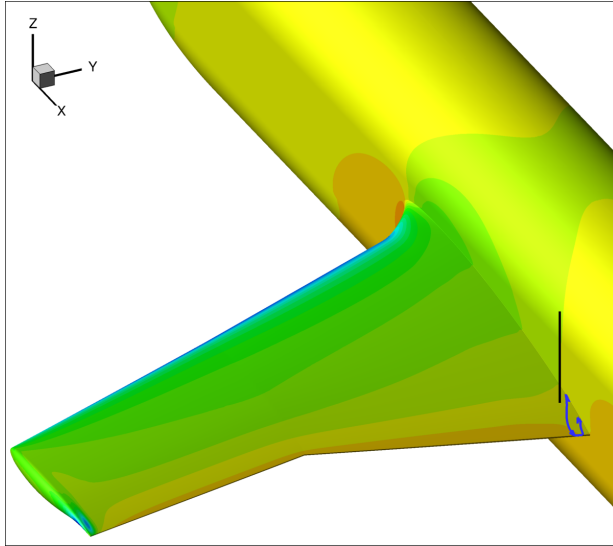


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

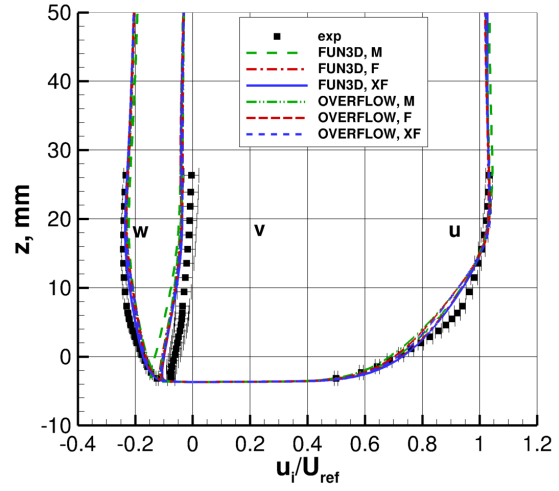


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

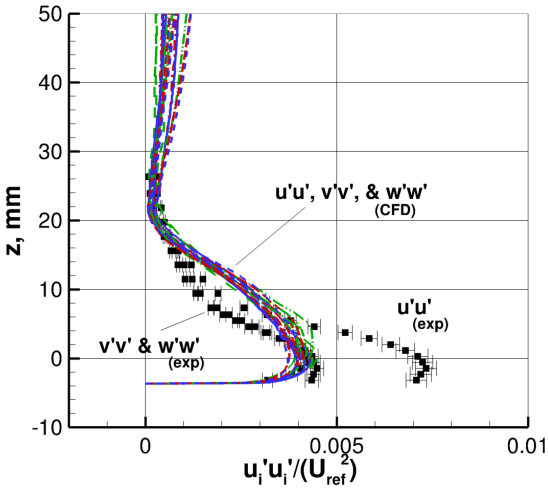
Figure 11. Profiles upstream of separation on wing (approx. 1 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $x = 2747.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



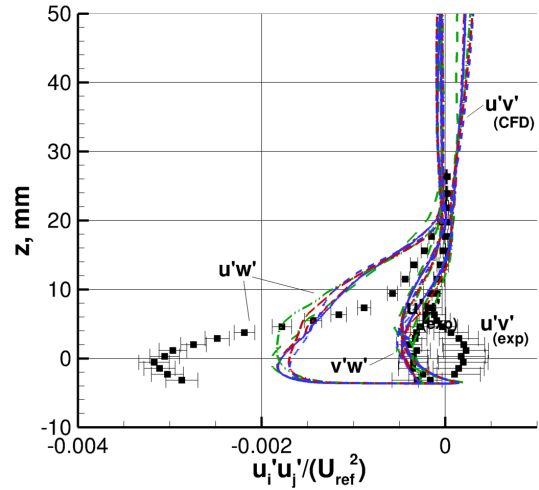
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

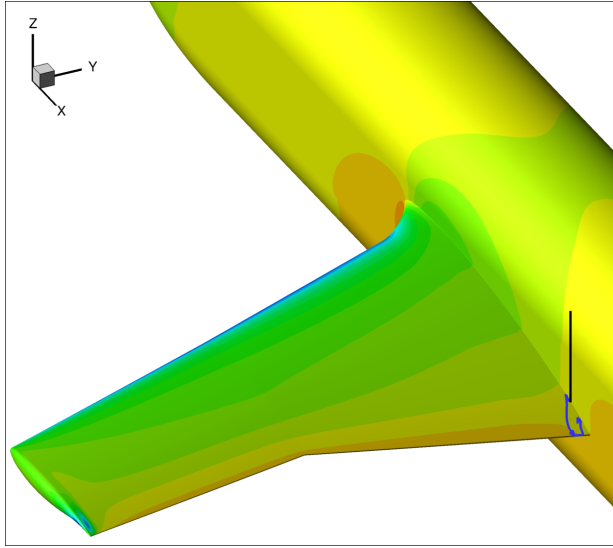


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

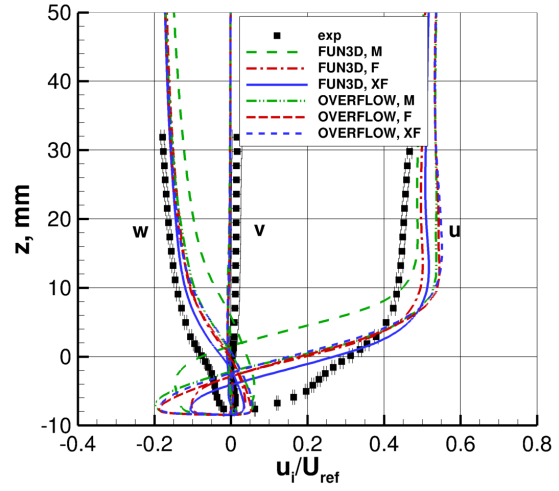


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

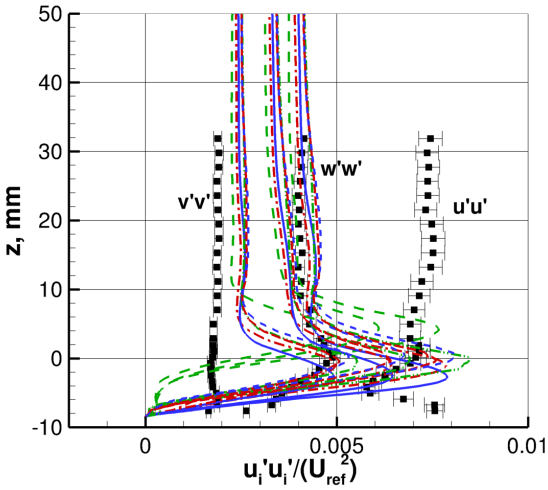
Figure 12. Profiles near separation on wing (approx. 30 mm from fuselage, outside its boundary layer), $x = 2852.6$ mm, $y = -266.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



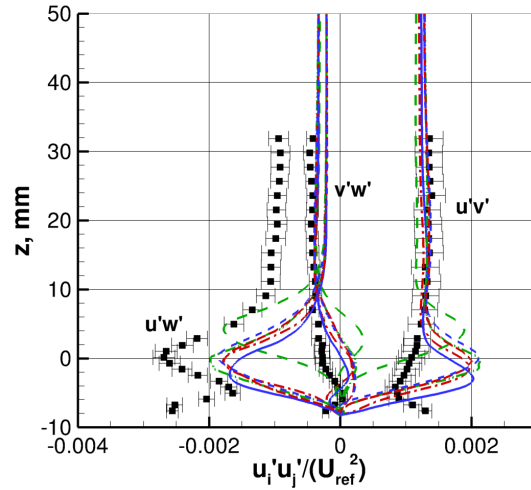
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

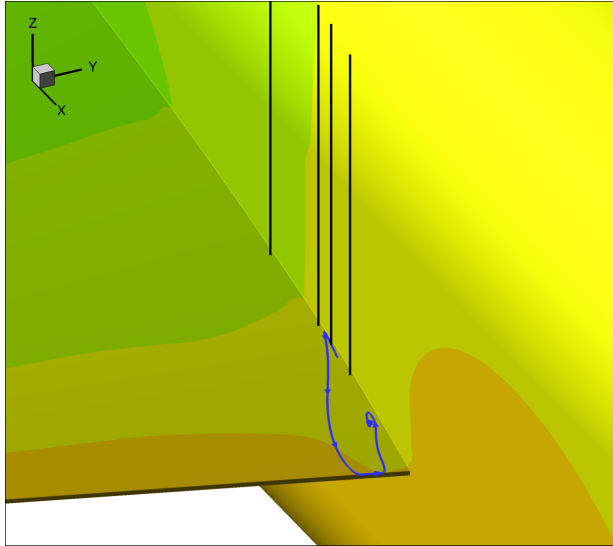


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

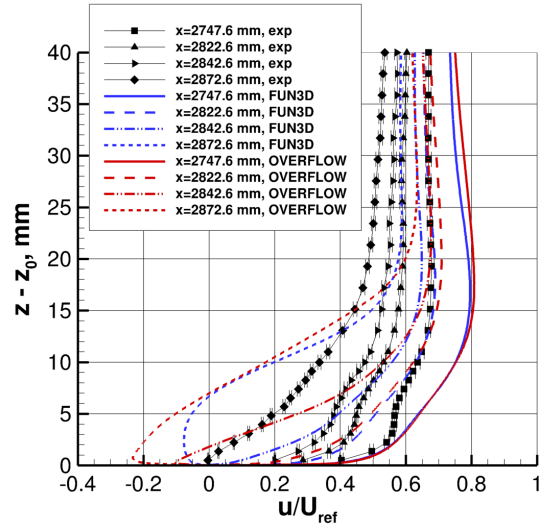


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

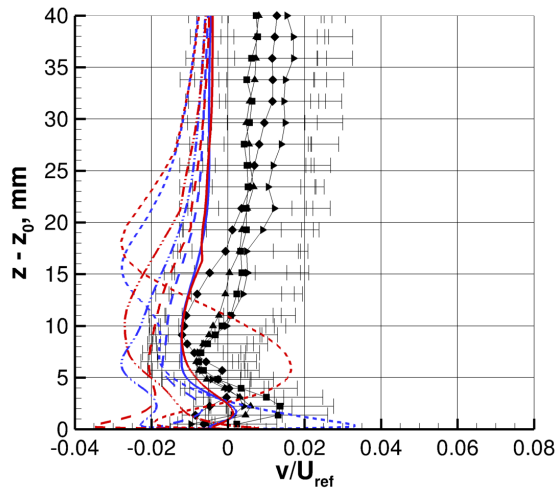
Figure 13. Profiles near separation on wing (approx. 1 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $x = 2852.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



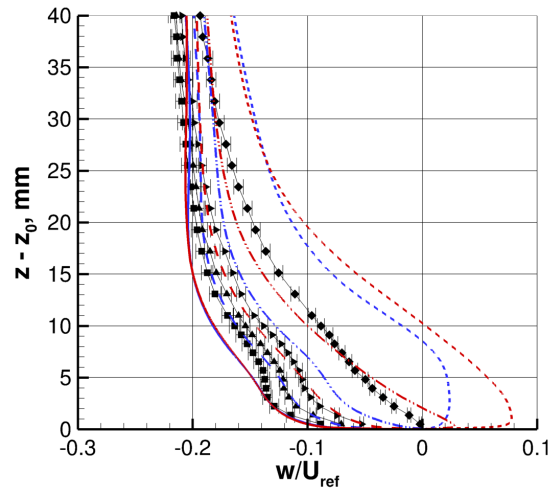
(a) Location of profiles (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) u profiles

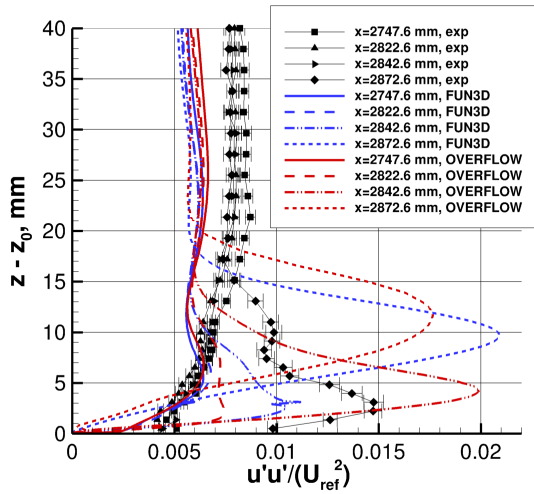


(c) v profiles

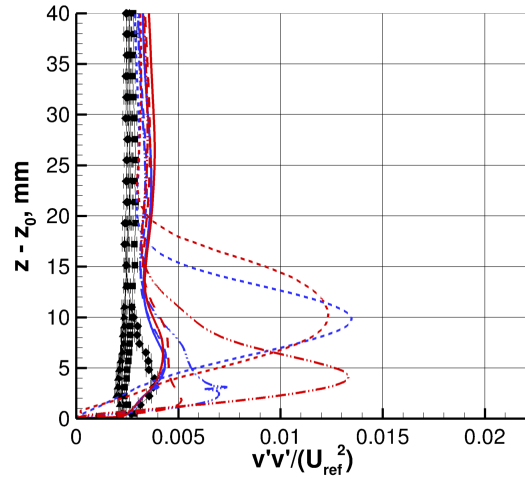


(d) w profiles

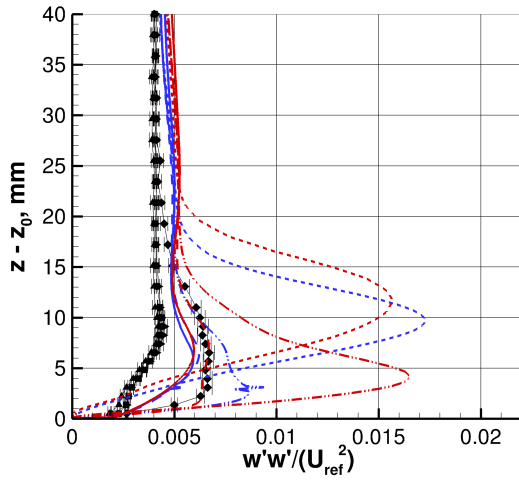
Figure 14. Velocity profiles along x -direction (approx. 3 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $y = -239.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V on extra fine grid ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



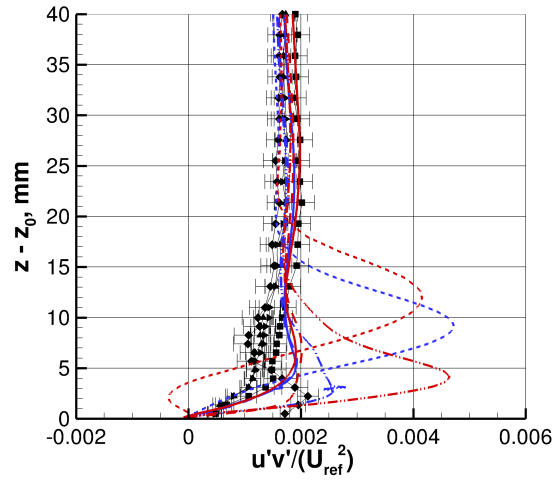
(a) $u'u'$ profiles



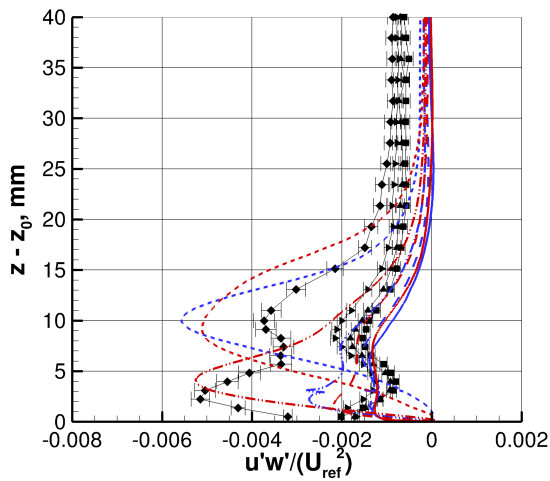
(b) $v'v'$ profiles



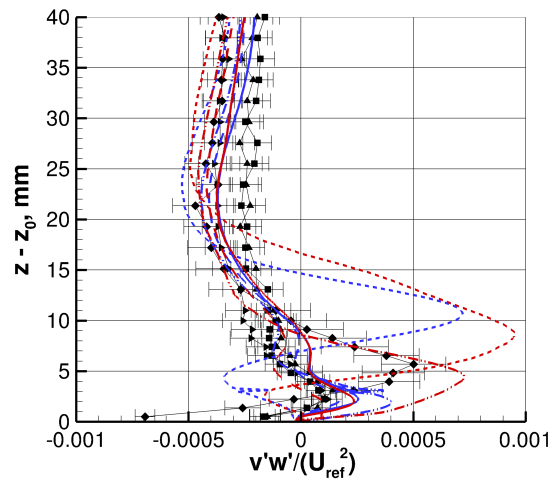
(c) $w'w'$ profiles



(d) $u'v'$ profiles

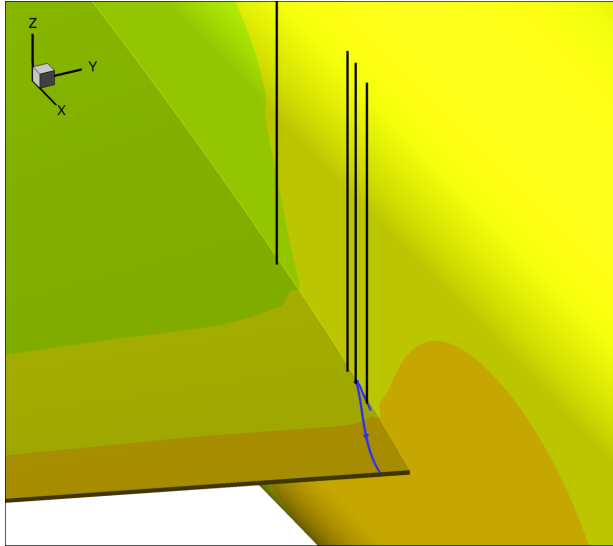


(e) $u'w'$ profiles

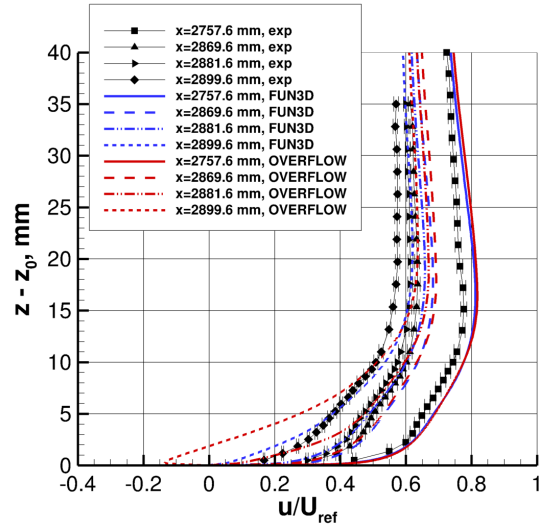


(f) $v'w'$ profiles

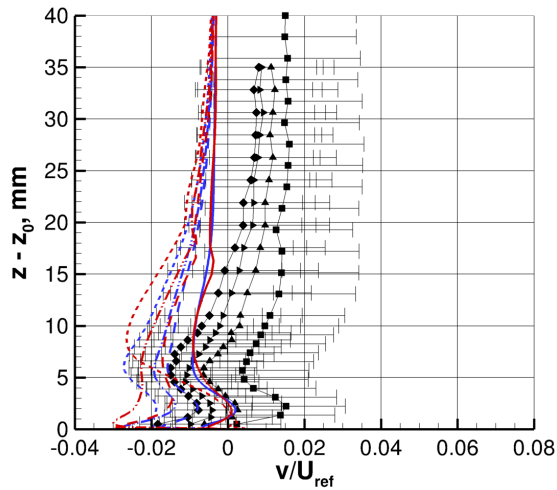
Figure 15. Reynolds stress profiles at same locations and conditions from Fig. 14.



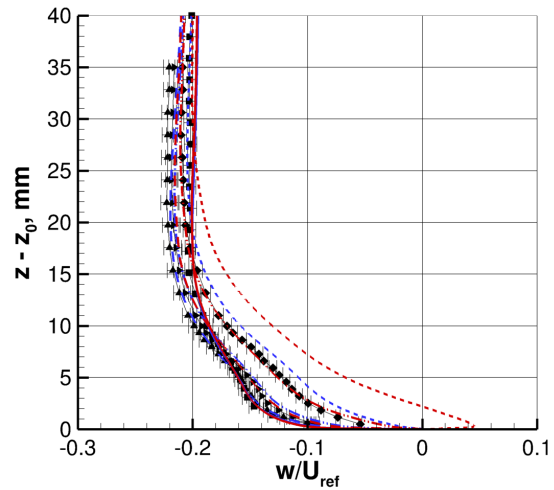
(a) Location of profiles (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) u profiles



(c) v profiles



(d) w profiles

Figure 16. Velocity profiles along x -direction (approx. 3 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $y = -239.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V on extra fine grid ($\alpha = -2.5^\circ$ free-air computation).

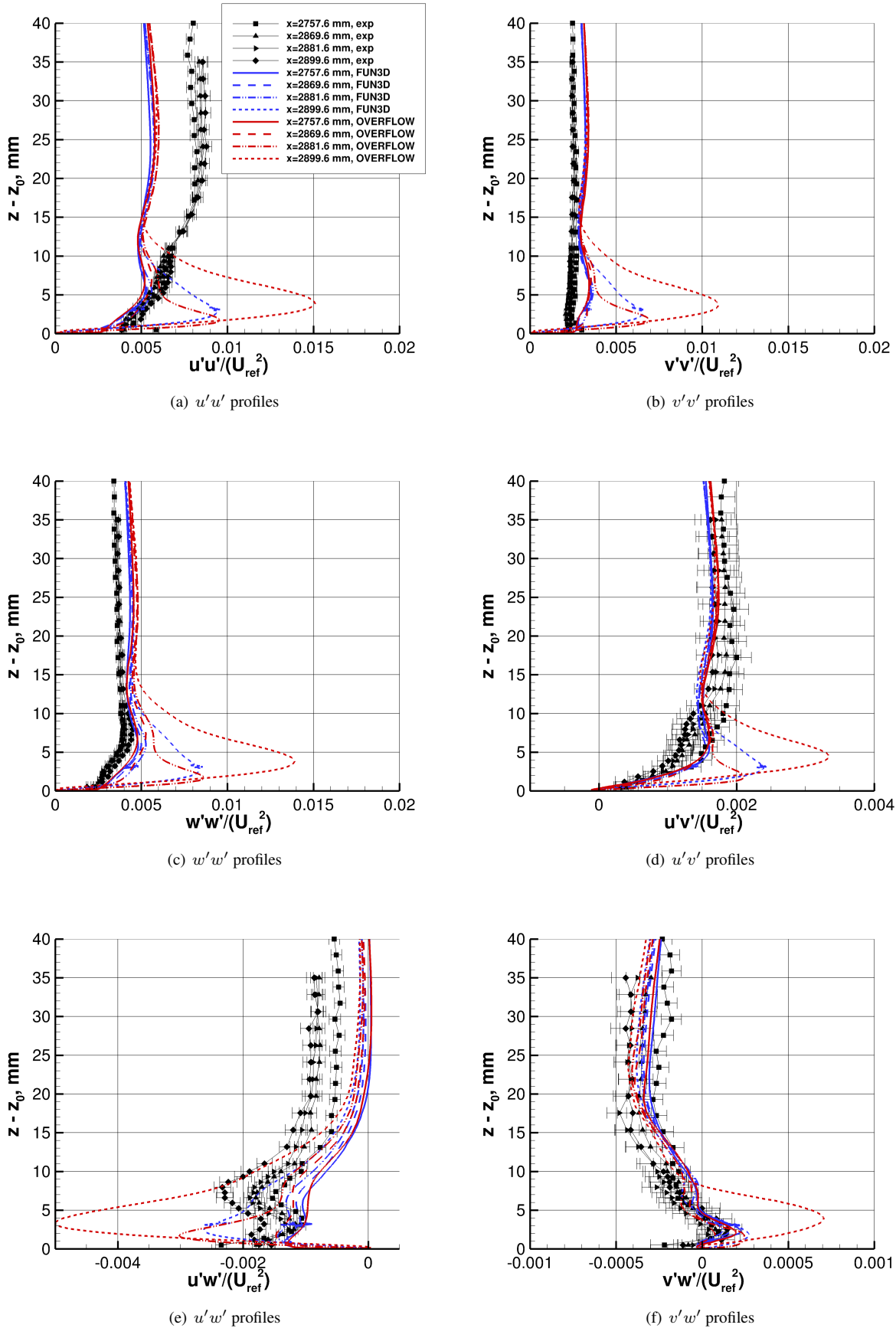
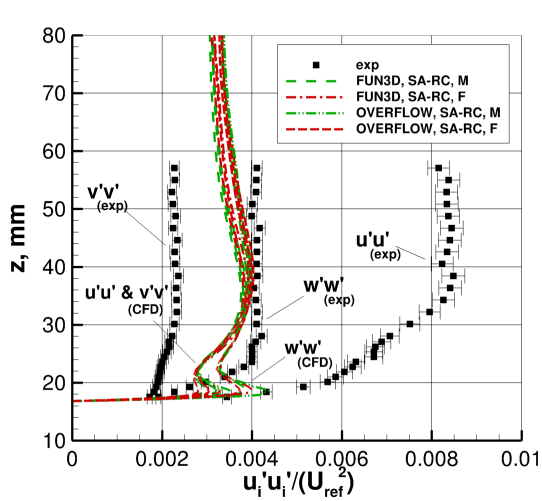
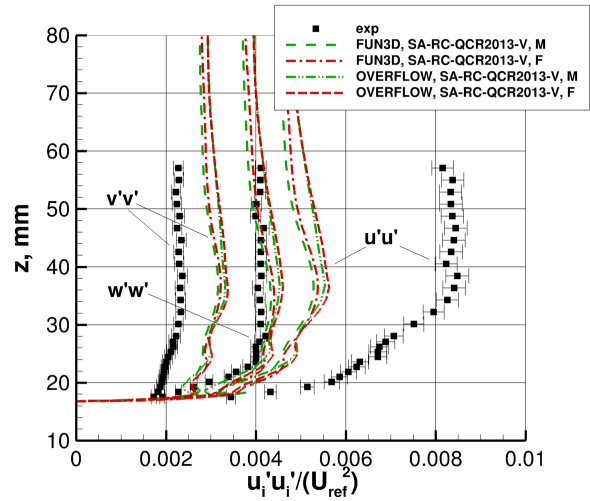


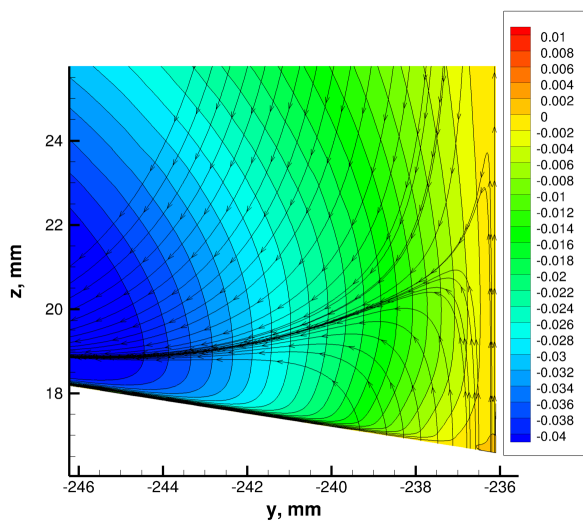
Figure 17. Reynolds stress profiles at same locations and conditions from Fig. 16.



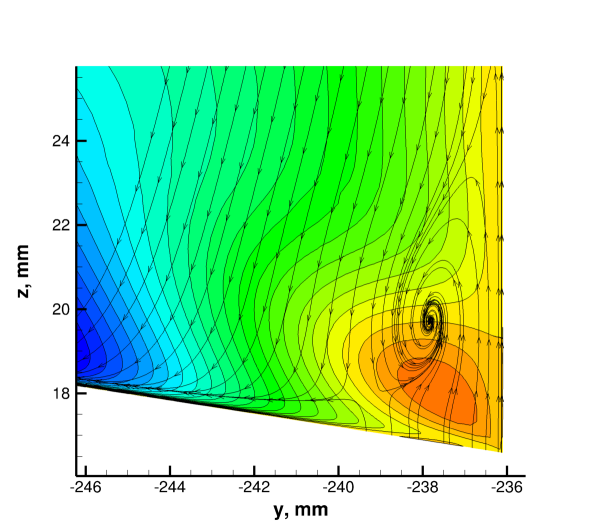
(a) Turbulent normal stress profiles along $y = -237.1$ mm, SA-RC model



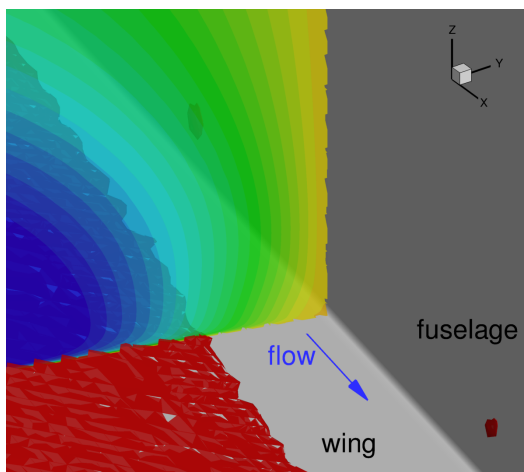
(b) Turbulent normal stress profiles along $y = -237.1$ mm, SA-RC-QCR2013-V model



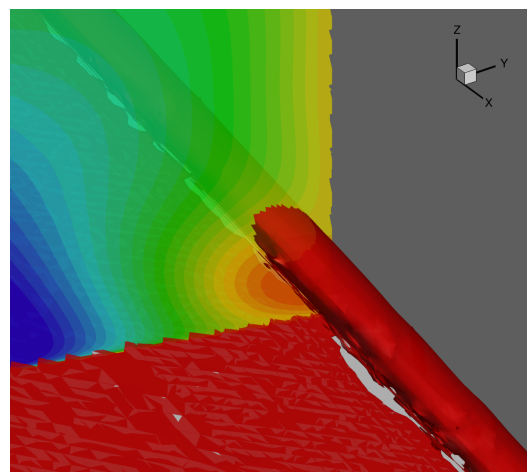
(c) Contours of v/U_{ref} from FUN3D with in-plane streamtraces of $(v, w + 0.11)$, SA-RC model, F grid



(d) Contours of v/U_{ref} from FUN3D with in-plane streamtraces of $(v, w + 0.11)$, SA-RC-QCR2013-V model, F grid

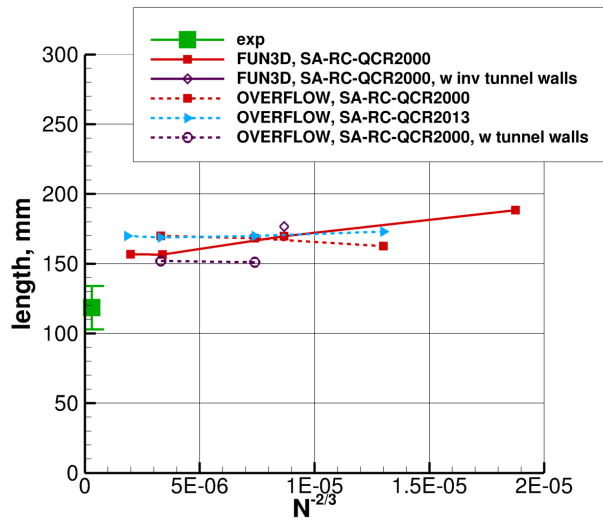


(e) SA-RC result, with nearby isocontour of Q-criterion (red), F grid

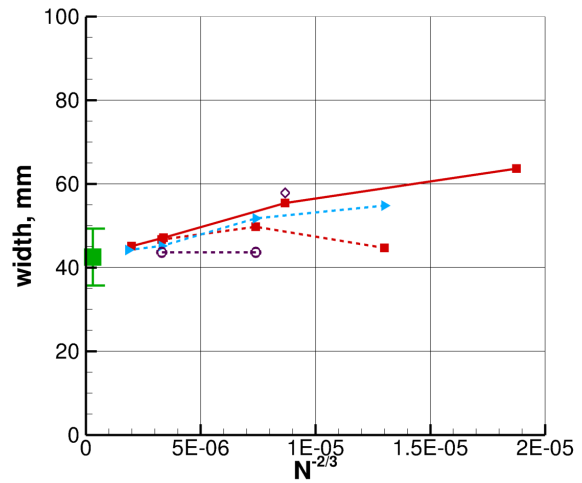


(f) SA-RC-QCR2013-V result, with nearby isocontour of Q-criterion (red), F grid

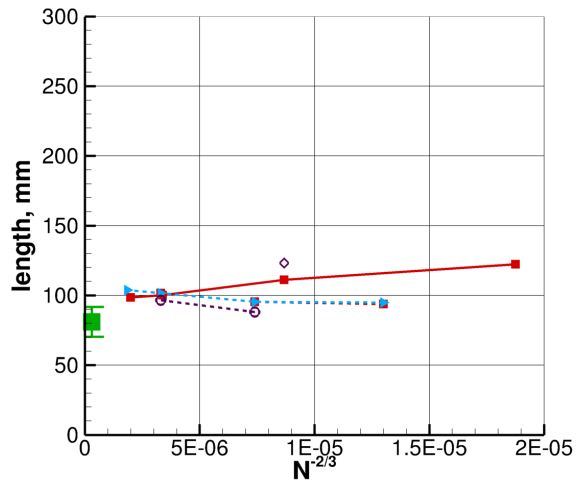
Figure 18. Details in the $x = 2747.6$ mm plane, showing effect of QCR ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ free-air computation).



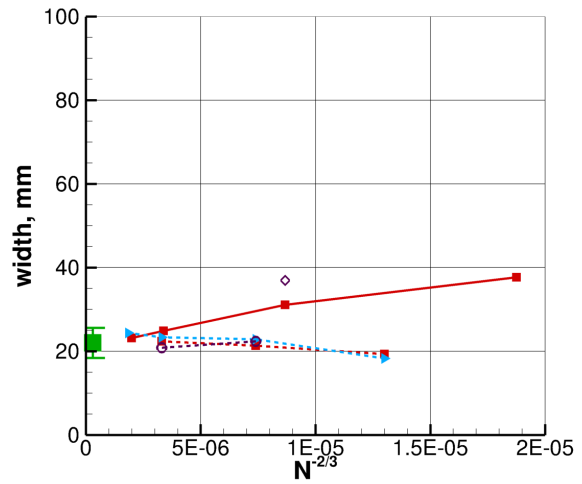
(a) Separation length, $\alpha = 5^\circ$



(b) Separation width, $\alpha = 5^\circ$

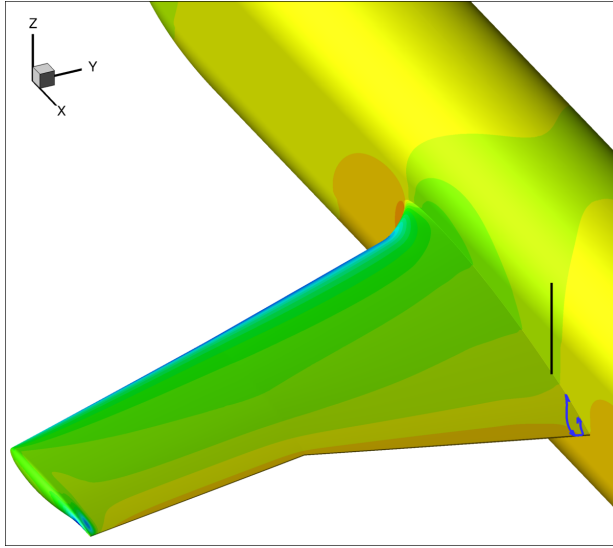


(c) Separation length, $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$

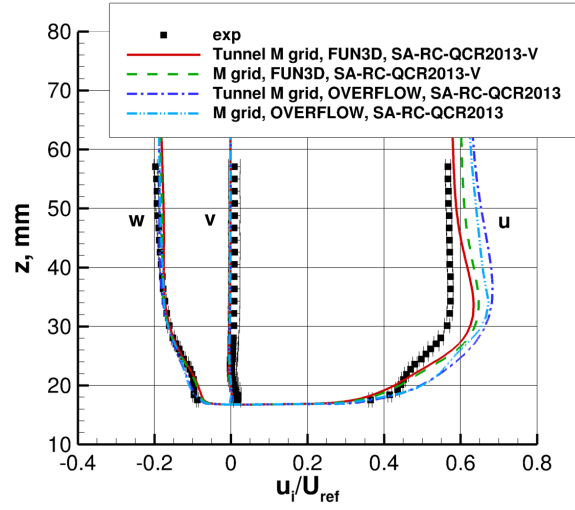


(d) Separation width, $\alpha = -2.5^\circ$

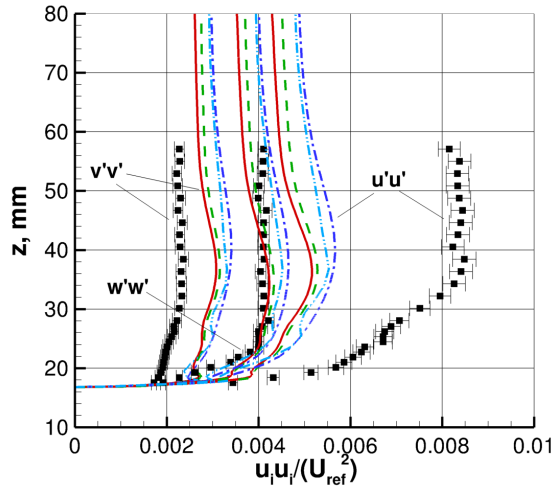
Figure 19. Effect of wind tunnel walls on computed wing separation size.



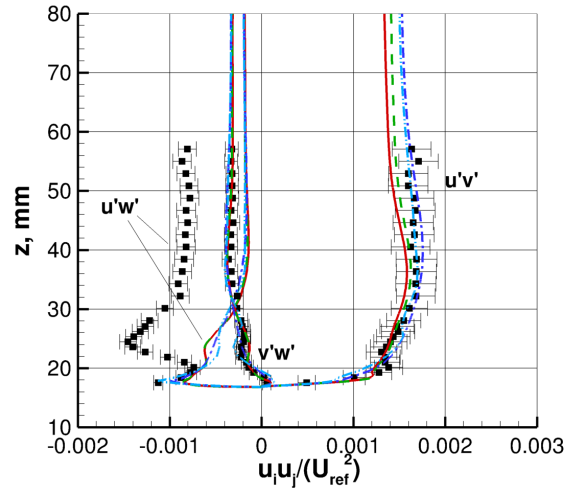
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

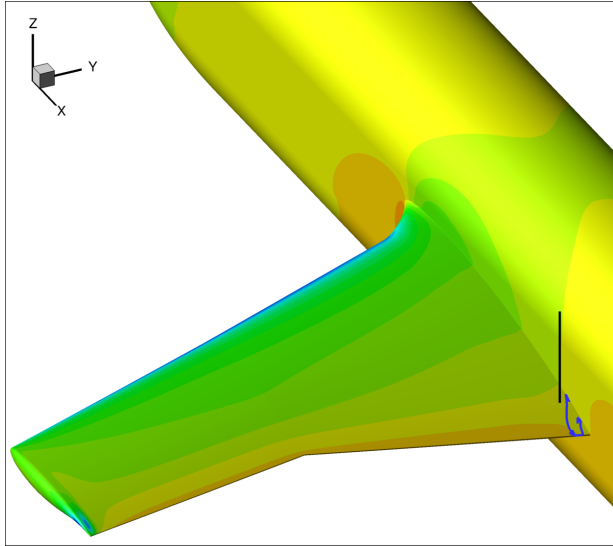


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

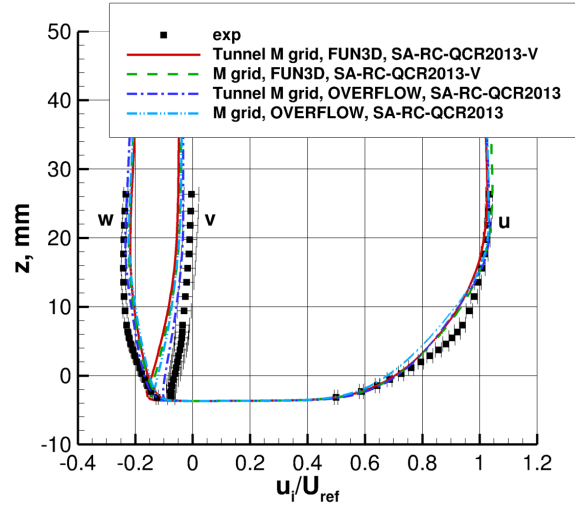


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

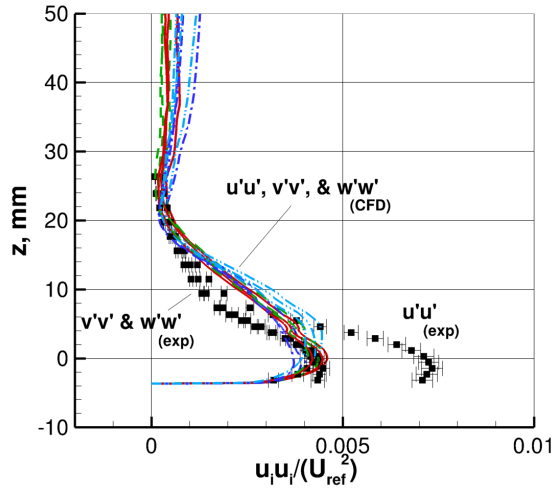
Figure 20. Effect of tunnel walls on profiles upstream of separation on wing (approx. 1 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $x = 2747.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ computation).



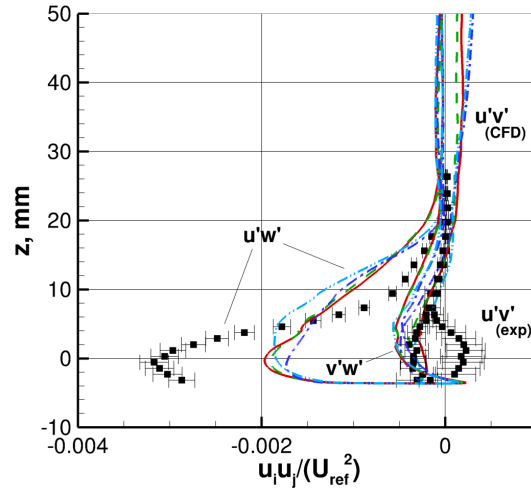
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles

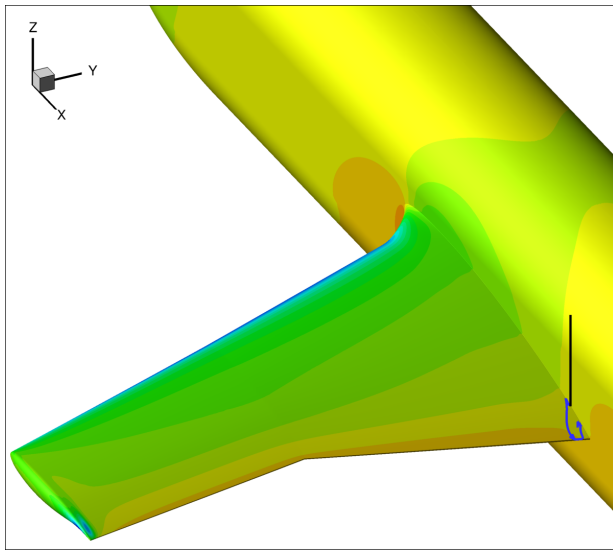


(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles

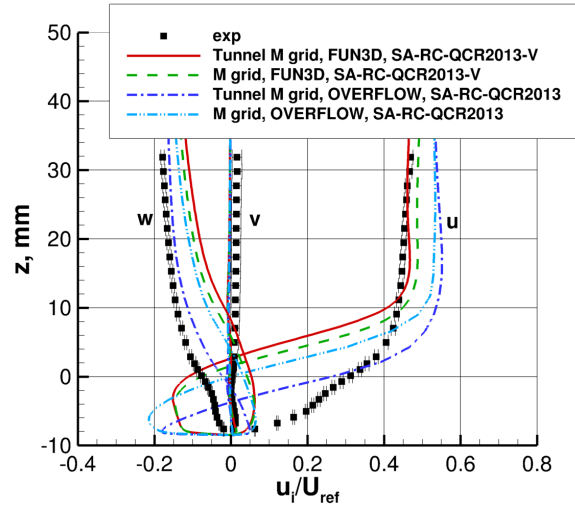


(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

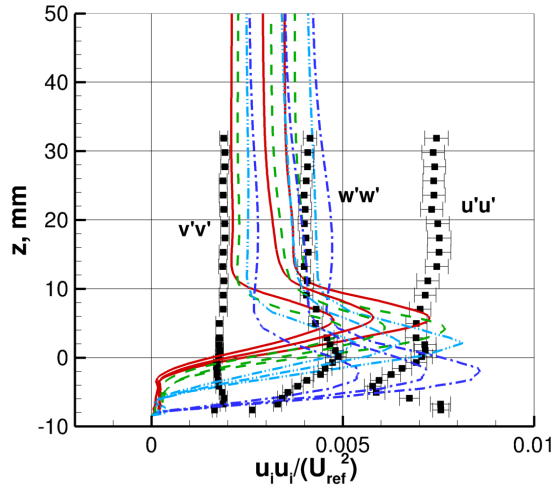
Figure 21. Effect of tunnel walls on profiles near separation on wing (approx. 30 mm from fuselage, outside its boundary layer), $x = 2852.6$ mm, $y = -266.1$ mm ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ computation).



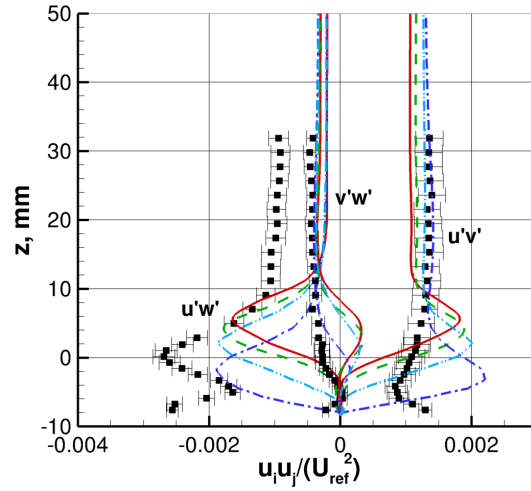
(a) Location of profile (approximate size of computed separation at $\alpha = 5^\circ$ also indicated)



(b) Velocity profiles



(c) Turbulent normal stress profiles



(d) Turbulent shear stress profiles

Figure 22. Effect of tunnel walls on profiles near separation on wing (approx. 1 mm from fuselage, inside its boundary layer), $x = 2852.6$ mm, $y = -237.1$ mm ($\alpha = 5^\circ$ computation).