THE LONGITUDINAL STABILITY OF ELASTIC SWEPT WINGS AT SUPersonic SPEED

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SUMMARY

The longitudinal stability characteristics of elastic swept wings of high aspect ratio experiencing bending and torsional deformations are calculated for supersonic speed by the application of linearized lifting-surface theory. A parabolic wing deflection curve is assumed and the analysis is simplified by a number of structural approximations. The method is thereby limited in application to wings of high aspect ratio for which the root effects are small. Expressions for the lift, pitching-moment, and span load distribution characteristics are derived in terms of the elastic properties of the wing; namely, the design stress, the modulus of elasticity, the shearing modulus, and the maximum design load factor. The analysis applies to wings with leading edges swept behind the Mach lines. In all cases, however, the trailing edge is sonic or supersonic. Application of the method of analysis to wings with leading edges swept ahead of the Mach lines is discussed.

The results of numerical calculations for a wing of aspect ratio 3.8 and 60° sweepback are presented for a Mach number of 1.414 and for incompressible flow. The effects of wing elasticity on the lift-curve slope, moment-curve slope, and neutral-point position are shown. The results indicate that the primary variable involved in aeroelastic phenomena is the dynamic pressure and that the influence of the flight Mach number is small for wings swept behind the Mach lines.

INTRODUCTION

In reference 1, R. T. Jones has shown that supersonic flight may be attained with a reasonable degree of efficiency through the use of swept wings of high aspect ratio. The use of sweepback, however, involves many problems of stability and control, not the least of which are associated with the aerodynamic effects of the elastic deformation of the airplane structure. In particular, the longitudinal stability of the aircraft may be affected to a large degree since the bending and torsional deformations of the wing may shift the center of pressure of the lift forward an appreciable distance.

These aeroelastic phenomena occur under those flight conditions where the magnitude and/or the spanwise variation of the elastic deformation of the wing varies with angle of attack. Aeroelastic effects may therefore occur either in accelerated flight at constant dynamic pressure or, under certain conditions, in steady level flight with varying dynamic pressure. In the latter case, if the loading due to twist or camber is different than the loading due to change of angle of attack, the trim change due to elastic deformation of the wing in steady level flight varies with the dynamic pressure and influences the stability of the airplane as indicated by the position of the control stick as a function of airspeed.1

In solving aeroelastic problems, since the interrelation of the structural and aerodynamic characteristics of the wing results in mathematical complexity, it is usually necessary to compromise to some extent either the structural or the aerodynamic aspects of the problem to obtain a solution. In the present analysis, the structural characteristics of the wing are compromised to the extent that the form of the deflection curve is assumed. This assumption permits the application of supersonic lifting-surface theory to the determination of the load distribution, the lift, and the pitching-moment characteristics of elastic wings. Additional analysis is necessary to determine whether it is better to use more rigorous aerodynamic theory in aeroelastic computations, as in the present report, or to use a more complete structural theory as in recent work by Diederich (reference 2) and Miles (reference 3).

SYMBOLS

x, y, z Cartesian coordinates
x, y transformed Cartesian coordinates in terms of the semispan dimension, s
ξ, η, ζ, τ, χ, υ, ρ, ω, μ, ν, θ, λ coordinates of the apex of any superposed lifting sector
s distance in the y, direction from the root section to the intersection of the flexural axis and the tip Mach cone
s' distance along the flexural axis from the root section to the intersection of the flexural axis and the tip Mach cone
y' distance measured from the root section along the flexural axis
P spanwise distance in y direction from the root section to the center of load on the half wing
S wing area
λ taper ratio, ratio of tip chord to root chord
c_{as} average chord
\bar{c} mean aerodynamic chord
\bar{c}_d chord parallel to the plane of symmetry
\bar{c}_p root chord parallel to the plane of symmetry in terms of the span dimension, s
AR aspect ratio
\Delta angle of sweepback of the flexural axis
θ slope of the flexural axis in a vertical plane passing through the flexural axis
n maximum load factor
M_b bending moment at any point on the flexural axis
M_r bending moment at the root section of the wing beam

1 This particular aeroelastic characteristic is not considered in the present report which is concerned primarily with accelerated flight. Further, the wing is considered to be weightless so that the aerodynamic influence of the distributed mass of the wing is not taken into account in estimating the aeroelastic characteristics.
torsional moment at any point on the flexural axis
T torsional moment at the root section of the wing beam
E modulus of elasticity for the wing beam material
G shearing modulus for the wing beam material
I moment of inertia of the wing beam
J torsional stiffness constant
\( \delta \) distance between the flexural axis and the center of
pressure of the sectional lift in terms of the local
chord
\( \sigma_{\text{max}} \) maximum design stress
\( d_r \) maximum thickness of the wing at the root section
\( \alpha \) angle of attack of the root section of the wing
\( \alpha_e \) incremental angle of attack at any spanwise station
of the wing
\( \alpha_t \) angle of attack of the wing section at any spanwise
station
\( \alpha_s \) angle of attack of the root section at which maximum
load factor is developed
\( \beta = \sqrt{M^2 - 1} \) where \( M \) is the free-stream Mach number
\( \beta \) times the cotangent of the angle of sweepback of the
wing leading edge
\( m_t \) \( \beta \) times the cotangent of the angle of sweepback of the
wing trailing edge
\( t \) \( \beta \) times the cotangent of the angle of sweepback of a
ray from the apex of any superposed lifting sector
\( \Sigma \) complete elliptic integral of the second kind with
modulus \( (\sqrt{1-m^2}) \)
\( W \) airplane weight
\( W/S \) wing loading
\( q \) dynamic pressure \( \left( \frac{1}{2} \rho V^2 \right) \), where \( \rho \) is the mass density
and \( V \) the velocity of the free stream
\( \frac{\Delta p}{q} \) lifting pressure coefficient
\( l \) load per unit span
\( c_l \) section lift coefficient
\( L \) lift
\( C_{L} \) lift coefficient \( (L/qS) \)
\( C_{Lm} \) lift coefficient at maximum load factor
\( m_s \) section pitching moment of a wing section about the
apex of the wing
\( C_m \) pitching-moment coefficient about the apex of the wing
in terms of the mean aerodynamic chord and the
wing area
\( C_{b} \) the rate of change of lift coefficient with the angle of
attack of the root section
\( C_{d} \) the rate of change of pitching-moment coefficient with
the angle of attack of the root section
\( C_{m} \) the rate of change of pitching-moment coefficient with
the lift coefficient

**ANALYSIS**

**WING WITH A SUBSONIC LEADING EDGE**

In the following analysis, for convenience, the aerodynamic
loading due to bending and that due to torsion are first
treated separately. Expressions for the combined effects of
bending and torsion are derived later.

Bending.—The aerodynamic twist due to bending of a
streamwise section of an elastic swept wing under accelerated
flight conditions is a function of the applied load and the
elastic characteristics of the wing beam. In order to arrive
at a solution for the aerodynamic properties of the wing
without becoming involved in laborious graphical analysis,
some simplifying approximations must be made regarding
the elastic properties of the wing.

In a strict sense, a swept wing of conventional structural
design cannot be considered to have a flexural axis. For
wings of high aspect ratio, however, it will be assumed that
a flexural axis exists, since this assumption permits the use
of simple beam theory and introduces only a small conserva-
tive error.

For the purpose of analysis, the root section of the wing
beam is assumed to be the extension of the wing beam on a
plane perpendicular to the flexural axis and passing through
the intersection of the flexural axis and the streamwise root

![Figure 1: Geometric characteristics of the wing beam.](image-url)
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Since the deflection curve of the flexural axis is assumed to be parabolic, the slope of the flexural axis is

\[ \theta = \frac{M}{EI} \frac{y'}{y} \]

where \( y' \) is measured along the flexural axis.

The incremental angle of attack of streamwise sections of the wing is related to the slope of the flexural axis as

\[ \alpha_r = -\theta \sin \Lambda \]

The slope of the flexural axis in nondimensional transformed coordinates may be written as

\[ \theta = \frac{M}{EI} \frac{s}{\beta \cos \Lambda} \frac{y'}{y} \]

The incremental angle of attack of any streamwise section of the elastic wing is then

\[ \alpha_s = -\frac{M}{EI} \frac{s}{\beta \tan \Lambda} \]

and the total angle of attack of any streamwise section is

\[ \alpha = \alpha + \frac{M}{EI} \frac{s}{\beta} y \tan \Lambda \]  

(1)

where \( \alpha \) is the angle of attack of the root section of the wing. Equation (1) gives the magnitude and distribution of twist across the span of the wing if the magnitude of \( M/EI \) is known.

The distribution of pressure over the elastic wing due to twist may be determined by applying known conical-flow solutions for supersonic flow. In the linearized theory, the principle of superposition of various solutions may be used to satisfy the particular boundary conditions of the problem. For the elastic wing, the flow field may be considered to consist of the superposition of two distinct flow fields:

1. The flow about a flat rigid wing at an angle of attack equal to the angle of attack of the root section.
2. The flow about a twisted wing for which the angle of attack at the root is zero.

The solution for the first flow field is given in references 6 and 7; the second flow field can be obtained by determining the solution for a differential twist \( d\alpha \) at one station and integrating this solution across the span.

The solution for the pressure distribution corresponding to a differential twist must meet the following boundary conditions (fig. 3):

1. Outboard of the station of twist, the angle of attack must be constant and equal to the differential twist.
2. Inboard of the station of twist, the angle of attack of the surface must be zero.
3. Between the swept leading edge and the Mach cone, no lifting pressures may exist.

In general, at both subsonic and supersonic speeds, selection of the wing plan form for low drag leads to a combination of spanwise loading and spanwise distribution of the bending resistance in the wing beam such that the wing deflection curve is essentially parabolic. (The ratio of \( M \) to \( I \) is constant across the span.) The deflection curve deviates appreciably from a parabola only if the aeroelastic effects experienced by the wing are very large.

reference 5, very little load is carried in this region and the analysis is thereby simplified.

The coordinate system is selected as shown in figure 2. The origin of the coordinate system is placed at the apex of the wing, the positive branch of the \( z_1 \) axis lying downstream.

The mathematical treatment may be made less tedious by transforming and nondimensionalizing the coordinates so that in the following analysis

\[ y = \frac{\beta y_1}{s} \]
\[ z = \frac{x_1}{s} \]
\[ c_0 = \frac{\text{root chord}}{s} \]

\[ c_0 = \frac{\text{root chord}}{s} \]
The conical-flow solution corresponding to these boundary conditions is that for a special lifting sector given by Lagerstrom in reference 8 and is expressed in the notation of the present report as

$$\Delta p = \frac{8 \alpha}{\beta \pi} \frac{m^{1/\alpha}}{m+1} \sqrt{1+t} \left(1+\frac{t}{m-t}\right)$$ (2)

where \(t\) defines a ray from the apex of the sector.

Figure 3 shows both a sketch of the boundary conditions to be met by this solution and a plot of the pressure distribution given by equation (2).

The induced pressure resulting from twist due to bending of the elastic wing may be found by integrating across the span of the wing. This integration corresponds to the superposition of an infinite number of the lifting sectors along the span, each sector having an infinitesimal angle of attack \(\alpha \Delta \alpha\).

The pressure due to twist is then given by

$$\left(\frac{\Delta p}{q}\right)_x = -\frac{8}{\beta \pi} \frac{m^{1/\alpha}}{m+1} \Delta \alpha \tan \alpha \int_0^{\alpha_0} \sqrt{1+t} \, dt$$

where

$$t = \frac{y - \eta}{\alpha_0 - \eta} \frac{m(y-\eta)}{mz - \eta}$$

The \(x\) and \(y\) coordinates of the apex of any superposed sector are \(\xi, \eta\).

The integration must be carried out from the root section of the wing \(\eta = 0\) to the value of \(\eta = \eta_0\) corresponding to the last superposed sector, the Mach cone of which encompasses the point \(x, y\) under consideration. The value of \(\eta_0\) is found by placing \(t\) equal to \(-1\) and solving for \(\eta\).

$$\eta_0 = \frac{m}{m+1} (x+y)$$

The integration yields at any point \(x, y\) the pressure due to twist

$$\left(\frac{\Delta p}{q}\right)_x = -\frac{16}{\beta \pi} \frac{m^{1/\alpha}}{(m+1)^3} \tan \alpha \frac{M_s}{E_I} \left[ (x+y) \sqrt{\frac{x+y}{mx-y}} + (x-y) \sqrt{\frac{x-y}{mx+y}} \right]$$ (3)

To this expression must be added the conjugate term due to the elastic deformation of the opposite wing panel. The conjugate term may be obtained by substituting \(-y\) for \(y\). Then

$$\left(\frac{\Delta p}{q}\right)_x = -\frac{16}{\beta \pi} \frac{m^{1/\alpha}}{(m+1)^3} \tan \alpha \frac{M_s}{E_I} \left[ (x+y) \sqrt{\frac{x+y}{mx-y}} + (x+y) \sqrt{\frac{x+y}{mx+y}} \right] (4)$$

It should be noted that the addition of the conjugate terms adds some very small lifting pressure in the region between the wing leading edge and the Mach cone where no lifting pressure may exist. These pressures may be canceled
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by the superposition of constant lift sectors as noted in reference 9. Since these extraneous pressures, on the average, amount to about 3 percent of the average pressure coefficient over the adjacent wing surface and, since elimination of those pressures would change the pressures over the surface only about one-half of 1 percent, it seems that in view of the additional complication involved the cancellation of these pressures is unwarranted.

The total lifting pressure for the elastic wing at an angle of attack is then obtained by adding to equation (4) the solution for the flat lifting wing. For the elastic wing, then

\[
\Delta p = \frac{4m^2\alpha}{\beta \Xi \sqrt{m^2 - (y/z)^2}} \frac{16}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta m \alpha}{E I} \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} \frac{x+y}{m z-y} + (x-y) \frac{x-y}{m z+y}
\]

Examining this equation shows that the relationship between \( M/EI \) and \( \alpha \) must be established before the pressure distribution can be calculated. Since for wings with parabolic deflection curves the maximum stress occurs at the point of maximum thickness, usually the root, the maximum stress occurring at maximum load factor is

\[
\sigma_{\text{max}} = \left( \frac{M}{I} \right) \frac{d_r}{\alpha}
\]

and, since the bending moment at any point on the span is a linear function of the angle of attack,

\[
M = 2 \sigma_{\text{max}} \alpha d_r \alpha
\]

where \( \sigma_{\text{max}} \) is the design stress at maximum load factor, \( d_r \) is the thickness of the root section and \( \alpha \) is the angle of attack at maximum load factor; an expression for \( \alpha \) is derived later.

The equation for the pressure distribution may then be written as

\[
\Delta p = \frac{4m^2\alpha}{\beta \Xi \sqrt{m^2 - (y/z)^2}} \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r} \alpha \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} \frac{x+y}{m z-y} + (x-y) \frac{x-y}{m z+y}
\]

The load per unit span can be obtained from an integration of equation (6) with respect to \( z \) along any streamwise station (\( y \)-constant),

\[
\frac{\Delta p}{q} = \int_{z_1}^{z_2} \frac{\Delta p}{q} \, dz
\]

The integration is carried out from the leading edge of the wing, \( x = \frac{y}{m} \), to the trailing edge \( x = \frac{y + m \xi_0}{m} \), and yields

\[
\frac{\Delta p}{q} = \frac{4 \Delta m^2 \alpha}{\beta \Xi f_1(y)} \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r} \alpha \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} f_2(y)
\]

The functions \( f_1(y) \) and \( f_2(y) \) are given in the appendix since they are somewhat unwieldy.

The lift coefficient may be obtained by an integration of equation (7), spanwise from root to tip.

\[
\beta C_\alpha = \frac{2 \Delta m}{m} \int_{y}^{y+\alpha \xi_0} \frac{\Delta p}{q} \, dy
\]

The integration yields

\[
\beta C_\alpha = \frac{2 \Delta m}{m} \left[ \frac{4 \Delta m^2 \alpha}{\beta \Xi f_1(y)} - \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r} \alpha \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} f_1(y) \right]
\]

The constants \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) are given by equations in the appendix.

This equation may be used to determine the angle of attack at maximum load factor \( \alpha \) which is needed in the foregoing equations:

\[
\alpha = \beta \frac{\xi_0}{4 \Delta m \frac{m^3 2 m^{3/2}}{2 \Delta m^2 \alpha \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r}} \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} f_2(y)}
\]

The pitching-moment characteristics of the elastic wing may be determined by an integration of the pressure distribution given by equation (6).

For any spanwise station, the section pitching moment about the apex of the wing is

\[
\frac{m_s}{q} = -2 \Delta m \int_{y}^{y+\alpha \xi_0} \frac{\Delta p}{q} \, dy
\]

This integration yields

\[
\beta C_m = \frac{2 \Delta m}{m} \int_{y}^{y+\alpha \xi_0} \frac{\Delta p}{q} \, dy
\]

The functions \( f_3(y) \) and \( f_4(y) \) are given in the appendix.

The total pitching-moment coefficient about the apex of the wing in terms of the mean aerodynamic chord is found by integration across the span,

\[
\beta C_m = - \frac{2 \Delta m}{m} \left[ \frac{4 \Delta m^2 \alpha}{\beta \Xi f_2(y)} - \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r} \alpha \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} f_2(y) \right]
\]

or

\[
\beta C_m = - \frac{2 \Delta m}{m} \left[ \frac{4 \Delta m^2 \alpha}{\beta \Xi f_3(y)} - \frac{32}{3} m^{3/2} \tan \frac{\Delta \alpha}{E d_r} \alpha \frac{3}{(m+1)^3} f_3(y) \right]
\]

The constants \( F_3 \) and \( F_4 \) which are functions of the aspect ratio, taper, and sweepback are given in the appendix.

Torsion.—The previous analysis has ignored the effects of wing twist due to torsion. The solutions obtained are, in reality, those for wings of infinite torsional stiffness. In general, since the flexural axis (or torsion center) is behind the center of pressure at all spanwise stations of the wing, the twist of the wing due to torsion will tend to compensate

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* It may be noted that the ratio \( t/d \) is essentially the same as one-fourth aspect ratio and that the parameter \( \xi/d \), is directly related to \( s/d \), a common structural criterion.
for the twist due to bending. For wings having large angles of sweepback such as are necessary for efficient supersonic flight, the aerodynamic twist due to torsion has been calculated to be about 15 to 20 percent of the twist due to bending (for thin wings). In such cases, the effect of the torsional deformation on the spanwise loading may be neglected in calculating the torsional moment. Equation (7) may be utilized in the calculation of the torsional moment in this instance. A complex simultaneous solution is thereby avoided.

An expression for the torsional moment at the root section of the wing beam (perpendicular to the elastic axis) may be obtained by assuming that the distance from the center of pressure to the flexural axis for any section of the wing is a constant percentage of the local chord. Then

\[ \beta \frac{T_r}{q} = s \xi \left( \cos \Lambda \right) \int_0^s \frac{l}{q} y \, dy \]

where \( c \) is the local streamwise chord given by the equation

\[ c = s c_0 \left[ 1 - (1 - \lambda) \frac{y}{\beta} \right] \]

and \( \lambda \) denotes the taper ratio of the wing and \( \xi \) the distance from the center of pressure of the section lift to the flexural axis in terms of the streamwise chord. The function describing the spanwise loading \( l/q \) is given by equation (7).

The equation for the torsional moment at the root may be written as

\[ \beta \frac{T_r}{q} = s^2 \xi c_0 \cos \Lambda \int_0^s \frac{l}{q} \left[ 1 - (1 - \lambda) \frac{y}{\beta} \right] dy \]

\[ \beta \frac{T_r}{q} = s^2 \xi c_0 \cos \Lambda \left[ (1 + \lambda) \int_0^s \frac{l}{q} y \, dy - \frac{1}{\beta} (1 - \lambda) \int_0^s \frac{l}{q} y \, dy \right] \]

As will be shown later, it is convenient to derive the ratio of the torsional moment at the root to the bending moment at the root. The bending moment at the root is given as

\[ \beta \frac{M_r}{q} = s^2 \xi \cos \Lambda \int_0^s \frac{l}{q} y \, dy \]

and

\[ T_r = \xi c_0 \cos^2 \Lambda \left[ \frac{\beta}{\beta} - (1 - \lambda) \right] \cos^2 \Lambda \]

where

\[ \beta = \frac{4m^2 \varepsilon f_1(y) - 32 m^2 \pi \sigma_{\max} \beta f_4(y)}{3 \beta^2 \pi (m + 1)^2 \varepsilon \alpha_a \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] T_r} \]

or

\[ \alpha_r = \frac{M_0 y}{E I \beta} \left( \frac{T_r I_y E}{J_y G} \right) \]

and by adding this expression to the angle of twist due to bending (equation (1)) the total angle of twist of any section is

\[ \alpha = \alpha - \frac{M_0 y}{E I \beta} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] T_r \]

or

\[ \alpha = -2 \frac{s \sigma_{\max} \alpha y}{E \alpha_\beta} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] T_r \]

Combined bending and torsion.—Expressions for the aerodynamic properties of swept wings experiencing both bending and torsional deformation may be obtained from equations (6) to (12) if \( \tan \Lambda \) is replaced by

\[ \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] \frac{T_r}{M_r} \]

The equation for the angle of attack at maximum load factor for combined bending and torsion is then

\[ \alpha_n = -\frac{\beta^2 \varepsilon}{4m^2 \pi F_1} \left( \frac{S}{2 \pi} C_{L_n} + \frac{32 m^2 \pi \sigma_{\max} \beta \varepsilon}{3 \beta^2 \pi (m + 1)^2 \varepsilon \alpha_a} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] \frac{T_r}{M_r} \right) \]

where

\[ \frac{T_r}{M_r} = \xi c_0 \left[ \frac{\beta}{\beta} - (1 - \lambda) \right] \cos^2 \Lambda \]

In applying the foregoing analysis to a specific wing, it is convenient to use the equations to obtain the ratio of \( C_{\alpha_{\max}} \) or \( C_{L_n} \) for the elastic wing to the value for the rigid wing. Multiplying this ratio by the value of \( C_{\alpha_{\max}} \) or \( C_{L_n} \) for the rigid wing as determined by the complete theory wherein the region within the Mach cone of the tip, and so forth, is considered, will then give more accurate parameters for the elastic wing. Then

\[ \frac{l}{q \alpha} = -\frac{4m^2 \varepsilon f_1(y) - 32 \varepsilon \sigma_{\max} \beta f_4(y)}{3 \beta^2 \pi (m + 1)^2 \varepsilon \alpha_a} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] \frac{T_r}{M_r} \]

or

\[ \frac{C_{L_n_{\text{elastic}}}}{C_{L_n_{\text{rigid}}}} = -\frac{8 \Sigma \sqrt{m}}{3 \beta \pi (m + 1)^2 \varepsilon E \alpha_a} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] \frac{T_r}{M_r} \frac{F_1}{F_3} \]

\[ \frac{C_{\alpha_{\max}_{\text{elastic}}}}{C_{\alpha_{\max}_{\text{rigid}}}} = -\frac{8 \Sigma \sqrt{m}}{3 \beta \pi (m + 1)^2 \varepsilon E \alpha_a} \left[ \tan \Lambda - \frac{I_y E}{J_y G} \right] \frac{T_r}{M_r} \frac{F_1}{F_3} \]

In using the preceding equations, it is necessary to solve for \( \alpha_n \). This, in turn, involves finding the ratio \( T_r/M_r \), which is determined by the parameter \( \Psi \) (usually has a value of about 0.40).

A solution of the combined bending and torsional deformation effects can be obtained by assuming a value of \( \Psi \), solving
for \( \alpha_x \), and checking the value of \( Y \) from a moment and area integration of a plot of equation (16) to see if a second approximation is required to determine \( \alpha_x \) more accurately.

The previous equations apply primarily to flat lifting wings or to twisted and cambered wings for which the loading due to twist and camber is the same essentially as the loading due to change in angle of attack. For wings with somewhat arbitrary camber and/or twist, these equations apply to all accelerated flight conditions. A solution for the aeroelastic characteristics in steady level flight for such wings must involve a consideration of the effects of the loading due to the known arbitrary twist.

**WING WITH A SUPERSONIC LEADING EDGE**

The foregoing analysis has treated wings with the leading edge swept behind the Mach cone. The same method, however, may be applied to wings swept ahead of the Mach cone. In this case, however, the expression for the pressure field for the incremental twist at any spanwise station, corresponding to equation (2), is given by reference 10 as the real part of

\[
\Delta p = \frac{4\alpha}{\beta \sqrt{m^2 - 1}} \cos^{-1} \frac{1 - mt}{t - m}
\]

where \( \alpha, t, \) and \( m \) are as defined for equation (2).

Expressions for the pressure distribution, lift, moment, and load distribution may be obtained in the same manner as for a wing with a subsonic leading edge although the integrations are more involved.

**DISCUSSION**

**SUPersonic Lifting-Surface Theory**

The results of the foregoing analysis are best illustrated by applying them to a specific wing. For this purpose, the wing shown in figure 4 was selected, having the geometric and structural material characteristics given in the table in the figure. The calculations were made for various values of the parameter \( nW/S \) and for two values of the maximum design stress.\(^4\)

Span load distributions for the wing are shown in figure 5 for a Mach number of 1.414, a value of \( nW/S \) of 150 pounds per square inch, a design stress of 30,000 pounds per square inch, and a dynamic pressure of 211 pounds per square foot which corresponds to flight at 60,000 feet altitude. The load distribution curves of part (a) of figure 5 are for the same angle of attack of the root section and show that the elasticity of the wing results in an appreciable decrease in lift-curve slope. In this case, the reduction experienced by the elastic wing amounts to 15 percent of the value for the rigid wing of the same plan form. Part (b) of figure 5 shows the load distribution curves for constant total lift coefficient. These load-distributions are of significance in illustrating how the change in span load distribution due to elasticity may be expected to shift the longitudinal center of pressure forward.

\(^4\) Calculations show that the wing has sufficient depth to withstand the maximum loading assumed without failure.
COMPARISON OF AEROELASTIC EFFECTS AT SUPersonic SPEED WITH INCOMPRESSIBLE FLOW SOLUTIONS

In calculating lift and stability characteristics of elastic wings, it should be noted that errors resulting from assuming the extent of the wing beam as given in figure 1 and from ignoring the lift within the tip Mach cone may be minimized by using the analytical expressions which give the ratio of lift-curve slope or the ratio of moment-curve slope for the elastic wing to that for the rigid wing. These ratios may be used with the rigorous values of $C_{m_\alpha}$ and $C_{\alpha\alpha}$ from reference 5 to obtain accurate values of $C_{m_\alpha}$ and $C_{\alpha\alpha}$ for the elastic wing.

Such ratios have been computed for the wing shown in figure 4 as functions of the dynamic pressure at a flight Mach number of 1.414. For comparison, the same ratios have been computed as functions of the dynamic pressure for incompressible flow by the theory of reference 11. Figures 6 and 7 show the results of these calculations which were made for two values of $nW/S$ of 150 and 300 pounds per square foot and two values of design stress, 30,000 and 45,000 pounds per square inch. Figure 8 shows the shift in neutral point due to wing elasticity as calculated from the data of figures 6 and 7.

The results indicate that the adverse effects of the aeroelastic deformation of the wing are a little more severe at supersonic speed. At constant dynamic pressure, the differences in the aeroelastic effects as computed by incompressible flow theory and by supersonic lifting-surface theory are found to be due largely to the fact that the center of pressure of the sectional lift is farther forward at subsonic speed, resulting in a difference in torsional deformation which compensates.

Neutral point is defined as the position of the center of gravity along the mean aerodynamic chord for neutral stability.

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**Figure 6.** Variation with dynamic pressure of the ratio of lift-curve slopes for the elastic and rigid wings in accelerated flight.

**Figure 7.** Variation with dynamic pressure of the ratio of the parameters $C_{m_\alpha}$ for the elastic and rigid wings in accelerated flight.

**Figure 8.** Variation with dynamic pressure of the neutral point shift for the elastic wing in accelerated flight.
satisfies somewhat for the bending deformation. The comparison indicates that the dynamic pressure is the primary variable involved in determining the aeroelastic characteristics, at least for wings swept behind the Mach lines.

In regard to the range of application of the equations, calculations made using more rigorous structural theory with simple strip theory show that the method of the present report may be expected to give accurate estimates of aeroelastic effects as great as, for instance, a 30-percent loss in lift-curve slope. Within such limits it is expected that the estimate of the neutral point shift due to elasticity will be much more accurate than for analyses using elementary aerodynamic loading.

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APPENDIX

MATHEMATICAL DERIVATION OF LOADING FUNCTIONS AND PLAN-FORM CONSTANTS

The functions \( f_1(y), f_2(y), f_3(y), \) and \( f_4(y) \) and the constants \( F_1, F_2, F_3, F_4 \) which appear in equations (7) to (18) of the text are given in this appendix. Analytical expressions for the constants \( F_1, F_2, F_4 \) are found to be very long and tedious to use. It may prove easier to evaluate these constants by graphical integration of the corresponding integral equations.

The functions \( f_1(y) \) and \( f_2(y) \) were developed from the following integral:

\[
\int \sqrt{y^2 - (y/x)^2} \, dx
\]

which yields

\[
f_1(y) = \int_{y/m_i}^{y + mc_0} \frac{x}{\sqrt{m_i^2 - (y/x)^2}} \, dx
\]

and

\[
f_2(y) = \int_{y/m_i}^{y + mc_0} (x + y) \sqrt{\frac{x + y}{m_i^2 - y}} \, dx + \int_{y/m_i}^{y - mc_0} (x - y) \sqrt{\frac{x - y}{m_i^2 + y}} \, dx
\]

which yields

\[
f_2(y) = \left[ \frac{2m(y + mc_0)}{4m_i^2} + m_i y(5m_i + 3) \right] \left[ \sqrt{y + mc_0}\left(ym + mmc_0 - m_y\right) \right] + \left[ \frac{3y^2(m + 1)^2}{8m_i^4} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{2m(y + mc_0) + m_y(m - 1)}{m_i(m + 1)y} \right] + \left[ \frac{2m(y + mc_0) - m_y(5m + 3)}{4m_i^2} \right] \left[ \sqrt{y + mc_0 - m_y}\left(ym + mmc_0 + m_y\right) \right] + \left[ \frac{3y^2(m + 1)^2}{8m_i^4} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{2m(y + mc_0) - m_y(m - 1)}{m_i(m + 1)y} \right] + \left[ \frac{y^2(5m + 1)}{4m_i^2} \right] \left[ \frac{3y^2(m + 1)^2}{8m_i^4} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{3 - m}{m + 1} \right]
\]

The constants \( F_1 \) and \( F_2 \) are evaluated as follows:

\[
F_1 = \int_0^\beta f_1(y) \, dy
\]

which yields for \( m_i \neq 1 \)

\[
F_1 = \frac{\alpha \beta - m_j y}{2m_i m_j a} \sqrt{m_i^2 + 2m_i y - a \beta + m_i m_j c_0 + m_j y} \left( \cos^{-1} \frac{m_j y - a \beta}{m_i m_j c_0} - \cos^{-1} \frac{m_i m_j c_0}{m_i y} \right)
\]

and for \( m_i = 1 \)

\[
F_1 = \frac{\beta(1 - m_j) - m_j c_0}{2m_i^2(1 - m_j)} \sqrt{m_i^2 + 2m_i y + \beta^2(m_i - 1)} \left( \cos^{-1} \frac{\beta m_i y - a \beta}{m_i m_j c_0} - \cos^{-1} \frac{m_i m_j c_0}{m_i y} \right)
\]

where

\[
a = m_i^2 - m_j^2
\]

\[
f = m_i c_0
\]
which yields for \( m, \neq 1 \)

\[
F_s = \left( \frac{e}{12m^n \tau^b} \right) \left[ (m^n)^{3/2} - (\beta df + mf^2 - \beta b)^{3/2} \right] + \left[ \frac{df + 4mb}{8m^3 \tau^b} \right] \left\{ \frac{2bdf - df}{4b} \sqrt{\beta df + mf^2 - \beta b} + \frac{m^3df^2}{4b} \right\} + \]

\[
\frac{m^2(m+1)^2f^2}{8b^{3/2}} \left[ \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{df - 2\beta b}{mf(m+1) - \cos^{-1} \frac{d}{m(m+1)}} \right) \right] + \left[ \frac{\beta^2(m+1)^2}{8m^{3/2}} \right] \left[ \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{\beta d + 2mf}{\beta m(m+1) + \cos^{-1} \frac{\beta h + 2mf}{\beta m(m+1)}} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3-m}{m+1} \right) \right] + \]

\[
\left[ f(m+1)^2 \right] \frac{f^3(3d^2 + 4mb)}{8b^{3/2}} \left[ \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{df - 2\beta b}{mf(m+1) - \cos^{-1} \frac{d}{m(m+1)}} \right) \right] + \left[ \frac{3df + 2\beta b}{4b^2} \sqrt{mf^2 + \beta df - \beta b + \frac{3m^3df^2}{4b^2}} \right] + \]

\[
\beta^2 \left( \frac{5m+1}{12 \eta^2} \right)^2 \left\{ \left( \frac{j}{4m^2 \tau^b} \right) \left[ (m^n)^{3/2} - (\beta df + mf^2 - \beta b)^{3/2} \right] + \left[ \frac{f(4mg - h^2)}{8m^3 \tau^b} \right] \left\{ \frac{2b - h}{4g} \right\} \sqrt{mf^2 + \beta df - \beta b} + \frac{m^3df^2}{4g} \right\} + \]

\[
\cos^{-1} \left( \frac{h}{m(m+1)} \right) \left\{ \frac{2b - 3h}{4g^2} \sqrt{mf^2 + \beta df - \beta b} + \frac{3m^3df^2}{4g^2} \right\} \]

where

\[
b = (m, -m)(m+1) \quad g = (m + m)(m-1) \]
\[
d = 2m + mn, -m \quad h = 2m - mn + m \]
\[
e = 2m + 5mn, + m \quad j = 3m + 5mn, -2m \]
\[
f = m \phi_0 \]

For \( m, = 1 \)

\[
F_s = \left( \frac{7m + 3}{4m^3} \right) \left\{ \frac{mc_6^3 + \beta c_6(3m-1) + 2\beta^2(m-1)}{6m-1} \right\} + \left[ \frac{c_6^2 - c_6(3m-1)(7m + 3)}{16m^3(m-1)} \right] \left\{ \frac{4 \beta (m-1) + c_6(3m-1)}{8m-1} \right\} \left[ \sqrt{mc_6^3 + \beta c_6(3m-1) + 2\beta^2(m-1)} \right] - \]

\[
\left[ \frac{c_6^3(3m-1)}{8m-1} \right] \left[ \sqrt{mc_6^3} \right] + \left[ \frac{c_6^2(m+1)}{18 \sqrt{2(1-m)^{3/2}}} \right] \left[ \cos^{-1} \frac{4 \beta (m-1) + c_6(3m-1)}{c_6(m+1)} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3-m}{m+1} \right] \]

\[
\left[ \beta^2 \left( \frac{m+1}{2m^{3/2}} \right)^2 \right] \left[ \cos^{-1} \frac{\beta (3m-1) + 2mc_6}{\beta (m+1)} + \cos^{-1} \frac{\beta (m+1) + 2mc_6}{\beta (m+1)} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3-m}{m+1} \right] + \]

\[
\left[ \frac{c_6^3}{8m} \right] \left[ \frac{4 \beta (m-1) - 3c_6(3m-1)}{16mc_6(m-1)^{3/2}} \right] \left[ \sqrt{mc_6^3 + \beta c_6(3m-1) + 2\beta^2(m-1)} \right] + \left[ \frac{3c_6}{16m^{3/2}(m-1)^{3/2}} \right] + \]

\[
\left[ \frac{c_6(19m^2 - 10m + 3)}{32 \sqrt{2(1-m)^{3/2}}} \right] \left[ \cos^{-1} \frac{4 \beta (m-1) + c_6(3m-1)}{c_6(m+1)} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3-m}{m+1} \right] + \]

\[
\left[ \frac{2(8m^3c_6^3 - 4 \beta mc_6(m+1) + 3 \beta^2(m+1))}{15mc_6^3(m+1)^{3/2}} \right] \left[ \sqrt{mc_6^3 + \beta (m+1)} \right] - \left[ \frac{16m^3c_6}{15(m+1)^{3/2}} \right] + \]

\[
\left[ \frac{1}{8m(m+1)} \right] \left[ \frac{2mc_6 - 3 \beta (m+1)}{10mc_6(m+1)} \right] \left\{ \left[ mc_6^3 + \beta c_6(m+1) \right] + \left[ \beta^2 (5m+1) \sqrt{2(1-m)} \right] \left[ \frac{8mc_6^3}{15m(m+1)} \right] \right\}
\]

The functions \( f_s(y) \) and \( f_4(y) \) were developed from the integral:

\[
m_i = -s^3 \int_{v}^{m_i} \left( \frac{\Delta p}{q} \right)_{y = \text{const.}} \] \( dx \)

from which

\[
f_s(y) = \int_{v}^{m_i} \frac{dx}{\sqrt{m^n - (y/x)^2}}
\]
Then
\[
f_s(y) = \frac{y + m_c y}{2m^2 m_t^2} \sqrt{m^2 (y + m_c y)^2 - m_t^2 y^2} + \frac{m^2 y^2}{2m^4} \cosh^{-1} \frac{m (y + m_c y)}{m y}
\]
also
\[
f_s(y) = \int_y^{m_c} (x + y) \sqrt{\frac{x + y}{m_x - y}} \, dx + \int_y^{m} (x - y) \sqrt{\frac{x - y}{m_x + y}} \, dx
\]
which yields
\[
f_s(y) = \left[ (y + m_c y - m y) (m y + m_m c y - m y) \right] \left[ \frac{8 (y + m_c y)^2}{24m^2 m_y^2} + \frac{2 m_m y (y + m_c y) (7 m + 5)}{24m^2 m_y^2} + m^2 y^2 (3 m^2 + 22 m + 15) \right] +
\]
\[
\left[ \frac{y^2 (m^2 - 3 m^2 - 9 m - 5)}{16m^{7/2}} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{(2 m_m y + m y) + 2 m_m c y}{m (m + 1) y} \cosh^{-1} \frac{3 - m}{m + 1} \cosh^{-1} \frac{(2 m_m y + m y) + 2 m_m c y}{m (m + 1) y} \right] +
\]
\[
\left[ (y + m_c y - m y) (m y + m_m c y + m y) \right] \left[ \frac{8 (y + m_c y)^2}{24m^2 m_y^2} - \frac{2 m_m y (y + m_c y) (7 m + 5)}{24m^2 m_y^2} - m^2 y^2 (3 m^2 + 22 m + 15) \right] -
\]
\[
\frac{y^2 (3 m^2 + 8 m + 13) \sqrt{2 (1 - m)}}{24m^{7/2}}
\]
The constant $F_s$ is evaluated as:
\[
F_s = \int_0^y f_s(y) \, dy
\]
which yields for $m_t \neq 1$
\[
F_s = \frac{m^2 y^3 - (m^2 y^2 + 2 m^2 y - \beta y a)^{1/2}}{6 m^3 m_a} + \frac{\beta^2}{6 m^3} \cosh^{-1} \left( m (\beta + f) + f (a \beta - 3 m^2 y^2 + 2 m^2 y - a \beta^2 + m^2 +
\]
\[
\frac{f^2 (2 m_t^2 + m^2)}{6 a^2} \right) \left( \cosh^{-1} \frac{m^2 y - a \beta}{m c_0} - \cosh^{-1} \frac{m f}{m c_0} \right)
\]
and for $m_t = 1$
\[
F_s = \frac{m^2 c_0^3 - (m^2 c_0^2 + 2 m^2 c_0 - \beta (1 - m^2))^{1/2}}{6 m^2 (1 - m^2)} + \frac{\beta^2}{6 m^2} \cosh^{-1} \left( m (\beta + c_0) \right) + \frac{c_0 (1 - m^2) - 3 m c_0 \sqrt{m^2 c_0^2 + 2 m^2 c_0 - \beta^2 (1 - m^2)}}{6 m^2 (1 - m^2)^2}
\]
Also $F_s$ is evaluated as:
\[
F_s = \int_0^y f_s(y) \, dy
\]
which yields for $m_t \neq 1$
\[
F_s = \left[ \frac{A}{24 m^2 m_t^2} \left( \beta + \frac{B}{m c_0} \right) + \frac{B}{18 m m_t^2} \right] \left[ \frac{m f^2 + \beta df - \beta^2 b^2}{4 b} \right] + \left[ \frac{2 \beta - df}{4 b} \sqrt{m f^2 + \beta df - \beta^2 b} + \frac{m f^2 (m + 1)^2}{8 b^2} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{df - 2 \beta b}{m f (m + 1)} \right] -
\]
\[
\cos^{-1} \left( \frac{d f}{m (m + 1)} \right) + \left[ m c_0 (m c_0 + m_a) \right] \right] \left[ \frac{A f (5 d + 4 m b) + 8 B b d f + 12 B m b^2}{384 m^3 m_t^2 b^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{5 A d f}{144 m^3 m_t^2 b} \right] \left[ \frac{B}{18 m m_t^2} \right] \left[ \frac{m f^2}{4 b} \right] +
\]
\[
\left[ \frac{C}{4} \right] \left[ \beta \left( \cosh^{-1} \frac{\beta h + 2 m f}{m c_0 (m + 1)} - \cosh^{-1} \frac{3 - m}{m + 1} \cosh^{-1} \frac{\beta d + 2 m f}{m c_0 (m + 1)} \right) \right] + \left[ m c_0 f \right] \left[ \frac{\beta^2}{3 b} + \frac{5 \beta d f}{12 b^2} + \frac{5 d f^3}{8 b^3} + \frac{2 m f^2}{3 b^2} \right] \left( \cosh^{-1} \frac{\beta h f - 2 \beta g}{m f (m + 1)} - \cosh^{-1} \frac{h}{m c_0 (m + 1)} \right) - \left[ f m c_0 \right] \left[ \frac{5 d f}{8 b^2} + \frac{2 m h}{3 b} - \frac{5 h k}{8 b^2} \right] + \frac{16 b^2}{16 b^2} \right] \left[ \cosh^{-1} \frac{df - 2 \beta b}{m f (m + 1)} \right] -
\]
\[
\cos^{-1} \left( \frac{d f}{m (m + 1)} \right) + \left[ \frac{h f (12 m g + 5 h k)}{16 b^2} \right] \left( \cosh^{-1} \frac{h f - 2 \beta g}{m f (m + 1)} - \cosh^{-1} \frac{h}{m c_0 (m + 1)} - \left[ f m c_0 \right] \left[ \frac{5 d f}{8 b^2} + \frac{2 m h}{3 b} - \frac{5 h k}{8 b^2} \right] \right] +
\]
\[
\left[ \frac{D f (5 h k + 4 m g) + 8 H f h g + 12 H f m g}{384 m^3 m_t^2 b^2} \right] \left[ \frac{2 \beta f h - \beta g}{4 b} \right] \left( \cosh^{-1} \frac{f h - \beta g}{m f (m + 1)} - \cosh^{-1} \frac{h}{m c_0 (m + 1)} \right) - \left[ \frac{H f}{18 m m_t^2} \right] \left[ \frac{m f^2 + \beta f h - \beta^2 g}{4 b} \right] -
\]
\[
\left[ \frac{\beta^2 (3 m^2 + 8 m + 13) \sqrt{2 (1 - m)}}{96 b^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{m c_0 f (m + 1)^2}{4 b} \right] \left[ \frac{5 D f h}{144 m^2 m_t^2 b^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{H f}{18 m m_t^2} \right] \left[ \frac{m f^2 + \beta f h - \beta^2 g}{4 b} \right] -
\]
\[
\left[ \frac{\beta^2 (3 m^2 + 8 m + 13) \sqrt{2 (1 - m)}}{96 b^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{m c_0 f (m + 1)^2}{4 b} \right] \left[ \frac{5 D f h}{144 m^2 m_t^2 b^2} \right] + \left[ \frac{H f}{18 m m_t^2} \right] \left[ \frac{m f^2 + \beta f h - \beta^2 g}{4 b} \right] -
\]
where

\[ A = 8m^3 + 14m^2 + 10m + 3m^2 + 22mn + 15m^2 \]

\[ B = 2mn + 7mn + 5n \]

\[ C = \frac{3m - 3m^2 + 9m - 5}{16m^3} \]

\[ D = 8m^3 - 14m^3 + 10m + 3m^2 + 22mn + 15m^2 \]

\[ H = 2mn + (8m - 7mn - 5m) \]

and for \( m = 1 \)

\[ F_s = \left\{ \begin{array}{l}
\frac{T}{32m^3} \left[ \frac{\beta - 5c_0(3m - 1)}{12(m - 1)} \right] + \frac{V}{24m^3} \left\{ \frac{mc_s^2 + \beta c_0(3m - 1)}{6(m - 1)} \right\} + \frac{T}{32m^3} \left[ \frac{5c_0(3m - 1)}{12(m - 1)} \right] - \frac{V}{24m^3} \left\{ \frac{mc_s^2}{6(m - 1)} \right\} + \null \\
\frac{T}{24m^3} \left[ \frac{c_s^2(37m^2 - 22m^2 + 5)}{64(m - 1)^2} \right] - \frac{V}{24m^3} \left[ \frac{c_0(3m - 1)}{4(m - 1)} \right] + \frac{c_s^2}{3m} \left\{ \frac{4\beta(m - 1) + c_0(3m - 1)}{8(1 - m)} \right\} \right\} + \frac{c_s^2(m + 1)^2}{16\sqrt{2(1 - m)^3}} \left[ \cos^{-1} \frac{4\beta(m - 1) + c_0(3m - 1)}{c_0(m + 1)} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3m - 1}{m + 1} \right] + \frac{m^{1/2}c_s^4(3m - 1)}{8(1 - m)} \right] \\
\frac{C}{4} \left[ \frac{4}{35(1 + m)^4} \left[ \frac{8m^2c_s^2 + 8m^2c_s^2 + 3\beta^2(m + 1)^2}{8m^2c_s^2 + 3\beta^2(m + 1)^2} \right] - \frac{mc_s^2}{35(1 + m)^4} \left[ \frac{6(3m^2 - 39m^2 + 21m - 5)}{128\sqrt{2(1 - m)^3}} \cos^{-1} \frac{4\beta(m - 1) + c_0(3m - 1)}{c_0(m + 1)} - \cos^{-1} \frac{3m - 1}{m + 1} \right] + \frac{5c_s^2(3m^2 - 1) - mc_s^2}{64(m - 1)^2} \left[ \frac{2}{6m(m - 1)^2} \right] - \frac{2c_0}{90m^2(1 + m)^2} \left[ \frac{(5 - m)(2c_0 - 3\beta(m + 1))}{90m^2(1 + m)^2} \right] + \frac{(5 - m)(8m^2c_s^2 - 12c_0c_0(3m - 1) + 15\beta^2(m + 1)^2)}{420m^2c_0(m + 1)^2} \right\} \right\}
\]

where

\[ T = 25m^3 + 32m + 15 \]

\[ V = 10mc_0(3m + 1) \]

REFERENCES